

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 27 November 2018 at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr M. Connell (Chair)

Cllr C. Backshall

Cllr D Cavill

Cllr R Dover

Cllr. F. James,

Cllr C Jones

Cllr R McCluskey

Cllr S Morris

In attendance:

P.C. Diane Downwards – Community Police Officer

Mr. M Donkin - Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for absence

None

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

None

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 October 2018

Section 7.3 para 1 to read 'previous letters / e-mails'

Section 9.3. para 3 Cllr McCluskey to be replaced with Cllr Jones

With these amendments the minutes of the meeting held on 30 October were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 The Chairman confirmed that he had responded to the Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Authority's draft Corporate Plan.

5. Finance Report

5.1 Financial Position

Council noted the financial position as set out in the papers for the meeting.

5.2 Draft Budget

The Clerk presented the draft budget and drew attention to the fact that the amount set aside for donations was, again, underused. Council should think of ways to make it known to local organisations that there are monies available. Alternatively the donations policy could be revisited to expand its remit or the budget could be reduced.

Cllr James felt that this could be publicised at the forthcoming celebratory event for winning the Montgomeryshire Village Award. Cllr Jones asked whether money could be given to the Village Hall to assist in the project to expand the car parking facilities or towards car parking on land off Carreghofa Lane. Either of these two projects could be given funding.

The following actions were agreed:-

Consider ways to promote the fact that the Council can make donations **ACTION: All**

Redraft the donations policy **ACTION: Clerk.**

It was agreed that the budget for donations would remain as in previous years.

The Clerk pointed out that although there are no projects planned he had allocated a small sum (£200) against the possibility of small works arising in year. Cllr Backshall asked if the provision of adult gym equipment could be adopted as a project and how it would be funded. The Clerk said that the Council could seek outside funding or match funding or could take out a loan or allocate some of its reserves.

The Clerk also said that he had allocated a small amount from reserves which would mean that the level of Precept levied by the Community Council would remain the same as last year.

Cllr Backshall proposed adoption of the budget; this was seconded by Cllr Dover and agreed unanimously.

5.3 Adoption of Transparency Code

Council noted the paper from the Clerk which stated that councils with an annual turnover of less than £25000 could adopt a Transparency Code which removes the need and expense of going through the External auditing process. The Council will still be required to carry out an Internal audit. The Chairman said that he thought this was worthwhile and that as the Council already published information the additional burden would not be very great. Council agreed to adopt the code for the next financial year.

5.4 Approval of Payments

Council authorised the items for payment as set out in the papers for the meeting and further authorised an invoice, presented at the meeting, of £20 to Llanymynech Village Hall for hire of the meeting room.

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Application 18/0925/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of office to a shop and cafe

Site Address: Office Chalet, Tanat Caravan Park, Carreghofa, Llanymynech SY22 6LH

Council accepted the Clerk's recommendation that no opinion was needed re this application.

6.2 Application Reference: 18/0804/OUT

Proposal: Erection of a dwelling

Site Address: Plot East Of Dyffryn, Chapel Lane, Llanymynech, Powys

This application had arrived after the papers for the meeting had been sent out. The Chairman expressed concern that this was a single dwelling of large dimensions on an enormous plot of land. He felt that, even though this is an outline application, it lacked detail. Council decided that, at this stage, it would pass no opinion but that the Planning Officer should be informed that the Council reserved the right to lodge objection once the detailed application is published.

ACTION: Clerk

6.3 Planning application at Albermule – letter from the Gwilym Rippon, Clerk

Council noted the letter from the Clerk of Albermule with Llandyssil Community Council. The Chairman felt that the inference was that the County Council had moved in haste to approve its own application. While broadly supportive he did not feel that we had sufficient information to write to Powys County Council and felt that Albermule with Llandyssil C. C. should involve their member of the Welsh Government to make representations on their behalf. The Clerk was asked to pass this advice and request for details to Mr Rippon.

ACTION: Clerk

7. Other matters

7.1 Montytrax

Council received the lengthy report from Montytrax. It was agreed that they should be invited to attend the MVA event on 1st February.

ACTION: Clerk

7.2 Liaison with local Community Police Officer

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Diane Downwards to the meeting. He outlined the many problems that the community is currently having with vandalism particularly around the Walls Bridge play area and along the canal. He cited instances of a picnic bench being and fencing thrown into the canal, a new spring on the canal gateway being destroyed within a week of being installed and a bench that had been restored being vandalised within three days of being replaced. He wondered if CCTV might act as a deterrent. PC Downwards said that the Community Safety Partnership did have a portable CCTV system but that, due to cuts, the Partnership no longer existed. She suggested that she meet with a representative of the Council to look at the areas in question and hoped to be able to offer some crime prevention strategies. The Chairman said that he would be happy to meet with her.

ACTION: Chairman.

Cllr Jones asked if there was liaison across the English / Welsh border but P.C. Downwards said that at present there is no liaison between the Powys and West Mercia police forces although she hoped that this situation would improve. Cllr McCluskey asked about the quality of working with cross-border colleagues. P.C. Downwards said that there was no friction but that there just was no service at present. The Chairman said that the Council would like to see better cross-border working as criminals do not recognise borders.

Cllr Morris asked if there was adequate lighting and the Chairman said that there was a roadside light outside the playground but no lighting along the canal towpath. P.C. Downwards asked whether the playground could be made secure. Cllr McCluskey said that the hedge and fences were no too high and people could just climb over if the gates were locked. P.C. Downwards assured the Council that any calls to the police would receive a response although as incidents are prioritised there may not be an immediate response. She said that she had spoken to the Police Community Support Officer for Rural Areas who will try to find time to include the area in his patrols.

The Chairman suggested that he and P.C. Downwards could call upon the residents living opposite the playground to ask them to maintain awareness and contact the police if they saw any suspicious activity. P.C. Downwards asked if there is a neighbourhood watch. Cllr James said that there used to be a scheme but it was no longer running. P.C. Downwards said that the Police no longer run neighbourhood watch schemes but that she would get information about hoe the local community could set up a scheme in Carreghofa. She also suggested writing a quarterly article for the Parish Magazine to offer crime prevention tips.

Cllr James asked if the police still mark bicycles. P.C. Downwards said that the police no longer undertake this but that she could offer crime preventions sessions and would look into the Bike register. Cllr James also mentioned the Montgomeryshire Village Award event in February and P.C. Downwards said that she would be happy to attend this. Cllr Backshall said that this would be useful; it is good for people to get to know their Community Officer.

P.C. Downwards said that she would look at the patrol strategy and try to increase police visibility at times of greatest criminal activity.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Downwards for attending and she said that she would be pleased to attend future meetings.

7.3 Montgomeryshire Village Award

The event was confirmed for Friday 1st February 2019 and the Village hall has been booked for the afternoon and evening. Groups attending can set up their displays during the afternoon and the event will commence at 7.00pm. The Clerk confirmed that he had drafted a letter to go out to participants and this will be sent to all councillors.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr James felt that there should be a separate meeting to plan the event.

Subsequent to the meeting this was arranged for Tuesday 4th December at Llanymynech Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Unfortunately the January Parish magazine has already gone to press so publicity will need to be through the local press and posters.

ACTION: Clerk

The Clerk will issue a formal invitation to CPRW, MMP and the judges

ACTION: Clerk

7.4 Future Fit Consultation

This item is being kept on the agenda for the moment but there was nothing further to add at the meeting.

8. Amenities

8.1 Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field

Council noted the suggestion from Kevin Green, Handyman re closing the gap in the hedge at Walls Bridge. The Chairman felt that with the current cold and wet weather this was not the optimum time to begin this work. He felt that the cement would not quickly set and damage could occur before the posts were securely in place. Cllr McCluskey was concerned that the work might damage the roots of the current hedgerow leading to plants dying off and developing more problems. Cllr Backshall wondered if the answer was to install another gate but Cllr McCluskey felt that this would need a significant ramp and would be difficult to achieve. He also thought that people would find ways to get to the gap by forcing a way round the edge of the fence. Cllr James asked if the fence could be let into the hedge itself and Cllr Dover said that perhaps the gap could be closed by erecting a new noticeboard. Cllr McCluskey felt that the best solution was to strengthen the hedge by introducing more plants of a robust nature such as blackthorn and he felt that Council should decline the current plan and look at this option. The Clerk was asked to contact Greenfingers to see if they could fill the gap with additional planting.

ACTION: Clerk

With reference to the provision of a litter bin for the playground the Clerk said that Kyle Cheshire of Powys County Council has said that he will see if Powys can supply a bin and give us a price. To date Mr Cheshire has not come back with the required information.

ACTION: Clerk

9. Highways and Byways

9.1 Road Repairs Pot Holes etc.

In the absence of County Cllr Arwel Jones this matter could not be progressed further. Councillors confirmed that no action had been taken by Powys County Council since the last meeting and that, additionally, the side of the road by Briedden View on Pen-y-Foel is collapsing.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones

9.3 LDP land on B4398

The Clerk confirmed that he had written again to Lewis Brothers at Osbaston Farm but had received no reply. He agreed to have one more attempt and will send the letter by special delivery.
ACTION: Clerk

10. To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies

10.1 Burial Board

A meeting was held on the previous day (26 November). There is still no progress on finding a new burial site. An audit of plots has been undertaken for Powys County Council but has not yet been sent off.

10.2 Montgomery Council Forum

The forum was meeting at the same time as this Council meeting and, therefore, no one was available to attend.

10.3 Village Hall

Clr Jones reported that discussions are ongoing in respect of extending the car park. The Hall committee had approached the Community benefit Fund without success but had received an anonymous donation of £8000 towards the cost. Criggion quarry had been approached and agreed to donate stone. The total cost is likely to be in the region of £11500. With the donation this leaves a shortfall of £3500. Council agreed that it would consider making a donation towards the final cost if it would be match-funded by Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Correspondence for Decision

There was no correspondence for decision.

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 29 January 2019 at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall.

ACTION: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____