

# Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr F James (in the Chair)

Cllr M Connell

Cllr R McCluskey

In attendance:

County Councillor Arwel Jones

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

One member of the general public

Cllr James paid tribute to the dedication and work carried out by Cllr Chris Backshall, recently deceased and Council observed one minute's silence in his honour.

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr D Thornycroft

Cllr D Borthwick

Cllr C Jones

Cllr Richardson

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

None

## 3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

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

## 4. Matters arising from the minutes

### 4.1. Defibrillator maintenance

Due to the death of Cllr Backshall no progress has been made on this subject. In the absence of Cllr Borthwick it was not known whether he had had discussions with Cllr Backshall and had taken on the maintenance of the defibrillator.

No information was available on what constituted maintenance. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Cllr Borthwick on his return from holiday and, if needed, also contact the West Midlands Ambulance Service to find out what is required in the way of maintenance.

### **ACTION: Clerk**

**Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Jones has received a pack and guide from Claire Backshall. This indicates that maintenance is very simple and straightforward and consists on pressing buttons to ensure that all systems are in working order.**

### 4.2. DECC – Re: Determination and MAP (Montgomeryshire Against Pylons)

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's response was forwarded to the DECC.

### 4.3. War Memorials Project

The Clerk confirmed that he had advised the County Council that Carreghofa Community Council has recently restored the War Memorial but would be happy to be involved in research projects. Nothing further has been heard.

## **5. Finance Report**

### **5.1. Financial Position**

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

### **5.2. External Auditor's Report**

Council noted, with pleasure, that the External Auditor has given Carreghofa Community Council an unqualified report.

### **5.3. Donation to Llanymynech Good Companions**

The letter and balance sheet from Llanymynech Good Companions in the papers was noted. The Clerk reminded councillors that the Council had made a donation of £300 in 2015.

Council was minded to support the Good Companions again this year but noted that the balance sheet did not show an amount brought forward from 2015 nor a balance held at the current time.

The Clerk was asked to ascertain this information and, if satisfied, forward a donation of £300 to the Good Companions.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### **5.4. Bank Mandate**

The Clerk said that following the death of Cllr Backshall another person would need to be nominated as a signatory to the Council's accounts. The process requires that all current signatories should complete a new mandate.

In view of the fact that only one councillor who is a signatory was present at the meeting it was agreed that both Cllrs Connell and McCluskey should become signatories.

Those councillors present completed mandate forms. The Clerk will obtain completed forms from those signatories who were absent and deal with the Bank.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### **5.5. Approval of Payments**

Council noted the payments listed in the papers for the meeting. Additionally a sum of £42 in favour of Llanymynech Village Hall was approved in respect of hire of rooms during May, June and July 2016. Cllr James proposed that the payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr McCluskey and agreed unanimously.

### **5.6. Memorial for Cllr Chris Backshall**

A discussion was held on the most appropriate way to honour the memory of Cllr Backshall. At the funeral the family had requested donations to the Royal British Legion but the Council's policy on donations is to confine them to local groups. Cllr McCluskey felt that a donation would soon be forgotten and that some more lasting memorial was required. It was agreed that a tree should be planted with a plaque drawing attention to the service that Chris had given. Cllr Connell thought that this would be suitably sited in the Walls Bridge Play Area, in which Chris Backshall had done so much work.

It was agreed that the Clerk discuss with Greenfingers Ltd what type of tree would be most suitable and would also get some costings both for the tree and for a memorial plaque.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **6. Planning Application**

Application No. P/2016/0656. The Clerk had sent details of the application to councillors during August with a request for responses since the deadline was due before the current meeting. The Chairman had responded positively and the Clerk had duly sent a note of support to the Planning Department.

## **7 Other matters**

### 7.1. Vacancy on the Council

The procedure for filling the vacancy caused by the death of Cllr Backshall, included in the papers, was noted. The Notice of Vacancy will be displayed on the Council's notice Board until Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. If there is no interest then the Council will co-opt a new councillor. Cllr Connell agreed to put up the notice on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**ACTION: Cllr Connell**

### 7.2. A483 Pedestrian Crossing – near misses.

This subject had been raised by Cllr Richardson who had been notified by a resident of two recent narrow misses experienced when using the A483 pedestrian crossing. He recalled that Council was advised some time ago that at the very least the road markings which are very worn would be repainted and the illumination would be improved but no action has been taken.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had already discussed the matter with Cllr Arwel Jones who is raising it with the Highways Agency.

Cllr James thought that some action had been taken to improve the visibility but Cllr McCluskey said that it was inadequate. He referred councillors to the crossing in Morda which are much more prominent and reminded Council that we had requested similar improvements in Llanymynech.

Cllr Connell felt that the pedestrian crossing is too near the cross roads and is not visible to some drivers until the last minute. Cllr McCluskey said that the subject of re-siting the crossing had been considered in the past but no other suitable location that would be used by pedestrians was found.

On a related subject, Cllr Connell reported that the signs outside the car wash at the cross roads were once again obstructing the footpath. There are now five signs which make progress for pedestrians hazardous. The Clerk said that Cllr Backshall had spoken to the proprietor of the business on a number of occasions following which things had improved for a short while only for the problem to recur.

Cllr James also expressed concern about illegal parking by the cross roads which make egress on to the A483 dangerous. Cllrs felt that the double yellow lines should be extended down as far as the Dolphin Hotel.

Cllr Arwel Jones agreed to raise all these matters with the Highways Agency.

**ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones**

### 7.3. Tirgwynt Windfarm

The report by Cllr Thornycroft included in the papers was received. Cllr Connell confirmed that the deliveries for Tirgwynt have been completed but deliveries for a second wind farm at Garreg Clwyd have now commenced and should be completed by December. RES will continue to notify local communities in the same way as for the Tirgwynt operation.

Cllr Connell has written to RES regarding the signage. Cllr Connell felt that , on the whole,

the operation had gone off well although some dissatisfaction was expressed by communities further down the route because no one appears to have taken responsibility for monitoring the build-up of traffic behind the convoys.

Council then considered a letter from SWF in the papers for the meeting. A Community Benefit Fund is being set up for communities along the route of the convoys and the Council has been asked to nominate a representative to join the Board of Trustees. In view of the work that he has already undertaken Cllr Connell was nominated as the Council's representative. He felt that there should be two members per council although only one would have voting rights in order that there should always be a representative from the Council present at meetings. Cllr Connell was asked to put this forward to the board.

**ACTION: Cllr Connell**

Carreghofa will be part of a group of eight communities which will receive £12.300 per year for the next five years. It is understood that, to facilitate any capital projects that communities may wish funded, the whole five years' money will be available in one lump sum. After five years community benefit funding will last as long as the windfarm operates but will be extended to the whole of Montgomeryshire.

Cllr James said that the funding is for all organisations in the community and was concerned that some may not be aware of the possibility of funding. It was agreed that an article be written for the Parish Magazine to alert local organisations to the existence of community benefit funding. Cllr Connell offered to write the article.

**ACTION: Cllr Connell**

#### 7.4. Walls Bridge Play Area

Cllr Connell reported that the hedges have now been cut and he had cleared away rubbish from the site. At the Clerk's instigation he has given Graham Evans of Greenfingers Ltd. a key to the ground and received written acknowledgement of this.

The supplies to repair the play equipment have been ordered and should arrive on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Connell will undertake the repairs.

**ACTION: Cllr Connell**

The warning signs are not on the site. It is believed that they were removed by Cllr Backshall who intended re-siting them prior to his becoming ill. The Clerk was asked to contact Claire Backshall to see if the signs were in Cllr Backshall's garage. If they are then they can be collected and erected on site.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### 7.5. Powys LDP – further focussed changes

The paper from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy inviting interested parties to comment on the representations received in response to the Statement of Matters issued on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 was noted.

## **8 Reports from Committees and Working Groups**

### 8.1. Amenity

8.1.1 The Clerk confirmed that he had written to RoSPA informing them of the correct address of the Walls Bridge Play Area.

8.1.2. In his absence it was not known if Cllr Borthwick had checked the hedges on the canal path. Cllr McCluskey said that there were gaps all the way down to the Locks. Concern was expressed that children could use these gaps to gain immediate access to the

road.

Cllr Connell offered to walk the canal path and take photographs of areas of concern. He will forward these to the Clerk who will approach the Canal & Rivers Trust.

**ACTION: Cllr Connell and then the Clerk**

8.1.3. Cllr James asked if the dog ban sign was in place. This has not yet been done. The Clerk to follow up.

**ACTION: Clerk**

8.1.4. The Clerk confirmed that the trees on the west side of the A483 have now been trimmed.

8.1.5. Cllr McCluskey remarked on the amount of dog excrement in the area, particularly along the canal path. He said that Carreghofa and Llanymynech are excellent areas in which to live with fine countryside and amenities. Increasing numbers of visitors had been noted but he felt that dog fouling spoiled the area for both local residents and tourists. Some discussion followed but no solution was forthcoming. The question of whether dog owners could be fined if their animals fouled the footways was raised. Cllr Arwel Jones said that signs would need to be displayed and he would check whether if this was done the Council had the right to levy fines. There is still the problem of how this would be policed.

**ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones**

Further to this it was suggested that those councillors attending the Best Kept Village event on 30<sup>th</sup> September might see if other communities had any examples of good practice in dealing with this nuisance.

**ACTION: Cllrs James, Connell and Jones.**

## 8.2. Highways & Byways.

8.2.1. Cllr James asked whether the kerbstone at the Border Gateway had been dealt with. The Clerk advised that Greenfingers Ltd have been given the go ahead to do the work. He will check with Greenfingers.

**ACTION: Clerk**

8.2.2. Cllr Arwel Jones reported that he had queried the state of the road at the top of Pen-y-Foel and been assured that as soon as the JCB was free repairs would be undertaken. He expected this would be in about three weeks' time.

8.2.3. Cllr McCluskey asked about the status of Pen-y-Foel. It was confirmed that this is a public highway. He drew the Council's attention to the fact that a number of 'off road' vehicles which did not have licence plates were using Pen-y-Foel presumably to access open land further on. Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would make enquiries from the Highways Agency and, if necessary, inform the police.

**ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones**

8.2.3. Cllr Jones had informed the Clerk via e-mail that there were holes in the football field fence. Cllr McCluskey thought this was due to persons using the field who cut through the fence rather than use the gate in order to retrieve balls that had been kicked out of the ground. He stressed that this was not the habit of the football club members but other occasional users. He said that this was a recurring problem every year.

The Clerk was asked to get a quote from Greenfingers Ltd to repair the fence and proceed if the price was reasonable.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**9. To receive reports from meetings of outside bodies**

9.1. Burial Board

Cllr James said that the Burial Board had not met since the last Council meeting.

9.2. Montgomeryshire Council Forum

The report submitted by Cllr Thornycroft in the papers was noted.

9.3. Llanymynech Village Hall

No report

9.4. Llanymynech Heritage Group

No further approach has been made by the group. It was agreed that this item be deleted as a regular agenda item and re-instated when a formal approach from the group was made.

9.5. Montytrax Project

The Clerk said that Shan Mayor from the Montytrax Project would attend the next meeting to bring the Council up to date. Cllr James said that the next meeting would be held at the Plas yn Dinas, Llanfechain on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00pm. Anyone interested was welcome to attend.

**10. Correspondence.**

10.1. Correspondence for decision

There was no correspondence for decision

10.2. Correspondence to note.

10.2.1. Council noted the correspondence from SLCC relating to the Local Council elections in May 2017

10.2.2/ 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 25<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm** at Llanymynech Village Hall.

**Action: All to note.**

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

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

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

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

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