

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28 September 2021 at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr M Connell (Chairman)

Cllr C Backshall

Cllr R Dover

Cllr F James

Cllr C Jones

In attendance:

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

Mr Calum Carr Powys C. C. Rights of Way and Access Officer

<p>1. Apologies for absence</p> <p>Cllr R McCluskey County Cllr Arwel Jones</p>
<p>2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda</p> <p>None</p>
<p>3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th July 2021</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as correct. Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Dover and signed by the Chairman</p>
<p>4. Matters arising from the notes</p> <p>No matters arising that would not appear later in the agenda.</p>
<p>5. Finance Report</p> <p><u>5.1 Financial Position</u></p> <p>Council noted the financial position as set out in the papers for the meeting.</p> <p><u>5.4 Approval of payments</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that a number of invoices had come in during the holiday break and rather than wait until the end of September before they were paid he had sought approval via email to the Council to pay. These were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clive Heaton £588.86 - Grounds maintenance contract• Sutcliffe Play £55.97 - playground equipment• Engraving Plus - £96.62 - Carreghofa Community Awards plaques• Cllr C. Backshall £115.48 - reimbursement of an invoice from Seton for signage for Walls Bridge• <p>Approval had also been given to pay TEEC for its work on the website but this had been put on hold awaiting approval from Cllr Backshall.</p> <p>Council gave retrospective approval for the above payments.</p>
<p>6. Planning</p> <p>There were no planning issues to consider this month.</p>

7. Other matters

7.1 Footpaths

The Chairman welcomed Mr Carr to the meeting. Mr Carr said that he had received information from the Clerk and Cllrs Backshall and Jones which had helped him focus on the issues for tonight's meeting. He first gave some background into his role with Powys C. C.

He manages the Rights of Way Network across 30 communities with a small team and a small budget. The responsibility for the care and maintenance of rights of way is shared between the County Council and the landowners and it is Mr Carr's responsibility to ensure that landowners are acting properly in respect of hedges encroaching onto rights of way or trees overhanging them and to see that there is proper public access through gates etc. The County Council is responsible for the maintenance of surfaces and bridges but can help in other ways e.g. it can pay up to 25% for the replacement or repair of styles. Mr Carr said that Powys C. C. had been very generous often giving 100% grants to landowners for materials to maintain or improve rights of way and to pay the landowners for the work or provide contractors to do it.

Following the Second World war all rights of way were mapped and in 1969 these were included in a legal document, the 'Definitive Map', which acts as proof of the existence of a right of way. It is possible for old rights of way that were missed at the time to be included in the Definitive Map. It is also possible to establish new rights of way but this is a complex process.

Turning to the issues raised by councillors Mr Carr said that he had walked the Carreghofa Way that day and clearance of the path in places was needed. There were way markers that needed moving to their proper positions and he acknowledged that additional way markers were needed in places where the path was not obvious.

He noted that the gate referred to was locked with a padlock and this should be able to be opened to gain access. However, he noted that the gate opened onto the highway and felt that the farmer might be concerned about stock getting onto the highway if the gate was not closed after walkers had passed through. He also noted that the style that should be next to the gate was gone. A style is a lawful structure and, if on the Definitive Map should not be moved. Mr Carr felt that if the style were to be replaced by a self-closing gate his may resolve the problem. Cllr James asked whether this could be a 'kissing gate'. Mr Carr said that this would be a stronger option and could be considered. Cllr James asked about seasonal maintenance on Pen-y-Foel. Mr Carr said that this had 'fallen off the agenda' as a result of cut backs but it might be possible to arrange for volunteers to do it.

Cllr Backshall said that finger posts needed replacing in their proper positions and wondered if volunteers could do this work.

Cllr James asked if the Council could have a copy of the Definitive Map. Mr Carr said that it was difficult to copy as it is produced on A0 size sheets but it is available on line; he would send a link. A portal is in the process of being set up by Powys C. C. which councils can report into. However, this is unlikely to be available until after Christmas.

Mr Carr informed the Council that, as a result of a successful funding bid to the Welsh Government, monies were available for small projects and he wondered whether there was something that the Council and the Rights of Way Department could do jointly. The Chairman said that the gap between the canal towpath and Walls Bridge playground had been closed in response to the RoSPA inspection and thought that a new footpath here might be worth considering.

Mr Carr concluded by saying that he would send links to the Council; he would get the clearances organised and talk to the owner at Wildbore's Farm about the installation of a gate or style. Cllr Jones asked if we could organise our own team of volunteers but Mr Carr said that, at present, this was not possible as he did not have sufficient staff to supervise volunteers. He hoped that this situation would change in the future.

The Chairman thanked MR Carr for taking the time to come to the Council meeting and discuss the issues raised in the papers for the Meeting. He felt that it had been a very useful discussion and looked forward to the matters addressed being resolved.

ACTION: Mr Carr requested a copy of the correspondence between Powys CC & the Chairman regarding the new footpath proposal to the Walls Bridge playground from the canal tow path.

Post Meeting Note

The Chairman confirmed copy of the correspondence had been issued

7.2 Website Compliance

Cllr Backshall thanked everyone for their comments on the proposed website. She said that TEEC had been very good and had responded quickly to all the queries that she had raised with them.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Backshall for the work that she had done. It had not been an easy job but had been carried out with great thoroughness and an excellent result had been achieved.

Cllr Backshall said that the new website was now ready to go live next week. The Clerk queried whether Gloversure had been informed of the change. He wanted a smooth transition and did not want Gloversure to find out from another source before they had been informed either by TEEC or the Council. He also wanted to be assured that the Council email would be transferred without any hitch. He pointed out that access to the email at present is through the Gloversure portal. Cllr Backshall said that she would clear this with TEEC before going ahead.

ACTION: Cllr Backshall

7.3 Vacancy on the Council

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Pownall had resigned from his position as councillor due to continued ill health. He hoped that he might be able to offer his service at a later date.

Council decided to go ahead with the process of trying to fill the vacancy and would, at the same time, try to fill the other existing vacancy. The Clerk said that he would forward the proper forms to the Chairman and Cllr Backshall for display on the Council noticeboard and website.

ACTION: The Clerk, then Cllrs Connell and Backshall

7.4 Community Award

The Chairman showed councillors the shields that had been purchased for the presentation of the new Carreghofa Community Award. He would invite the recipients to the next meeting.

ACTION: The Chairman

7.5 Memorial Bench at Walls Bridge

The Chairman had consulted with a Mr Walsh who lives adjacent to Walls Bridge playground. Mr Walsh had inspected the bench and said that he could repair it, including filling in the rotting legs. He also looked at the bench at the bottom of Carreghofa Lane and offered to restore this as well.

He quoted a price of £80 for the two benches. When the Chairman queried the price Mr Walsh said that this was for the cost of materials only. He would carry out the work free of charge as he wanted to give something back to the Community.

Council expressed its delight and gratitude for this offer.

7.6 Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Council received the request from Powys Action on the Climate Emergency (PACE) and from Sarah Lunnon, a co-sponsor of the Bill, to support the bill.

Council agreed that it would offer support.

ACTION: Clerk to inform PACE

7.7 Queen's Platinum Jubilee (Beacons)

Council noted the communication in the Papers for the Meeting from Bruno Peake, Pageant master, regarding lighting a beacon to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year.

Having considered the problems that had arisen in lighting beacons in the past Council decided that it would not take part this time.

7.8 Repair café

Council noted the offer from Repair Café Wales to help establish a repair café in Carreghofa. Council generally did not feel that it had the resources to set up such a venture and also considered that this is something that involves the whole of Llanymynech and should be discussed with Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council.

Cllr James pointed out that a suitable venue must be found; most likely the Village Hall and negotiations would have to be undertaken with the VH Committee.

Cllr Dover felt that the matter should be deferred to see if the Council could canvass interest in the project.

It was agreed that:-

- The Clerk would inform the Clerk at LL&PC
- Cllr Backshall would put something on the website to see if there is any interest locally from people who had the expertise to run a repair café.
- Chairman to liaise with Llandysilio CC to understand their thought & whether it would be beneficial to "host" a joint repair café.

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ACTION: Chairman, Cllr Backshall, and Clerk

7.9 Remote Council Meetings – letter from Llandrindod Wells T. C.

Council received the letter from Llandrindod Town Council printed in the Papers for the Meeting.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 has introduced several changes in legislation for our sector. One of which is the provision of in-person, remote or hybrid meetings. Councils holding in person meetings must now make provision for members of the public to access these meetings remotely.

Llandrindod Wells Town Council understands that this may prove difficult for many councils, particularly those without meeting room internet access and the equipment to enable hybrid meetings.

They have written to the Welsh Government to ask that consideration be given to the rurality of many of our communities and the lack of good internet access in some areas. Many councils meet in community and church halls and other venues which do not have internet access, often these are

the only suitable facilities within a particular community. They will also be asking for Welsh Government to provide financial support to enable councils to provide the internet infrastructure.

Most of the Council agreed with the position taken by Llandrindod Town Council but Cllr Backshall felt that, accepting the difficulties for small councils, remote access to meetings would be a good thing. The Chairman said that he would like to know what the legal requirements on community councils were.

It was agreed that the Council would support Llandrindod Town Council

ACTION: Clerk to inform LTC

7.10 Welsh in Education consultation

Council received the notice of the consultation from the Powys C. C. Transforming Education Team. Council felt that this was a matter for the Board of Governors at Carreghofa Primary School and the matter was left with Cllr Dover who has recently been appointed Chair of Governors.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Dover on his appointment.

8. Amenities

8.1 Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field

Cllr Backshall confirmed that the new signage had been put up and the Chairman said that he would check the level of sanitiser in the dispensers.

9. Highways and Byways

9.1 Road Repairs and Potholes

No issues were raised

9.2 Signs on the pavement at A483 crossroads.

This issue had now been satisfactorily resolved.

10. To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies

10.1 Burial Board

No meeting has been held since the last report

10.2 Powys C. C. and Town and Community Councils meeting

A zoom meeting will take place on 10th October. The Chairman will send round a resumé after the meeting.

10.3 Village Hall

A meeting will be held next week.

10.4 CHC meeting

The Chairman reported that he had been unable to attend the last meeting. The main issues raised had been the closure of the Ambulance Station at Oswestry and the Future Fit exercise.

Regarding the ambulance station closure the meeting wanted assurance as to whether the Trust could guarantee that there would be no degradation of service.

Re Future Fit the Chairman said that it is 3 years since the consultation had been voted on and the case would be submitted in the next 2 to 3 weeks. The costs had almost doubled in that time and now stood at over £500 million.

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. Any Other Business

12.1 Carreghofa School

Cllr Dover said that this had been a difficult time for the School and wondered if any funds might be available for a small project. It was suggested that the Windfarm scheme could be approached. The Chairman said that the original sum could not be extended for a 6th year and any remaining balance would be added to the next tranche of money which would all be available to the whole of Montgomery. The chair of the Tirgwynt Windfarm group had suggested that the original CCs could submit additional “late” applications for consideration.

Cllr James asked what projects it had funded and the Chairman said that these must be one-off capital projects, not revenue. Examples were providing kit for a rugby team; showers in a village hall. Cllr James asked whether the repair of fencing at the Tennis Club would be possible and the Chairman said that this would be an acceptable project.

12.2 Red Lion

The Chairman reported that Shropshire County Council is no longer responding to his communications. The Clerk suggested that this should now become a Council matter (since the Red Lion is in Shropshire the Chairman had been writing as a private citizen) and communications sent on Council headed paper.

Cllr Dover felt that this should be raised with Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council. Cllr Jones said that part of the building is in Wales but the Chairman said that for planning purposes it is dealt with under the English council.

Post Meeting Note

Circumstances have changed since the meeting. The Chairman will update Council at the next meeting.

12.3 Go Safe Survey

The Chairman said that Go Safe had promised that it would carry out a survey of traffic speeds on the B4398 in September but, to date, there had been no sign of the survey being carried out.

ACTION: Chairman to contact Go-Safe.

13. Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 7.00pm

ACTION: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____