

# Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr M Connell (Chair)

Cllr D Cavill

Cllr F James

Cllr C Jones

Cllr D Thornycroft

In attendance:

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

Mr G Bradley – Director: North Montgomeryshire CIC  
(for item 7.1.)

## 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr R McCluskey

Cllr D Borthwick

## 2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Connell for item 5.4

## 3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017

The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

## 4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1. (ref Min: 4.1.) This matter is ongoing.

**ACTION: Clerk to purchase new signs  
Cllr Arwell Jones to liaise with Cllr Connell**

4.2. (ref: Min 7.3.) Cllr Borthwick had attended on behalf of the Council and in his absence the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

4.3. (ref: Min 10.1.) The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Fisher German on behalf of Severn Trent saying that the work at Walls Bridge had been delayed because of the hot weather. It is now scheduled to start on 31<sup>st</sup> July

## 5. Finance Report

### 5.1. Financial Position

The financial position set out in the papers for the meeting was noted.

### 5.2. Financial Statement – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

Council received the statement as set out in the papers for the meeting. The Clerk said that the situation mirrored closely the same period in 2016 / 2017.

### 5.3. Tirgwynt Community Fund

The Chairman, who is also Hon Treasurer of the fund reported that it had received £61500 to be spent over a period of 5 years. The trustees have decided to allocate amounts on an annual basis rather than spend the whole amount in the first year.

A total of £10700 had been allocated to applicants for the year 2017 / 2018. In Carreghofa £700 had been given to the school towards the cost of a mobile hoist to be used for disabled pupils on school outings.

#### 5.4. Mobile Hoist for Carreghofa School

In respect of the grant allocation to Carreghofa Primary School outlined in 5.3 above Council was asked to agree to pay the shortfall of £900. It was noted that the hoist would be kept at Carreghofa School but could be loaned to other schools as required.

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's reserves were more than able to meet the request and Cllr Thornycroft reminded members that the Council had agreed at an earlier meeting to support this initiative. It was proposed by Cllr Thornycroft, seconded by Cllr James and agreed unanimously that £900 be allocated to Carreghofa Primary School for the purchase of a mobile hoist.

#### 5.5. Invoice for swing repair

The Chairman said that the RoSPA inspection of Walls Bridge playground had pointed out that the bucket straps on one of the swings were rotting. The cost of replacing the straps is £52.95 + VAT and the Chairman said that he would undertake to replace the straps if Council approved the expenditure. This was agreed.

#### 5.6. Approval of Payments

Council approved the following payments:-

- Llanymynech Village Hall - £66 – rent for meeting room (includes £48 agreed at the June meeting + £20 invoice received before the meeting)
- JDH Business Services - £278.40 - internal audit fee
- RoSPA - £79.80 - Walls Bridge playground inspection

Council also noted the following payment via Standing order

- Greenfingers Ltd - £129.30 - grounds maintenance June 2017.

#### 6. Planning Application P/2017/0738

Council noted the Clerk's resume in the papers for the meeting and agreed to take no action in this matter.

### **7 Other matters**

#### 7.1. North Montgomeryshire Community Interest Company

Mr Graham Bradley, a Director of the Company and a community councillor for Penybontfawr Community Council attended for this matter.

The Clerk set the scene by reminding members that, at the time that Powys County Council decided to devolve services to local councils, it was decided to negotiate with a group of 6 rural community councils to form a rural cluster but, at the same time, to express an interest in Llanfyllin without committing the Council to joining.

Principally because of lack of information from Powys County Council the rural cluster did not make any progress and Carreghofa decided to remain on its own for the time being.

In the meantime the Llanfyllin cluster has formed a community interest company to deliver services and it appears that Carreghofa has been included in the list of community councils which are part of this company.

Mr Bradley said that the community interest company had been incorporated on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and somehow the legal documentation has included Carreghofa but no monies belonging to Carreghofa had been transferred to the company and, if it so wished, Carreghofa could remove itself from the list of participating community councils.

He pointed out that since the incorporation, the administration at Powys County Council had changed and this may have an effect on the County Council's future policy.

The North Montgomeryshire Community Interest Company would undertake to provide the following services on behalf of its member councils:-

- Llanfyllin Library
- Street Cleaning
- Grounds maintenance and verge cutting

Powys County Council had come up with figures for the CIC to contract separately and would allocate £20700; this figure does not include services for Carreghofa Community Council. Mr Bradley said that the County Council had taken a long time to produce the figures and, even now, the CIC did not think that they were accurate. He said that Powys County Council saw the CIC as a market leader and that they hoped to roll out the scheme to groups of other community and town councils.

He felt it likely that the County Council would eventually reduce or withdraw the services that it currently provides although he had established that the County Council cannot do this without giving 12 months' notice.

He further said that individual councils within the CIC could opt for which services they required. Each council would contribute towards the costs of maintaining the library according to the amount of use made by residents of the community in question.  
(n.b. this would be in the region of £161 per annum for Carreghofa thought to be principally from young people attending the High School)

Mr Bradley said that the CIC would need to know by the end of September whether Carreghofa Community Council wished to join the CIC or remain independent.

Cllr Thornycroft said that one year ago the Council was faced with four choices:-

1. Become part of a cluster based on Welshpool
2. Become part of a cluster based on Llanfyllin
3. Become part of a cluster of rural community councils in North East Montgomeryshire
4. Remain as we were and receive services from Powys County Council

The third option had been preferred as the Council felt that a group made up of our rural neighbours would have common interests. However as we could not get an agreement between Powys County Council and the community councils in the group it was decided to take option 4.

He felt that over time the County Council may adopt a form of compulsion which would mean that small community councils would have to become part of a larger group. In this case it would be better to ally ourselves with the North east group.

Cllr Jones asked, does size matter - Carreghofa would be one of the smallest councils in the CIC. Mr Bradley said that it did not, councils can choose which services they wish to purchase.

Cllr Jones asked if there will be a management fee. Mr Bradley said that there would not be a fee; the management is voluntary.

Cllr Connell asked whether, if Carreghofa joins the £20700 fee would increase. Mr Bradley said that it would in any case. If Carreghofa joins the amount that Powys allocates to Carreghofa will be added to the CIC's budget.

Cllr Connell added that we had waited to find the legal minimum that Powys must provide but Mr Bradley said that this will be very low. Cllr Connell said that whatever savings Powys makes is unlikely to be passed on in a reduction in Council Tax.

It was agreed that the Council would deliberate further on this and give a definitive answer by the end of September. The Chairman thanked Mr Bradley for attending and making the case for the CIC.

**ACTION: All to consider and bring opinions to the next meeting**

#### 7.2. Joint CPRW / CCC event

The Clerk read an e-mail received from Jill Kibble of CPRW as set out below:-

*Dear Mike*

*Just realised that had not responded to your e-mail for which I do apologise. Have been away for a couple of weeks and trying to catch up.*

*Unfortunately I have a Town Council meeting in Montgomery this evening which I chair so would not have been able to attend.*

*However, CPRW Montgomeryshire are planning on holding their AGM on September 16th at the Heritage Centre in Llanymynech and we wondered if some members of council/ local community who were involved with BKV Montgomeryshire may be willing to take us on a guided walk around Llanymynech telling us why they entered for BKV and what makes it such a good place to live and also including a short walk along the canal pointing out some of the heritage features. This could be advertised to our Members but also be open to local people.*

*If this idea is of interest please let me know and we can perhaps discuss further.*

*Kind regards  
Jill*

No councillor was available on 16<sup>th</sup> September; it was, therefore, decided to invite Ms Kibble to a future meeting. Cllr Thornycroft felt that the 'Limeys' might be able to arrange the event for CPRW and the Clerk was asked to forward Ms Kibble's e-mail to them.

**ACTION: Clerk to invite Jill Kibble to attend a future meeting and ask the @limeys' if they can help.**

#### 7.3. MontytraX

Council noted the report in the papers for the meeting. It was agreed that the Council would write a letter in support of the MontytraX project and invite Shan Mayor to address the October Council meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk to write a letter of support and invite Shan Mayor to address the October meeting.**

#### 7.4. Use of recycling banks

Council noted the report in the papers for the meeting. The Clerk said that County Cllr Arwel Jones had asked for this item to be put on the agenda and, in his absence, Council decided to defer it to the next meeting.

## **8. Amenities**

### 8.1. Playground Inspection

Council received with pleasure the report of the inspection of the Walls Bridge playground carried out by RoSPA on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The Clerk pointed out that one of the recommendations was to install dog ban signs.

## **9. Highways & Byways**

### 9.1. Pen-y-Foel

Cllr James reiterated the comments made at the last meeting that no action has yet been taken regarding water on the green road from Pen-y-Foel . This will be passed on to County Cllr Arwel Jones for action

**ACTION: Clerk to forward to County Cllr Arwel Jones**

### 9.2. Road works on the A483

Cllr Thornycroft said that the contractors working on the A483 were parking their vehicles in the car park at the foot of Pen-y-Foel and while this was not a problem tarmac had been dumped and the drain was ¾ blocked. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the contractors and require them to make clear the drain and make good any damage when they leave the site.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### 9.3. Caravan site

It was pointed out that a combine harvester crossing the canal bridge leading to the Abertanat caravan site had gouged out the road surface. The Clerk was asked to apprise County Cllr Arwel Jones of this so that he can ask the County Council to effect repairs.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **10. To receive reports of meetings from outside bodies**

No meetings of outside bodies have taken place since the last meeting.

## **11 Correspondence.**

### 11.1. Correspondence for decision

The Clerk said that he had received a letter from Cllr Thornycroft formally resigning from the Council as he is moving away from the area. This creates a second vacancy on the Council and the Clerk can contact Electoral Services to put in train the process of co-option.

### 11.2. Correspondence to note.

Council noted the correspondence sent out by the Clerk since the last meeting and itemised in the papers for the meeting.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Carreghofa Community Council will take place on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.00pm** at Llanymynech Village Hall.

A number of councillors offered apologies for this date and, in order to avoid an inquorate meeting it was decided that we should canvas availability for Tuesdays 19<sup>th</sup> September, 26<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October .

**Action: All to send availability to the Clerk**

## **13. Cllr Thornycroft**

The Chairman said that he could not let the meeting close without thanking Cllr Thornycroft for his services to the Council both as a councillor and latterly (until June 2017) as Chairman. He said that Council will greatly miss Cllr Thornycroft's leadership, wisdom and common sense and wished him and Nichols well in their new home.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_