

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 24th November 2015 at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)

Cllr C Backshall,

Cllr D Borthwick

Cllr M Connell

Cllr F James

Cllr C Jones

Cllr R McCluskey

Cllr B Richardson

1. Apologies for Absence:

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council - unwell
County Councillor Arwel Jones

2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda:

None.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th October 2015:

The Minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes that are not on the Agenda:

4.1. Smoke Free Playgrounds

Cllr C Backshall confirmed that he had received the smoke free posters from Public Health, Wales.

4.2 RoSPA inspection of the playground at Walls Bridge

The inspection had not yet taken place.

After note: The inspection took place on 14th December 2015 and RoSPA's report was circulated to Councillors on 18th December 2015 for discussion at the next meeting.

4.3. Meeting with Mobile Network Operators.

Cllr D Borthwick attended the meeting on behalf of the Council on 13th November 2015 and reported that all parties acknowledged the need, and were working, to improve matters.

4.4 Request for funding from Powys Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Cllr D Borthwick confirmed that the Oswestry Citizens' Advice Bureau were also happy to act for Carreghofa residents. Council therefore agreed not to make a donation to Powys on this occasion.

5. Local delivery of services:

Cllr D Thornycroft advised the meeting that, whilst it was still worth proceeding with the Clerks' meeting of the proposed North East cluster Councils, the planned meeting with Powys County Council legal experts and analysis of the results of the Carreghofa Questionnaire as agreed at the last meeting, there were new developments to consider. He tabled a letter from Powys County Council dated 20th November 2015 explaining how they intended to find £27 million in 3 years and offering Councils 2 choices: leave Powys to deliver services "at a minimum specification", meeting any additional delivery

required from the precept; or take reduced funding from Powys, alone or in a cluster of Councils, to deliver the service ourselves. A second letter was promised setting out the detail in cash terms. Council agreed to continue to liaise with both Llanfyllin and the North East proposed clusters but decided that, if the second letter contained no new information, Council would adopt the first option on the grounds that reduced funding for the only services that apply to us, namely street cleaning and grounds maintenance, could not be achieved by reduced overheads but would mean reduced services. **After note: The second letter contained nothing new and Cllr Thornycroft, having canvassed Councillors by email, accordingly replied on 7th December 2015 that Carreghofa would opt for Option 1. He added that an agreed definition of the “minimum specification” would be critical.**

6. Finance Report:

6.1. Financial Position

The report submitted by the Clerk was received.

6.2. Budget 2016/2017

Council approved the draft Budget submitted by the Clerk with the following minor amendments:

That the figure for Insurance should be increased by £50.

That the donation to the Village Hall should be extracted from the sum allocated for Donations and shown separately.

After note: The Precept Request was submitted to Powys County Council on 14th January 2016.

6.3. Concurrent Funding

The application for funding agreed at the last meeting was submitted by 20th November 2015.

6.4. Approval of Payments

Council approved the payments listed in the papers for the meeting.

7. To receive reports from Committees and Working Groups:

7.1. Amenity

No issues were raised.

7.2. Border Gateway

Cllr C Backshall reported that no progress with planting the edges of the car park had been possible because of the weather.

7.3. Highways and byways

No issues were raised.

7.4. Website

Nothing further to report.

8. Other Matters:

8.1. Pedestrian Crossing at Llanymynech.

The pedestrian crossing was discussed with Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council in the joint meeting immediately preceding this meeting. The two Councils had written to their respective Highways Agencies and MP/AM about the dangers posed by the pedestrian crossing in Llanymynech. A petition sponsored by The Cross Keys Inn would shortly be submitted. Both Councils agreed to follow up with further letters in the New Year if no response had been forthcoming by then.

8.2. Best Kept Village Competition.

Cllr F James reported on the meeting she had attended on the Council's behalf. Entry is free and success depends on being a good place to live in rather than on intrinsic attractiveness. Council agreed

that Carreghofa should enter and that all Councillors would be prepared to progress the task. The closing date is 26th February 2016.

9. To receive reports from outside bodies:

9.1 Montgomery Council Forum

The report received from Cllr D Thornycroft was noted.

9.2. Burial Board

There had been no meeting since the last report.

9.3. National Grid

The report received from Cllr D Thornycroft was noted.

9.4 One Voice Wales

There had been no meeting since the last report.

9.5 Village Hall

The Village Hall was discussed with Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council in the joint meeting immediately preceding this meeting. Powys County Council intends to withdraw any funding for Village Halls. Shropshire County Council has already done so. Both Councils agreed that the Village Hall was vital to all sectors of the community and pledged to do what they could to support it from their respective precepts.

10. Correspondence:

10.1. Correspondence for Decision

There was no correspondence that required a decision.

10.2. Correspondence to Note

Council noted the correspondence listed in the papers for the meeting.

11. To confirm the date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 26th January 2016 at Llanymynech Village Hall, 7.00pm. (Papers and reports for the meeting to the Clerk by 21st January please)

ACTION: All to note

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____