

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2015
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. F. James, (Vice-Chair) – in the Chair for this meeting
Cllr. C Backshall,
Cllr M Connell
Cllr. C Jones
Cllr. R McCluskey
Cllr B Richardson

In attendance: Mr. M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Thornycroft – on holiday
Cllr D. Borthwick

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

Cllrs Jones and Richardson for Item 8.3.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2015:

Item 3 – the date should read 26th May 2015: With this correction the minutes were accepted as a correct record, Proposed Cllr Backshall, seconded Cllr Jones and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes that are not on the agenda:

4.1. Purchase of Defibrillator

Cllr Backshall reported that he has written to the Big Lottery Fund advising them that the project is now complete, submitting a balance sheet for the project and requesting a Project Monitoring form. He also briefed the Big Lottery Fund on the reasons for delay in completing the project, the registration and maintenance of the unit and the Council's plans for publicising the provision and getting the involvement of the local community. He asked for Council's permission to get stickers acknowledging the grant which will be placed on the equipment. Agreed.

Cllr Backshall praised the West Midlands Ambulance Service for their expertise and assistance. He has signed a memorandum of Understanding and the Council is now registered with both the West Midlands and the Welsh Ambulance services.

The WMAS has offered a Community Awareness evening which will cover the use of the defibrillator and CPR. Council agreed to take this up and, in view of the holiday period now being upon us, suggested an evening in October. Cllr Backshall and Cllr Jones to liaise with the Village Hall management to arrange a suitable date. Cllr Backshall hoped that all councillors would attend.

ACTION: Cllr Backshall, Cllr Jones

Cllr Backshall agreed that he would be responsible for the maintenance of the defibrillator in the short term but hoped that once the community is involved this can be passed on to a rota of interested residents.

Cllr James gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Backshall for the work he has undertaken in bringing the project to a successful conclusion.

4.2 Register of members' Interests.

The forms put forward by the Clerk were accepted and councillors were asked to complete a form and return it to the Clerk as soon as possible.

ACTION: All.

4.3. Smoke Free Playgrounds

The Clerk confirmed that he has registered the Council's interest in being part of the scheme and we should receive signage for the Walls Bridge area and football field in September.

5. Local delivery of services

5.1. Community Engagement Survey

Council received the statement from the Chairman and agreed that it would proceed with the survey as outlined. Cllr James said that his would be led by the Chairman and she would also take part. Cllrs Jones and Backshall expressed an interest in being involved and the Clerk will administer and service the project. It was agreed that the question of a timetable for the scheme would be referred back to the Chairman on his return from holiday.

5.2. North East Montgomeryshire Service Group (Rural Cluster)

Councillors noted the minutes of the meeting held at Four Crosses on Thursday 2nd July together with the response sent by Cllr Thornycroft to Cllr Buckingham, Chair of Llandysilio Community Council.

A request has been received from Mrs Davis, Clerk at Llandysilio that Carreghofa hosts the next meeting and that our Chair and Clerk service the meeting. Future meetings would be held in other participating community councils. Cllr Thornycroft has indicated his willingness to do this and it was agreed by the Council.

5.3. Llanfyllin Cluster - Service Cluster

The Clerk tabled a letter and paper received two days ago from Mr J. Bellingham, Clerk at Llanfyllin. The paper set out costings for each participating council for the following services viz: Street cleaning, Grounds maintenance, Outdoor recreation and Allotments. Carreghofa has not yet submitted details to Llanfyllin as we are still awaiting financial information from Powys County council.

The letter asked councils to confirm their agreement and willingness to continue with the cluster by the end of August. A meeting will be arranged in September at which one representative from each participating council, mandated to make decisions is asked to attend. Following discussion it was agreed to write to Mr Bellingham along the following lines:-

Carreghofa is not in a position to commit at present as the Council will not have details about service levels and costs from Powys County Council before September.

If it is not possible to continue with an expression of interest only will it be possible to apply for admittance at a later date if this is perceived as in the best interest of the residents of Carreghofa.

As we cannot commit at this juncture we will not be able to send a mandated councillor to attend the meeting in September but we would like to send a councillor to the meeting as an observer. Cllr Connell indicated that he would be prepared to attend if this is allowed.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Llanfyllin putting the points summarised above.

6. Finance Report

6.1. Statement of Accounts for the First quarter (April – June 2015)

The Statement of Accounts was included with the paper for the meeting.

Cllr James referred to the amount provided by Powys County council as concurrent funding for cemeteries. No funds have been passed to the Burial Board in the past year. Historically these monies were used to pay for insurance but this is no longer required. It was decided that the Clerk should consult with the appropriate person at Powys County Council to clarify the position.

ACTION: Clerk

The following points were noted:-

- The Wales Audit Office entry on the Income Sheet referred to an error made last year which resulted in a small repayment to the Council. There is no need to keep this entry on the Statement
- The Council only receives 106 monies as a result of developments within the Council area. This heading does not need to be a permanent feature of the Statement and may be removed until such times as it is required.
- Cllr Backshall had been contacted by the War Memorial Trust about a grant that they had given for the refurbishment of the war memorial. The work has been completed and paid for but, possibly, as a result of two changes of clerk last year the grant had not been claimed. Cllr Backshall said that the Council can still claim these monies and a form should be within the Council's files.

ACTION: Clerk to take steps to claim the grant money.

Adoption of the Statement of Accounts for the first quarter (2015) was proposed by Cllr Backshall, seconded Cllr McCluskey and agreed unanimously.

6.2. 6.3 & 6.4.

Council agreed to the payment of the following items:-

- Invoice from JDH for Internal Audit £218.40
- Reimbursement to Cllr Thornycroft for work done to Chairman's Chain of office £70.61
- Reimbursement to Clerk for travelling Expenses £31.05

7. To receive reports from Committees and Working Groups:

7.1. Amenity

7.1.1. Damage to play area at Walls Bridge

The Clerk read a letter from Mr J. Thompson, Managing Director of P&W Contracting who agreed to reinstate the areas damaged by the company's machinery in the playground at Walls Bridge if the Council will provide information on the precise location of the damage. Cllrs McCluskey and Backshall agreed to collate the information and pass it to the Clerk who would then contact P&W.

ACTION: Cllrs McCluskey & Backshall then the Clerk

The Clerk reported that Mr Thompson had offered apologies that his operatives were working without due health and safety procedures while children were leaving the school. He has given the Council an assurance that this will not occur again.

7.1.2. Cllr Backshall informed the Council that the memorial bench to Mrs Olive Nials has now been replaced on Llanymynech Hill. The original dedicatory inscription has been attached to the new bench..

7.1.3. Cllr Backshall showed the meeting examples of posters drawn by children at Carreghofa Primary School reminding people about the proper disposal of litter. Cllr Backshall said that he would put these onto a hard backing and place them in Walls Bridge and the football field. Cllrs expressed their delight with the children's work.

7.1.4. It was noted that the sign warning of the danger of overhead electricity lines was broken. Cllr Backshall said that the original notice was quite flimsy and if Scottish Power would provide a new sign he would put it on a hard backing similar to that for the litter signs (para. 7.1.3.)

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Scottish Power then Cllr Backshall to affix new signage.

7.1.4. Council agreed that it would place a new litter bin inside the entrance to Walls Bridge.

ACTION: Clerk to source a suitable bin.

7.2. Border Area Working Group.

The written report was noted. The Chair thanked Cllr Backshall for putting up signage at the site prior to the work beginning.

When unearthed the County Stone was found to be in three pieces and would originally have stood at over 5 feet high. It has been re-sited.

The Clerk reminded Council that it is now nearly three months since the minister said that she would ask her officials to liaise with the Council about the Dragon sculpture. The meeting asked the Clerk to contact the Welsh Government to progress matters.

ACTION: Clerk

7.3. Highways and Byways

7.3.1. Cllr Richardson expressed concern that a sign at the junction of the A483 and Pen-y-Foel warning motorcyclists to take care was, in fact, on the right hand pavement facing the motorcyclist. He felt that this might distract the rider from the main carriageway which bends to the left at this point. The Clerk agreed that he would take this up with Andrew Jones of the Trunk Road Agent.

ACTION: Clerk

7.3.2. The matter of overgrown hedges at the property on the corner of Chapel Lane and the A483 was raised. The Clerk has not yet written to the resident, being unsure of the property in question. Cllr Richardson supplied details of the resident and address.

ACTION: Clerk

7.3.4. Concern was expressed that the electricity pole at Elm Tree Farm is leaning at a dangerous angle. SP Energy will be in the village on 6th August and it was hoped that the problem could be dealt with at that time.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Scottish Power, Liverpool

7.4. Web-site

7.4.1. Council noted the paper prepared by the Clerk regarding the 'Duty to publish information on community council web-sites.' It was agreed that the following information would be included:-

- The Councillor's name
- Contact telephone number
- Party Affiliation if any (this will not apply to any present councillor)

- Any office of the Council held
- Any committee of the council to which the member belongs.

It was agreed that e-mail details, other than the Clerk's should not be publicised.

7.4.2. Cllr McCluskey suggested that the Council should have a link to the Wild Life Trust web-site.

ACTION: Clerk to discuss with the Chairman on his return from holiday

8. Other Matters

8.1. Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026 - Notice of Deposit of Proposals for a Local Development Plan

The Chairman had circulated his response to councillors and asked for comments by 13th July. The Clerk confirmed that no responses had been received and he had, accordingly, forwarded the response to Powys County Council.

8.2. Call for Honours

This matter was dealt with in the confidential section of the meeting. (see below)

8.3. Donation to Llanymynech Good Companions Club

Cllr Backshall tabled a letter from the Good Companions Club asking for assistance in order to finance coach outings for elderly members. The letter was accompanied by the Club's Statement of Accounts. Cllr McCluskey urged Council to support the request. He said that the Club brought a huge community benefit for people who otherwise had little or no opportunity to get out and felt that this would be money well spent.

Council agreed to give a donation of £300 to the Club; Proposed Cllr Backshall, seconded Cllr McCluskey and passed unanimously.

8.4. Health & Safety review of playgrounds

The Clerk queried, in the light of national newspaper reports that a child had died as a result of an injury in a council owned playground, what was done to ensure that the Council's equipment is fit for purpose. Cllr McCluskey said that RoSPA inspected the equipment. The Clerk confirmed that no inspection had been carried out in the previous year and it was agreed that RoSPA be contacted to ensure that the Council is taking due care in this respect.

ACTION: Clerk – Cllr McCluskey to be kept informed of developments

9. To receive reports from outside bodies

9.1 Burial Board

Cllr Jones reported that a meeting had taken place on 27th July. There was nothing further to report on The site for a new burial ground.

£2900, being half the cost of removing the electricity pole had been paid to Scottish Power. This will free up space for another 20 plots which will give the Board more time to search for a new site.

The treasurer had received a letter from the auditors querying the balance held in the savings account in readiness for the purchase of the new site. The increase in funds had previously been explained to the auditors. The Board would like a letter from the Council confirming that no precept is paid to the Board. The Clerk said that he would provide this information upon receipt of a written request from the Board. (see also minute 6.1 regarding business in this matter)

The Chairman of the Board has recently been on a training course where it came to light that both local councils have to ratify the set of rules regarding memorials i.e. the War Memorial.

9.2. Montgomery Council Forum

The written report from the Chairman was noted.

9.3. National Grid

No further progress

9.4 One Voice Wales

No meeting has taken place

9.5 Village Hall

Cllr Jones reported that the Hall is being used a great deal by regular user groups, service providers and business meetings etc. A fund-raising event was organised by Beverley Rhodes and £748 was raised.

The Junior Role Play Theatre Group donated 50% of their takings (£450)

These two donations have enabled the Hall Committee to decorate two rooms and it is planned to decorate the corridor during the summer holidays.

9.6. Llanymynech Youth Club.

The Youth Club is taking a break during the summer. Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council. Has provided funding to re-surface the skate park and four club members attended the Parish Council meeting to discuss ideas about a new skate ramp and youth shelter. They have also asked for a litter bin to be provided.

10. Correspondence

10.1. Correspondence for Decision

10.1.1. A letter from the Llanfyllin Group Practice Patient's Participation Forum has been received giving notice of a meeting on Wednesday 23rd September at Llanrhaeadr to discuss future changes in services at Shrewsbury & Telford hospitals. Cllr Connell agreed to attend on behalf of the Council

ACTION: Cllr Connell

10.2. Correspondence to Note

10.2.1. A letter has been received from Fisher German acting on behalf of Severn Trent advising of a possible survey of water mains running under Walls Bridge. The Clerk has submitted the necessary information to Fisher German. The correspondence was noted

10.2.2. An e-mail communication re the bench at Llanymynech Hill This matter was dealt with under minute 7.1.2.

10.2.3. Council noted the correspondence listed in the papers for the meeting.

11 Council passed a resolution excluding the public from the following business.

Councillors - please note that this item will not be made public when the minutes are published.

8.2. Council considered a request for names to be included in the next Honours List. Cllr Backshall nominated Mrs Marion Ingram. Mrs Ingram has for many years been involved in numerous local and county wide organisations, particularly of note is her work for the Cubs and Junior Scouting movement. She is also a leading figure in the W.I and is a governor at Carreghofa Primary School.

ACTION: Clerk to put this matter in train.

12. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

Tuesday 29th September 2015 at Llanymynech Village Hall, 7.00pm.

(Papers and reports for the meeting to the Clerk by 22nd September please)

ACTION: All to note

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____