

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2015
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Thornycroft (Chair)
Cllr. F. James, (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. C Backshall,
Cllr. M Clare
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 D. Borthwick
Cllr A Jones – County Councillor

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

Cllr Backshall for item 6.5 Payments re Church Clock
Cllr Thornycroft for item 9.3 Scoping Opinion on solar park at Glan y Pwll – Cllr Thornycroft is a member of the Wild Life Trust

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th April 2015:

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, Proposed Cllr Backshall, seconded Cllr Richardson 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 Shropshire Ambulance Service has asked for a statement of understanding. On receipt of this they will proceed with the commissioning of the defibrillator.

ACTION: Cllr Backshall

4.2 Powys County Council consultation on the future of bus services.

The Clerk confirmed that he had submitted a response from the council to the effect that the council regretted any diminution in bus services but, if there must be some, then Option 2 was the Council's choice.

5. Vacancy on the Council – Co-option of a Councillor

The Clerk confirmed that a notice has been displayed for the statutory time and no application for an election has been made. Consequently the Council could move to co-option. The Chairman said that Mr Connell had expressed an interest; he has regularly attended council meetings and is eligible for co-option. This was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Backshall and agreed unanimously.

6. Finance Report

The Finance Report was received.

6.1. The Clerk said that the full statement for the first quarter would be presented at the July meeting as the quarter only ended today. Council noted the statement of the accounts and financial transactions for the month of June.

6.2. The Council accepted the Clerk's recommended action on the Pension Fund

6.3. Council noted the Clerk's statement on the internal audit. The Clerk said that because of two changes of clerk during the year there was a number of points to address and he would be meeting the internal auditor on 2nd July.

6.4. Council noted the Clerk's request to out-source payroll services. Cllr Jones said that the clerk at the Village Hall runs a small payroll service and may be able to advise. It was Proposed by Cllr Richardson, seconded by Cllr McCluskey and agreed unanimously that the clerk will take such action as he deems best after receiving information from Cllr Jones.

**ACTION Cllr Jones to liaise with the clerk at the Village Hall
Clerk to proceed with the matter.**

6.5. The following payments were agreed by Council:-

- Contribution to maintenance of the Church clock. £98.40. The Council did not make a donation in the last financial year and therefore approved payment of £196.80 for 2014 and 2015. (Cheque No. 100642)
- Rental of Village Hall for Council meetings – first quarter £42.00. (Cheque No. 100643)
- P&W Contracting – Grounds Maintenance April – June. £689.40. (Cheque No. 100644)
- Clerk's attendance on One Voice Wales Local Government Finance course - £35.00. (Cheque No.100645)
- Clerk's travel to Machynlleth for One Voice Wales Local Government Finance course 82 miles @ 45p per mile = £36.90. (Cheque No.100646)

The Chairman said that he had received an estimate for work on the Chairman's medal and chain in the region of £50 and asked for authorisation to proceed. This was proposed by Cllr Backshall, seconded by Cllr Richardson and agreed unanimously.

7. Planning

7.1 Planning Application (No. P/2015/0380 - . The erection of a two storey side extension to the existing dwelling at 10, Orchard Green, Llanymynech.

The Clerk informed Council that planning permission has been granted.

8. Local Delivery of Services

The Clerk said that he had received a reply from the Director of Strategic Resources at Powys C C listing the services to be devolved. They are:-

- Allotments
- Car parks (income share only)
- Day centres
- Grounds maintenance – within the village boundary
- Library services
- Markets (internal covered buildings)
- Museums (unlikely as looking to put out to trust)
- Outdoor recreation
- Playgrounds
- Public toilets

- Street scene (cleaning, bins etc.)
- Transport e.g. community schemes
- Tourist information
- Village halls & Community centres
- Woodlands
- Youth provision

The Chairman re-capped on activity to date. Powys C C wish to move the responsibility for services downwards to town and community councils. However, the County Council cannot insist on this and needs to persuade local councils that this is in their interest. He said that four options are currently under consideration:-

- Combine with Welshpool in a town-centric cluster. This option has been discounted by Carreghofa
- Combine with Llanfyllin in a town centric cluster. Carreghofa has expressed an interest which remains on the table
- Combine with a number of small rural community councils in a rural cluster. A meeting is to take place on Thursday 2nd July
- Stand alone

He noted that Cllrs Backshall, Jones, Borthwick and Connell had completed a survey for the rural group which has been circulated to councillors.

Cllr Backshall said that the group had completed the survey as best they could but there were some areas where there is still insufficient information from Powys County Council. He felt that the County Council needs to give more detail on those services that they wish to devolve. The Chairman said that it was hard to see how expenditure could be reduced by 50% without reducing services. Cllr Backshall felt that clustering will not necessarily bring advantages; there will be added on costs for administration etc. The Chairman said that Carreghofa has relatively few services some of which it already successfully provides e.g. car parks, looking after amenity spaces and grass cutting.

Cllr Connell agreed that more information was needed particularly about the frequency of services to be provided.

The following councillors intimated that they would attend the meeting on 2nd July:- The Chair, Cllr Thornycroft with Cllrs Backshall, Connell, and James, The Clerk will also attend. It was hoped that the meeting would provide information on the finance available and the process of devolution.

Cllr Backshall said that there was a need to define what savings would be made by being in a cluster. Cllr McCluskey asked what would happen if we get no more information. Cllr Connell re-iterated that the County Council cannot impose devolution onto community councils and there remained the option of being a stand-alone council.

9. Other Matters

9.1. Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2015 (deferred from AGM)

The Clerk reported that this item referred to the fact that a Register of Members' Interest is to be held by the clerk of the community council. He is awaiting a template document from SLCC.

ACTION; Clerk

9.2 Shropshire County Council Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Council decided that it would not make any comment on the Shropshire County Council SamDev.

9.3 Scoping Opinion on proposed solar park at Glan y Pwll, Llanfyllin (papers circulated)
Powys C C has asked for a Scoping opinion rather than a Screening opinion. After some debate it was agreed that the Council would recommend that the wildlife in the area should be protected and indeed encouraged and that the opportunity should be taken to improve this Grade 4 agricultural land to provide meadow and rich grassland in which wildlife could thrive.

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

The Chairman said that he will attend the Planning and Development meeting at Llandrindod Wells on 6 July. However, comments are required by the 20th July which is before the next Council meeting. He asked for authority to comment on behalf of the Council and asked for views from the Councillors. He said that the Montgomeryshire Village Project (recently circulated) had some sensible suggestions which could well be adopted by Powys. Cllr Backshall said that an original plan had been submitted to the Welsh Government in 2013 but rejected. Now a lot of the points raised then were being re-submitted. Carreghofa had commented at the time and Cllr Backshall felt that these comments were still relevant. The Chairman undertook to take these comments forward where still appropriate.

Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Connell proposed that the Chairman have the power to act on the Council's behalf. This was agreed unanimously.

10. To receive reports from Committees and Working Groups:

10.1. Amenity

The following points were raised:-

- Cllr McCluskey said there was a need to sort out the picnic tables and benches at Walls Bridge.
- Cllr Richardson said that P&W when working at Walls Bridge had ripped up some of the rubber surface on the play area. He was also concerned about work being in progress at a time when children were leaving the school and there were no health and safety procedures in place. He felt that more care should have been taken and asked that Council write to P&W about this.

ACTION: Clerk

- Cllr Backshall said that a resident had requested that a litter bin be placed at Walls Bridge. He said that 106 money could be used to purchase the bin. Cllr McCluskey asked if residents were aware that there was a bin on the highway outside Walls Bridge. Cllr Backshall said that they were but still wanted a bin inside. There were varying opinions on whether providing a bin would actual help contain the litter problem. The Clerk was asked to contact Powys County Council to ascertain whether they would provide a bin, what the cost is and, if the Council provides and pays for the bin, will the County Council empty it.

ACTION: Clerk

- The Clerk said that he had received a request for information from Pant & Llanymynech Parish Council about the proposed bus shelter. He referred the Council to the discussion at the February 2015 meeting and it was noted that residents did not want a bus shelter and that no further action had been taken. This will be communicated to the clerk of the Parish Council.

10.2. Border Area Working Group.

The Clerk confirmed that P&W will begin work on Phase 2 in the week commencing 13th July. He will apprise Andrew Jones of the Highways Agency and request that a start is also made on Phase 1. The Chairman reminded councillors that we would wait for 3 months for a reply from the Minister at the Welsh Government.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Richardson asked if signs could be erected at the site to warn people that work will be commencing and that they should not park there during the period of the work. Cllr Backshall undertook to do this.

ACTION: Cllr Backshall

10.3. Highways and Byways

The Clerk said that Cllr Arwel Jones although unable to be present had said that he will take up any issues that the Council wished to refer to him. They were:-

- The 30 mph sign at Orchard Green has been rotated by 90⁰
- There is no Road Name sign at Ashfield Terrace
- Residents have requested an extension of the 30mph area to Pentre Farm. Council felt that this was unlikely to be agreed.

Cllr Richardson was concerned about overgrown hedges and asked if they could be trimmed. The Chairman felt that no action would be taken until later in the year because of the danger to nesting birds. The untidy state of the hedges at the property on the corner of Chapel Road with the A483 was noted. There was concern that site lines onto the A483 could be affected. The Clerk was asked to write to the householder and ask that the hedges be tidied up.

ACTION: Clerk

10.4 Web-site

The Chairman said that on entering the web-site a good impression was formed but this was soon lost as most of the information was out of date or missing. The Clerk confirmed that he had now received training on managing the web-site and would be editing it in the next week. An advertisement had been placed in the Llanymynech Parish Magazine asking local groups for information to place on the web-site. Councillors were concerned that the Parish magazine does not have a wide enough circulation and that the local press should be informed.

ACTION: Clerk

11. To receive reports from outside bodies

11.1 Burial Board

The written report from the burial board was noted. Cllr Backshall expressed reservations about the expenditure of £3000 to Scottish Power; he thought that they could be asked to remove their lamppost free of charge. Cllr Jones said that the Burial Board would receive more in income from the sale of plots once the post was removed. The Chairman said that it was not in the Council's remit to say how the Burial Board should dispose of its assets.

11.2 Montgomery Council Forum

No meeting has been held

11.3 National Grid

The Chairman said that there was no change in the current situation but he drew members' attention to the reports in the press where Glyn Davies, M.P. had confirmed that there would be no further subsidies for on-shore windfarms. Therefore, even if planning permission is granted companies may not be able to afford to go ahead.

11.4 One Voice Wales

Cllr Backshall tabled a written report which was accepted. He particularly pointed out that:-

- The Chair and Vice Chair had been elected for a further year.
- Cllrs Rachel Davies and Derrick Pugh were re-elected to represent the Area Committee on the National Executive Committee.
- The next meeting would be on Wednesday 6th October at Llanymynech Primary School

11.5 Village Hall

No meeting has been held

11.6. Llanymynech Heritage Partnership.

Cllr Backshall said that he had attended a meeting of the Partnership on 22nd June. He updated the group on the work of the Council and, particularly on the Border Gateway Project. The meeting had given him an opportunity to take up the Canal low water problem with a representative of the Canal & River Trust.

12. Correspondence

12.1. Correspondence for Decision

12.1.1. Powys C. C. - Smoke free playgrounds in Powys

It was agreed that the Council should support this initiative. The Clerk would write to Rebecca Richards of the Public Health Team to confirm this.

ACTION: Clerk

12.1.2. Invitation to reception at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show

It was regretted that no one was available to attend the reception at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.

12.2. Correspondence to Note

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

13. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

Tuesday 28th July 2015 at Llanymynech Village Hall, 7.00pm.

(Papers and reports for the meeting to the Clerk by 21st July please)

ACTION: All to note

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____