

# Cyngor Cymuned Carreghafa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017  
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr M Connell (Chairman)  
Cllr D Cavill  
Cllr R Dover  
Cllr C Jones  
Cllr R McCluskey  
Cllr S Morris

In attendance:

County Cllr Arwel Jones  
Shan Mayor for item 8.3.  
Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

## 1 New Councillors

Having duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Mrs S. Morris and Mr R. Dover were welcomed by the Chairmen and installed as councillors

## 2. Apologies for absence

Cllr F James

## 3. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

None

## 4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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

## 5. Matters arising from the minutes

5.1. (ref Min: 4.1.) The Clerk had the new ‘no dogs allowed’ signs and the Chairman took possession of them. He explained that RoSPA in its playground inspection had recommended that dogs be excluded from Walls Bridge because of the level of fouling and consequent danger to children using the playground. He said that signs had earlier been erected but had been removed. The new signs will be put in Walls Bridge and the Jubilee Football ground. Cllr Arwel Jones offered to assist the Chairman.

**ACTION: Cllr Connell and Cllr Arwel Jones**

5.2. (ref: Min 4.2.) in the absence of Cllr Borthwick this matter is still outstanding The Chairman directed that it be removed from further agendas.

5.3. (ref: Min 6) Council noted the letter reproduced in the papers which he had sent to the developers. Cllr Jones reported that she had spoken to the applicant who had said that due to the level of opposition to the plans the application will not proceed.

Councillors felt that, nonetheless, Powys County Council should be made aware of the fact that the village straddles the English / Welsh border and that any additional housing development should take into account developments on the English side of the border. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Powys County Council and to Llanymynech and Pant

Parish Council asking them to take similar action in respect of Shropshire County Council.

The Chairman felt that the two councils might benefit from establishing a joint planning group and asked that this be put on the agenda for the joint meeting. To be held in February 2018.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **6. Finance Report**

### 6.1. Financial Position

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

### 6.2. Half Yearly Statement

The half yearly statement was noted. The Chairman asked how the amount for rents was made up. The Clerk explained that this comprised the rent for the Village Hall where council meetings were held and a nominal rent of £50 for Walls Bridge. He confirmed that the amount did not include the Jubilee Football Field; a request from the owner for rent had been agreed by the Council and the Clerk had asked for an invoice against which this could be paid but, to date, had received nothing.

Adoption of the Half Yearly Statement was proposed by Cllr McCluskey, seconded by Cllr Cavill and agreed unanimously.

### 6.3. Donation

A request had been received from St. Agatha's Church for a donation towards the maintenance of the church clock. Mr Parry has asked for £82 and this was agreed.

### 6.4.. Bank Mandate

The Clerk produced new bank mandate forms. It was agreed that signatories to the Council's accounts should be:-

- The Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer
- Cllr Connell
- Cllr McCluskey
- Cllr Cavill
- Cllr Dover
- Cllr Morris

Two signatures are required on any cheque.

Councillors completed the bank mandate forms at the end of the meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk – to process the new bank mandate**

### 6.5. Approval of Payments

Council approved the following payment

- External audit - £321.60
- Seton for No Dogs in playground signs £77.72 via BACs requested
- Llanymynech Village Hall – rent for meetings - £22.00
- To Cllr Connell for Wreath for British Legion Act of Remembrance - £17.00
- To Cllr Connell for alteration to Chairman's Chain to include Col. D. Thornycroft's name - £15.00

Council also noted the following standing order payment

- Greenfingers Ltd - £129.30 - grounds maintenance September

## 7. Planning Application

Application Ref: **P/2017/1161**

Grid Ref: 326643.67/320941.82 for Listed building consent for alterations to existing chimney involving installation of terracotta pot, cowl & bird guard and associated works at Ty Croes Llanymynech Powys

Council noted the comments from the Clerk in the papers for the meeting and accepted his advice to make no submission regarding this application.

## **8 Other matters**

### 8.1. North Montgomeryshire Community Interest Company

The Clerk gave the background to the subject for the benefit of new councillors. He said that he had contacted Powys County Council officers asking for information on the scope of the work that the County will undertake in Carreghofa in respect of grass cutting on verges and hedge trimming. He had also asked for information on the amount that would be transferred to Carreghofa Community Council in the event that it decided to join the CIC. He had received an acknowledgement from David Powell that Lisa Griffiths would deal with the matter but, despite giving the date of this meeting, had received no information. Cllr Arwell Jones expressed the view that the work done by the County Council would be equivalent to that done in previous years but the Chairmen said that we had been told that the minimum service would be provided but that what this minimum is was not clear.

The Clerk pointed out that Council needed to take a long term view of the likely position after any reorganisation of local government.

The Chairman said that he was worried that the Council would lose its independence and would no longer be able to represent its residents fully.

Cllr Cavill asked whether, if Carreghofa joined the CIC we would be liable for part payment of salaries for managers and directors.

Cllr Arwel Jones said that as Carreghofa provided very few services, principally grounds maintenance, he could see no benefit in moving from the current position.

Cllr McCluskey pointed out that Carreghofa Community Council had been involved with a group of rural community councils but had been unable to elicit information from Powys County Council which would help in reaching an informed decision. The position now is the same as one year ago and he could not see how the Council could make an educated decision about the future while basic information was still not forthcoming.

Cllr Dover agreed and said that accurate information was key to making an informed decision.

It was agreed that the Council would not move to join the CIC at this time and would, for at least the next 12 months, maintain the status quo i.e. provide services via Greenfingers Ltd in respect of Walls Bridge, the Jubilee Football field, the War memorial and certain trees and continue to monitor those services provided directly by Powys County Council.

The Clerk was asked to convey the Council's decision to Graham Bradley, Director of the North Montgomeryshire Community Interest Company.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## 8.2. Powys Local Development Plan– Consultation on Matters Arising Changes

Cllr McCluskey said that he had found the information difficult to access and the Chairman agreed that the way in which the information was presented was complex and confusing, The Clerk pointed out that Council had contributed to the initial consultation and that any comments at this point could only refer to the matters arising changes. In answer to a question from Cllr Dover on the process Cllr Arwel Jones said that the inspector was due to report in March 2018. The LDP would then go to the Welsh Government for further consideration.

Council decided that it would make no further comments at this time.

## 8.3. IRPW Call for Evidence

Council decided that it had no comment to make in respect of the Call for Evidence.

## 8.4. MontytraX

Shan Mayor gave a resume of progress and activities to date and outlined the group's plans for the coming year. The group proposed utilising the old railway line between Llanfyllin and Carreghofa to develop a network of cycle, walking and horse riding tracks and there was already a good level of support from Llanfechain to Carreghofa. More fund-raising is required and in this respect this year there had been a successful mountain bike event and this would be repeated next year. There were also plans for a walking festival.

The Chairman asked whether land is available for the project and Ms Mayor said that the group is negotiating with landowners and that the response has been positive.

The Clerk said that MontytraX had asked local councils for a donation towards the initial £6000 needed for the feasibility study and that Carreghofa had calculated that with area covered by the project taking in 20 local councils it should give 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the amount and had, duly, made a donation of £300. He asked whether other community and town councils had contributed accordingly and what support the group still required from local councils.

Ms Mayor said that most councils had given but not all had been as generous as Carreghofa. The group now wanted support, especially in the form of a letter, from local councils.

Cllr McCliskey said that he was committed to the concept of driving and increasing the local economy of the village and improving fitness and health and fully supported the work being done. He felt that developing family walks would be a good thing and suggested that local schools should be involved in the project.

After Ms Mayor left the meeting Council decided to donate a further £100 to the project.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **9. Amenities**

### 9.1. Walls Bridge Playground

The Chairman said that the water main still needs cementing in following the work undertaken by Severn Trent Water. The Clerk said that Fisher German on behalf of Severn Trent had asked for a quote from the Council's contractors (Greenfingers Ltd) and he was in the process of getting this.

**ACTION: Clerk**

The Chairman also informed the meeting that the plaque in memory of Cllr Backshall had been detached from its backing and he had taken it away for security reasons until a new backing plate had been obtained.

Cllr Jones undertook to speak to Cllr Backshall's daughter to reassure her that the plaque is safe and will be reinstated as soon as possible.

**ACTION: Cllr Jones**

It was noted that the display board and maps in the parking area at Walls Bridge is in very poor condition. It is not known who owns the boards. Cllr Connell undertook to see if there is any information on the board so that the body responsible can be contacted and asked to renovate the display.

**ACTION: Cllr Connell**

## **10. Highways & Byways**

### 10.1. Pen-y-Foel

The Clerk said that Cllr James had notified him that a lamp is not working on Pen-y-Foel. Cllr Arwel Jones said that if the Clerk would give him the number of the lamp he will take the matter up at County level.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Morris reported that the flooding on the by-way at the end of Pen-y-Foel has now been dealt with by the County Council.

### 10.2. Carreghofa Lane

Cllr Jones said that a large pothole had opened up on Carreghofa Lane. She undertook to provide Cllr Arwel Jones with more information so that he could take the matter forward.

**ACTION: Cllr Jones the Cllr Arwel Jones**

### 10.3. New Pedestrian Crossing

The Chairman reminded members that a new pedestrian crossing has been promised within this financial year and felt that this was an opportune time to remind the County and Highways Agency that the deadline is approaching and that the work needs to be completed by the end of March.

He also felt that a yellow junction box should be painted on the crossing so that traffic did not back up when the new crossing lights were in use.

Cllr Arwel Jones agreed to take this to the Highways Agency.

**ACTION: Cllr Arwel Jones**

## **11. To receive reports of meetings from outside bodies**

### 11.1. Burial Board

Cllr Jones said that a meeting had taken place and both local councils were asked to give further consideration to sites for a new burial ground. It was agreed that this should be placed on the agenda for the next joint meeting of the two councils.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Jones also said that the Board needed another nominee from the Council. The Chairman said that he had been nominated at the AGM and Cllr Jones undertook to inform the Board of this.

**ACTION: Cllr Jones**

### 11.2. Montgomeryshire Council Forum

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been held during the Chairman's absence but that no one was available to attend in his place,

### 11.3 Village Hall

Cllr Jones reported that the blood donor service has been moved from the Village Hall to Llandrinio. A number of reasons were given for this.

The Clerk asked if the Council could be provided with a key. The present key holders are Cllrs James and Jones. He pointed out that Cllr James was absent this evening and had Cllr Jones also been absent then the Council would not have been able to gain access.

Cllr Jones said that she would take the request to the Village Hall Committee.

**ACTION: Cllr Jones**

### **12 Correspondence.**

#### 12.1. Correspondence for decision

12.1.1 A letter requesting financial assistance had been received from Marie Curie Nursing. The Clerk reported that he had informed them that the Council's Donations Policy restricted assistance to services directly affecting residents of Carreghofa. He had asked for information on how many clients Marie Curie was supporting in Carreghofa but had received no response. In light of this Council decided not to make a donation at this time.

12.1.2. A letter from Powys Citizens' Advice Service had also been received asking for a donation. Cllr felt that residents needing this service, which is currently based in Newtown were more likely to attend at Oswestry and so decided not to make a donation.

#### 12.2. Correspondence to note.

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

### **13 Date of Next meeting**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall

**ACTION: All to note.**

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

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

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

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

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