

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

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

Present:

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)

Cllr D Borthwick

Cllr M Connell

Cllr F James

Cllr C Jones

Cllr B Richardson

In attendance:

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr C Backshall – in hospital

Cllr James gave a report on Cllr Backshall who is in hospital. She said that he is likely to have an operation as soon as he is fit enough. A letter and card is to be sent to Cllr Backshall. To obviate any delay in getting signatures on the card, the Clerk was asked to convey everyone's best wishes for a good recovery.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr R McCluskey – on holiday

Belated apologies via e-mail from County Councillor Arwel Jones who was delayed at a County Council meeting.

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

None

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th June 2016.

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1. Defibrillator maintenance

Cllr Borthwick said that, because of Cllr Backshall's admittance to hospital, he had not been able to discuss the maintenance of the defibrillator with him. He would do so as soon as he was home and fit enough. In the meantime Cllr Borthwick assured the Council that he would make routine checks on the defibrillator. Council agreed that this item may now be omitted from future agendas

4.2. Planning application Re: TREE/2016/0021

The Clerk reported that he had notified the Planning Department of the Council's support for the application and that planning permission had subsequently been granted. The Chairman commented that the trees had already been removed and the site was much improved by this.

5. Finance Report

5.1. Financial Position

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

5.2. Financial Statement for the 1st Quarter of 2016

Council noted the Financial Statement as presented in the papers for the meeting. The Clerk pointed out that:

- The full year's payment for Concurrent Functions was included in the 1st Quarter's Precept payment.
- The bulk of the Administration costs was due to the purchase of a printer / scanner. Last year show no cost against this head because all requirements were met from petty cash.
- Grounds maintenance was underspent due to a change of contractor, the Council's previous contractor having ceased trading.
- Rents were overspent due to additional meetings held as part of the Best Kept Village competition.

5.3. Approval of Payments

Council noted the payments listed in the papers for the meeting. Cllr Borthwick proposed that the payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Connell and agreed unanimously.

6. Other matters

6.1. DECC- Re Determination and MAP (Montgomeryshire Against Pylons)

The Chairman referred to the letter from the DECC included in the papers for the meeting. He said that the deadline for responses was 29th July and given the short amount of time available he had drafted a possible response which was also included in the papers. He said that Council must decide whether it is still against the proposals and if so should submit a response, and that it should either contain new information or expand upon information already given in the Council's original deposition.

Cllr Richardson asked whether the original response should be included with the Council's current response but the Chairman felt that any response would be more likely to be read and noted if it was concise. DECC has a copy of the original response should it wish to consult this.

After discussion Council accepted the Chairman's draft but it was felt that the points raised should be linked to the headings in the DECC's letter and the points should follow the order of the DECC's letter. The Chairman suggested that a copy of the Council's response should be sent to Martin Clare in his role as a member of MAP and that a copy of the Tirgwynt report should also be sent to Mr. Clare. This was agreed.

The clerk was tasked with making the amendments and sending the Council's response to the DECC in order to meet the deadline of 29th July

ACTION: Clerk

6.2. Tirgwynt Windfarm

The report of the meeting held on 6th July was received by Council. Cllr Connell pointed out that the delay at the start of the simulation exercise on 30th June was because the Police had refused permission for the convoy to start due to an accident on the motorway. Nonetheless there were significant hold ups on the route, most noticeably between Welshpool and the site which took two hours to cover a distance of about fifteen miles.

Councillors expressed concern that subsequent convoys were considerably delayed and

caused a build-up of traffic following the convoy. Additionally there has been only one convoy per day rather than the two expected and this will extend the period over which convoys will pass through the area. Cllr Connell said that he had written to the company suggesting that three convoys per day over five days per week would reduce pressure on the area and leave the weekend free of convoys, especially as Saturday is the main change over day for holiday accommodation and we are now entering the peak holiday season.

Cllr Richardson pointed out that there was no police presence behind the convoy and, therefore, no means of alerting the leading police vehicles about the volume of traffic building up behind.

Councillors will continue to monitor the situation.

6.3. RoSPA report

The playground inspection carried out by Playsafety Ltd on behalf of RoSPA was noted. The Chairman noted that the report still gives the location of the playground as Station Road which is incorrect. The Clerk will contact RoSPA to have this amended.

ACTION: Clerk

The Chairman said that most areas examined had been rated either low or very low which meant that no action was required. One area had been rated medium and, as a result, the whole inspection has been rated Medium.

Cllr Richardson drew the Council's notice to a gap on the Multiplay apparatus which had not been picked up by the inspector but which he felt could present a risk to a small child of falling from the equipment.

The following aspects of the report were considered:-

Gate to the canal towpath

- The inspector felt that the ground leading to the gate represented a trip hazard. Council agreed that Greenfingers Ltd should be asked to level off the surface and cut back excess vegetation and trees.
- The inspector also recommended that the gate be blocked or warning signs be erected. Cllr Jones said that there was significant use of the canal gate to gain entry to the playground. Cllr James felt that access from the canal path was a good thing but pointed out that the return mechanism on the gate was broken and a new mechanism should be installed. Cllr Jones pointed out that safety matters beyond the playground were the responsibility of the Canal trust. The Clerk was asked to write to the Canal Trust apprising them of the report's recommendations and asking them to take appropriate action. Cllr James felt that the Canal Trust should also be asked to provide lifesaving equipment at the waterside.

Equipment

- The trim pieces to the seat on the Multiplay apparatus are damaged and the crutch strap on one of the swings is cracked. Cllr Connell recommended that Council awaits the result of the Tesco bid for funding before deciding on further action. This was agreed.
- The inspector recommended that a litter bin be placed on the site. Councillors did not agree with this as there is little likelihood of Powys County Council agreeing to empty a bin and there is already a bin on the roadside adjacent to the site.
- The inspector recommended that a sign banning dogs from the site should be erected. This was agreed. The Chairman said that RoSPA will provide suitable signs and the

Clerk was asked to investigate this.

ACTION: Clerk

6.4. Walls Bridge Play Area

Cllr Connell reported that the decision on the Tesco funding bid would be made at the end of August. He also said that, in response to a request from Greenfingers Ltd, he had unlocked the walls Bridge Car Park at 8.00am on 25th and 26th July but no one had turned up to cut the grass. The Clerk said that he would contact Greenfingers

ACTION: Clerk

7. Reports from Committees and Working Groups

7.1. Amenity

Cllr Richardson said that the trees on the west side of the A483 from Chapel Lane proceeding north were overgrown and required trimming as they were affecting sight lines. The Clerk said that these trees are the responsibility of the Council and their care is part of the contract with Greenfingers Ltd. He will contact Greenfingers and ask them to trim the trees as soon as possible

ACTION: Clerk

7.2. Highways & Byways.

7.2.1. Cllr James said that the wild flowers sown in the border gateway area were doing well. Unfortunately a vehicle has backed into the kerb and displaced a kerbstone. The Clerk said that he would ask Greenfingers Ltd to replace the stone.

ACTION: Clerk

7.2.2. Cllr Richardson said that another car for sale had been parked at the Gateway site. The Chairman said that he had also seen the offending vehicle and had been down to attach a Council letter to it but the car had already been removed. Cllr Richardson asked if all councillors could have a supply of letters so that if they see an offending vehicle without a letter they can attach one. The Clerk will e-mail a copy of the letter to all councillors.

ACTION: Clerk

7.2.3. Cllr James reported that no action had been taken with regard to the road at the top of Pen-y-Foel. She offered to contact County Councillor Arwel Jones and arrange a site visit with the owner, Mr David Walgate.

ACTION: Cllr James

7.2.4. Cllr Jones asked for an update regarding the holes in the hedges on the canal side between Carreghofa Lane and the school. The Clerk reported that Cllr Backshall had undertaken to walk the stretch and note the extent of the problem and then inform the Clerk who would then contact the Canal Trust. He supposed that due to Cllr Backshall's illness this had not been done.

Cllr Borthwick volunteered to undertake the task of checking the hedges and the report to the Clerk.

ACTION: Cllr Borthwick and then the Clerk

8. To receive reports on meeting from outside bodies.

8.1. Burial Board

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Powys County Council Planning Department for advice on criteria for a suitable site for a new burial ground. The Council representative was unable to give information, other than that it should not be on a flood plain, until an actual site had been identified. They had referred him to Natural Resources (Wales) but, again,

information was not forthcoming. A promised follow up by someone with the requisite expertise has not, thus far, materialised.

Cllr Jones said that the Burial Board was looking at land beyond the football field, some of which was within the flood plain. Cllr Richardson asked if there was suitable access and Cllr Jones said that this would be via the existing lane at the side of the football field. Cllr Richardson further pointed out that most people now opt for cremation and a site that caters principally for the interment of ashes should be considered.

The Council agreed that the next stage would be for the Burial Board to approach the landowner to see if he is willing to release or sell the land for a new burial ground.

ACTION: Members of the Burial Board

8.2. Montgomery Council Forum

Council noted the report in the papers for the meeting. The Chairman said that the main topic was Local Authority Reorganisation. The expected changes are not due until 2023 nonetheless the Council will need to formulate its views on the subject if it is to contribute meaningfully to the debate. He said that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 13th September when he was away. Cllr Connell agreed to attend on the Council's behalf.

ACTION: Cllr Connell

8.3. Llanymynech Village Hall

Council noted the report in the papers for the meeting and, particularly, the plan to install another defibrillator at a cost of £2000. The Clerk said that the defibrillator that the Council had installed at the Dolphin Inn had cost in the region of £1300 including electrical work and commissioning. The Council had obtained a grant from the Heritage Lottery fund to carry out the project.

Council agreed to support the Village Hall in principle but did not feel that it was likely that it could contribute financially.

8.4. Llanymynech Heritage Group

Council received the report submitted with the papers for the meeting. It noted that Shropshire County Council is withdrawing funding for the Stable Block and that a sum of £4708 is required annually to run the centre. The report suggested that the two councils (Carreghofa and Llanymynech & Pant) might fund the centre possibly by adding the amount to the Precept. The Chairman pointed out that this would be a 20% increase on the present precept. Cllr Richardson said that any approach for funding would need to be formal and fully costed and audited.

Council decided to take no action at the present time and await a formal approach from the Heritage Group if and when this might be forthcoming.

8.5. Montytrax Project

Council received the report included in the papers for the meeting. It noted that Montytrax had succeeded in obtaining 80% of the £30,000 required to proceed and that it hopes that the twenty community councils through which the route would pass would contribute to the remaining 20% of the cost. The Chairman said that, if the amount was divided equally between all the community councils, this would amount to £300. Council felt positive about supporting the project and will ask Shan Mayor to attend the next Council meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

9. Correspondence.

9.1. Correspondence for decision

9.1.1. A letter had been received from Nathan Davies, Powys County Council's War Memorials Project Officer, outlining the Powys War Memorials Project. The Chairman said that Carreghofa had only recently restored its war memorial with a grant from the War Memorials Trust and there was little more to be done. However Council was supportive of any research as outlined in the document and would cooperate with Mr Davies in this. The Clerk will communicate with him in this respect.

ACTION: Clerk

9.1.2. The Chairman said that he had received a note from Mr Neil Jenkins who has recently moved into Llanymynech and had expressed an interest in the council and, possibly, becoming a councillor. Mr Jenkins is the owner of 'Ten Green Bottles' wine store in Oswestry and currently Chairman of the Oswestry Chamber of Commerce. The Chairman felt that Mr Jenkins should be invited to attend a meeting and possibly co-opted onto a committee.

Cllr Richardson said that it was his intention to retire soon and, if there was a suitable replacement, this could be as early as September 2016.

The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Jenkins and invite him to attend the September meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

9.1.3 The Clerk reported that he had received a communication from Mr R Lewis who said that he had not received any rent for the football field for the past two years. The Clerk said that no payment had been requested in his time but on checking the records it was clear that £100 per year is due to Mr Lewis. It was agreed that this should be paid. The Clerk will contact Mr Lewis and request an invoice.

ACTION: Clerk

9.2. Correspondence to note.

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

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will take place on **Tuesday 25th September at 7.00pm** at Llanymynech Village Hall.

Action: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____

