**The meeting convened at Forge Fach Resource Centre, Hebron Road, Clydach at 7.00 p.m.**

Cllrs. R Jenkins (Chair), M Bowmer, L Jenkins, J Nicholds, S Powell, A Harris, M Bailey, P Blunn, I Whitehurst, A Jenkins, R Smith and J Lewis

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| **96/2022:** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received from Cllrs G Walker and D Williams | | | |
| **97/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Declarations would be made as and when necessary, during the meeting. Cllr Bailey declared an interest in respect of any planning discussions | | | |
| **98/2022: TEN MINUTE PERIOD FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS COUNCIL** Nobody had requested the use of this facility. | | | |
| **99/2022: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETINGS on 8th NOVEMBER 2022 & MATTERS ARISING:**  The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were unanimously approved.  **100/2022 DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR FORGE FACH ENTRANCE HALL**  The work on the entrance hall will hopefully be completed by the end of November. Council will also be upgrading the external lighting particularly at the various entrances and exits.  **101/2022 APPROVE THE DRAFT BUDGET AND FIX THE PRECEPT FOR 2023/24**  The Clerk had circulated a draft budget using the figures up to the end of December 2022 with projections for the remaining three months of the current financial year. Included was a breakdown of the impact of any proposed increase and a table showing other local Council rates. The Clerk reported that the 2 main outlays facing Council were staff salaries and utility charges. The minimum wage is going up in April by 9% and electricity and gas prices are still volatile. The rentals of the various offices at Forge Fach roughly covers what Council spends on electricity and gas. Since Council only took over Forge Fach in May last year we still have to negotiate the coldest months of the winter but despite all these issues Council finances are in a healthy position, currently the Council bank balance is just over £127,000 and on top of that there is still over £31,000 in the dilapidations pot for work on Forge Fach which has still to be instructed. The general rule is that Councillors should ensure that they have at least enough to run the Community Council for a minimum of 6 months. After a discussion 2 proposals were put to the meeting. Cllr Bowmer proposed an increase to £150,638.24 which was duly seconded Cllr I Whitehurst and Cllr M Cherrington proposed an increase to £149,146.77, seconded by Cllr L Jenkins. These proposals would mean an extra £4.70 or £4.18 per property per annum or £0.39 or £0.35 per month. Clydach’s proposed precept still compares favourably with similar sized communities. Council voted and Cllr Bowmer’s proposal was carried by 5 votes to 4. The Clerk will send the request to City and County of Swansea before the end of the month.  **102/2022 REPORT FROM THE EVALUATION GROUP**  Cllr Nicholds was delayed at a meeting of school governors but had circulated his findings by email. A summary of the meeting will be included with the minutes of the Facilities and Events meeting held on 15th November 2022 and will be sent out to Councillors tomorrow.  **103/2022 COMMITTEE REPORTS**  **Facilities and Events Committee**  The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November will be distributed tomorrow and will be included with the minutes of this monthly meeting.  ***Minutes of Facilities and Events meeting Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 6:30 PM***  *Held in the Waterfall Suite at Forge Fach, Clydach*  *Present:- Cllrs Melissa Bowmer, Chair, Richard Jenkins, Matthew Bailey, Aimee Jenkins, Julian Nicholds, Dylan Williams, Jayne Lewis, Mary Cherrington, Lynne Jenkins, Peter Blunt and Sue Powell*  *The Chair read out the figures spent on the firework display held at Coed Gwylim Park on 6th November 2022, a total of £6,885 on the event made-up of £5,760 on the firework display provider, £300 on ambulance/first aid cover, £450 on the performing fire eater, £75 on sparklers and £300 pounds on the DJ music system.*  *Following a discussion it was agreed that neither the face painting lady nor the fire eater would be used at future displays. Consideration was given to charging a nominal fee for entry into future displays at as it was found that many did not make a contribution on entry. £1,100 was collected to be placed into the Community Fund which in turn will help organisations in the Clydach area.*  *Cllr Nicholds then introduced his well-prepared evaluation ideas for the firework display. This consisted of a SWOT analysis redesigned for this particular event with each Councillor present writing down what each thought where the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in their views of the firework display and its organisation.*  *Councillors were given an amount of time to complete their opinions and Julian read out most if not all of them to the meeting. He will review and analyse the results and give his findings to his fellow Councillors at his earliest convenience.*  *While still on the topic of the firework display some Councillors spoke of their opinions. Cllr Powell spoke of the effect of the display on the environment. Cllr R Jenkins spoke of balancing her views with the fact that the display is very popular with our electorate and council taxpayers and the under mentioned fact that it is better for families to attend a controlled firework display then to have their own private displays and bonfires. Cllr D Williams proposed that for future displays that we search for sponsors for the event making it a cost neutral event saving the Council money. Peter proposed that while waiting for the results of the evaluation we should book the firework company for next year's display before they get fully booked this was agreed and this has been done*  **Planning Committee**   1. Canal Society, Clydach – New pitched and flat roof 2. 12 Tygwyn Road, Clydach – 2 storey side and rear extension 3. 14 Down Street, Clydach – Small single storey rear extension 4. 41 High Street, Clydach – Upgrading parking and increasing wall height   Council had no issues with any of these applications  **Audit Committee -** *(all invoices for payment are scrutinised by the Audit committee prior to presentation to full council)* | | | |
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| 1. **Wages** 2. **Tax & NIC** 3. **Fire & Safety Direct** 4. **Veolia** 5. **H R Jones** | £ 3,139.40  £ 485.22  £ 157.98  £ 229.28  £ 5 5.41  **£ 3,967.29** | Wages  Tax & NIC  Extinguishers  Waste  Lock & ties |  |
| **104/2022: CORRESPONDENCE:** -   1. A Tree report was discussed at the last meeting. Since then we have heard from the contractor that there is more work needed that originally thought. The revised figure is £2,650 plus. Council agreed to obtain 2 further quotes before making a final decision. 2. Council has had an energy report carried out on Forge Fach and the Clerk will be circulating it to Councillors tomorrow. It’s a 21 page document and there is further meeting for them to clarify some of the information in the report. 3. Lowrie has prepared a draft brochure for Forge Fach. The Clerk has some information to add and hopefully she will edit the draft for us. Again a copy will be circulated tomorrow for discussion and suggestions. The idea is to show what is available in this building. 4. Soup kitchen isn’t really being used, there are plenty of organisations providing cover so perhaps ours should be rested for a bit unless the weather deteriorates. It was agreed to put the project on hold for the time being.   **105/2022 STAFF AND MEMBERS TRAINING: –** Training has been suspended during the epidemic, but basic training is available on the One Voice Wales website and the Clerk will circulate details to all Councillors. There are online training sessions available, and Councillors are encouraged to check the email and book those that interest them with the Clerk.  **106/2022 NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of Council will be held at 7.00 pm. on Tuesday 14th February 2023 preceded as usual by the Planning Committee and Audit Committee at 6.30 pm. The next Facilities and Events meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th January 2023 @ 6.30 pm  The meeting closed at 8.00 pm  *The above minutes are approved as a true record*  *Signed Chair Community Council: ...............................................................*  *Date: ................................................................* | | | |