

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

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

Present:

Cllr M Connell (Chairman)

Cllr D Cavill

Cllr R McCluskey

Cllr S Morris

In attendance:

County Cllr Arwel Jones

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr R Dover

Cllr F James

Cllr C 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 October 2017

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1. (ref Min: 5.1.) It is expected that the new signs will be in place by the end of the year.

ACTION: Cllr Connell and Cllr Arwel Jones

4.2. (ref: Min 5.3) The Clerk confirmed that he has asked for the matter of a joint planning group to be on the agenda for the next joint meeting of Carreghofa Community Council and Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council.

4.3. (ref: Min 8.1) The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Graham Bradley to inform him that Carreghofa Community Council would not be joining the Community Interest Company at this time.

4.4. (ref: Min 8.2) The Clerk informed the Council that Nicola Gully, the inspector would be holding a consultation meeting at Llandrindod Wells on 10th January 2018. Only those people who had made representation to the Matters Arising changes would be permitted to take part but other interested parties could attend as observers. The Chairman and Clerk would attend as observers and report back to the meeting.

ACTION: Chairman and Clerk

5. Finance Report

5.1. Financial Position

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

5.2. Draft Budget 2018 / 2019.

The Clerk recommended acceptance of the draft budget as set out in the papers for the meeting. He said that the precept request would be lower next year as the Council would not have election expenses.

Cllr McCluskey asked why the budget for grounds maintenance had been reduced. The Clerk said that the overall cost since contracting with Greenfingers Ltd had gone down. He had rolled over the current amount plus an increase for inflation and any one-off works needed during the year but, nonetheless, felt that the budget could be reduced.

Cllr Morris asked what outside bodies the Council subscribed to. The clerk said that these were the Society of Local Council Clerks and One Voice Wales.

Cllr Connell proposed that the budget be approved. This was seconded by Cllr McCluskey and agreed unanimously.

5.3. Bank Mandate

Council noted the statement in the papers for the meeting. It was agreed that those councillors who are to be signatories to the current account should provide the necessary proofs to HSBC at Oswestry.

ACTION: All signatories

5.4.. Approval of Payments

Council approved the following payments:-

- Carreghofa Primary School - £900.00 contribution to the cost of a hoist for disabled children (previously agreed)
- Brunel Engraving - £20.40 backing plate for the Christopher Backshall memorial plaque
- Petty Cash - £50.00 – top up

Council also noted the following standing order payment

- Greenfingers Ltd - £129.30 - grounds maintenance September

6 Other matters

6.1. Vacancy on Council

The Clerk informed Council that Cllr Borthwick had expressed an intention to resign because of pressure of other commitments. The Clerk said that he would need confirmation in writing before the election/co-option process could begin and the Chairman said that he would see Cllr Borthwick and obtain a letter.

ACTION: Chairman

6.2. Tree Cutting

The Chairman said that he had been approached by Scottish Power who had inspected trees at Walls Bridge and along the A483 which were adjacent to powerlines. They felt that some trees should be cut back as they were in danger of encroaching on the powerlines. Scottish Power's representatives will undertake the work at no cost to the Council and the Chairman had given approval for this work to be done. Council noted the decision.

6.3. Web-site SSL certificates

Council noted the correspondence from Gloversure, the Council's web-site hosting company, regarding SSL certificates.

Cllr McCluskey felt that such certificates were only necessary for organisations involved in

selling goods or handling sensitive personal data. However, he noted that the second option of a 'slightly less trusted SSL certificate' would be satisfactory for non-commercial websites and as this only involved a one-off set up fee of £25 + VAT with no annual charges he felt that Council should go ahead with this to obviate any confusion for visitors to the website. This was agreed

ACTION: Clerk to inform Gloversure.

6.4. Best Kept Village in Montgomeryshire

Council noted the invitation from CPRW to participate in the 2018 competition.

County Cllr Arwel Jones said that the competition looks principally on the amount and quality of community involvement rather than just whether the village was 'pretty

Cllr McCluskey noted that Carreghofa had been runners up in 2016 and asked what impact this had had on the community.'. The Clerk felt that the overall impact was small although the Council did receive acknowledgement in the local media at the time.

It was felt that if the Council enters the scheme that most of the groundwork will have been done for the 2016 event and that a small sub-committee to update the entry would be required.

The launch takes place on 23rd February 2108 and it was decided to carry the matter over to the next meeting. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to forward copies of the 2016 submission to councillors.

ACTION: Clerk

7. Amenities

7.1. Walls Bridge Playground

The Clerk reported that Greenfingers Ltd now has a new Area Manager, Vincent Gilroy, and that he would be meeting with him on Tuesday 5th December at walls Bridge. The Clerk asked the Chairman if he could attend and he agreed to do so if he had no other commitments.

7.2. Canal

The Chairman said that the section of the canal at Carreghofa Bridge was full of debris and Cllr McCluskey noted the hedges were very overgrown. He queried how often the Canal and Rivers Trust cut back the hedges. The Clerk was asked to contact the Canal and Rivers Trust about clearing the debris and cutting the hedges.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr McCluskey also expressed his concern that dog fouling was rife along the canal bank between the A483 and Barley Meadow. He was aware that little could be done unless the dog owners could be identified but suggested that a dog waste bin including a bag dispenser be placed by the steps leading down from the A483 to the towpath.

The Clerk said that there were two considerations:-

1. The steps are on the east side of the road and, therefore are in England and the responsibility of Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council.
2. If a bin was put in place, would the County Council agree to empty it. Cllr Arwel Jones felt that the County Council may well do so if it was on an existing collection route.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Nigel Brinn, Head of Service at the Highways Department, Powys County Council to ascertain the feasibility of the County Council collecting from a bin on the bridge.

ACTION: Clerk

7.3. Notice Board outside the village shop

An update was requested on the replacement of the notice board outside the village shop. The Chairman said that the owner is still waiting to see what signage the Post Office will put in place. Once this is known the Council will be in a position to proceed with a new noticeboard.

7.4. Social Media Group

Cllr McCluskey drew the Council's attention to a new social media platform called 'Next Door Llanymynech and Pant' which allows individuals in Llanymynech to post items; examples are selling good, reporting crimes. He felt that the Council could use the platform to inform the public of its activities. Members felt that this should be investigated further and Cllr McCluskey was asked to forward details to the Clerk.

ACTION: Cllr McCluskey

7.5. Car park behind the Dolphin inn

Cllr Jones had left a request with the Clerk that Greenfingers be asked to cut back the hedges in the car park at the back of the Dolphin inn for which the Council is responsible. She reported that the hedges are very overgrown and felt that extra parking space could be provided if the area was tidied up. The clerk was asked to raise this at his meeting with Mr Gilroy of Greenfingers.

ACTION: Clerk

8. Highways & Byways

8.1. Pen-y-Foel

Cllr James had asked that Council's attention should be drawn to the fact that there was a large amount of mud on Pen-y-Foel as a result of the edges of undergrowth not being cut.

The streetlight is still not working.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones will take these matters up with the appropriate people at Powys County Council.

8.2. Carreghofa Lane and Cae Haith

The issue of potholes on Carreghofa Lane is still to be addressed and the Chairman said that another had opened up at the entrance to Cae Haith.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones will take these matters up with the appropriate people at Powys County Council.

8.3. New Pedestrian Crossing

County Cllr Arwel Jones said that Mr Hedley, the landlord of the Bradford Arms had received an e-mail from Ken Skates to say that the work at the pedestrian crossing would be completed in this financial year. The Chairman said that this was already understood as the Council had received similar assurances. He had asked that the Welsh Government be reminded of this promise as we are now three quarters of the way through the financial year.

Cllr Arwel Jones said that he will get a copy of the e-mail and contact the Welsh Government.

ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones

8.4. Gritting and Salt Bins

The Chairman asked Cllr Arwel Jones who is responsible for seeing that the gritter visits all areas. Cllr Arwel Jones said that this was the responsibility of the County Council and that the Highways Department had a list of priorities. The first priority was to keep bus routes open. He undertook to get a copy of the priorities list and circulate this together with a copy of the gritting route.

The Chairman asked if salt bins could be located on routes which the gritter does not visit so that householders could access salt individually. Cllr Cavill said that there is a bin on Pen-y-Foel and there were probably others around. Cllr Arwel Jones said that Carreghofa could put in additional bins if it felt that this was necessary.

ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones

9. To receive reports from outside bodies.

There had been no meetings of outside bodies which have Council representation since the last meeting.

10 Correspondence.

10.1. Correspondence for decision

A letter from the British Red Cross had been received asking for a donation towards its work. Council decided, with regret, that the request did not fall within the remit of its donations policy.

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 Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 30th January 2018 at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall

ACTION: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____