

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 30 November 2021 at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr M Connell (Chairman)

Cllr C Backshall

Cllr R Dover

Cllr F James

Cllr R McCluskey

County Cllr Arwel Jones

In attendance:

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr C Jones

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

None

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th October 2021

The following amendments were made:-

Ref min 5.2 Half Year Financial Statement The statement was seconded by Cllr Connell not Cllr Backshall

Ref min 7.2 Website Compliance

a) Line three: "The Council should have an accessibility statement". Then add including publication of an accessibility statement on the > website".

b) add to the paragraph "Although now compliant with WCAG, the website still lacks some of the financial information that the Council is obliged to publish, specifically copies of the Financial Statements for FYE 2016 > and 21017 and the Annual Return for FYE 2016. Action: Clerk then Cllr Backshall.

Post meeting note. The information has now been provided to bring the website into compliance

Ref min 8.1.1. In the sentence She thought that the signs were originally funded by a Lottery grant.' remove 'She' replace with 'Cllr James'

The minutes were agreed as correct. Proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Ref min 7.7 The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted One Voice Wales; he had been informed that a number of councils had also expressed concern and that One Voice Wales is taking the matter up.

Ref min 7.9. The Clerk said that he had sent a letter to the School via Cllr Dover asking for banking details so that he could make the payment, but had heard nothing so far. Cllr Dover confirmed that he had contacted the relevant people at the School, and would remind them again.

ACTION: Cllr Dover

5. Finance Report

5.1. Financial Position

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

Deposit account: £18216.69
Current account: £987.49
Pension account £72.76

5.2. Draft Budget

The Clerk presented the draft budget. He outlined two calculation errors pointed out by Cllr Backshall and confirmed that these had been corrected. As a result Line 2 Salaries should read £4470 and line 5 Grounds maintenance should read £3281. In order to keep the Council's precept at the same level as last year the transfer from reserves would now be £7024. The Clerk undertook to send out copy of the revised budget

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Backshall proposed that the budget be adopted; this was seconded by Cllr James and passed unanimously.

5.3. Approval of payments

The Clerk informed the meeting that an invoice from the Village Hall for rent of the meeting room had been received after the papers for the meeting had been sent out. This was for £80 and payment was authorised.

The Clerk further informed the Council that a notification of a direct debit withdrawal of £385.66 has been received from Powys County Council in respect of payroll services for 2020/21

6. Planning

Application Reference: 21/2060/FUL Grid Reference: E:325732 N: 320500
Proposal: New vehicular access

Council decided that it would make no comment on the application.

7. Other matters

7.1 Website

Cllr Backshall said that there was little to report; the website was working well. A notice had been put in the Parish Magazine but there had been no responses from the public to the new website.

7.3 Vacancy on the Council

The Clerk said that the Council is now in the period in the run up to next year's election and so can co-opt members without giving the statutory notice period. The Chairman said that we had, in any case, done this following Cllr Pownall's retirement. There were no prospective candidates for co-option and it was agreed that the Chairman would place a notice in the Parish magazine.

ACTION: Chairman

7.3 Canal Developments

The Chairman said that although the new funding for the restoration of the canal was to be welcomed there were concerns about the local impact at Carreghofa. These related in the main to the proposed road crossing the canal at Walls Bridge. Originally a road was to be constructed on land to the east of Walls Bridge but this has now been built on which means that any road crossing at this point would now cut across the Walls Bridge playground at the point where the Council has installed its adult gym equipment. It is thought that the Canal Restoration Group has already purchased land on the north side of the canal.

The Chairman's concerns were:-

- a) timescale
- b) what "plans" are available or in place.

- c) effect on Walls Bridge (car park especially possibility of taking away space from play area where adult equipment is for road access across canal)
- d) effect on towpath if road access across canal is planned and other immediate areas
- e) is canal to be rerouted? - if so effect on existing wildlife/flora/fauna (including when the work is underway and completed)
- f) effect on local residents

He felt that a representative or representatives of the project should address the Council to discuss our concerns.

Cllr James agreed; she felt that the Council is discussing the matter 'blind' if it does not understand the plans for the canal in Carreghofa.

Cllr Backshall asked what benefits the development would bring to the village. Without a wharf being built the likelihood would be that boats would pass through the community without stopping and therefore there would be no or minimal economic benefit to the community itself.

Cllr Dover recommended that members read the Montgomery Canal Economic Development Study.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact John Evans, the lead officer at Powys County Council and ask him to attend a meeting and to suggest other relevant people to be invited.

ACTION: Clerk

7.4 Picnic benches

The Chairman had circulated details of suitable benches and it was agreed that the Council would purchase two benches, one with wheelchair access. All the companies considered were similar and there was little price difference. It was, therefore, concluded that the company which could provide the benches soonest would be given the order.

Cllr McCluskey asked who would install the benches; there would need to be fitted properly and securely. The Chairman felt that the Council would need to get someone to install the benches and thought that Mr Walsh, who is currently restoring the existing benches, might be asked. County Cllr Arwel Jones offered to store the benches until they could be installed.

Cllr Backshall felt that the benches should be placed upon a solid base to save the Council's grounds maintenance contractor having to strim beneath them.

The Chairman was authorised to make the purchases.

ACTION: Chairman

7.5 Donation Request – Eales Air Ambulance

Councillors received the request from Wales Air Ambulance as set out in the papers for the meeting. It was agreed that a donation of £250 would be made.

ACTION: Clerk

7.6 Donation request - Marie Curie

Councillors received the request from Marie Curie as set out in the papers for the meeting. Council decided, with regret, that it is unable to make a donation as the criteria do not meet the Council's Donations Policy

7.7 St. Agatha's Clock

The Clerk tabled an additional item which had been submitted after the papers for the meeting had gone out. An email from St. Agatha's Church set out below had been received:-

I am writing to you as secretary of St Agatha's church Llanymynech. I also look after our lovely turret clock on behalf of the church and the community.

The Carreghofa Community Council has been generous in their support in previous years. The clock has been causing us a few difficulties this year, mostly with the strike. You may have noticed that the strike has been off for long periods (including currently) and is often wrong. We also had a problem with the clock itself which was stopped for a few weeks earlier in the year. As a result we've had to call Smiths of Derby out for two additional visits this year, increasing the total cost. The church has paid out a total of £475 this year (The standard £217 annual maintenance charge plus additional work of £180 in February and £78 in September). The church is very happy to pay a third of this sum, but would welcome any contribution from the two community councils to cover the rest. Split three ways the figure is around £158 each.

Unfortunately the clock is still not functioning properly, in particular the strike. Smiths of Derby have recommended that we have the whole clock refurbished. The expense for this would be significant as the company would need to remove the clock and take it to Derby for the work to be completed. The initial quotation is over £8,000 but likely to be higher depending on the steps needed to take it down from the tower. We are currently in the process of gaining good advice from the diocese and will ask at least one more clock company to assess the work and prepare a quotation. If we do need to undertake this magnitude of restoration we will certainly need to find grant funding.

In summary we don't anticipate any further costs this year so if you were able to make a contribution that would be great. It would also be useful to know how best we can work with the council in the new year to secure the clock for the future for the community. Please could the council advise us how best to do that?

*Best wishes,
Caroline Stewart
PCC secretary and clock keeper*

CLlr McCluskey felt that the Council should, as in the past, pay for a portion of the maintenance costs (split between the Church, Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council and Carreghofa Community Council). However, before making further commitments Ms Stewart should be invited to attend a Council meeting to present the Church's case. It would be important for the Council to understand the significance of the clock to the village and its history as part of the village.

It was agreed that a donation of £158 be made towards the maintenance of the clock and that Ms Stewart be invited to address the January meeting. It was further agreed that, since the care of the clock is a joint matter, a representative of Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council also be invited to attend.

ACTION: Clerk

7.8 Senedd petition

The Clerk tabled an additional item which had been submitted after the papers for the meeting had gone out. An email had been received from Mrs Gill Marshall of Llanfechain asking for support in signing a petition to place a moratorium on Industrial Poultry Units (IPUs). The Clerk explained that an application to site large IPU in Llanfechain is expected in the near future. Also there has been a large expansion of IPUs in Powys over the past year.

The Clerk informed the Council that Mrs Marshall is the Chair of Llanfechain Community Council but it was not clear if the email had been sent in the name of the Community Council or from Mrs Marshall as a private individual. It was agreed that if the email had been sent by the Community Council then it would be supported but if from a private individual then it would be a matter for individual councillors to decide if they wanted to sign the petition.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate

8. Amenities

8.1 Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field

The Chairman stated that the first bench is ready to be reinstated but this may now be done after Christmas. Mr Walsh had had a look at the bench on the corner of Carreghofa Lane and suggested that once it has been renovated a plaque giving memorial details might be attached as, in his experience, this would make the bench less prey to vandalism.

9. Highways and Byways

9. 1. Road Repairs and Potholes

Cllr James said that the potholes on Pen-y-Foel still needed attention and the verges still haven't been cut back. She had received a representation from the owners of Yew Tree Farm pointing out that satnavs tend to send vehicles along the lane although there is, in fact, no through access for motor vehicles. They are asking for a no turning sign to be erected. It was thought that the Highways Department would not do this but County Councillor Arwel Jones said that he would make enquiries.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones

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

No meeting has been held since the last report

10.3 Village Hall

In the absence of Cllr Jones there was no report.

10.4 CHC meeting

No meeting has been held since the last report

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 Powys Community Health Council - Preparation of the Annual Plan 2022-2023 Questionnaire for Stakeholders.

A request for opinions and ideas to improve services has been made. The Chairman has drafted some ideas as follows:

- Recruitment of appropriate resources in all areas - Drs/nurses/Care workers.

- Recruit NHS dentists as very few practices in Powys and private dental practices are very expensive.
- Restart Face-to-Face Doctor appointments. Zoom calls no good as rural connectivity not good enough and consider practicalities of telephone triages - prior to discussing with Drs.
- Improve publicity of decisions made - ambulance stations closure - rather than finding out via press.
- Progress decisions re hospital mergers (Telford/Shrewsbury)

12.2 Speeding on B4398 - Llanymynech

The Chairman had received the following from Powys Police regarding speeding checks on A4398

"Thank you for your email. We were hoping to be able to order some new speed surveys in September, but at the moment we are still in the process of arranging the framework agreement for our new suppliers. Once this is in place we will be able to organise some speed surveys."

The Chairman said that he had written for update –but had received no reply.

As the school holidays are imminent, the Chairman said that he would make contact again after Christmas.

12.3 Lighting problems

The Chairman said that there were water repairs undertaken by Severn Trent 2 weeks ago, which turned out to be a nightmare. It necessitated a 4-way traffic system and the pedestrian crossing was deactivated and a temporary system turned on.

Work started on Thursday but unfortunately the lights went out on Friday and were still off on Saturday. The Chairman reported this to Traffic Wales who said they would contact ST. They phoned back after 3 hours and they said that ST had organised a team (from Birmingham) to look at the problem. The Lights were on by Saturday (late) pm but were off again on Sunday. The Chairman phoned Traffic Wales again. He also wrote to the CEO of ST to make a complaint. By late Sunday one of the ST directors phoned him to say he was investigating the whole situation. The Chairman noticed later that all lights had been switched off.

He received e-mail from North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency as follows:

"I apologise for the delay in my response regarding your e-mail.

As I can see you were aware the works in question causing the problem were Severn Trent's with Total traffic management. I can confirm that NMWTRA's bronze duty officers received calls over the weekend regarding the issues and spoke to STW & Total who were requested to resolve the situation.

On the Monday with (sic) I got to site I found that all of the traffic management had been turned to the side (including the temporary pedestrian crossing) and switched off. I was not happy to see that this had taken place and that the permanent pedestrian crossing had not been turned back on for use.

At this point I took further action and put a 2-hour response notice on STW to rectify the situation. We also spoke with the Street Lighting Engineers to arrange for the Permanent pedestrian crossing to be switched back on.

I have since liaised with our Streetworks department who will be taking this up with STW."

12.4 Red Lion

The Chairman reported that no progress has been made although he had contacted people at Shropshire & Powys CCs and will pursue the matter further after the Christmas break.

For information, The Chairman did receive the following from Powys CC:

"I did indeed have a meeting with Shropshire CC last week. The main outcome of the meeting was that whilst the building is listed with Historic England, CADW, the body responsible for listed buildings in Wales, do not recognise the building as being listed. Therefore, we are currently unclear whether the section of the building located within Powys CC is in fact a listed building, as this is not recognised by CADW. Myself, and Shropshire CC, have therefore taken legal advice to try and ascertain our position in relation to this, as whether or not the Powys CC section of the building is listed has massive implications for any enforcement action we can take.

Our legal team are still reviewing the case, and therefore I would be happy to provide a further update once they respond and we have more information."

12.5 Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman attended the service at St Agatha's where he laid a wreath on behalf of the Community Council. He also met the new Chairman of Llanymynech & Pant PC - Adam Brown who has succeeded Dylis Gaskill.

13. Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 25th January 2022

ACTION: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____