



Radyr & Morganstown Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

Minutes of a MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 7th September 2017 at 7.45pm at the Old Church Rooms.

Present: Cllrs Helen Lloyd Jones, Ralph Vaughan, Rod McKerlich & David Suthers
Clerk: Ceri Mortimer

In Attendance: Juliette Thomas and Jim Goodwin

Chair of the Environment Committee Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones welcomed all to the meeting.

- 83 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Clive Morgan, Tyrone Davies & Huw Jones
- 84 Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Rod McKerlich declared an interest in minute no. 79 Windsor Gardens and played no part in the ensuing discussions nor recommendations.
- 85 Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 6 July 2017 were agreed and duly signed as an accurate record at Full Council on 27th July 2017, and therefore were noted.
- 86 Forest School Initiative – Permission to use Pentwyn Park**
Juliette Thomas' email was received and noted and members received and noted a verbal overview of the project.
Committee Members agreed that recommendations be made to Full Council to grant permission for the use of Pentwyn Park subject to:
(a) insurance to indemnify the community council (b) risk assessment to be undertaken by the Forest School Leader and (c) communication with residents neighbouring the park.
- 87 “Enjoying access to the outdoors in Wales” Consultation**
It was agreed that the Chair to the Environment Committee would respond to the consultation.
- 88 Chair’s Progress Report 7th September 2017 – Appendix A** (filed with minutes)
A report was received and noted and Chair Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones gave the committee a verbal overview.
- 89 Any other business with prior consultation with the Chair:** None
- 90 To put forward any items for the next meeting:** None

Date of next meeting: The next Environment meeting will be held on 5 October 2017 at 7.45pm.

End of meeting

Report for Environment Committee September 7th, 2017

Windsor Gardens

Graeme Moore has spent three days working on Windsor Gardens. The gardens look better. The brambles and the ash seedlings have been lifted. The den where evidence points to youngsters experimenting with cannabis in it, is now a more open area,

Recommendation We ask him back to do another two days' work on the gardens in September and also in October. This should enable him to make inroads on the pruning needed. Total cost £360.

We then reassess the situation. Having seen the type of garden he creates, there is potential to make these gardens a delightful area for the community to enjoy.

Benches

Reasonable condition

Event Planting a Liquidambar tree as a thank you to three previous councillors, Mike Diment, Chris St Leger and Sue McKerlich. This is to be funded by the Councillors. Date November 25th, 2017 Jim Goodwin to organise details. The Brownies have been approached to see if they would like to join us.

Granny Park

Planters

No certainty that these will arrive this year but may arrive before end of August.

No sign as of Sept 1st. Paperwork definitely completed.

Bench

We have sent an e-mail to Anthony Rosser's niece advising her of the cost of replacing the wood.

She no longer feels the bench should be made of recyclable plastic wood. So, the materials that we have ordered for this bench will be used to repair the benches in Dan y Bryn Wood. This is a better solution.

However, somebody has cleaned the wood part of the bench up, possibly with bleach. We had considered staining the wood with an oil based wood stain. We will now wait until the spring before we do this, to enable the bleach (if that was what was used) to have been diluted out.

Brushwood

There are two piles of brushwood in the park. These seem to be getting smaller and we believe that some of the residents have cut some branches that were overhanging and are slowly disposing of the brushwood in their green bins.

We take no action this year but if the brushwood is still in situ next spring, we should consider getting it removed.

The Sidings

Planters

No certainty that these will arrive this year but may arrive before end of August.

Haven't arrived as of Sept 1st. We do not know if the paperwork has been completed.

Bins for Dog Poo.

We aren't able to move this forward as the land doesn't belong to Cardiff Council.

OCR

Planters

Haven't arrived as of Sept 1st Paperwork not completed by us as yet.

Pentwyn

The tree contract for 2017 has gone to Orange. We have given Orange permission to hold training sessions while doing the work so that we can have the reduction to the quotes, that Orange said could happen if it was able to hold these sessions.

Coppicing. The Cardiff Conservation Volunteers have set aside a day for coppicing in Pentwyn. We have put them in touch with Malcolm Frazer who carried out the Tree Survey for us, who is willing to advise them as to what needs doing.

We have had a request from Juliette Thomas to use Pentwyn as an outdoor toddler group location. She has indicated that she has all the insurance she needs to cover her activity providing she has permission from the landowner.

Would suggest that we give her permission, subject to it being reviewed at regular three-monthly intervals for the first two years.

Daffodils. There was a recommendation that we plant some daffodils in the park.

Recommendation That we spend £50 on daffodil bulbs and £50 to pay somebody to plant them. They need to be planted by end of September. It has been mentioned that perhaps the parents of the toddlers might be happy to plant the bulbs.

Dan y Bryn

Benches still are not mended. The materials have been ordered and we have been advised they should arrive by mid-September.

Japanese Knotweed still not treated. However, the Clerk has authorised Dave Barnes to treat the Knotweed. He is waiting for it to finish flowering. The flowers are out, so this job may well have been completed by the time of the full council meeting. The Clerk has asked Dave Barnes to draw on a sketch map we have of Dan y Bryn the location of the Japanese Knotweed.

The contract for Dan y Bryn has gone to Orange. We are waiting for Orange to give us an expected start date. We will then put information about the work on the web site and Facebook page.

Coppicing. The Cardiff Conservation Volunteers have set aside two days for coppicing in Dan y Bryn. Again Malcolm Frazer is willing to help.

Radyr Woods

Tree 58 behind Woodfield Avenue has had its crown lowered. This makes it safer. It will also be cheaper to completely fell it than first estimates.

Action The Clerk to confirm that Council wants the tree completely felled.

We have contacted the Tree Protection Officer for permission to work on the trees in Radyr Woods. The Clerk has had confirmation that we can go ahead.

We have sent information to Natural Resources Wales re Pentwyn and Dan y Bryn and Radyr Woods. We have had written advice from Natural Resources Wales that we do not need a felling licence for the work in we wish to carry out.

We have sent out requests for quotes for Radyr Woods.

Event Chair's Oak. November 25th 11 am. There was a strong recommendation that we should have a replanting program in the woods. The Council decided that it would be good to plant a tree to recognise the work done by the Chair of the Community Council. The first Chair to have a Chair's Oak will be Tyrone Davies. All councillors are invited to join us in the woods. Exact location will be given close to the date.

The Council has taken advantage of its signing up to the Charter for Trees, Woods and People and has requested a Sessile Oak at a suitable size for planting from the scheme the Charter is promoting.

Jim Goodwin, Chair of Radyr Woods Wardens will undertake the arrangements to make the planting work well. We believe that the Radyr Woods Wardens intend to hold a Working Party that morning which will be wonderful.

Benches

Most of the tables and benches are not in a good condition and we will have to have a rolling programme to replace at least one a year.

However, the disabled bench has been delivered to the Community Council and we are hoping the Radyr Woods Wardens will have erected it fairly soon.

Issues

There are groups of youngsters gathering in the woods. We are aware that they are experimenting with drugs. We have reported this to the police and the police are regularly policing the area.

Some of the youngsters have indicated that they would like to have some football posts put up. It would be more fun.

We could look at the possibility of planting fruit trees in Orchard Field to be goal post distance apart.

Ffordd Las

The new bench is installed. We will aim to replace the other bench in next year's budget.

Difficult to be sure but there seems to be some deliberate planting of shrubs in that area. Next year, we should aim to investigate whether or not we could make that planting more pleasant.

Plaque Rhodri Morgan

We have contacted our AM to ask about this and we had a positive response. We need to check that Rhodri's family would also welcome this and that the owner of the house where he lived would be happy to have a plaque on the house's wall.

Terms of Reference

Having terms of reference will be helpful. It was going to be an agenda item in September but is in abeyance for the moment.

Penrhys Pilgrimage

CEMEX has indicated a willingness to help us improve paths that link Radyr and Pentyrch. This would solve the problem of the poor quality link in Radyr in this pilgrims' route. We hope to move this forward this winter. We are aware that the Rights of Way officer and the main contact at Cemex have asked to meet Allan Cook to look at the path which is one of our public rights of ways.

Ash Path

We have enough evidence forms to submit to claim this path as a public right of way. We need to carry out a Land Registry search to see who owns the land before we can complete the paperwork needed.

Recommendation that the Community Council should allow searches to go ahead up to a budget of £100

Christmas Trees and Lights for the Trees

We have met with the RMA and we have the following dates:

Sunday 3rd December, bollards to be placed along the wall of Windsor Gardens. This is to allow the lorry to park close enough to the location of the hole for the Christmas tree in the gardens

Monday 4th December Morning Erect tree in Windsor Gardens

Monday 4th December Afternoon Erect tree in the Sidings

Tuesday 5th December Morning Erect tree in the Granny Park

Friday 8th December Christmas Lights Event

It is hoped as many Councillors as possible will attend this community event.

Friday 5th January Dismantle Christmas Trees

Dave Barnes who erects and dismantles the trees has the dates Dec 4th, Dec 5th and Jan 5th booked for the Christmas Trees.

We have not yet placed the order for the trees or for the haulage of the trees. That needs to happen by the first week in October. The Clerk places these orders.

There is an invitation from the grower of the trees at Usk Castle to anyone from the community, who would like to go and choose the tree.

We had set aside money to augment the lights on one Christmas tree.

There is uncertainty re the existing lights at present. It would appear that PAT testing was carried out on lights that were already obsolete and which were going to be thrown out. The current lights are in sets of strings. They have no conventional plugs and they have no breaks in their cables. So it is difficult to see how they could have been tested properly.

We will need fast resolution on this and if we do need to buy new lights, we will have to place the order this month.

Recommendation That the Council approves the buying new Christmas tree lights if necessary. The order will need to be placed by the end of September.

Christmas Lights in Station Road

The Clerk has written to the firm Floodlighting and Electrical Services to confirm that the Community Council will pay for the installation of Christmas lights in Station Road ready for December 8th and the dismantling of them in January. The Clerk has requested that the company deal directly with Nick Hawkins on the practical details of installing the lights.

CADW

We have met Cadw to talk about the Bronze Age Burnt Mound in Radyr Woods. Cadw is very pleased with the way the Mound is managed.

The Clerk has sent the relevant form to Cadw to ask for continuing funds towards managing the site.

Open Spaces

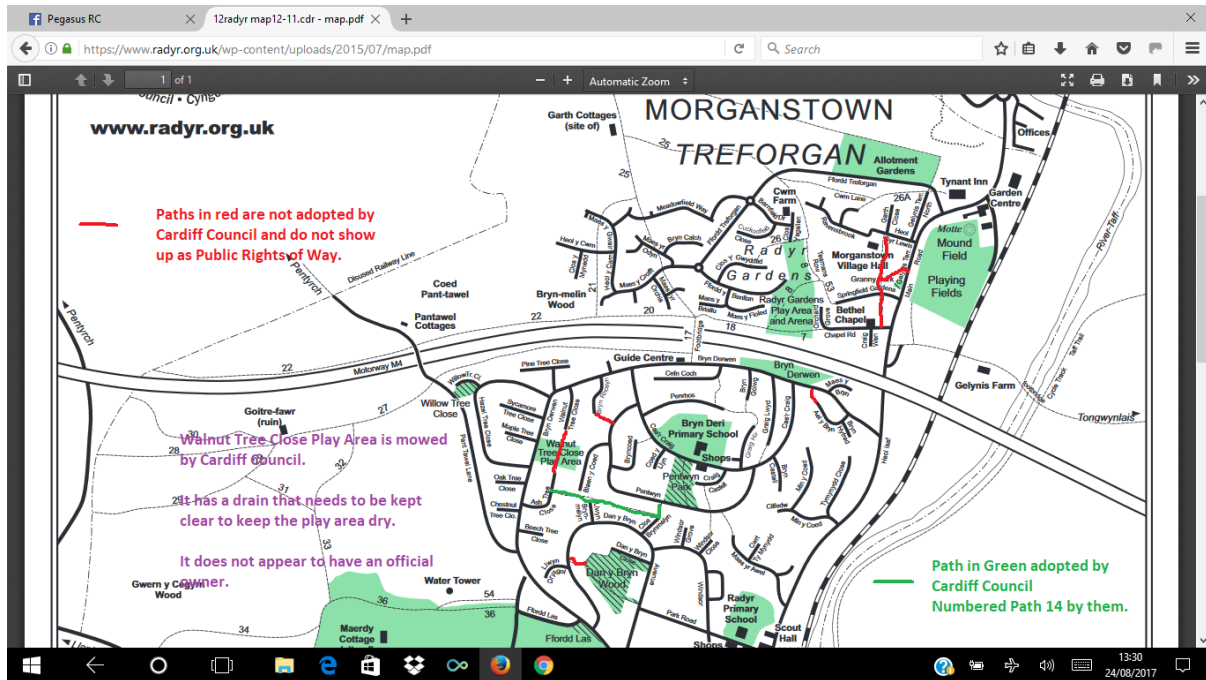
We have received a request from the Open Spaces Society to respond to a consultation by the Welsh Government with a suggested list of very sensible points that we might like to make.

We do have an extra point to make and that is the need for paths created when new estates are built to have immediate status as public rights of way.

We will respond to the consultation. The Clerk will send our response in.

Unadopted Paths

This summer, we have been able to establish which paths in the Brynderwen area and the Granny Park area are adopted by Cardiff Council and which therefore will be maintained.



The paths in red are unadopted.

Recommendation That the Community Council asks the County Councillor to request that these paths are adopted.

There is uncertainty about the process of claiming paths as public rights of way. The Ramblers believe that the right to claim may stop in 2026.necessary starts the process of claiming one path a year.

The Mound

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 is usually cut in November. We need to liaise with Cardiff Council and if we can get a date, use our social media and word of mouth to see if we can help find volunteers for this task.