

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 27th October 2015
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)
Cllr C Backshall,
Cllr D Borthwick
Cllr M Connell
Cllr R McCluskey
Cllr B Richardson
County Councillor Arwel Jones

In attendance: Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

1	Apologies for Absence Cllr F James – students Cllr C Jones – family matters
2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:	None
3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th September 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. <u>Defibrillator – Community Awareness Evening</u>	Cllr Backshall confirmed that publicity has been circulated in the Parish Magazine and ‘The Bridge’. He will be publishing an article in these papers on the provision of the Llanymynech defibrillator and will offer this to the local press. This will cover the Lottery Grant, the agreement .of the landlord of the Dolphin hotel to accommodate the defibrillator and a request for local people to be responsible for monitoring the defibrillator once each week. The article will coincide with the awareness training on 1 st December. Cllr Backshall asked that as many councillors as possible should attend the awareness training.
4.2 <u>Register of Members’ Interests.</u>	All councillors have now submitted their Register of Interest forms.
4.3. <u>Smoke Free Playgrounds</u>	In answer to a question from the Clerk, Cllr Backshall said that he had not received any posters from Public Health, Wales. ACTION: Clerk to chase up
4.4 <u>.Grant from War Memorial Trust</u>	The Clerk reported that the Council has received a grant of £462.00 from the War Memorials Trust.
4.5. <u>RoSPA inspection of the playground at Walls Bridge</u>	The Clerk reported that the inspection is due to take place in the next two weeks. RoSPA has informed the Council that if it accepts an annual inspection when its inspectors are in the area the fee will reduce

to £65 + VAT. The Clerk has instructed RoSPA to add Carreghofa to its list of annual inspection until such time as the instruction is countermanded.

5. Local delivery of services

The paper by Cllr Thornycroft was noted

5.1. Cluster meeting

Cllr Thornycroft referred to the meeting of the six rural councils at Llanymynech on 20th October. He felt the meeting was frustrating as so much time was spent on item 3- 'Update on Services' that items 4, 5 and 6 had to be abandoned. The consensus of the meeting was that councils were disappointed that Powys County Council was still unable to provide the information that local councils require in sufficient detail and in the format needed.

However, we were able to suggest a way forward as follows:-

Before the next meeting the clerks of the six councils would meet to consider two specific items:-

- To engage with P&W
Contractors to obtain a cluster wide quote for grass cutting. With this to hand Carreghofa can make a valid comparison of the value of joining the cluster or remaining as a stand-alone council. Cllr Thornycroft said that the clerks would need to consider how the cost of a cluster wide contract would be divided between the participating councils. Carreghofa had a smaller area of grass than the other five councils and he hoped that the cost of any contract would be on a proportionate basis.
- To consider specific questions
that a legal expert can address at the next meeting. David Powell had agreed to provide a legal expert in the event that there were valid issues to be addressed.

Cllr Thornycroft said that he hoped that the next meeting would be more fruitful. Carreghofa will need to decide whether it wants to be part of a legally constituted cluster or remain as a stand-alone council. He said that David Powell had pointed out that there were risks in choosing the latter option, presumably that of being "at the back of the queue" when resources were distributed.

Cllr Connell asked that the clerks, at their meeting, ascertain what the minimum standards will be. He was unsure whether P&W included hedges in their contract.

Cllr Backshall felt that the council should not enter into a legal agreement that disadvantaged individual communities. He felt that it was no good going to P&W without a specification from Powys County Council. He reminded the Council that Lisa Griffiths of Powys County Council had promised to send a member of the county staff to confirm exactly what areas the County Council undertook within Carreghofa.

The Clerk, while acknowledging this pointed out that the County Council views the issues from the opposite direction. They want to ask local councils what they wish to do and will then decide on that basis what funding to release. Cllr Thornycroft confirmed this. He said that the specification will not necessarily be related to what Powys County Council do for us now but what we want to do in the future.

Cllr Richardson said that, from his experience in local authorities, councils could work together on certain issues without having to form a separate legal entity.

Cllr Connell asked whether work other than that carried out by P&W was done. Cllr Arwel Jones explained that, currently, the Highways Agency was responsible for the trunk roads and the County Council is responsible for other roads. The Community Council looks after public spaces.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Lisa Griffiths of Powys C. C. to provide a member of staff to come to Carreghofa to inform the Council on the work carried out by the County Council that may now be transferred to the Community Council.

5.2. Community Survey

Cllr Thornycroft said that Council would receive the full results of the survey at its next meeting. He was disappointed that, to date, the return was in the region of 15% and that while this would provide interesting feedback it could not be seen as statistically valid. He asked councillors if they thought that a follow up exercise should take place. He thought that the deadline for the Parish magazine had passed and the only method left was to have a house to house collection.

Cllr Borthwick said that he would be willing to go door to door.

Cllr Richardson felt that the time for completion was short. Some people may not have noted the deadline and not yet read the questionnaire. Cllr Borthwick said that a number of people coming into the local shop had said that they had not received a survey, but, given that there was a village wide distribution, he felt that some may have treated the survey as 'junk mail' and discarded it.

It was agreed that surveys could still be accepted and a notice to that effect would be put in the village shop. Cllr McCluskey suggested putting notices in local pubs and Cllr Backshall said that he would put something in the next edition of the Parish magazine and 'the Bridge'.

ACTION: Cllrs Borthwick & Backshall - Notices to be placed in Ashfield Stores, in public houses and the notice board.

5.3. Future Directions

Cllr Thornycroft said that for this year Carreghofa would go ahead and set its Precept on an individual council basis. He looked forward to the results of the survey and the clerks' work with P&W.

6. Finance Report

The report submitted by the Clerk was received.

6.1. Financial Position

The Finance Officer reported that the Council's accounts were in a healthy state.

6.2. Half Yearly Statement

The finance Officer said that there were two things to point out:-

- The amount of Precept received from Powys County Council was greater than expected. He is investigating how the money received is made up and will report back to Council
ACTION: Clerk
- The Capital expenditure budget appears to be overspent by twice the allocated amount but this is because the money to pay for Phase 2 of the Border Gateway Project had been received in 2014/2015 but paid in this financial year.

Cllr Backshall asked that the wording of note 10 be amended to show that the payment for maintenance of the Church Clock had been made to Llanymynech Parochial Church Council and not Llanymynech Parish Council, to avoid confusion with the English Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council.

Acceptance of the half yearly stated was proposed by Cllr Borthwick, seconded by Cllr Backshall and agreed unanimously.

6.3. Concurrent Funding

The Clerk reminded members that Powys County Council is to phase out Concurrent Funding in 2017/2018. For next year councils are invited to apply for concurrent funding which is likely to be at 50% of previous funding and any application must be submitted by 20th November.

Cllr Backshall said that Carreghofa has funded the Burial Board for its insurance payments on equipment stored in a hut on site. This has now been demolished and the Board has ceased to pay insurance.

It was agreed that the Council would not apply for Concurrent Funding for cemeteries.

Concurrent Funding for Recreation spaces has helped to pay the contract fee for P&W and RoSPA and an application will be made for this.

ACTION: Clerk to apply for Concurrent Funding for Recreation

6.4. Approval of Payments

Council approved the payments listed in the papers for the meeting and additionally a payment of £30 to St. Oswald's Church, Oswestry for printing 300 copies of the Community Survey. Proposed Cllr Backshall seconded Cllr Borthwick and agreed unanimously.

6.5. Policy on Claiming Expenses

The draft policy included in the papers was noted. The Clerk drew attention to a recently published draft report by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. Section 10 on payments to members of community and town councils sets out a number of Determinations that councils may make to pay costs and expenses to councillors.

Cllr Backshall felt that councillors should not be out of pocket. Paying expenses may well encourage others to come forward as councillors. He particularly cited the possibility of funding respite to allow carers to attend meetings. He pointed out that the Remuneration Panel's report is only in draft form and proposed that, until the final form is known, the Council should adopt the policy put forward by the Clerk.

The Chair pointed out that the policy distinguishes two types of expense: those occurred where a councillor attends a function on behalf of the Council and those, such as seminars and conferences, which will benefit the councillor in his/her ability to perform his/her duties better. Both are allowable under the policy but the second must have prior approval of the Council.

Adoption of the policy was proposed by Cllr Backshall, seconded by Cllr Richardson and agreed unanimously.

7. To receive reports from Committees and Working Groups:

7.1. Amenity

Cllr Backshall reported that he had spoken to the Head teacher at the school about the damaged tree at Walls Bridge. This is apparently a horse chestnut and the children were attempting to collect conkers. He has tidied up the lower branches and there should be no problem in the future.

7.2. Border Gateway

The report from Cllr Thornycroft was noted. Cllr Thornycroft further reported that British Ironworks will not be submitting a bill for work undertaken. We are now awaiting the Highways Agency carrying out the work for Phase 1.

Cllr Backshall said that he has purchased some bulbs to plant at the site and asked for assistance in clearing the weeds that have grown up and then planting the bulbs. When this is done the Clerk will ask P&W to turf the edges.

**ACTION: Cllr Backshall to organise weeding and planting and inform the Clerk of completion
Clerk to contact P&W to arrange turfing**

7.3. Highways and byways

Cllr Arwel Jones agreed to arrange for the usual road closures on Remembrance Day (Sunday 8th November).

ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones

Cllr Arwel Jones reported that he has spoken to an officer at Powys County Council and the potholes should be dealt with within the next two to three weeks.

7.4. Website

Nothing further to report.

8. Other Matters

8.1. Pedestrian Crossing at Llanymynech.

The Chairman noted the action taken by the Clerk in writing to the Highways Agency and to Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council. He felt that the next step is for the two councils to agree a way forward at the proposed joint meeting to take place on Tuesday 24th November. The Clerk said that he still awaiting confirmation from the Clerk of Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council.

Cllr Backshall thought that the answer is to have a Pelican crossing but, in the meantime we should ask for LED lights to be installed to make the crossing more obvious to motorists. He also felt that the bus stop should be moved. When a bus is at the stop motorists cannot see the crossing until they have overtaken the bus.

Cllr Richardson felt that the crossing should be moved close to the Bradford Arms Hotel. He pointed out that children tend to cross here and use Bradford Lane to get to the Village Hall. In the meantime he said that there should be better painting than at present and the installation of rumble strips to slow down approaching traffic.

Cllr Borthwick felt that there could be problems in moving the crossing further down as drivers would pick up speed once on the straight road.

Cllr McCluskey said that although the crossing was not in a good place it is, nonetheless, the point at which most people cross the A483. He felt that the only satisfactory solution would be to install a yellow speed camera. Drivers would then be more wary of exceeding the speed limit.

The Chair said that he felt that there was little that the Community Council could do other than express its views forcefully to the Highways Agency. He felt that this would best be done in conjunction with Llanymynech & Pant Parish council.

8.2. Health matters

The Council noted the papers submitted by Cllr Connell on a meeting with Llanfyllin Group Practice and detailing the position of 'Shropshire Defend our NHS' on the threat of closure of one of the major A&E departments this winter. It was noted that the hospital trust has issued a statement saying that there are no plans to close an A&E department at present.

9. To receive reports from outside bodies

9.1 Montgomery Council Forum

No meeting has taken place since the last Council meeting. The next meeting will be on 3rd November and the Chairman said that he would attend.

9.2. Burial Board

The paper received from Cllr James was noted.

9.3. National Grid

The paper received from Cllr Thornycroft was noted. He said that two of the proposed windfarms had accepted the Government's decision and two had appealed not on the decision but on procedure. They are requesting a judicial inquiry. A decision from the Government as to whether this will be allowed is awaited.

9.4 One Voice Wales

Cllr Backshall tabled a paper on the One Voice Wales annual conference and the meeting of the One Voice Wales Montgomeryshire Committee which was held on 6th October at Carreghofa School. He thanked Cllrs Jones and James for help in providing refreshments at this meeting.

9.5 Village Hall

A paper sent to the Clerk by Cllr Jones was tabled and noted.

9.6. Llanymynech Youth Club

A paper sent to the Clerk by Cllr Jones was tabled and noted.

10. Correspondence

10.1. Correspondence for Decision

10.1.1 Meeting with Mobile Network Operators

A letter from Russell George A. M. inviting one councillor to attend a meeting on 13th November in Newtown was noted. Cllr Borthwick agreed to attend on behalf of the Council

ACTION: Cllr Borthwick

10.1.2. Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (Events) – Fee Increases

A letter from Del Morgan, Development Officer, One Voice Wales was noted. He asked for support in the organisations campaign to oppose fee increases. The Council decided to take no action in this matter.

10. 1.3. Request for Funding from Powys Citizens Advise Bureau.

A letter asking for financial support from the Chair of Powys Citizen's Advice Bureau was tabled. Councillors were broadly in favour of supporting the bureau but did not feel that the Council was in a position to make a substantial donation. Cllr Richardson suggested that most residents of Carreghofa requiring advice from the CAB would be likely to go to Oswestry which come under Shropshire. It was queried whether Welsh residents would be accepted by the Oswestry CAB and it was decided to ascertain whether residents of Carreghofa are eligible to attend the Oswestry office before deciding if and where a donation should be made. Cllr Borthwick agreed to contact Oswestry CAB.

ACTION: Cllr Borthwick.

10.1.4 Letter from a resident of Carreghofa Lane re shooting

A letter from a resident of Carreghofa Lane expressing concern at shooting on neighbouring farm land was received. It was noted that this is a training activity carried out on private land with the approval of the land-owner and, this being the case, the activity was legal and the Council had no powers to act in this matter.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to the resident.

10.2. Correspondence to Note

Council noted the correspondence listed in the papers for the meeting and noted two further items of correspondence received since the papers were sent out. These were:-

- Scheme being introduced by Powys County Council to allow 16 – 18 year olds to travel on Powys buses for a maximum fare of £1. The Council was pleased to note this initiative.
- Courses for senior Drivers being introduced by Powys County Council at Welshpool

12. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

Tuesday 24th November 2015 at Llanymynech Village Hall, 7.00pm.
(Papers and reports for the meeting to the Clerk by 17th November please)

Please note that this meeting may be preceded by a joint meeting with Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council.

ACTION: All to note

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____