

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 29th November 2016
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)

Cllr F James

Cllr N Jenkins

Cllr C Jones

Cllr R McCluskey

In attendance:

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr M Connell

Cllr B Richardson

County Cllr Arwel Jones

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

None

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th October 2016.

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1. Best Kept Village

Cllr Jones reported that the certificate for runner-up in the Best Kept Village in Montgomeryshire competition had not yet been framed and displayed in the Village Hall.

4.2. Remembrance Sunday

Cllrs noted the report in the papers for the meeting. The Chairman said that he had given a donation of £30 to the Royal British Legion for the wreath that they provided for the service at St. Agatha's Church. It was agreed that he be reimbursed for this.

5. Vacancy on the Council

The Clerk reported that a notice of vacancy had been displayed for the statutory amount of time but no nominations had been received by Powys County Council Electoral Services. However, as we are now within 6 months of an election Council has the power to co-opt in any case. The Chairman proposed that Mr Neil Jenkins be co-opted onto the Council. Mr Jenkins expressed his willingness to serve and with the full agreement of the meeting he was duly co-opted and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

6. Finance Report

6.1. Financial Position

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

6.2. Budget 2017 / 2018

The Clerk presented the draft budget set out in the papers for the meeting. He drew attention to the underspending on donations in the current year and suggested that the Council should either reduce the budget for next year or review its donations policy. Cllr McCluskey asked whether the Council could invite bids from local organisations; he felt that with reductions

in funding at county council level local groups would be in more difficulty financially and the Council could help maintain the life of the community through offering support. The Chairman drew attention to the advertising that the Council had already undertaken regarding the Community Benefit scheme in association with Tir Gwynt windfarm. These monies, while welcome, may not be great and the Council could offer support to organisations which applied for the Community Benefit if there was more demand than could be met from this fund. It was, therefore, agreed that the budget for donations would be set at the same level as 2016/ 2017.

The Clerk referred to the fact that there would be an election in 2017 and this would create an expense for the Council. Powys County Council had offered advice on the amount to be set aside depending on whether the election would or would not be contested. Advice from the SLCC was that councils should assume that the election will be contested and budget accordingly. In the event that there is no contest the additional monies should be ring-fenced for future election expenses. The Clerk pointed out that, even with budgeting for a contested election the precept would still be lower than that on 2014 / 2015. Council agreed to budget for a contested election.

There being no other matters raised Cllr Jenkins proposed adoption of the budget. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and passed unanimously.

6.3. Approval of Payments

Council approved the following payments:-

- Greenfingers Ltd - £129.30 - grounds maintenance October 2016
- Gloversure - £105.00 - web-site upgrade (Gloversure has requested payment by BACS)
- Greenfingers Ltd - £142.20 - work at the Border Gateway
- Greenfingers Ltd - £141.22 - work on Llanymynech towpath
- Greenfingers Ltd - £165.60 - work at Walls Bridge playground
- M. Donkin - £59.49 - travel and expenses to SLCC meeting, Llandrindod Wells
- Top up of Petty Cash - £50 - the table below shows expenditure of petty cash this year.
- Cllr D. Thornycroft – £30.00 reimbursement of money donated to the RBL for a wreath for the Remembrance Day service
- Llanymynech Village Hall - £44 - rent for the meeting room (September – November 2016)

The Clerk referred to the papers for the meeting informing members that 123Reg had debited Martin Clare's personal account in the sum of £16.78 for renewal of the Council's web-site domain name. The same amount had been transferred into Mr Clare's account and 123Reg have been informed that Mr Clare is no longer part of the Council. This fee is for the next two years. Council gave retrospective approval of this payment.

7 Other matters

7.1. Local Development Plan

The Chairman outlined the history of the LDP. He confirmed that the Council's comments on the Further Focussed Changes had been submitted and that we were subsequently asked to say whether these should be taken as comments or objections. He reported that our comments were to be taken as objections and as a formal written statement.

7.2 Tir Gwynt Wind farm

In the absence of Cllr Connell there was no report on the Community benefit scheme.

The Chairman referred to an e-mail from Martin Clare in the papers for the meeting informing the Council that the Conservation of Upland Powys group is requiring Powys County Council to take action against the developers of the Tir Gwynt Windfarm for breach of conditions relating to the transport of materials to the site. In the event that Powys C. C. takes no action they are considering going to judicial review. They are also commenting on the changes in the LDP.

The Chairman felt that the damage to hedgerows did not directly affect Carreghofa and that, since the Council had already lodged its objections, it could add nothing more to the CUP's case. It was, therefore, agreed that the Council take no further action at this time.

7.3. Walls Bridge Play Area

Cllr McCluskey reported that he and Cllr Connell had met and effected some repairs to the play equipment and had done a 'litter pick'. The "welcome" sign has now been put back up and councillors thought that the new location was an improvement.

The Clerk confirmed that he had heard from Greenfingers Ltd regarding a tree to be planted as a memorial to Cllr Backshall. They have suggested a flowering cherry and feel that Walls Bridge is a suitable site. The Clerk said that he had asked for a quote on the purchase and planting of the tree but had heard nothing further to date. He agreed to follow up the matter with Greenfingers.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr McCluskey thought the tree might be sited on Llanymynech Hill as Cllr Backshall had particular associations with this area. The Chairman said that the Wildlife Trust is currently trying to clear the area and it was generally felt that the memorial would be accessible to more people if sited at Walls Bridge.

7.4. Montytrax Project

The Chairman referred to the last meeting which had been addressed by Shan Mayor but, at that time, no request for support of funding had been made. The Council has now received a request for help in meeting the shortfall in funding of £6,000. The Chairman noted that Ms Mayor has approached 20 councils through whose areas the Montytrax route will pass, with this request and that if the amount is divided equally between all councils then a donation of £300 would be appropriate. Cllr James informed the Council that other fund-raising events would take place in 2017. It was agreed that Carreghofa make a donation of £300 at the present time. In the event that there was still a shortfall the Council could consider further support.

7.5. Web-site Certificate

The Council noted the e-mail, in the papers for the meeting, from Gloversure offering an SSL Certificate to increase security. Cllr Jenkins said that the web-site was simply a means of communication and did not allow public access. He felt that there was no need to enhance the security of the site at this time. Council agreed to take no further action unless circumstances changed.

7.6. Notice Board outside Llanymynech Post Office

The meeting noted the request from Cllr Connell who was approached by Paddy Martin asking if funds from the wind farm could be used to replace the noticeboard outside the Post Office. It was noted that monies from the Community Benefit scheme were not yet to hand and it was not known how many requests would have to be considered. Councillors considered that the replacement of the noticeboard would be a good thing for the community and that it could be funded directly by the Council if the Community benefit fund were

oversubscribed. The Clerk was asked to get some quotes for a new noticeboard and its installation.

ACTION: Clerk

8 Planning

TREE/2016/0042 Notification for works to fell a tree in a conservation area, North View, North Road, Llanymynech.

The Chairman pointed out that the owners of the property are making great efforts to improve it. They have refurbished the house and installed new fencing. He also noted that younger native British trees were being planted to replace those felled. Council decided that it would offer no objection to the planning application.

9. To receive reports from Committees and Working groups

9.1. Amenity

9.1.1. The Chairman asked for an update on the holes in the fence at the Jubilee Football Field. The Clerk said that he had asked Greenfingers for a quote but had heard nothing further. He would chase this up.

ACTION: Clerk

9.1.2. Cllr Jones reported that the Canal and Rivers Trust had blocked the holes in the hedges along the towpath but one has already been reopened. The Clerk was asked to inform the Trust.

ACTION: Clerk

9.2. Highways and Byways

9.2.1. Councillors noted the work that has been carried out at the pedestrian crossing on the A483 and asked the Clerk to thank County Cllr Arwel Jones for his efforts in this direction. It was noted, however, that no action has yet been taken to deal with the problem of flooding at Wern or with the roadway at the top of Pen-y-Foel. The Clerk was asked to ask Cllr Arwel Jones to follow these matters up with Powys County Council.

ACTION: Clerk

9.2.2. Cllr Jenkins asked what action has been taken re cars for sale being left in the car park at the junction of Pen-y-Foel and the A483. The Chairman said that notices compiled by the Clerk were to hand and are placed on offending vehicles. He had affixed such a notice to a car that morning which had been removed by the end of the day.

10. To receive reports of meetings from outside bodies

No meetings of any of the bodies on which councillors represent the Council have taken place since the last meeting.

11. Correspondence.

11.1. Correspondence for decision

There was no correspondence for decision

10.2. Correspondence to note.

10.2.1. Council noted the correspondence sent out by the Clerk since the last meeting and itemised in the papers for the meeting.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will take place on **Tuesday 31st January 2017 at 7.00pm** at Llanymynech Village Hall.

Action: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____