

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28th June 2016
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)

Cllr F James

Cllr C Backshall

Cllr D Borthwick

Cllr M Connell

Cllr C Jones

Cllr B Richardson

In attendance:

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

County Cllr A Jones

Cllr Thornycroft opened the meeting by thanking councillors for their confidence in him in re-electing him as Chairman at the AGM which he was unable to attend. He thanked all councillors and the Clerk for their support during the past year.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr R McCluskey - work

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

None

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st May 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 Backshall said that due to health problems he had not been able to make progress but hopes to have resolved matters by the next meeting. He assured the meeting that he is checking the defibrillator each week.

ACTION: Cllr Backshall

4.2. Highways & Byways

Cllr Richardson said that he thought that the Minutes of the last Meeting contained an unduly optimistic inference that work will start on the Pant and Llanymynech Bypass in 2020. He recalled a Highways Authority statement, issued sometime last year, which indicated that any decision regarding a bypass would be made in 2020 at the earliest and that work, if approved, would not take place before 2025, again at the earliest.

4.3. RoSPA Inspection

The Clerk said that he had been instructed to appraise councillors of the date on which the inspection would be carried out so that anyone who wished to attend might do so. In fact, the inspection had been carried out without notification and he had received an e-mailed report that very day which would be circulated and put on the agenda for the July meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

4.4. Training in planning

County Cllr Arwel Jones reported that the planning department was unwilling to attend council meetings except to discuss specific issues. However they had said that they intend to re-instate the Planning Liaison meetings. Cllr Arwel Jones said that he will wait two months to see if this is done and, in the event of no action being taken, will raise the matter with the planners in September

ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones

4.5 HM Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Cllr Jones reported that the celebrations had been a great success. Because of the weather the majority of the activities had been held in the Village Hall.

5. Finance Report

5.1. Financial Position

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

5.2. Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that the internal audit has been received from JDH Business Services. They had raised an issue in that a cheque that had been cancelled, although shown in the cash book, had not been shown in the reconciliation. This would be corrected before the accounts are sent to the external auditor. The Clerk asked Council to approve the audit report so that it could be forwarded to the external auditor within the deadline. Cllr Richardson proposed acceptance; this was seconded by Cllr James and agreed unanimously.

JDH had also raised the possibility of requiring two approvals for transactions made via internet banking to bring the process in line with signatures on cheques. The Clerk said this could be done but would make the process very cumbersome. Cllr Backshall did not see the need as all payments were approved by Council before being made and Council received regular financial information. The Clerk said that he would be attending the SLCC Powys Branch meeting on 4th July and would ask for guidance there.

ACTION: Clerk

5.3. Approval of Payments

Council noted the payments listed in the papers for the meeting. Cllr Backshall proposed the payments be approved; seconded by Cllr Connell and passed unanimously

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Richardson asked if we had received details of the insurance held by Greenfingers Ltd. The Clerk said that we had not and agreed to chase them up.

ACTION: Clerk

6. Planning

Re: TREE/2016/0021 Removal of six conifer trees within a conservation area at North View, North Road, Llanymynech.

The Chairman said that he was pleased to see that the owners of the property were taking it in hand. The fir trees in question were not native trees, were planted too close together and are now too big for their location and have partially destroyed an outbuilding. He believed that the Council should support the application. Cllr Borthwick asked if the owners intended to replace the trees with anything else. The Clerk said that there was nothing in the planning application to indicate this. Council agreed to support the application.

ACTION: Clerk

7. Other Matters

7.1. Proposal to remove local amenity site collections of paper, glass etc.

The Chairman referred to correspondence from Cllr Kibble of Abermule with Llandyssil Community Council included in the papers for the meeting. This referred to possible plans by Powys County Council to close a number of local amenity sites. He asked County Cllr Arwel Jones for information on this. Cllr A Jones said that the County Council was considering it but that no decision had been reached and there would be a period of consultation if it was proposed.

Cllr Backshall said that he was concerned at this possibility. It meant that local people would have to drive to Newtown to dispose of garden waste. He expected that this would not happen and predicted an increase in fly-tipping. Cllr Richardson agreed and pointed out that not everyone can drive. The reduced service in cutting back verges would assist fly-tippers and the County would be faced with added expense in clearing the waste from the roadside.

The Chairman suggested that the Council send a letter to Powys County Council raising its concern about the proposal and the likely increase in fly-tipping in rural areas. A copy of the letter would be sent to Cllr Kibble.

ACTION: Clerk

7.2. Walls Bridge Play Area – update

Cllr Connell confirmed that an application for funding had been submitted but that he had heard nothing further. The opportunity to apply for funding closes in the next few days and he expected to hear in time to report to the next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Connell

7.3. Tirgwynt Wind Farm

Cllr Connell said that a letter had been sent to all households apprising them of the trial run of the convoys on 30th June. The convoy with police outriders is due to leave Wrexham at 11.00am and is planned to arrive in Welshpool at 12 noon. Cllr Connell felt that this was over optimistic. He said that he would be out on the day to monitor the convoy as it passed through Llanymynech. Cllrs Backshall and Richardson also said that they would monitor the run.

Cllr Connell said that he will be attending a delivery meeting at Welshpool Town Hall on 7th July and reminded Council that there will be a public meeting at Pant Memorial Hall on 12th July. This would be a drop-in event and run from 3.00pm to 7.00pm.

7.4. Grounds Maintenance – Powys County Council Standards.

Council noted the communication from Powys County Council in the papers for the meeting. The Chairman said that this was a warning of a further substantial reduction in service and would lead to verges overgrowing and becoming a hazard to traffic as sightlines around corners would be significantly affected. This would particularly affect rural single carriageway roads. The Chairman asked County Cllr Arwel Jones whether this was a proposal or policy. Cllr A Jones said that it was a reality as the County Council highways budget was faced with £2m in cuts this year.

Cllr James felt that we should respond to the letter and ask for a minimum of 2 cuts on small rural roads which pose a greater danger to traffic if they become overgrown. This was agreed.

ACTION: Clerk

8 Reports from Committees and Working Groups

8.1. Amenity

There was no report from this group.

8.2. Highways and Byways

8.2.1. A resident at Wern had told Cllr Backshall that the camber of the road outside her house meant that in heavy rain the water runs into the houses. Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would visit the area and raise the matter with Powys County Council.

ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones

8.2.2.

Cllr Arwel Jones referred the Council to the e-mail he had sent to Powys County Council in relation to the queries that he had raised from the last meeting. He will continue to press for action.

ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones

8.2.3.

Cllr Connell raised the matter of signs outside the car wash which are still causing an obstruction. Cllr Backshall said that he had spoken to the proprietor and had thought that the situation had been remedied. Cllr Borthwick said that he had received a complaint from a wheelchair user who had difficulty negotiating the footpath because of the signs. Cllr Thornycroft said that it was good to see a business trying to improve facilities in the village and felt that another informal approach should be made. If there is no improvement then a formal letter will have to be sent. Cllr Backshall said that he would speak again with the proprietor

8.2.4.

Councillors expressed concern at the disruption caused by Severn Trent in respect of work undertaken outside the newsagents shop. A hole was dug on a Friday but no work was started until the following week. In the meantime traffic build up had caused a nuisance to both road users and pedestrians and it was reported that the shop owner had lost a significant amount of business as a result. Council felt that Severn Trent should plan their scheduling of work more carefully in order to minimize disruption. The problem was noted but action will be left to the shop owner for the present.

8.2.5.

Cllr Richardson felt that the Council should make a formal complaint about the state of the road between Llanymynech and Llynclys crossroads. The drains on this stretch had been marked for work but nothing has happened for a considerable time. Cllr Connell said that he would raise this at the delivery meeting for the Tirgwynt Farm project as the large vehicles being used are certain to impact upon the drains and he wondered whether the road surface was sufficiently robust to carry the convoys over the summer.

ACTION: Cllr Connell

8.2.6

Cllr Jones drew the Council's attention to holes in the hedges on the canal side between Carreghofa Lane and the school. There are no verges at this point and she was concerned that people might use the holes as access points directly on to the road causing a hazard for traffic. Cllr Backshall said that he would walk the stretch and note the extent of the problem. He will then inform the clerk who will write to the head office of the Canal and Rivers Trust.

ACTION: Cllr Backshall and then the Clerk

9. To receive reports on meeting from outside bodies.

9.1. Burial Board

There had been no meeting of the burial board but Cllr Backshall said that, as the proposed new site will be on the Welsh side of the village we need to get guidance from Powys County Council on the processes to be undertaken in respect of planning, geology, water tables etc.

ACTION: Clerk

9.2. One Voice Wales

Cllr Backshall tabled a paper on the AGM and latest meeting of One Voice Wales. Matters discussed were the proposed reorganisation of county and local government which, it was thought, is likely to be postponed, and the deteriorating state of post office services in rural areas.

No other reports had been received as meetings had not taken place since the last Council meeting.

10. Correspondence.

10.1. Correspondence for decision

There was no correspondence for decision.

10.2. Correspondence to note.

The Clerk apologised for the fact that he had not been able to send out a resumé of correspondence sent out during the month due to his broadband being temporarily out of order.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will take place on **Tuesday 26th July at 7.00pm** at Llanymynech Village Hall.

Action: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____