

# Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)  
Cllr. F. James, (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. C Backshall,  
Cllr M Connell  
Cllr. C Jones  
Cllr. R McCluskey  
Cllr B Richardson  
County Councillor Arwel Jones

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

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Apologies for Absence</b> |
| Cllr D. Borthwick - working   |                              |
| <b>2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:</b>  |                              |
| Cllr Jones for donation to Llanymynech Youth Club in respect of Item 5  |                              |
| <b>3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015:</b>  |                              |
| The following amendments were made to the minutes:-<br>Item 9.1 //3 the words <i>The Chairman of the Board</i> to read <i>The Clerk of the Board</i> .<br>The words <i>War Memorial</i> to be replaced by <i>memorials on graves</i> .<br>With these amendments the minutes were approved as correct and signed by the Chairman.  |                              |
| <b>4. Matters arising from the minutes that are not on the agenda:</b>  |                              |
| 4.1. <u>Defibrillator – Community Awareness Evening</u><br>Cllr Backshall said that only one suitable date was available at the Village Hall before the end of the year. This is Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December. He has booked the date but is awaiting confirmation from the West Midlands Ambulance Service. He hopes to have this within the next week to allow for publication of the event in the Parish magazine.<br><b>ACTION: Cllr Backshall,</b> |                              |
| 4.2 <u>Register of Members' Interests.</u><br>The Clerk reported that he had received 4 declaration forms to date. He would chase up the forms from those councillors who had not yet completed a form.<br><b>ACTION: Clerk</b>   |                              |
| 4.3. <u>Smoke Free Playgrounds</u><br>Council noted the written report from the Clerk. It was decided that three posters be obtained and that they will be erected by us. Cllr Backshall agreed to undertake this task.<br><b>ACTION: Clerk to write to Anna Prothero, Senior Health Promotion Practitioner, Public Health, Wales.</b>  |                              |
| <b>Cllr Backshall to erect posters when to hand.</b>  |                              |
| 4.4 <u>.Grant from War Memorial Trust</u>   |                              |

The Clerk reported that the proper forms have been duly completed and sent to the War Memorials Trust. He had received confirmation of their arrival and awaits a final decision from the Trust.

Cllr Backshall said that he has tried to up-load a photograph onto the Trust's web-site but has been unsuccessful in doing so. Cllr McCluskey said that if Cllr Backshall would send him the photograph with the password, he would attempt to make a successful up-load.

**ACTION: Cllr Backshall & Cllr McCluskey**

## 5. Local delivery of services

The paper by Cllr Thornycroft was noted. Cllr Thornycroft said that there were three strands which need to be addressed they are:-

1. We need to have information on the cost of services from Powys County Council.
2. We need to know what the local community sees as important
3. We need to understand what benefits can accrue from joining with other community councils to form a cluster.
- 4.

### Strand 1.

Cllr Backshall tabled a report from himself and Cllr Jones who had looked at the Service Transfer Catalogue provided by Powys County Council. Of the services in the catalogue they felt that Carreghofa was likely to take on the provision of:-

- Street cleaning together with litter bin emptying.
- Grounds maintenance.
- Highway amenity areas and urban grass verges; this would only include grass, hedges and shrub areas.

Cllr Backshall said that further information was needed before the Council could approach contractors for a quotation. These included:-

- Street cleaning – is the A483 Trunk Road included. Are footpaths to be included and will the Community Council be responsible for litter picking?
- Grounds maintenance – Does this include roadside growth and is the A483 Trunk Road included.

Cllr Backshall proposed that once this information is to hand the Council should obtain provisional quotations in order to be able to make a realistic judgement of the financial implications of taking over these services.

### Strand 2

Cllr Thornycroft said that this strand will be informed by the use of a survey designed by the Clerk. Some minor amendments were made to the survey format and it was agreed that the survey would be distributed on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October; the main areas of distribution will be dealt with by members of Llanymynech Youth Club and Councillors James, Backshall and McCluskey agreed to undertake distribution to outlying dwellings. The survey will be printed and ready for distribution by 10<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk will draw up a list of dwellings from the register of Electors. Councillors will meet at Llanymynech Village Hall at 10.00am on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Arrangements have been made for completed surveys to be left at Ashfield Stores or the Village Hall.

Surveys should be completed by 19<sup>th</sup> October and returned to the Clerk who will analyse the data and produce a report for the Council meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**ACTION: Clerk to provide list of addresses for distribution.**

**Cllr Jones to organise Youth Club distributors**

**All councillors available to meet on 10<sup>th</sup> October to assist with distribution.**

A budget of £150 to include £100 donation to Llanymynech Youth Club was proposed by Cllr Backshall and seconded by Cllr Connell and agreed by all present with the exception of Cllr Jones who abstained having made a declaration of interest in respect of her involvement with the Youth Club.

### Strand 3

A meeting of the five community councils forming the N.E. Montgomeryshire Cluster is to be held at Llanymynech on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr Thornycroft explained that conduct of meetings would rotate between participating councils and for this meeting he would take the Chair and the Clerk would act as secretary. He has asked that each council nominates two members (councillor and / or clerk) who can speak for them. Anyone else is welcome to attend but will not be at the table. They may, nonetheless ask questions and speak as individuals.

As Chair, Cllr Thornycroft will conduct the meeting from a neutral position and so Cllrs James and Backshall were nominated to represent Carreghofa Community Council.

Council agreed to make funds available to provide refreshments at the meeting. Cllr Jones will organise this.

**ACTION: Cllr Jones**

## 6. Finance Report

The report submitted by the Clerk was received.

Under item 6.2 Council ratified the decision made by a meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September to agree amendments required by the external auditor by 21<sup>st</sup> September. Proposed Cllr Backshall, seconded Cllr Richardson and agreed unanimously.

The items for payment in section 6.3 were agreed. Cllr Backshall pointed out that many meetings were held at some distance from Carreghofa and involved the member attending in considerable expense. As councillors were not aware of what could be claimed he felt that there should be a policy on the claiming of expenses by councillors. The Clerk agreed to draw up a policy for consideration at the next meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## 7. To receive reports from Committees and Working Groups:

### 7.1. Amenity

7.1.1 An e-mail had been received from Martin Clare. A resident had written to him regarding children damaging trees at Walls Bridge while parents were present. Cllr Backshall said that he had inspected the site and two boughs had been broken off from a chestnut tree. He agreed to speak to the Head Teacher at the school in the hope that the children can be made to understand the inappropriateness of such behaviour. He also said that he would trim off the rough ends of the boughs.

**ACTION: Cllr Backshall**

7.1.3. Cllr McCluskey said that he had had difficulty contacting P&W Contracting re the damage to the surface at the playground at Walls Bridge. The grass has now grown through the matting to the

point where it is not possible to see where the damage is. It was agreed that this matter will be left unless it is highlighted by the RoSPA inspection (see item 8.2)

7.1.4. Cllr McCluskey reported that he and Cllr Backshall had now staked in the picnic tables at Walls Bridge which should render them secure.

7.2. Border Area Working Group.

Cllr Thornycroft's paper was received by the meeting. The meeting considered the possibility of carrying out an RRR Assessment but in the light of the probable cost (£2000) and the fact that there is no guarantee that the project would get the go-ahead it was, regretfully, decided to abandon plans to erect a dragon sculpture at the site. The Clerk was asked to inform the Trunk Road Agent and ask him to proceed with Phase 1 and put up a Welcome to Wales sign in place of the dragon. The Chairman said that he would inform British ironworks that the project would not be going ahead and ask if there was any liability on the council in respect of design work already undertaken.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Trunk Road Agent  
Chairman to contact British Ironworks**

Cllr Thornycroft said that the edge of the car park area is now full of weeds and action needs to be taken to neaten the area. It was agreed that the earth slopes should be turfed over and bulbs planted. Cllr Richardson asked if Astroturf might provide a solution but no one had experience of this medium.

Cllr Backshall offered to provide bulbs for the planting.

Cllr Jones reported that she had received comments that the Council had spent too much on the project

**ACTION: Clerk to get quote for turfing from P&W. then  
Cllr Backshall and others to plant bulbs.**

7.3. Highways and Byways

7.3.1. Cllr Richardson reported that there are still potholes in Chapel Lane, Carreghofa Lane and at the entrance to Tan-y-Foel. Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would take this up with Powys County Council

**ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones**

7.3.2. The Clerk reported that the overgrown hedges at the property on the corner of Chapel Lane had been trimmed after a follow up letter to the owner.

7.3.4. The Clerk said that the leaning electricity pole had been put upright and strengthened by S.P Energy. They had also sent new warning signs for Walls Bridge. Unfortunately these were the wrong type and he will contact SP Energy again to get replacements.

**ACTION: Clerk**

7.4. Web-site  
On going

## 8. Other Matters

8.1. Pedestrian Crossing at Llanymynech.

An e-mail sent by Andrew Jones of the Trunk Road Agent was noted. This referred to concerns raised by Pant & Llanymynech Parish Council's about the safety of pedestrians using the crossing adjacent to the cross roads in Llanymynech. Cllr Backshall said that he too had concerns and the landlord of the Cross keys has started a petition to improve safety at the crossing. Concern was expressed that the crossing was too close to the cross roads and that at times visibility for road traffic emerging on to the

A483 was poor and as a result drivers were on to the crossing before they could see if it was in use. Pant & Llanymynech Parish Council had referred to poor lighting but Cllr Backshall felt that the lighting was adequate. He felt that a Pelican Crossing would be safer as traffic would be controlled by traffic lights.

Cllr Richardson felt that the crossing should be moved further away from the cross roads but it was felt that this may result in fewer people using the crossing and more attempting to cross at the crossroads without the benefit of a crossing.

Cllr McCluskey drew attention to the pedestrian crossing in Morda which had bright LED lights and was much more conspicuous.

Cllr Connell expressed concerns about the collection point for schoolchildren waiting to board school buses. The numbers of children obscure vision on to the A483.

Cllr Backshall said that a secondary problem was that the bus stop was in the wrong position.

Cllr Thornycroft said that Carreghofa should support Pant & Llanymynech in the short term. We should advise the Trunk Road Agent that the Council would wish to see a crossing similar to that in Morda and that in the long term consideration should be given to moving the pedestrian crossing to a safe distance from the cross roads.

#### 8.2. Health & Safety review of playgrounds

The Clerk's written note was received. It was noted that RoSPA has quoted £281 for inspection of the playground at Walls Bridge. This was accepted by Council, proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr James and passed unanimously.

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

#### 8.3. CiLCA Course

The Clerk said that the SLCC is running a number of modules free of charge but as they are at venues throughout Powys and likely to be a considerable distance from Carreghofa he sought approval of the Council to pay travelling expenses. This was proposed by Cllr Thornycroft, seconded by Cllr Richardson and passed unanimously.

### **9. To receive reports from outside bodies**

#### 9.1 Montgomery Council Forum

The paper submitted by Cllr Thornycroft was received and noted.

#### 9.2. Burial Board

No meeting has been held. Cllr Backshall asked what insurance the Board has and Cllr James undertook to ask this question at the next meeting.

**ACTION: Cllr James**

#### 9.3. National Grid

An e-mail (previously circulated) from Martin Clare was noted. Cllr Thornycroft said that this appeared to be good news but National Grid still has 6 weeks in which to appeal.

#### 9.4 One Voice Wales

No meeting has been held. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October and will be held at Llanymynech Primary School.

9.5 Village Hall  
No meeting has been held.

**10. Correspondence**

10.1. Correspondence for Decision

A letter was tabled from the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod asking for financial support. The Council's donations policy specifically states that monies are only to be used for local groups or for causes that will directly benefit local residents. Therefore it was, with regret, that the Council felt unable to offer any help.

10.2. Correspondence to Note

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

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

This item will be the subject of a separate minute

**12. To confirm the date of the next meeting.**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Llanymynech Village Hall, 7.00pm.  
(Papers and reports for the meeting to the Clerk by 20<sup>th</sup> October please)

**ACTION: All to note**

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_