

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust for Wales)

Minutes of the meeting held in the Old Church Rooms on Monday 17th November 2003

1. **In Attendance:** Ken Williams (Vice Chair), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), Julie Williams (Secretary), Dave Cargill, Robin Jones, Val Allen (Ty Gwyn Pony Club), Maggie Roberts (Twinning Fellowship/MVH), Maureen Morgan (WI), Gary Bufton (Sports Trust), Cllr's Sue Philpott & Ron Eccles, Jerry Bray, Martin Coysh (RPMG), Derek Bateman (RDS), Bob Pearce (Radyr Chain), Jim Ridgeway, Karen Whitecross (RMCC), PC Andrew Smith.

Apologies for Absence: Nick Hawkins, Mary Hawkins, Joan Thorley, Cllr Marion Drake, Rod McKerlich, Lorna Clarke, Denise Thomas, Peter & Hilary Borrow.

2. **Minutes of the last Meeting (15th Sept)** The minutes were approved.
3. **Matters Arising: Constitution:** The constitution's objects have been approved by the Charity Commission. It is anticipated that the few remaining points will be resolved by March 2004. **Comprehensive School:** Steve Fowler, Geoff Davies, Tony Burgess (County) and Phil Hurley (Stage Lighting Services) and Nick have agreed the provisions to be built into the fabric of the hall to facilitate staging concerts and drama events. This agreement will certainly be of value to the school but we cannot say if it will be of use to local societies and groups until the School Governors announce the fees and conditions of use. These have been found prohibitive by most users in the past and it can only be hoped that this excellent new amenity will not again be priced out of reach of community groups.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** The current account details were: C/A £386.55, Reserve £428.05, COIF £3597.85, Events A/C £117.37. Total: £4529.82. County Councillor Marion Drake was thanked for her assistance in obtaining a Community Grant of £2,500 towards the cost of CCTV for the OCR. The purchase and installation cost of £5,728.13 for the CCTV equipment (which is now in place) was approved.. A donation of £50 for Remembrance Day was approved. The Charity Commission now requires all organisations to have a formal Reserves Policy to cover anything with a financial risk – such as Festival Week, concerts organised by the Association etc. It was considered that a sum of up to £5,000 would be adequate. The motion was approved that “The Executive Committee be authorised to retain whatever reserves they consider appropriate to conform to the Charity Commissioners requirements of having a Financial Reserve”. The purchase of the Christmas trees and their lights were within the £200 budget but this will have to be exceeded because an electrical contractor will have to be employed to fit and test them. Only two businesses have agreed to contribute a share of the cost. It was approved that “The Executive committee may make the necessary decisions regarding the cost of installation”. The lottery license has been renewed. Imaging 2000 had been given a grant of £150 for picture mounting equipment required to facilitate residents participating in Photographic Competitions.
5. **Community Council Report:** Community Councillor Ron Eccles reported. *Planning:* The Council were pleased with the outcome of the Radyr Arms and were liaising with all involved with the Radyr Sidings and Garden's developments to solve any potential problems. The Community Council was particularly pleased at the response to the questionnaire on the village plan as it showed that Council members were properly reflecting the concerns of the community. Ron went on to say that the Community Council had found considerable difficulty in trying to get County Council plans altered – everything appeared to be cut and dried by the time the Community Council got to see them. *Police Matters:* Youths continue to cause considerable annoyance to the residents living near Pentwyn Park and the shops. The outreach workers are continuing their work in the evenings and have made positive contact with some of the youngsters but residents were still being abused and intimidated by their behaviour. Radyr Gardens is also suffering from their attention. It was necessary to get the message to the parents of the local children causing this nuisance. They need to be brought under control and not left to terrorise the community. *Finance:* It was fortunate that the Community Council is able to draw in funds and to make them available to local residents and organisations. Recent grants included those made to the R&M Band for equipment, to Ben Partridge for travel expenses, the MVH for new flooring and fencing and for improvements to the OCR. *Council Business:* Members of the Council had attended a meeting at County Hall for members of Community Councils. Ron mentioned it was good to see such an army of volunteers ready to serve their communities. The aim of the meeting was to give Community Councils a voice in the Assembly. Ron reported he had enjoyed his term of office so far and reminded the meeting there were elections next May. He hoped new and additional people would put themselves forward for election to the Community Council. A question was raised about the rumour that the present owners of the Radyr Arms intended to close the pub at the end of November and then let it fall into disrepair until it had to be demolished. After this they would again try for change of use. Ron stated this was as yet unconfirmed but the Council would check it. The question was raised about the unsuitability of the names being chosen by developers for various areas (e.g. Marquis Court). It was considered these were marketing devices and the names would not survive. When discussing the wards for next year's election he also mentioned the Community Council needed to resolve several matters regarding these as it was not receiving a precept from the developments along the Llantrisant Road even though the residents

were in the community catchment area for the Schools and the Health Centre. Ron was thanked for his informative report. Finally, the Council had purchased its Christmas Trees and looked forward to welcoming everyone back at the OCR for mulled wine and mince pies (see item 8, below).

6. **Police:** PC Andrew Smith reported that the crime figures of 303 for this year were comparable to those of last year. There had been no major vehicle damage over Halloween as there had been last year. There had been a number of 'break-in's', bikes and fireworks had been stolen, the temporary lights in Morganstown had been set alight and youths were targeting Pentwyn Park, Radyr Gardens and Caer Craig where there had been a number of reports of vandalism to gardens and the use of bad language to residents, particularly from females. Fireworks had also been set off in a local post box. He considered the Youth Workers were targeting the right groups and the youths seem to have accepted them. Two ASBO warning letters had gone out and the parents had been seen. Two Tongwynlais youths had been found causing problems and had been escorted back to their own area. There had been a few problems with drunken youths harassing residents waiting for trains in the station shelter. More residents were reporting problems to the police and there was also good cooperation from the Comprehensive School. Members of the meeting were then asked if they had any concerns they wished to raise with Andrew and the suggestion was made that perhaps a follow up youth meeting could be held with Marion before Christmas? Another concern was that the traffic lights in Fordd Treforgan were being regularly vandalised and signs moved. These actions could cause a serious accident. Andrew reported he was aware of the problems and had asked that a check be included into the police rounds. Andrew was thanked for his comprehensive statement.
7. **Planning: Radyr Arms:** See Community Council report. Thanks were offered to Marion for her successful intervention in this matter to date. **New Health Centre:** Trinity Medical Properties (who will own and lease back to the new health centre to the doctors) have been given the go-ahead by the Diocese to submit a planning application for the Centre, a new Rectory and the conversion of the old Rectory into four flats though the latter is still speculative. **Sidings 2:** There had been a formal planning application which needs to be checked. There have been a number of infringements to agreed contracts at the new **Hazelwood** development but, thanks to an 'aware' resident, these had been raised with Marion and the Community Council. It was felt residents must be reminded to report infringements when they occur so that action can be taken quickly. The point was raised that though Stewart Bannister, the Enforcement Officer, was willing to take action, there was a built-in delay of up to 50 days before he could act to correct them. An example quoted was the concern about the safety of the houses in Ravensbrook because whilst work had commenced no flood defences have been put in place because of a loop in the procedures. Also the developers have acquired access off a farm track on the site to overcome the need for acquiring planning permission for the work they are doing. The question was also raised about taking pre-emptive action for Heol Syr Lewis residents as cars are already using this road for access to the site and for car parking. Ravensbrook residents want a sign denying access to site traffic, especially as the area is a popular play area for local children. It was agreed the Association and the Community Council would liaise with a local resident and then write to Marion asking her to establish what the County Council intend to do to prevent the Developers taking advantage of these administrative delays. **UDP** Dave Cargill has agreed to co-ordinate the Association's comments on the Unitary Development Plan.
8. **Messages/Ideas:** The meeting was referred to the current pages from the on-line diary on display. The Community Council are holding their **Christmas Tree lighting ceremonies on the 4th December** – 7pm at the Granny Park in Morganstown and 7.30 in Windsor Gardens – everyone is invited back to the OCR afterwards for some mulled wine and mince pies.
9. **Radyr and Morganstown Community Sports Trust:** Ken reported that, whilst the project and formation of the Trust was first raised in 2001, the first tranche of planning gain money – £45k – had only recently been paid to County. A further £20k was expected shortly. The rest of the money depended upon the terms of the Sidings contracts when signed. Regarding the Trust's plans for the Mound Field, County are not prepared to release any money for survey and architectural work. This has to be accomplished using voluntary professional help or by someone prepared to wait a year or two for payment. This is not helpful and delays action but the Trust is currently negotiating the terms of such an arrangement with an architect. The major issue regarding the provision of any facilities is that, whatever is provided, has to be sustained from income. Even a small building needs about £5000 a year to cover major costs; insurances being the largest of these. There were two proposals on the table. 1. To refurbish the existing Rugby club to make changing, shower, and meeting rooms. This would cost around £200,000 and require a Sportslot grant of around £150,000 which is significantly more than their average for last year. 2. A proposal had been made to Morganstown Village Hall committee to consider selling the existing hall site and using the proceeds to rebuild a larger modern hall with sports and arts facilities on the Mound Field site adjacent to Pugh's Garden Centre. This depended on County providing a long lease to MVH; planning permission being given for development on the MF site and MVH site; and sufficient money arising from the sale to build a new hall. All the signs were good. The fabric of the existing hall had only been sustained by generous Community Council grants; these could not be relied upon in the future. A modern hall held the prospect of a larger stage with back stage facilities, changing rooms and toilets, separate toilet facilities for hall users, a special clean suite for aerobic, dance and Martial arts, and arts facility: visual and singing, larger storage facilities, a modern kitchen that can also provide a service for external users – football teams, spectators

and the Motte Park area. The old rugby building could possibly be attached and provide sport facilities: changing rooms, toilets, meeting rooms, storage etc. Ron suggested the Community Council could be approached to assist in helping towards any funding needed regarding the surveys etc. Discussions had taken place with County on improving access to the site. If the new hall can be built, Gary (Karate) could offer a scholarship which would ensure that someone was always on site. This would significantly deter vandalism. Ken paid tribute to Marion Drake's dedication to finding an effective community use for the Mound Field. .

10. **Halls: OCR:** The CCTV camera has been installed. As further proof that this is needed vandals have recently irreparably damaged the light standard covering the car park which will need to be replaced at considerable cost. The WI bench will shortly be replaced. The OCR committee had approved the purchase of a digital projector for use by the community. They have recently lost the Tuesday youth club but a Pilate's group has taken its place. **MVH:** Maggie reported their thanks to the Community Council's grant towards fencing. The committee had confirmed that they would consider relocating to the Mound Field if such a move is shown to be viable and of benefit to village residents.
11. **Future Themes: Community Web Site:** A knowledgeable and active committee is continuing under the chairmanship of Cllr Steve Jones. There has been a lively exchange of ideas via email, the web and the Chain. It is already proving an excellent method of communicating information within the community. **Arts:** No report available in Allan's absence. **Cleanliness/ Christmas Trees:** Robin reported that the Christmas trees will shortly be set up. St Ledger electricians had been asked to provide a quote for the electrical installation and an official inspection for safety/insurance purposes. Next year the Shopkeepers will be asked to pay for the trees, as is currently the case in Llandaff. Robin was pleased to report that, since the 'litter pickers' have been out, it has become noticeable that County are doing a better job in keeping the shopping area clean. The 'litter pickers' now aim to target specific areas so if anyone knows of an area that needs the groups' assistance then please let Robin know. **Conservation:** Rod has received no feedback from his article on Conservation in the last edition of the Radyr Chain. He now intends to seek signatures to show that residents support the principle of a Conservation Area. Given this he will then present the petition to the Community Council for them to take the next step of formally registering with County our Community's wish to proceed.
12. **Any Other Business:** none
13. **Date of next meeting: Monday 26th January 2004, 8pm in the Old Church Rooms.**