

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2017
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr M Connell
Cllr N Jenkins
Cllr R McCluskey
Cllr B Richardson

In attendance:

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

In the absence of both the Chair and Vic-chair Cllr Connell was proposed as Chair for the meeting by Cllr Jenkins and seconded by Cllr Richardson. Agreed unanimously.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)
Cllr F James (Vice Chair)
Cllr D Borthwick
Cllr C Jones
County Cllr Arwel Jones

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

None

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st January 2017

The Clerk pointed out that under item 4.1 the date of the tree planting in memory of Cllr Backshall had been omitted. The minute should read 'Sunday 26th March at 11.30am'. With this amendment the minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1. Mobile Hoist for Carreghofa School

Cllr Connell reported that the school now has details of the specific hoist required and confirmed that the cost would be in the region of £1600. He said that the school would try to raise half the cost from the Community Benefit Fund and hoped that the Council would match fund the remaining money. This item to be kept under review.

4.2. CPRW Membership

The Clerk confirmed that the Council has now registered as a member of the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales.

4.3. Condition of hedges on the towpath

The clerk gave Cllr McCluskey some laminated copies of a notice to be displayed on the towpath drawing the public's attention to the dangers highlighted in the RoSPA report on Walls Bridge playground. Cllr McCluskey said that he would walk the length of the towpath in question and display the posters at appropriate sites. Council agreed that it would evaluate any responses at its March meeting.

4.4. Best Kept Village initiatives with CPRW

The Clerk reported that he had sent the Council's response to CPRW and a member would

be prepared to attend a future meeting to discuss this.

5. Finance Report

5.1. Financial Position

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

5.2.

Approval of Payments

Council approved the following payment:-

- Greenfingers Ltd - £129.30 - grounds maintenance January 2017

6 Other matters

6.1. Tree Planting in memory of Cllr Chris Backshall

The Clerk confirmed that Clare and Adrian Backshall will attend the planting and had expressed their pleasure that the memorial was so appropriate to Chris' memory.

Council considered a number of designs for plaques and agreed to purchase a granite effect plaque from Brunel Engraving at a cost, including metal ground stake and delivery, of £169.49 + VAT.

Council accepted the wording for the plaque as set out in the papers for the meeting.

The Clerk is still awaiting confirmation from Greenfingers that the tree will be purchased, the ground prepared and that someone will be available at the planting ceremony.

Now that confirmation of attendance by Clare and Adrian Backshall has been received the Clerk will try and arrange for a press photographer to be present.

ACTION: Clerk

ACTION: All to attend the ceremony if possible.

6.2. Noticeboard outside Llanymynech Post Office

The Clerk had drafted a paper on suitable noticeboards to replace the existing one. Cllr Connell reported that he had spoken to the proprietor of the Post Office who said that she is having new signs done for the shop which are likely to be in the position of the current noticeboard. She also stated that she did not want a glass fronted board. Cllr Jenkins felt that the presence of a community noticeboard outside the shop ought to increase footfall.

It was decided to leave this matter on hold for the time being.

6.3. Walls Bridge Play Area Development

Cllr Connell said that there had been no further progress on this. The item will be kept on the agenda.

6.4. Training opportunities from One Voice Wales

At the last meeting the Chairman asked councillors to look at the One Voice Wales courses and bring any ideas to the next meeting. Cllr Richardson felt that this was not the right time to be considering training as the needs of the Council may be very different following the May elections. Cllr Connell queried whether the Council could attract 20 people. There are only 8 councillors on the Council and any course would not be viable unless sufficient people could be attracted to cover the cost. No further action to be taken until after the May elections.

6.5. White Paper on Local Government – Consultation

Cllr Connell reported that he had had a discussion with the Chairman on this and he (the Chairman) had offered the following thoughts:-

The paper is the new administration's slightly different take on the last administration's local government changes, primarily designed to encourage regional co-operation between County Councils. Community Councils will only be looked at once a Community Council review has been completed (Paragraph 6.1.4).

Council needs to note the way things are shaping in Chapter 6 (especially the encouragement for clustering and for community engagement), and to consider responding to Question 27. Councillors (including those absent whom Mike has invited to submit written comments) may wish to record a view on those matters even if the decision is not to respond formally to Question 27.

Cllr Connell reminded councillors that the deadline for responses was before the next meeting of the Council and it was agreed that councillors should look at the sections as stated above and make their own individual responses if they so wished.

ACTION: All

7 To receive reports from Committees and Working groups

7.1. Amenity

7.1.1. North View

The Clerk reported that Cllr Thornycroft had had a conversation with the owner of North View who is keen to attend a Council meeting to talk about his plans for the property. Cllr Thornycroft had recommended that, in view of the large number of apologies for absence at this meeting that this be in March.

7.1.2. Fly tipping

It was reported that a resident of one of the bungalows along the canal side had cut down a substantial amount of garden vegetation which had then been dumped off his ground at the side of the canal. The Clerk was asked to inform the Canal & Rivers Trust of this to see if they would take any action.

ACTION: Clerk

7.1.3 Severn Trent works at Walls Bridge Playground.

Severn Trent has opened a hole at the Walls Bridge site as part of the works that it is carrying out but councillors noted that no activity had taken place for some time. Concern was expressed that is a Health and Safety hazard and would be increasingly so as the nights became lighter and use of the playground increased. Cllr Richardson suggested that the Council should draw this to the attention of Severn Trent or their agents, ask for some action to be taken to complete the works and point out that the Council would hold Severn Trent responsible for any legal liabilities arising from the works.

ACTION: Clerk

7.2. Highways and Byways

7.2.1 Bus shelter

The anonymous writer of the letter regarding the bus shelter had not come forward, therefore, in accordance with the decision of the previous meeting Council decided that the views of the residents in the locality of the bus shelter would hold sway and this matter is now closed.

7.2.2. Pedestrian Crossing

Council noted the response from County Cllr Arwel Jones in the papers for the meeting. Cllr Connell said that he had written to the Highways Agency, in an individual capacity, to support Cllr Arwel Jones' points.

Cllr McCluskey felt that if nothing was done about the crossing itself then the erection of a speed camera would help as this would have the effect of slowing down traffic at what is a major trunk road used by children to get to school.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Highways Agency.

7.2.3. Llanymynech / Pant By-pass - Visit of Secretary for Transport

Cllrs Richardson and Connell will attend the meeting at Llanymynech Village Hall on 2nd March. Cllr Jenkins was not optimistic that anything would be done as there is a number of other major road works in the area that are likely to take priority. Cllr Richardson pointed out that any by-pass would have to be built on the flood plain and this would entail a very large expenditure.

7.2.4. Rectory Lane

Cllr Richardson said that Rectory Lane has been closed to traffic but that no indication had been given about why the road was closed and how long this situation would be in force. As the road is within the boundary of Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council the Clerk was asked to contact Janet Smith to get more information.

ACTION: Clerk

7.2.5. Council noted the actions taken by County Cllr Arwel Jones since the last meeting but, in his absence, could not take these points further.

8 To receive reports of meetings from outside bodies

No reports had been received from councillors representing the Council on outside bodies.

9 Correspondence.

9.1. Correspondence for decision

9.1.1. 2018 WW1 events

The letter from Haydn Bradley-Davies at the Welsh Government was noted. Cllr Connell felt that the Council was likely to undertake some local activity rather than to send members to events elsewhere.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Haydn Bradley-Davies

9.1.2. Newtown Canal Project

Council noted the letter from Ed Humphries, Clerk to Newtown Town Council. It was felt that the project did not closely affect Carreghofa and that there was no financial benefit to the community. It was that plans for the Canal in the locality would take priority. Council agreed to support the Newtown project in principle but otherwise take no action. It was not felt necessary to invite the Mayor of Newtown to address a meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to convey the Council's views to Mr Humphries

9.1.3. Playground Inspections

Council noted the letter from Stefan Butcher of Powys County Council offering playground inspections at £72 (£60 + VAT). Cllr Richardson asked whether the County Council would be undertaking the inspections themselves or out-sourcing the work. This was not known but the Clerk felt that it would be done in house. Cllr McCluskey felt that we have a reasonable relationship with RoSPA and that they are a nationally recognised body. He did not feel that the savings to be gained (£9.80) was sufficient to warrant changing provider. It was agreed that the Council would remain with RoSPA for its playground inspections.

9.1.4. Meeting with Russell George AM

The clerk distributed an e-mail received that morning from Russell George inviting representatives from Councils to a meeting of the Montgomeryshire Broadband Summit at 5 which Julie James AM, the Minister for Skills & Science would be present.

Cllr McCluskey said that he had received no complaints or issues from the community and it was generally thought that broadband was not a problem for residents in Carreghofa. It was, therefore decided that Carreghofa would not be represented at the meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to write back to Russell George

10.2. Correspondence to note.

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

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will take place on **Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 7.00pm** at Llanymynech Village Hall.

Action: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____