

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghafa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2016
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)
Cllr C Backshall,
Cllr M Connell
Cllr F James
Cllr C Jones
Cllr R McCluskey
Cllr B Richardson

In attendance: Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

1	Apologies for Absence Cllr D Borthwick - work County Councillor Arwel Jones – County Council meeting
2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:	None
3. To confirm the minutes of the joint meeting of Carreghafa Community Council and Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th November 2015	Cllr Richardson felt that the wording of Section 2a did not reflect the strength of feeling of the meeting. He suggested the following amendment at line 2:- Meanwhile, both Councils agreed to write to their respective Highways Agency, copy to the relevant MP or AM, to point out that the state of the road is disgraceful and, because of fears of the road surface collapsing, the drain covers on the A483 between Llanymynech and Morda should be moved into the verges. With this amendment the minutes were approved as a correct record.
4. Matters arising from the minutes	4.1. Cllr Backshall reported that the Defibrillator project is now closed, although he is still awaiting certificates. There is a small underspend on the project (£241) but the Lottery Fund does not want the amount repaid and this will be spent on maintenance of the defibrillator.
5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th November 2015.	The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. Matters arising from the minutes	6.1. <u>Pedestrian Crossing at Llanymynech</u> There is no information further to the petition drawn up by the landlord of the Bradford Arms and consequently no letter has been sent by the Community Council to the County Council. Cllr Backshall agreed to contact the landlord to ascertain what progress, if any, has been made and the Clerk will write to the County Council and Highways Authority to support the petition if this is necessary.

Action: Cllr Backshall and Clerk

Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Backshall spoke to the landlord who has not yet sent in the petition. He confirmed that it would be sent before the next Council meeting

6.2. Best Kept Village Competition

No action has been taken since the last meeting. On-line Registration is required by 26th February. Once registered, information will be sent by the organisers to the Council.

Action: Clerk

7. Local delivery of services

The Chairman reported that the second letter from Powys County Council provided no new information and accordingly he had written to the County Council to apprise them that Carreghofa would choose Option 1, i.e. that services would continue to be provided by Powys County Council at a minimum standard. Guilsfield, Bausley with Criggion, Trewern and Llandrinio & Ardleen community councils have all opted for Option 1 and Llandysilio is expected to do so in the next few days.

The proposed North East Montgomeryshire cluster is therefore defunct. However, the Chairman has received an e-mail from Cllr Frances Buckingham suggesting that the community councils in the group should meet with Powys County Council collectively to ensure that services are provided to a satisfactory and uniform standard across the area. She has drafted a letter to the County Council suggesting what is required under Option 1 and also suggests that individual councils might follow Welshpool's example and agree a Charter with the County Council regarding the provision of services.

It was agreed that Carreghofa Community Council would join with the other councils in the group to meet Powys County Council. The Chairman would confirm this with Cllr Buckingham and the Clerk will forward the draft letter to councillors for consideration at the next council meeting.

Action: Chairman & Clerk

Cllr Backshall said that a charter existed some years ago which set out the parameters with which the County would work with community and town councils. He felt that a charter will be important in the future as the structure of local government changes.

Cllr Connell asked whether a charter would specify minimum standards. The Chairman said that he has written to Keep Wales Tidy and had received a reply which was not helpful, being too general in its approach. Cllr Connell said that it was important to cut out ambiguity and hold the County to a specific level of service.

8. Finance Report

8.1. Financial Position

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

8.2. Third Quarter Statement

Council noted the Statement of Accounts up to 31st December 2015 in the papers. The Clerk pointed out a misprint in that the Income for the year was shown as £16,412.03 and should read £16,413.00.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Cllr Backshall and seconded by Cllr Connell and agreed unanimously.

8.3. Maintenance Contracts

The Clerk drew attention to the letter from Maintenance Contractors (Oswestry) Ltd. in the papers. This company has acquired the goodwill of P&W Contracting Ltd and wishes to continue providing a service to Carreghofa Community Council.

Cllr Jones said that the Council had always been satisfied with the work carried out by P&W and noted that the staff have been transferred into the new company.

Cllr Richardson said that MCO had acquired the goodwill of P&W but not the liabilities and felt that it was incumbent on the Council to go to tender before letting out a new contract.

Financial Standing Orders require that the Council seeks tenders for any expenditure over £1,000. Cllr Backshall felt that it is good practice to test the market from time to time and that tenders should be sought. The Clerk confirmed that he was aware of other companies that might wish to tender.

Cllr Jones thought it would be useful to see what other local community councils who have used P&W have done.

It was agreed that tenders be sought. The Clerk would undertake this process in conjunction with Cllrs Backshall and Richardson.

The Clerk will also write to MCO (Oswestry) Ltd informing them of the Council's decision and inviting them to tender for the contract.

Action: Clerk

8.4. Approval of Payments.

Council approved the items for payment set out in the papers for the meeting.

It further approved payment of £17 to the Royal British Legion for a wreath purchased for the Remembrance Sunday service.

9. Reports from Committees and Working Groups

9.1. Amenity

There was nothing to report

7.2. Border Working Group

There was nothing to report since the last meeting. Cllr Backshall said that, weather permitting, he would do some planting at the car park. He asked for councillors to help out if they were available.

Action: Cllr Backshall

Cllr Backshall pointed out that cars for sale were being left on the car park. Cllr Thornycroft said that this had been reported to the Highways Agency in the past. It was agreed that a letter be drawn up informing the owners that the car park is managed by the Council and cannot be used for commercial purposes. The cars should be removed immediately. Registration numbers would be noted and passed to the Highways Agency and offending vehicles may be removed.

Action: Clerk to draw up letter and provide Cllr Thornycroft (who lives close by) with a supply. Cllr Thornycroft will affix the letters to offending vehicles and inform the Clerk. Clerk to contact the Highways Agency.

9.3. Highways and Byways

9.3.1. The Chairman raised the issue of mud on Carreghofa Lane. Cllr Backshall said that this was mainly due to the use of the football field, which is welcomed, and users parking on the soft verges. Cllr Jones felt that the solution was to put hard-core between the road surface and the boundary fence.

9.3.2. Potholes are still causing a problem across the village. Those in Tan y Foel and Chapel Lane have not been dealt with despite being referred from the November meeting. Another pothole has appeared on the road to the golf course. It was confirmed that this is in Powys.

9.3.3. Cllr Thornycroft noted that the grit bins in Pen y Foel have been filled but that one is missing. He believes that this was damaged and removed. It was agreed that an approach should be made to have the bin reinstated.

9.3.4. Cllr Jones drew attention to the note that she had put into the papers regarding the need for a convex mirror at the end of Carreghofa Lane to assist parents in crossing safely when taking children to and from school. Council agreed that this would be useful and the clerk was asked to draw the matter to the attention of our county councillor.

9.3.5. Cllr Connell expressed concern that the yellow road markings outside the school were being ignored by vehicle users which only leaves one carriageway available for vehicles in both directions as they pass the school. Cllr Backshall said that parking on the yellow lines is technically illegal but the County has to provide a vertical sign before the law can be enforced. An approach had been made to Powys County Council some time ago but no action has been taken. This will be raised again with County Councillor Jones

9.3.6. Cllr Jones reported that the drains beyond the railway bridge towards Carreghofa Hall Farm are blocked.

9.3.7. Cllr McCluskey noted that a tree between Tan y Foel and Cae Celyn is dropping boughs and causing concern to neighbours. He has e-mailed County Councillor Jones but the Clerk was asked to remind him about this problem.

9.3.8. Cllr James raised concerns about motorists speeding on the B4398 between the school and the bridge. It was felt that the Highways Agency was unlikely to agree to extend the speed limited area.

Action: Clerk to raise all the above concerns with County Councillor Arwel Jones

9.4. Web site

It was noted that the Canal trust has asked to be linked to the web-site

Action: Clerk

10. Other matters

10.1. North Powys Cycle Track

Shan Mayor was to have attended for this item but did not arrive. Nonetheless the Council expressed its general approval of the scheme.

Cllr Jones reported that a meeting had been held on 14th January and the working Group is to proceed with a funding application.

The next meeting will be on 11th February and Cllrs Jones and James will represent Carreghofa. Other councillors who may be interested are also welcome to attend the meeting which will be held at the Cain Hotel in Llanfyllin.

10.2. RoSPA Playground Inspection

The report from RoSPA had been circulated to councillors. The Chairman pointed out that on one side of the page was the intrinsic value and on the other what Carreghofa had scored. He said that where the risk level was deemed to be medium or high then action must be taken by the Council.

Most areas were graded as low risk. At Medium risk was the need to make the access to the canal safer. Cllr Backshall said that originally there was no gate to the canal but after holes had appeared in the hedge where people had forced a way onto the towpath a gate had been installed. He felt that there was little that could be done to make the gate safer other than install a self-closing mechanism and have the gate re-hung so that it closes towards the canal and opens inwards. Cllr McCluskey thought that bilingual warning signs should be erected. The Amenities Sub-Group was asked to look at what could be done and bring a costed proposal to the next Council meeting.

There are some missing parts and it was suggested that Ray Parry, the company that installed the equipment, should be contacted.

Cllr Jones thought that the addition of some 'keep fit' equipment for older age groups could be considered.

Cllr Connell asked whether a disclaimer notice should be displayed but Cllr Backshall said that this was not usual practice and Cllr Richardson was of the opinion that as long as the Council took all reasonable care it could not be held liable.

Action: Amenities Sub-Group to produce a costed proposal

The Chairman pointed out that the address of the playground on the report was incorrect. The Clerk will write to RoSPA to have this corrected.

Action: Clerk

10.3. Walls Bridge Play Area development

Cllr McCluskey said that there were three phases to the development of Walls Bridge. They were:-

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Installation of play equipment |
| 2. | Resurfacing |
| 3. | Add more equipment. |

The first two had been carried out and he felt that it was now time to consider how the playground could be added to and improved. He showed a number of slides of playground equipment which ranged in price from £600 to £4,300. Cllr Backshall felt that a lottery bid could be made for funds to improve the playground. Cllr McCluskey was asked to look at a number of companies and suggest what improvements could be made with quotes. Cllr McCluskey asked Cllr Connell to assist in this exercise.

Action: Cllrs McCluskey & Connell

10.4. PAVO Play Pledge

The paper on the PAVO Play Pledge was received by Council. It was felt that the Council is already carrying out the spirit of the Play Pledge but that Carreghofa should formally join the scheme. Cllr Thornycroft wondered whether PAVO might be a source of funding for new play equipment. Cllr Jones agreed to look into this.

Action: Cllr Jones

10.5 HM Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

Council noted the paper on the celebrations for HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday celebrations and particularly the lighting of beacons. The Council unanimously agreed to take part in this and the Clerk was asked to register our interest and provide a grid reference for a beacon on Llanymynech Hill.

Cllr Backshall said that at the Jubilee celebrations he had constructed a beacon using a converted oil drum. He would do the same again but would require help. Cllr Jones said that she had already sourced a supply of oil drums.

**Action: Clerk to register with the scheme.
Cllrs Backshall and Jones to progress matters locally.**

To receive reports on meeting from outside bodies.

11.1. Burial Board

The Board met on 13th January. Finding a new site is proving difficult. The next meeting, which will concentrate on this issue, will meet on 11th April at 6.30pm at Llanymynech Village Hall and all councillors are invited to attend.

11.2. Montgomeryshire Council Forum

The paper submitted by Cllr Thornycroft was noted.

11.3. National Grid

The paper submitted by Cllr Thornycroft was noted. Cllr Thornycroft said that the meeting of the Tyr Gwynt project would take place tomorrow (27th January) and Cllr Connell is attending on the Council's behalf.

11.4. One Voice Wales

Cllr Backshall tabled a paper which was noted. The following subjects were covered in the paper:-

1. NEST - Making Wales Cosy
2. Devolution of Services
workshops
3. On-line Planning Applications.
The Clerk pointed out that numerous community and town councils had told Powys County Council that they were not prepared to comply with this.
4. Report of Development Officer
on consultants appointed by the Welsh Government to review the work of One Voice Wales which is seen as an important link between the Welsh Government and local government.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th April.

11.5. Village Hall

Cllr Jones reported that there had been some criminal damage to the roof of the Village Hall and some 50 tiles had been broken. There was also a break in at Auto Fix on 16th January when a number of car keys had been stolen. These were later found at the Village Hall. An investigation is on-going.

The Clerk tabled a copy of the form for the Village Halls and Community Centre Revenue Grant Scheme 2016-2017. Cllr Jones agreed that she would provide the Clerk with the information need to

fill out the form and submit it to the County Council.

Action: Cllr Jones and Clerk

12. Correspondence.

The Clerk said that there was no correspondence for decision.

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

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 23rd February at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall.

Action: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____