



**Radyr & Morganstown Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan**

Minutes of a MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 6th September 2018 at **7.45pm** at the Old Church Rooms.

Present: Cllrs Helen Lloyd Jones, Ralph Vaughan, Kieran Webster,

In Attendance: Julie Hopkins, Jim Goodwin (Radyr Woods Warden/Friends of Radyr Woods)

- 20 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr M Vatsaloo
- 21 To make declarations of Interest:** Cllr H Lloyd Jones (Chair of Environment) declared an interest under Minute number 16 in that she is the Chair of the Penrhys Pilgrimage Group.
- 22 To discuss Terms of Reference:** No terms of reference presented. Cllr M Vatsaloo to take this forward. Defer this item to next meeting.
- 23 To note and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 7th June 2018 were duly noted and signed by Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones as an accurate record.
- 24 To receive an update:** The Chair's Report was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. **Appendix A** (filed with these Minutes). The Report was received and noted and Cllr H Lloyd Jones gave the Committee a verbal overview.

Granny Park:

There is bank with a grey wall behind it in Granny Park. A suggestion has been made to plant some Azaleas or other Evergreen flowering shrub to soften the look of the wall for most of the year. **Action** Clerk and Jim Goodwin

Radyr Woods – Jim Goodwin (Radyr Woods Warden) gave a brief update on Radyr Woods.

Tree works: He has spoken with Orange Forestry and will meet with them to discuss the tree works

Signpost: No change.

Disabled bench: R&MCC need to establish the location of the British Gas pipeline before the bench can be installed. **Action** Clerk

Boardwalk: Consider buying some reserve boards while they are still available.

Risk assessment: This has not yet been received.

Chairman's Oak: Tree to be planted during National Tree Week which is 24th November to 2nd December 2018. Saturday 24th November is the chosen date.
Action Jim Goodwin and Clerk

Radyr Woods Grant: The Radyr Woods Wardens will be submitting a grant application for 2018-2019.

Jim Goodwin left the meeting.

Windsor Gardens:

Gardening: Graeme Moore (Gardener) will shortly be starting work in Windsor Gardens and he will be asked to plant the Tenby Daffodil bulbs with the assistance of the Handyman.

There is also a dead Sorbus tree which will need to be removed. **Action** Clerk

Feeder Pillar: Centregreat will be carrying out the trenching works on Saturday 22 September for the electricity feeder pillar for the Christmas lights.

Capping Stones: There are two Capping Stones missing. R&MCC are currently researching prices for replacement of the two capping stones and prices for replacement of all capping stones.

Railings: There are some broken and loose railings which could become dangerous to children and need to be either repaired or replace. R&MCC are currently researching prices for both options.

Notice Board: There is a lot of condensation inside the Board. R&MCC Handyman has drilled two holes in the underside which should alleviate this problem and help to dry the Board out.

Sidings:

There is a post on the Forum that has been brought to R&MCC's attention relating to paving stones in the Sidings which are unsafe. The land belongs to Taylor Wimpey. R&MCC will send a letter to Taylor Wimpey asking them to make safe the paving stones. **Action** Clerk

Pentwyn Park:

Councillor K Webster had met with Mr Alan Williams, Resident, regarding installing some form of play area in Pentwyn Park, such as a mini MUGA, a BBQ area and a dirt bike jump area.

None of these are options until the drainage issues have been rectified. Bryn Deri school children are designing possible specimen tree layouts for the park.

25 **Any other business with prior consultation with the Chair:** None

26 **To put forward any items for the next meeting:** None

27 **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 4th October 2018 at 7.00pm.

Meeting Closed.

Windsor Gardens

Gardening

Graeme Moore is due to work in Windsor Gardens and Ffordd Ias on September 5th.

Wild daffodils have been ordered and should arrive soon.

Recommendation Graeme Moore to be asked to plant the daffodils, possibly with the help of our Handyman.

Action Clerk to organise.

Christmas trees and lighting in Windsor Gardens

The dry spell has shrivelled all the grass on the cover to the Christmas tree support. Graeme Moore will advise on how to improve the area above the cover.

Chris St Leger has checked the new tree support and informs us that it should work well. Thank you for checking this Chris.

Chris St Leger and Mike Diment have gone through the quote from Centregreat to place a power supply in Windsor Gardens so that we can put lights into the trees around the edge of the gardens. The quote included digging a two-way trench so that we can reach several trees.

Apart from the fact that we would also need a twin RCD socket for the main feeder pillar, Mike and Chris advised us that the quote is satisfactory. Mike Diment has bought a twin RCD socket for the Community Council to use. He will need to be reimbursed for this socket. **Action Clerk.** To pay for the socket. Thank you to Mike and Chris for their help.

The Clerk has asked Centregreat to carry out the work as soon as possible.

We should have spare lights if we order smaller Christmas trees which we intend to do.

Capping stones

It has been pointed out that there are some capping stones missing. We replaced two with flat paving stones, but they look completely out of keeping with the rest of the stone work in the gardens.

We removed one of those pavers quickly when we realised it had sharp corners and was at small child's eye height.

The Clerks are currently researching prices for having two capping stones made to match and also for having all the capping stones made to the same design and all being replaced.

One of the builders who has been on site has pointed out that lifting the lowest pillar which currently does not have a capping stone of any kind, would lift the capping stone to a safer height.

Recommendation and Action the Clerks to make the decision re the capping stones and whether or not to raise the pillar and then to place the order.

Railings

Some of the railings have broken at the point where they are inserted into the pillar. One set of railings can be lifted up. Apparently, children use them to haul themselves up, so it is a concern that other railings could break under the weight of a climbing child.

The Clerk has asked for quotes. We are still waiting for all the quotes to come in.

It has been pointed out that some of the railings are loose because the concrete or cement filling has disappeared. To make the railings secure, the fillings need to be restored.

It has been pointed out that it would be sensible to paint the railings at the same time. This would increase the life time of the railings and improve the look of them.

Action. Clerk to place the order for repairing, making secure and painting the railings, depending on the quotes.

Liquidamber Tree.

This had been doing well but the dry spell has really affected it. We have started watering it. It turns out that several people in the village have been watering it as well and the good news is that it has survived. Thank you to everybody who tried to help the tree:-

Notice Board

The notice board has been erected in the park. There was a leak in the panel part. This was put right but there is still a lot of condensation on the inside of the windows.

Action Clerk to ask the Handyman to keep drying the inside of the windows. Ultimately if the seal is now good, the damp that got in at the start will dry out.

Granny Park

Brushwood

This has been removed.

Planter

No change

Bank

There is a bank with a grey wall behind it in the Granny Park.

Recommendation That we plant some azaleas or some other evergreen flowering shrub by the wall which will soften the look of the wall most of the year. **Jim Goodwin** is willing to organise this for us.

Action Clerk liaise with Jim so that the shrubs can be purchased and planted in October.

The Sidings

Planters

No change

Paving Stones

There has been a post on the forum re paving stones in the Sidings. We have replied pointing out that we do not own or manage this land. It belongs to Taylor-Wimpey.

Recommendation that we send a letter to Taylor Wimpey saying that it has been brought to our attention that the stones are not safe and we would all be very pleased to see them put right.

Action Need to check whether this has been put right. If not, Clerk to send letter to Taylor Wimpey

OCR

Planter

The planter is looking ready for an autumn planting. Clerk to enjoy organising this.

Benches

It has been pointed out that a bench needs repairing. The Clerk has already asked the Handyman to repair it and to repaint the iron work with Hammerite. No progress as yet.

There is another bench close to the OCR which would benefit by having Teak Oil treatment.

Action Clerk to ask the Handyman to do this.

Pentwyn

Path

The path becomes a set of quite deep puddles every winter. We have found a drain in the park.

Our situation has changed here as we now know we own the boundary. This means that we can look at different solutions such as building a retaining wall and putting drainage within the wall to bring any excess water into the park away from the path.

We have checked with British Gas and SWALEC and there are no gas pipes or electricity lines in Pentwyn Park.

We have investigated the possibility of draining one puddle to the drain in the park as recommended by the Welsh Water engineer. Arch Utility Services (SW) Ltd, Unit 2, Ynyshir Ind Est, Llanwonno Road, Porth CF39 0HU have been to the park. Cameras have been put down the drain in both directions.

There is a break in one of the pipes servicing the drain. This needs to be mended. Arch have quoted for this.

The Clerk is currently seeking more quotes for this job.

It is possible that once the leak in the pipe is mended, the water in the area of the second puddle will be able to drain away naturally.

The area by the drain could have a drainage system installed.

Arch have quoted for this too. If we need to carry out this work, we will need to have two more quotes if possible.

We have decided to wait until the pipe servicing the drain is mended before we take any further decision on draining that area of the park.

We have met Mr McGrath, the owner of the car park. He has been extremely helpful and has cleared the vegetation on his side of the fence.

We have asked for a quote for clearing the vegetation on our side of the fence.

Once we have removed the vegetation, we will have to arrange for the fence to be dismantled.

Once the fence is down, we will be able to ask builders to quote for a wall that will act not only as a boundary but as a drain, leading the water from the car park away from the path in the park.

Mr McGarth is a builder by trade and has offered to draw up a specification of a wall that would sort the problems out. We have accepted his offer and hope it will be in place for the next meeting of the environment committee.

Play Area

There have been calls on the Forum for a play area in Pentwyn. We have replied and explained that our first problem is to sort the path out with the associated drainage issues.

We probably should have explained that the drainage issues mean that the ground is completely water logged across the width of the park once the winter rain begins, and that it is not suitable for a play area as it is.

We have however asked the children in Brynderi to suggest some trees that could be planted in the park. Trees should take up some of the water in the park and should also provide a pleasant area for people to enjoy. We could look to having seating areas in the park when the trees have made some growth.

Weeping Willow

We are going to plant a Weeping Willow in the park this autumn. Jim Goodwin has been kind enough to volunteer to organise this for us.

Action Jim Goodwin and the Clerk.

Complaint

We have had a complaint about youths moving felled trunks and leaving cans behind them.

Our Assistant Clerk has visited the complainant, who was pleased that we were interested in knowing her point of view. Our Assistant Clerk has also checked the area this week and reported that the park looked quite good, no obvious signs of cans or rubbish.

Dan y Bryn

Making the path mobility scooter friendly.

We will keep this as a regular comment until we can find a solution that would work. No progress this month.

Fence on approach to Dan y Bryn

There is now a good fence on the approach to the woods. Thank you to all concerned.

Radyr Woods

Tree Work

Tree work has started in Radyr Woods. A combination of the very cold and long winter going straight into a very warm spring with birds nesting has slowed down the rate at which the tree work can progress. The area near Junction terrace was used for training sessions on use of chain saws. There is still some clearing up to be done there. The contractor is aware of this and intends to see to it.

The tree work by Joe Horvath's has been done.

We are aware that the Tree Survey outlined work that should be done in the first six months and then in the next two years. We have decided to make sure all the work that was to be done in the first six months has been completed and paid for before we move into the next tranche of work.

Jim Goodwin to give us an update.

Signpost

This has come down during the Christmas period. It is being kept safe and will be put back this summer by the Radyr Wardens.

No feedback as yet.

Disabled bench

This still has not been installed. Hopefully the next working party of the Radyr Woods Wardens will sort this out.

We have been asked to establish where the British Gas pipeline goes before this bench is installed. **Action** Clerk

We need to upgrade the path to and to make a spur so that a person in a wheel chair can access the bench. The sensible thing to do would be to upgrade the path the school children use to enter the woods (currently this gets very muddy) and then have a spur from this path.

We have approached Cardiff Conservation Volunteers and they are willing to do this for us. We will need to purchase stone dust.

We have a provisional date of December 2nd for upgrading the path

Recommendation We need to approve this expenditure. £150 for the CCV and the cost of the stone dust and possibly the wood needed for the revetments.

Issues

The Community Council has asked the Friends of Radyr Woods (known as the Radyr Woods Wardens) for a Risk Assessment.

Environment Protection Act 1990 has a section re litter, which enables an authority to serve a penalty on an offender. There have been cases of fly tipping of school furniture into Kingfisher Pond. Should these offences reoccur, the Act may be of use.

Boardwalk

The damage to two boards over the winter has been put right. The Community Council should consider buying some reserve boards from the same supplier while the same colour is available.

Recommendation Clerk to ask the Chair of Radyr Woods Wardens for the relevant details and then a decision re: funding their purchase can be made. **In hand** Clerk is in contact with the Wardens on this. Still waiting for enough information to progress this.

Coppicing

More coppicing is scheduled and was budgeted for in the woods on November 18th

Action Jim Goodwin to contact CCV to indicate which part of the woods most needs attention.

Entrance to Radyr Comprehensive from Radyr Woods

The School has erected a fence inside the existing perimeter of their grounds. There appears to be a gate which could be accessed from a path in the woods, but this is not at present an easy access. We have contacted the school and we hope to meet the Head and the Estate Manager to discuss this.

For road safety we are very keen that as many school pupils as possible enter the school grounds without having to travel by foot, by bike or any other mode of transport along Heol Isaf.

There are several options we could look at. We have contacted Cardiff Conservation Volunteers and they have provisionally booked us in for February 3rd for a session on improving access from the woods into the school grounds.

Recommendation We hold on any decision until we have met the Head and the Estate Manager.

Chairman's Oak

The Chair of Radyr and Morganstown Community Council will plant an oak during National Tree Week.

Action Clerk to ask Chair of Radyr Woods to determine date of planting. National Tree Week 24th November to 2nd December. **Need to choose date.** Determine whether we are entitled to a free oak. Buy oak, if necessary.

Last year we had invited the Brownies to join us for the planting. Suggestion that we ask them again this year.

Action Clerk to invite once date and time and place is known, although an advance invite would probably be wise.

Easter Egg Hunt

There appeared to have been a private Easter Egg Hunt in Radyr Woods. The Community Council may like to consider doing an Easter Egg Hunt for the community. Dan y Bryn should also be considered as a possible location.

Action Cllr Angharad Richards.

Grant

The Radyr Woods Wardens will be submitting a grant application for 2018-2019. The application hasn't arrived as yet.

Christmas Trees and Lighting

We will order a 25 ft Tree for Windsor Gardens and a 25 ft Tree for The Sidings. We will order a 20 ft Tree for the Granny Garden.

Action Clerk to source appropriate trees and to arrange haulage.

Clerk to arrange Dave Barnes to be put the lights onto the trees.

The Christmas Tree Lighting event is scheduled to be 7th December.

Recommendation The trees to be erected 3rd December and 4th December.

We also pay for the Christmas Lighting in Station Road. We use Floodlighting and Electrical Services.

Action

1. Clerk to confirm ASAP with Floodlighting and Electrical Services that we wish to use them again this year.

2. Clerk to put Floodlighting and Electrical Services in touch with Nick Hawkins so that the practical arrangements re date of fixing the lighting can be arranged to suit the RMA's timetable for the Christmas Lighting event

Footpath 48

We will leave this item on because we will need to check the situation this winter.

This is in danger of erosion from all the water pouring across it from the flushes on the school grounds. We have informed Cardiff Council's Lead on PROW and had a positive response.

Ffordd Las

Graeme Moore is scheduled to start work on the shrubbery on September 5th. We are looking to plant some specimen trees in this area to enhance the seating area. Since this is on the Penrhys Pilgrimage route it will also make the route more attractive.

Current ideas are a Judas tree or a Foxglove Tree.

Judas Tree Botanical name *Cercis siliquastrum*



Foxglove Tree Botanical name Paulownia Tomentosa



Plaque Rhodri Morgan

Rhodri Morgan lived in 32 Heol Isaf, the house next to the Methodist Chapel. The owners have been approached and are willing to have a plaque on their house. He also lived in Tyla Teg 16 Heol Isaf. We have been to Tyla Teg but so far have not managed to meet the owners.

The next step is to have a bi-lingual plaque designed and price it. **Action** Clerk.

When we know a timescale for this, we should look to have a plaque revealing event with various dignitaries including Julie Morgan present. Could we aim for this to be immediately after or immediately before the Civic Service 2019?

Terms of Reference

Having terms of reference will be helpful.

Action Myles Vatsaloo

Penrhys Pilgrimage

We have been sent the proposed route for the Penrhys Pilgrimage through Radyr and have been asked to comment on it. The Chair and the Chair of the Environment have walked the route. It starts at the Danescourt end of Radyr Woods and leaves Radyr for Pentyrch at Pant Tawel lane. Apart from wishing to avoid Golf Club Lane, the route should work well. We will send our modifications to the Penrhys Pilgrimage Working Party.

Action Chair of Environment

The Mound

We will keep this on the report so we remember to keep checking the mound area.

This is on Cardiff Council's land. However, the grass has to be hand raked after it is cut, and we were asked if we could find volunteers to help.

The grass in the field has been cut this year. We have reminded Cardiff Council about the growth of the young trees on the mound.

Bench by Woodfield Avenue and Heol Isaf

Left on until we are sure we are no longer being invoiced. The invoice used to arrive in January.

We have had to pay a peppercorn rent to the Plymouth estate for the bench for many years. However, in investigating the trees (See above) it turned out that the Plymouth estate does not own this land any longer. We have flagged this up and we have been advised that we will not need to pay in the future.

Willow Tree Close

Nothing to report.

Rail fares

Rail fares requesting that Taffs Well should be in the same zone as Radyr to make it less attractive for commuters from outside Radyr and Morganstown to use Radyr Station. We prepared a letter re our concerns which the full council endorsed and then sent. We then realised there is going to be a new train operator, so we sent a very similar letter to the new operator. We have had a reply from Transport for Wales which advised us that they need to look at costings before a final decision can be made.

Heol Isaf

Possible subsidence. We prepared a letter re our concerns which the full council endorsed and then sent to Cardiff Council. Acknowledgement of our letter which says, "The matter will be investigated, and a full response sent in due course".

We will continue to leave this on the agenda until we have had a response that reassures the community council.

Recommendation

We ask Cardiff Council for an update. We ask how they are monitoring this. We ask what measures are in place to reduce the impact from traffic on the side of the road by the steep drop.

Naming Pathways and Back Lanes

A call has been made from Cardiff Council. for any small connecting paths or back lanes to be given names. If anybody has a lane they would like to name, please let us know.

Himalayan Balsam

We have been asked to consider having a Himalayan Balsam bashing session in July. Just pulling the plant up and leaving it, if done before it has gone to seed is enough to control its progress.

The school children in Bryn Deri were going to help us map the extent of Himalayan Balsam.

Feedback. There didn't seem to be as much Himalayan Balsam around in the community this year.

Anyone wishing to help is welcome to pull the plant out but not when it has gone to seed!

Ragwort

There was a lot of Ragwort in Morganstown and this is dangerous to horses. If anybody sees this weed, if you can wear gloves and then pull it up, it comes up quite easily. Do not leave it to die in situ. There are special bags that Cardiff Council supplies if asked, to put these plants in.

Pleased to report that the worst patch of Ragwort at the top of Morganstown has been cut down before it could seed.



Footpath Committee

There are 50 paths in the community. The Community Council could consider setting up a footpath committee consisting of walkers who would be willing to keep an eye on a few designated paths which would enable the Community Council to pass information on quickly if any path has a problem. Several dogwalkers have indicated they would be willing to help.

No progress as yet

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

It has been suggested that fitting some outdoor fitness equipment in the community might be appreciated. The feasibility of doing this should be investigated. **No progress as yet**

Dog poo

This was a problem that was flagged up on the RMA Facebook site. The Community Council put out posters asking people to deal with dog poo properly. Cardiff Council Enforcement Officers have patrolled the area which was causing greatest concern.

Apparently after having seen an improvement, there has now been a deterioration in our community's dog poo picking up standards.

Action Clerk Send out the dog poo Fairy poster to be put on the community council's Facebook page, the RMA 's Facebook page, Bryn Deri and Radyr primaries Facebook page, Twitter feed and their PTA pages. Also on the website www.raydr.org.uk.

Ffordd Treforgan

This is a long, steep hill to walk. The Community Council might like to consider placing some benches along the side of this road.

Recommendation That a bench is budgeted for in the 2019-2020 budget.

Trees by Heol Isaf and Woodfield Avenue

We will keep this on the report and keep an eye on the condition of the holm oak.

These are not on Community Council land. It has been pointed out that one tree, a holm oak does not look healthy and this information has been passed to Cardiff Council by the County Councillor.

Neighbourhood Deep Clean

We have been scheduled for a neighbourhood deep clean this week by Cardiff Council. The areas chosen were Heol Isaf and The Green according to the maps we received this week. We are pleased Radyr and Morganstown are on the schedule. The decision for which streets to choose came from LEAMS Data. Next year, we hope to engage with this scheme better. A possible contact would be Alice George at Cardiff Council if we notice a particular street needs some attention.

Morganstown Village Hall

Feeder pillar

Centregreat have been asked by Cardiff Council for details about a feeder pillar by Morganstown Village Hall. This is not one the Community Council is familiar with. We will try to trace its ownership.

Mr Bateman who is on the Morganstown Village Hall Committee has been kind enough to check for us and reports that there is no obvious feeder pillar at the Village Hall. There is some over grown land behind the garages close to the Hall but it is unlikely the pillar is there.

Action Clerk to report back to Centregreat that we are unaware of a feeder pillar at Morganstown Village Hall.

Japanese Knotweed by Station

This is not on Community Council managed land. It is contained within the area it is in at present. We could point it out to the company that is now dealing with the railway, as it may be a problem for them. Action Clerk to send email to Hugh J Evans simply advising him of the Japanese Knotweed,