

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

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

Present:

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)

Cllr F James (Vice Chair)

Cllr M Connell

Cllr C Jones

Cllr R McCluskey

Cllr B Richardson

In attendance:

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

One member of the general public

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr D Borthwick

Cllr N Jenkins

County Cllr Arwel Jones

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

Cllr Jones in respect of item 5.4.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2017

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1. Memorial to Cllr Chris Backshall

The Clerk reported that the tree planting ceremony had gone well. He and Mrs N Thornycroft had taken photographs of the ceremony and the Clerk has sent a selection with a report of the event to the local press. An e-mail expressing thanks has been received from Clare Backshall, Cllr Backshall's daughter, who attended the ceremony during which she put in the first spade of soil and unveiled the plaque in Cllr Backshall's honour.

4.2. Fly tipping

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Canal & Rivers Trust but had not yet received a reply. He will be writing in response to Item 6.2. on the agenda and will raise the question of fly tipping again.

4.3. Severn Trent works at Walls Bridge

The Clerk reported that he had written to Fischer German, the agents for Severn Trent Water but had not yet received a reply.

4.4. WW1 events

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Hayden Bradley at the Welsh Government stating the Council's position as outlined at the last meeting.

4.5. Newtown Canal Project

The Clerk confirmed that he had informed Mr E. Humphries, Clerk at Newtown Town Council that Carreghofa Community Council is supportive of Newtown's efforts re the

Montgomery Canal but could not offer any practical help as any efforts would be in support of the canal in the local vicinity.

5. Finance Report

5.1. Financial Position

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

5.2. IRPW Report

Council considered the section of the report dealing with town and community councils. It noted the determinations that had to be decided upon and made the following decisions:-

Determination 44: Community and town councils are authorised to make a payment to each of their members of a maximum amount of £150 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.

Decline

Determination 45: Community and town councils are authorised to make an annual payment not exceeding £500 each to up to 3 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses if that is made.

Decline

Determination 46: Community and town councils are authorised to provide a civic allowance to the mayor/chair of the council at an amount that they deem appropriate to undertake the functions of that office. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses if that is made

Accept – a payment of £50 was authorised

Determination 47: Community and town councils are authorised to provide a civic allowance to the deputy mayor/deputy chair of the council at an amount that they deem appropriate to undertake the functions of that office. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses if that is made

Decline

Determination 48: Community and town councils are authorised to make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:

- 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.
- 25p per mile over 10,000 miles.
- 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business.
- 24p per mile for private motor cycles.
- 20p per mile for bicycles.

Accept

Determination 49: If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it may authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:

- £28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided.
- £200 – London overnight.
- £95 – elsewhere overnight.
- £30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight.

Accept

Determination 50: Community and town councils are authorised to pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:

- Up to £34.00 for each period not exceeding 4 hours:
- Up to £68.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.

Accept

Determination 51: Community and town councils are authorised to provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

Accept

5.3. Pay support for Community Councils

Council noted that Powys County Council is offering a pay support service for community councils at a fee of £305.77 + VAT. It was agreed to take up the offer subject to confirmation that the fee is an annual fee.

5.4 Approval of Payments

Council approved the following payments:-

- Greenfingers Ltd - £129.30 - grounds maintenance February 2017
- Donation to Llanymynech Youth Club - £550 - this was agreed after scrutinising the Youth Clubs latest accounts and insurance document.
- Clerk - £61.00 - travel and expenses to SLCC meeting, Llandrindod Wells
£11.25 - travel to Election briefing at Welshpool
- One Voice Wales - £91.00 - Membership for 2017 / 2018
- Gloversure - £102.00 - web-site hosting (payment by BACS requested)
- Llanymynech Village Hall - £46 - rent for meetings January, February and March 2017. This last was not in the papers for the meeting but presented to the Clerk on arrival.

6 Other matters

6.1. Local Election Update

The Chairman pointed out that the mandate for present councillors ended on 4th May and a new Council would come into being thereafter. He drew councillors' attention to the briefing on the election process in the papers for the meeting. He noted that a number of councillors had signalled their intentions of standing down and that there was a danger that the new council would not have enough members to be able to function efficiently. He stressed the need for all to help find people who have an interest in serving the local community as a councillor. In view of the short time available for the presentation of nominations, he asked those who wished to stand down to consider delaying their decisions for 2-3 months so that new blood could be sought following the elections.

(Subsequent to the meeting, three councillors agreed to continue in post for the time being and the member of the public present expressed her interest in becoming a councillor.)

The Chairman advised councillors that the AGM must be held within 14 days of the election. The AGM will therefore be held on Tuesday 16th May. The normal monthly meeting will follow the AGM and the scheduled meeting for 30th May is cancelled.

6.2. Condition of hedges on the canal towpath.

The Chairman referred to the comments made by RoSPA in its report on the Walls Bridge

playground that gaps in the hedges allowed access to the canal and that this posed a risk to children. Subsequently notices had been displayed at gaps along the towpath to canvass the public's view about closing the gaps. Only two responses had been received and both of these were in favour of keeping the gaps open. One respondent felt that the towpath was a safer option for children than the busy road.

Of greatest concern was the gap that leads down to Carreghofa Primary School. Cllr Connell said that this gap was much used at School opening and closing times and this was the time when traffic was at its heaviest; however, he pointed out that there was a gate only 20yards down the road from the gap.

Cllr James felt that parents should take responsibility for the safety of their children; she said that rather than closing the gap at Walls Bridge a gate could be installed.

Cllr McCluskey said that the Council's responsibility was primarily to the safety of the Walls Bridge playground and that other gaps came under the aegis of the Canal & Rivers Trust.

The Chairman agreed that the Council had a duty to act upon the recommendations in the RoSPA report but that other gaps along the canal side could be left.

Cllr McCluskey said that it was our duty to highlight our concerns about the other gaps. Cllr Jones said that she had spoken to the Head Teacher at the school. It was agreed to make a further approach to the school. Cllr Connell suggested erecting 'Mother and children crossing' signs to alert traffic to the hazard of young children using the road.

ACTION: Clerk to ask County Cllr Arwel Jones to see if Powys County Council would erect signs.

(Subsequent to the meeting the following message was received from Cllr Connell: "I was walking along the canal yesterday - past the school - and noticed that there are road signs indicating parents/children crossing so you won't need to contact Powys. What I will do is put an item on the Agenda for the next school governors meeting and outlining the position and asking them to insert a warning note in their next Newsletter to parents.")

It was agreed that the signs on the canal towpath seeking the public's views would now be removed.

**ACTION: Any available councillor
Clerk to communicate with the Canal & Rivers Trust**

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.

7 To receive reports from Committees and Working groups

7.1. Amenity

A member of the local ramblers group had raised the matter of a gate on the Carreghofa Way which could not be opened. It appeared that a metal bar has been affixed to the slider that opens the gate. Cllr Jones said that she knew of the gate in question and that the bar was hinged to allow the slider to work. The method of opening the gate was stiff but could be managed.

7.2. Highways and Byways

7.2.1. Pedestrian Crossing

Council was disappointed to note the response to its request for traffic signals at the

pedestrian crossing from Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure at the Welsh Government. It suggests that without 'collision data' action is unlikely to be taken. The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been an accident on the crossing during the week preceding the meeting but he had no other details of the incident.

The Chairman said that Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council has also shown concern about the dangers at the crossing and is keen to work with Carreghofa Community Council to bring pressure to bear on authorities on both sides of the border to get action in this matter. It was agreed that once the new Council is in place a joint meeting of the two councils should be arranged.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Richardson said that, if there was no prospect of a by-pass around Llanymynech and Pant, the existing road through the village would be even more in need of improvement. He suggested that we seek the support of Russell George AM to support us at Welsh Government level.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Russell George

Cllr Connell referred to communications circulated from 'Go Safe Wales' and suggested that they too, as a lobbying body, might be able to offer assistance.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Go Safe Wales

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

Cllr Richardson said that he had attended the meeting which lasted a very short time. He understood that Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council has produced a presentation on the proposed by-pass and felt that Carreghofa should see this. He endorsed the need for a joint meeting between the two councils and suggested that each council should share its minutes with the other to aid communication.

7.2.3. Rectory Lane

The clerk reported that he had been in touch with Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council on this matter. They were aware that the road would be closed in order to work on frontages in the lane but did not know how long the closure and associated diversions would be in force.

8 To receive reports of meetings from outside bodies

8.1. Burial Board

The Chairman informed Council that he had met with Cllr Dilys Gaskill, Chair of the Joint Burial Board. The Burial Board is keen to find a new site for a cemetery and are considering land to the south of the football field. The Chairman said that he was not enthusiastic about this site; it is about 40 metres wide and 15 metres deep before it drops away to the floodplain but this tapers to about 5 metres at the far end. He felt that the site would only be sustainable for a few years. It was agreed that the Secretary of the Burial Board should meet with the Chairs of the two councils on the site to come to a conclusion about its viability.

Cllr Connell said that the land is not subject to flooding; but he felt that access would be a problem as a significant amount of land would be needed for cars, including a turning circle.

Cllr Richardson said that he had been approached by residents of Chapel Lane who had seen people with clip boards looking over the site and he wondered if it was likely to be a possible site for development.

(Subsequent to the meeting, it was established that the site had been included as Site 1219 in the November 2011 Powys County Council Local Development Plan (LDP) for school and recreation use, but was not taken forward in the current draft LDP as "the site is constrained,

<p>most significantly by highway issues.”)</p> <p>8.2. Montgomery Council Forum There has been no meeting of this group</p> <p>8.3. Youth Club Councillor Jones said that there was nothing to add to the decision already taken earlier in the meeting re making a donation to the youth club.</p>
<p>9 Correspondence.</p> <p><u>9.1. Correspondence for decision</u> There was no correspondence for decision</p> <p><u>9.2. Correspondence to note.</u> Council noted the correspondence sent out by the Clerk since the last meeting and itemised in the papers for the meeting.</p>
<p>10. Next Meeting The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall. Action: All to note.</p>

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____