

LLANDOUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE, 2018 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

PRESENT

Councillor E. Penn (Chairman)
Councillor P. King
Councillor D. Mears
Councillor Dr M. Misra
Councillor I. Williams

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor P. Gay
Councillor B.C. Hill
Councillor W. Williams

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY, 2018.

RESOLVED that: The minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

2. MEETING WITH D. KNEVETT, VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Knevett to the meeting for the purpose of discussing progress on the proposed MUGA facility.

Mr. Knevett referred to the site meeting held with officers and Councillors when a location for the MUGA facility in the playing fields had been discussed. The preferred location near the children's playground was considered to be too close to residential properties and a more suitable location would be in front of the changing rooms at the other end of the field. It would require planning permission and there might be objections from residents of Greenway Close. The preference would therefore be the provision of a sound-proofed facility which would be more expensive. Although drainage issues were a relevant consideration, the contractors had visited the site and had not raised any specific issues regarding installation. It was noted that the preferred location avoided the marshy area at the top of the field. It was suggested that some Councillors might want to view the MUGA facilities in St. Athan and Gibbonsdown to obtain a better feel of what could be provided in Llandough.

The full cost of providing the facility including site preparation and professional fees was between £85k and £90k plus VAT depending on the choice of the two options for which estimates had been obtained. A detailed estimate of the costs was provided. It was noted that the costs were significantly higher than

originally envisaged which would require the Council to consider how these costs could be met either through raising the precept or consideration of making an application for loan sanction to the Welsh Government. The outcome of the grant application from the Strong Communities grant fund would be a crucial factor in relation to the funding of the facility. It was considered necessary to arrange for public consultation on the proposal should the grant application be successful. One member indicated that not all residents would support a one off raising of the precept to fund the facility and if the Council did decide to raise the additional funding in this way, care would need to be taken in relation to communicating the decision. The matter of the ongoing maintenance of the facility was raised and it was unclear whether this would fall on the Community Council or would be the responsibility of the County Borough Council. Mr. Knevett appeared to be unclear on this point but indicated that the maintenance costs of a MUGA facility were minimal over its life span. A further matter related to the status of the land on which the MUGA would be installed and it was unclear about whether the Community Council would be granted a lease for a set number of years. Mr. Knevett indicated that he did not consider this to be problematic and a suitable arrangement could be put in place.

The issue of Japanese Knotweed growing in the wooded area off the southern end of the playing fields was a worry and action might be needed to deal with this.

On a separate matter, Mr. Knevett advised the Committee that the Council's request for the playing fields to be registered with Fields in Trust was being held on file and would be processed as part of a batch of other requests. He pointed out that there were a range of strong covenants relating to the fields which would serve to protect them until such time as they were registered.

In relation to the subject of bio-diversity, Mr. Knevett responded to the Council's request for the bee orchids growing on the area of land off Penarth Road and Cogan Pill Road to be protected. He advised that the orchids were not rare, did not flower every year and not a protected variety but he agreed to include them on the wildflower map and the grassed area where they were growing would not be cut until the Autumn each year.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The Clerk to co-ordinate a visit of MUGA facilities by Councillors and Mr. Knevett.
- b) Councillor I. Williams to prepare the grant to the Strong Communities Fund and seek views of Councillors prior to it being submitted for approval at the July Council meeting.
- c) The Clerk to ascertain whether the Council would need to have a legal interest in the land in order to qualify for loan sanction from the Welsh Government.

- d) The Clerk to write to C. Smith in the Vale of Glamorgan Council to request that the observed growth of Japanese Knotweed in the wooded area at the southern end of the playing fields be inspected and action taken as appropriate.

3. MATTERS ARISING.

There were none.

4. INSPECTION OF COUNCIL SITES.

It was agreed that the inspection would be held on 10 August, 2018 commencing at 9.30am outside the Hall.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR LITTER PICK.

Consideration was given to the date for the next litter pick. It was considered that litter picks were important as they served to clean up parts of the village and provided a good example of the importance of caring for the environment of the community. They also provided the Council with an opportunity to publicise its efforts through the media.

RESOLVED that: -

- a) The litter pick to be held on 10 August, 2018 commencing at 10.00am.
- b) The Clerk to arrange for the purchase of 10 No. Litter Picker Hoops at a cost of £8.79 each.

6. BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR LLANDOUGH SCHEME (BELLS)

Councillor Dr Misra advised that he was waiting to meet up with the Headteacher of the Primary School to discuss the progress of initiatives under the scheme. Councillor Mears indicated that with his background in transportation planning, he was able to offer traffic management advice to the Headteacher. He also pointed out the benefits of having a travel plan for the school.

7. STRATEGY FOR TREES IN THE COMMUNITY.

A local resident had provided a copy of the tree strategy for Penarth which had been prepared by the Penarth Civic Society and had suggested that the Council might wish to develop a strategy for Llandough.

The Committee considered that the Strategy would not be appropriate for the community as there were very few street trees and in any event the Council was responsible for the management of a significant number of trees located

on its land. It was suggested that if the MUGA facility goes ahead, the Council might want to consider planting some trees around the facility.

8. KEEP WALES TIDY – JOINT WORKING.

A communication was received from Keep Wales Tidy offering joint working arrangements together with a menu of costed services that could be provided to the Council.

RESOLVED that: The communication be noted.

9. LEWIS ROAD – STATUS OF LEASE ARRANGEMENTS.

The Clerk informed the Committee that the current leases had expired and that there were ongoing difficulties in collecting rent payments from some of the lease holders. He sought the view of the Committee as to whether the Council's Solicitors should be engaged to develop new lease arrangements.

RESOLVED that: No action be taken at the present time and that the leases be allowed to extend for a further period of up to 20 years.

10. MAINTENANCE OF STREET FURNITURE.

At a recent site inspection, it had been identified that the benches on the village green and garden needed painting. A detailed specification had been prepared and was considered by the Committee.

RESOLVED that: The Clerk arrange to obtain competitive quotations for the work required.

11. CONDITION OF VILLAGE.

No specific issues were raised.

12. DOG FOULING IN THE VILLAGE.

RESOLVED that: An item on this subject be included in the next Community Newsletter.

13. BROOK GREEN – IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

It was noted that work had commenced on site. Three competitive quotations had been obtained for the work by Smart Associates and the lowest quotation had been accepted submitted by Pinit Limited at a sum of £5902.78 plus VAT. The two other quotations were for £10170 and £11545 plus VAT.