

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 30th January 2018
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr M Connell (Chairman)

Cllr D Cavill

Cllr F James

Cllr C Jones

Cllr R McCluskey

In attendance:

County Cllr Arwel Jones

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for absence Cllr R Dover Cllr S Morris
2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda None
3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th November 2017 The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair
4. Matters arising from the minutes 4.1. Dog fouling notices: (ref Min: 4.1.) These notices will be in place by 15 th February ACTION: Cllr Connell and Cllr Arwel Jones 4.2. LDP Hearing (ref: Min 4.4.) Council noted the Chairman's report in the papers for the meeting. The Chairman added that the inspector was not looking at specific sites but whether the overall plan put together by Powys County Council was satisfactory. The areas looked at included wildlife, history, and landscaping. The County Council appeared to be struggling in some areas. This was the last hearing and the inspector will now move to a decision and present her findings to Powys County Council by the end of February. Powys County Council then has 2 weeks to respond and the Plan must be finalised 3 weeks thereafter. The Chairman felt that the points considered at the hearing would have little effect on Carreghofa.
5. Finance Report <u>5.1. Financial Position</u> The financial position set out in the papers for the meeting was noted. <u>5.2. Bank Mandate</u> The Clerk asked for confirmation that those councillors who will act as signatories to the accounts had now registered with HSBC. One councillor has yet to do so. <u>5.3. Financial Statement - Third Quarter</u> Council received the statement as set out in the papers for the meeting. Approval was

proposed by Cllr Cavill, seconded by Cllr McCluskey and agreed unanimously.

5.4.. Approval of Payments

Council approved the following payments:-

- Powys County Council £366.92 – outsourcing payroll services (taken by Direct Debit).
- Clerk £64.45 – travel and subsistence for SLCC meeting at Llandrindod Wells
- Chairman £45.00 – travel to LDP meeting at Llandrindod Wells

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 has received Cllr Borthwick's resignation. Council agreed to proceed by issuing a Notice of Vacancy to run until 16th February and, if there is no interest to issue a Notice of Intention to Co-opt to run until 23rd February.

ACTION: Chairman for Noticeboard; Cllr Cavill for web-site

6.2. Data Protection

Council noted the report by the Clerk in the papers for the meeting. The Clerk said that this is a complex area and the Council would have to appoint a Data Protection Officer which would most likely be himself or a councillor. County Councillor Arwel Jones said that Powys County Council would shortly be issuing advice to town and community councils. It was agreed that this matter should be kept on the agenda for future meetings.

ACTION: Clerk

6.3. Law Commission Report

A copy of correspondence from the Law Commission Report 'Planning Law in Wales' had been sent to councillors of 15th December and the Chairman has asked for this to be considered at this meeting. He began by saying that one good point was that planning matters should be simplified so that they were more easily understood by people without a planning background. Training will be needed from Powys County Council and training officers would have a large part to play in making the implementation of the report successful. It was vitally important that councillors understood the planning system and were au fait with the new regulations.

The Chairman felt that with regard to the local picture, a composite response was required from Carreghofa Community Council and Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council. Because the village straddles the English / Welsh border it is subject to two planning authorities, each with its need for development and there is a danger that, if the two authorities are not aware of what each is doing there may be overdevelopment in the area. Cllr McCluskey agreed; he said that there must be joined up thinking. He had concerns about whether councillors had sufficient skills to take on the role of Planning Officer – it needs someone confident to do the job and anyone appointed locally would need good training and there would, undoubtedly, be a cost implication.

County Cllr Arwel Jones said that more information will come out once the results of the consultation are known.

The consultation ends at the end of March and, since there is to be a joint meeting of Chairman felt that with regard to the local picture, a composite response was required from Carreghofa Community Council and Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council in February this

could be discussed there. The Chairman agreed that he would draw up a draft response.

ACTION: Chairman to draw up response

Clerk to ask for the item to be placed on the agenda of the Joint meeting.

6.4. Best Kept Village in Montgomeryshire

Council noted the invitation to the launch of the 2018 Best Kept Village competition and the timetable as set out in the papers for the meeting.

The Chairman asked whether Council wanted to enter this year. Cllr James said that the criteria are the same as the 2106 competition where Carreghofa was runner up. The Clerk said that while we can use much of the material from 2016 it will not be enough to simply revamp that entry. Cllr James agreed and said that there had been other developments which would play a large part in a new entry, particularly the MontytraX Project.

The Chairman thought that taking part should raise awareness of the need to care for the environment. He wondered how much the residents of the village know about what is being done on their behalf.

Looking back to 2016 Cllr McCluskey asked what impact being runners up had had in the local community. The competition brings publicity and kudos but, he felt, that it had not raised awareness of the need to care for the environment as witnessed by the levels of littering and dog fouling. He was particularly concerned that the youth of the community was not engaged. The Council could organise one off rubbish collections and clean ups but this would not solve the long term problem as littering would continue.

The Chairman suggested that the Youth Club could be part of a group putting together the entry. Cllr McCluskey thought that this might be too intimidating for one or two young people.

The Clerk suggested that, as part of the project, the Youth Club could be asked to participate in cleaning up the village in return for a donation to their funds. Cllr James felt that if the Youth Club was involved they would be more likely to take ownership and exert peer pressure to see that the village was maintained in a clean and tidy state. Cllr McCluskey said that if this went ahead the Council would need to provide suitable equipment and materials such as litter pickers, goggles, bags, etc.

Cllr Jones said that she would raise the matter with the Youth Club to see if they would be interested in taking part. The Clerk would check prices for the equipment and materials needed.

It was agreed that a sub-group would be formed to produce a portfolio for entry to this year's competition. The sub-group comprises Cllr James, Cllr Jones, Cllr Cavill and the Clerk.

Cllr James and Jones would attend the launch at Berriew on 23rd February.

ACTION: Cllr Jones to liaise with Youth Club

Clerk to get prices for equipment and materials

Cllrs James and Jones to attend Launch

6.5. Planning Workshop Report

Council noted the report on the Planning Workshop attended by Cllr Morris in November 2017. It noted that Planning Aid Wales intends to produce a guide in 2018 and the Chairman said that it would be interesting to review this when it becomes available. He drew Council's

attention to the web-site mentioned at the end of the report and asked that this be kept under review.

ACTION: Clerk – keep on the agenda.

6.6. Crime and poor performance in waste services

The Welsh Government and Defra have launched a joint consultation on proposals to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector and introduce a new fixed penalty for the waste duty of care. Councils have been asked for our input on the approaches taken on these proposals.

The Chairman said that there were two areas of concern locally:-

1. One Welsh Council has already moved to 4 weekly collections and if this became the norm there would most likely be an increase in fly-tipping. County Cllr Arwel Jones felt that 4 weekly collections were on the way.
2. The introduction of fixed penalties. The Chairman said that this was to be welcomed but the problem was in identifying fly-tippers in the first place. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that the County Council was doing more work in order to identify the culprits.

The Chairman also felt that there was a need to recycle more. Cllr McCluskey said that we should request feedback on why the County Council does not recycle plastic bags and tetra packs through the road side collections. Cllr Jones agreed; she said that not recycling soft plastics led to increased general waste.

Cllr Cavill raised the question of composting and said that Powys County Council does provide compost bins.

It was agreed that the Chairman would formulate a response.

ACTION: Chairman

6.7. One Voice Wales Survey

Council noted the request for responses by One Voice Wales but felt that the questions asked related to larger communities. It was, therefore, agreed that no response would be submitted.

7. Amenities

7.1. Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field

Council approved the quote for work on the football field as set out in the papers for the meeting. The Clerk said that subsequent to this the Football Club had informed him that cattle had got onto the field with the result that the condition of the field made it impossible for them to play their match. They would clear the field but asked the Council if they would repair the fences to stop further invasion of the pitch. This was agreed. The chairman and Cllr McCluskey would have a look at the extent of the damage. The Clerk would ask Greenfingers Ltd to quote for a repair of the current fence and a separate quote for replacing the fence with weldmesh.

**ACTION: Chairman and Cllr McCluskey to assess the damage
Clerk to get quotes**

County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he had been told that there had been a fire on site at Walls Bridge and that the rubber safety matting had been damaged. Cllr McCluskey said that if this was the case the rubber matting would have to be dug out and replaced. No one had any knowledge of this and the Chairman undertook to investigate.

ACTION: Chairman

7.2. Canal

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Canal and Rivers Trust asking them to clean up the debris from the canal to the west of Carreghofa Lane and to stop up the hole in the hedge at Walls Bridge playground.

The Chairman noted that a gate-post on the towpath opposite Carreghofa Primary School has collapsed due to a rotting gatepost. It is currently lying in nearby bushes. He also said that the map and sign at Walls Bridge is rotting away. He believes that this may be the property of the Canal and Rivers Trust. The Clerk will try to ascertain who the owner is and have repairs or replacement done.

ACTION: Clerk

7.3. Social Media Group

There has been no progress on this item. Cllr McCluskey said that he will send web-site details to the Clerk.

7.4. Car Park behind the Dolphin Inn

The Clerk gave details of his visit with MR V. Gilroy of Greenfingers Ltd and of the quote for clearing the area and dealing with the overgrown shrubs and trees at the canal end of the site. County Councillor Arwel Jones said that he thought the car park was the responsibility of Powys County Council and not the Community Council. He also thought that the trees and shrubs adjacent to the canal may be the responsibility of the Canal and Rivers Trust. He said that he would be meeting with Dean Evans of Powys County Council on Friday 2nd February and would raise these issues with him and let the Clerk know the outcome.

ACTION: County Councillor Arwel Jones

8. Highways and Byways

8.1. Pedestrian Crossing

County Councillor Arwel Jones said that the work on the crossing is expected to be done before the end of March 2018. The Chairman said that, in addition to the new crossing, a yellow box needed to be painted across the junction to prevent vehicles from blocking the junction by queuing when the lights were at red. County Councillor Arwel Jones agreed to raise this with Andrew Jones of the Highways Agency.

ACTION: County Councillor Arwel Jones

8.2. Potholes etc.

Councillors James and Jones gave an update on the state of the roads on Carreghofa Lane, Cae Haith, Chapel Lane and Pen-y-Foel. There were still a number of potholes which needed urgent attention.

Cllr James said that the street light on Pen-y-Foel was still not working and that heavy lorries on Pen-y-Foel had churned up the verges and made the road surface very muddy. County Cllr Arwel Jones agreed to raise these matters with the appropriate people at County Council.

ACTION: County Councillor Arwel Jones

8.3 Salt Bins

It was thought that there are sufficient salt bins in the village but if residents wanted more they could contact the County Council.

9. To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies

9.1. Burial Board

Cllr Jones reported that there is still no progress on finding a new burial site. She said that this matter will be raised again at the joint meeting of Carreghofa Community Council and Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council. The money for the lamp post has been refunded by Scottish Power and Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council is looking at the possibility of installing a solar light.

9.2. Montgomeryshire Council Forum

No one had been available to attend the last meeting. The next meeting will be held in March.

9.3. Village Hall

No report

10. Any Other Business

The Clerk reported that a resident had approached him about boundary problems with a neighbour due to an overgrown hedge. Council confirmed that it has no powers to intervene unless the hedge is obstructing the highway which is not the case in this instance. It was recommended that the resident should seek information from the Citizen's Advice Service.

ACTION: Clerk to write confirming this

11. Correspondence

11.1 Correspondence for Decision

None

11.2. Correspondence to note.

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

12 Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 27h February 2018 at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall

ACTION: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____