



BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Please reply to: TOWN CLERK

AN/dtc

When calling please ask for:

17 April 2015

Angie Norman

Mr Miles Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps
Wenvoe
CF5 6AA

Dear Miles

Land at Cemetery Road, Barry

Thank you for your letter dated 5 March 2015 asking Cliff to put forward your proposal to Council for consideration in respect of the Land at Cemetery Road, Barry.

A special meeting of Council was held on 24 March 2015 and I am not unsure as to whether Cliff has written to you following that meeting, and when I spoke to him about this yesterday he could not recall. Cliff is currently on sickness absence and therefore has asked me to respond accordingly.

At that meeting of Council it was resolved that

1. This Council agree in principal to match fund the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposed match funding of £250,000.00 and enter into a match funded project with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in respect of Cemetery Approach.
2. That a copy of the minutes of this meeting be forwarded to the Vale of Glamorgan Council along with this Council's decision, also making it clear within the letter that they must read the minutes to understand the Council's position fully

*The Council welcomes correspondence in English or Welsh
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu'n Saesneg*

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3. That the Resources Committee are consulted to consider any staffing implications the development of the land my cause.

Councillors also discussed their input into the project stating that they would like to work alongside the Vale of Glamorgan Council officers from the outset of the project in respect of how the site is developed.

We look forward to receiving further communication from you in due course in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Angie Norman
Deputy Town Clerk

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2015 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Evans (Town Mayor), together with Councillors Bertin, Brooks, Davey, Egan, Hardy, Kunnell, S A Hodges, N P Hodges, Johnson, Pritchard, Wilkinson and Williams.

ALSO PRESENT: Cliff Lewis – Town Clerk
Angie Norman – Deputy Town Clerk
Mark Sims – Responsible Finance Officer
Robyn Walsh - Administrator

438. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Cash, C Curtis, R Curtis, Drake, Hamilton, Payne and Wiliam.

Members were made aware that Councillor Powell would be late to join the meeting as he was attending a meeting at the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

7.05 pm – Councillor Bertin arrived.

439. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Williams in relation to agenda item 3 (Land at Cemetery Approach), due to the close proximity of the development to her home. She advised she would leave the meeting whilst the item was discussed.

Councillor Williams left the meeting.

440. **LAND AT CEMETERY ROAD, BARRY**

Councillors were provided with a report that detailed the outcome of the joint application for funding made by the Vale of Glamorgan and Barry Town Council in respect of Cemetery Approach.

Councillor Egan expressed that he was bitterly disappointed with the decision of the Community Covenant Grant Scheme Board and felt that the grant application clearly demonstrated that the scheme would provide secure employment for an ex-serviceman and met all the relevant criteria. He noted that The Covenant Grant Scheme would be changing in April 2015 and although the criteria had not yet been set, he was not hopeful that the decision would be any different.

Councillor Egan referred to a letter received from Miles Punter (Director of Visible Services and Housing) dated 2 March 2015, highlighting the following points made within the correspondence;

- Proposed that the land is transferred to Barry Town Council as a community space.
- That Mr Punter is looking to propose to the Vale of Glamorgan's Executive that the Vale of Glamorgan Council provides £250,000.00 towards a landscaping scheme (the full details of which would be agreed by each Council).
- It was also proposed by Mr Punter that Barry Town Council match funds the Vale of Glamorgan Council's funding of £250,000.00.
- A further proposal was made by Mr Punter that the Vale of Glamorgan Council would manage the landscaping works and that upon completion of the scheme the land would be transferred to Barry Town Council on terms to be agreed.

Councillor Egan stated that the development of the land was long overdue and a very special area of Barry that had been left derelict long enough.

He also stated that as a Council efforts had been made to ensure that the reserves had been built up over the years to be able to support this development and so he proposed that Council agree in principal to match fund the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposed funding of £250,000.00 and enter into a match funded project with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in respect of Cemetery Approach.

Councillor S Hodges commented that there was approximately £200,000.00 being placed into reserves in the current 2014/15 financial year and so was confident Council were in a financially comfortable position to support the match funded project.

However, she did have some concerns regarding the landscaping of the development, in particular that going forward the scheme would now not have to be strictly military themed due to the lack of funding from the Community Covenant Grant Scheme Board, and that due to this lack of funding, Council could look to reviewing the original design of the development.

Councillor S Hodges proposed that whilst she agreed with Councillor Egan's proposal, the following amendments be considered;

1. The Resources Committee are consulted to consider any staffing implications the development of the land my cause.

2. Barry Town Council work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to design a landscaping theme.

Councillor S Hodges also highlighted it was important that Council are involved with the viewing of any quotes received by the Vale of Glamorgan Council to satisfy the Council's own Financial Regulations.

Councillor Egan noted that he was happy to support Councillor S Hodge's first amendment.

However, he stressed that although the military theme was no longer relevant to the development, the general landscaping and ideas such as the open air classroom, community building and air raid shelter would not need to be changed as they were important original ideas.

It was important to stress that the original scheme was designed to be low maintenance and that originally the architect believed the development to cost somewhere in the region of £400,000.00.

However, with the potential match funding of £250,000.00 from the Vale of Glamorgan Council the scheme now has the potential to be even better than originally planned.

He also agreed that the financial procedures should be jointly open and that the Community needs to be engaged in order to sustain the scheme.

Councillor N Hodges asked members to consider a new theme and suggested the idea of a "Peace Park." He advised that he understood a decision such as this could not be made at the current meeting, but requested that the idea be taken forward.

Councillor Johnson noted his support in favour of the proposals made by Councillors S Hodges and N Hodges. He commented that now Cemetery Approach is not under threat of a housing development, but will rather be a "green lung" within Barry it was imperative that the entrance reflects this.

He also raised concerns regarding the safety and security of the site in its current state as there is already evidence of vandalism at the fences. He questioned if it is the Vale of Glamorgan Council's responsibility and if so could this Council write to them to deal with these issues?

Councillor Egan referred to Council N Hodges' comments regarding the land being developed as a "Peace Park," and stressed that the development should not be referred to as a "Park" but rather "Gardens."

Councillor Egan advised that to aid in the communication between both Council's that a copy of the minutes of this meeting are forwarded to the Vale of Glamorgan Council along with this Council's decision.

A vote was taken on the amended proposal, the result of which was unanimous in favour and so it was **RESOLVED**;

1. That this Council agree in principal to match fund the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposed match funding of £250,000.00 and enter into a match funded project with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in respect of Cemetery Approach.
2. That a copy of the minutes of this meeting be forwarded to the Vale of Glamorgan Council along with this Council's decision, also making it clear within the letter that they must read the minutes to understand the Council's position fully.
3. That the Resources Committee are consulted to consider any staffing implications the development of the land my cause.

The Mayor invited a member of the public present to speak who commented that the talks he had witnessed were refreshing, constructive and positive and that he felt it was extremely important that the public are involved with the whole process.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

Signed Dated
(Town Mayor)