

# Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25 January 2022 at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr M Connell (Chairman)

Cllr C Backshall

Cllr R Dover

Cllr C Jones

Cllr R McCluskey

In attendance:

Miss Caroline Stewart – Secretary: St. Agatha's PCC

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

### 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr F James

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

None

### 3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were agreed as a correct record; proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Dover and agreed unanimously. They were signed by the Chairman.

### 4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1. ref: min 4: The Clerk said that he had still had nothing from Carreghofa School. Cllr Dover said that the school had thanked him for the donation but that he would check again with the relevant people.

**ACTION: Cllr Dover**

Post meeting note. I have checked the accounts and no payment has been made to Carreghofa Primary School. I am still awaiting details to make a bank transfer.

4.2. ref mins 7.5. The Clerk confirmed that a donation had been made to Powys Air Ambulance and an acknowledgement received

### 5. Finance Report

#### 5.1 Financial Position

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

Deposit account: £20855.18 – The final payment of the Precept had been received on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Current account: 524.83

Pension account £72.76

#### 5.2 Draft Budget

The Clerk presented the revised budget as agreed at the November 2021 meeting. He confirmed that the Precept request had been submitted to Powys County Council and acknowledged.

### 5.3 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Statement

The Clerk presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Statement as set out in the papers for the meeting. There were no questions and Cllr McCluskey proposed that the Statement be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Dover and agreed unanimously.

### 5.4 Approval of payments

A payment of £588.86 was agreed for Clive Heaton in respect of the Final Quarter Grounds Maintenance Contract.

## **6. Planning**

There were no planning applications for consideration.

## **7. Other matters**

### 7.1 Vacancy on the Council

The Chairman said that he had compiled an entry for the Parish Newsletter and sent it to Linda Bristow. It will go in February edition. He agreed to send a copy to Councillor Backshall for entry onto the Council's website.

### 7.2 Canal Developments

The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted John Evans at Powys C. C, who had referred him to Gareth Jones, the lead professional for Regeneration. Mr Jones had explained that the position at present is that the project is in the very early stages – a project team is still being out together and there are currently no firm proposals. PCC is looking at a range of options but the Canal and Rivers Trust will be the lead organisation and eventually do the work although in close conjunction with PCC and the Highways Agency.

Gareth Jones feels that it is too early to meet with community councils although he asserted that the department is keen to engage at the appropriate time.

In the meantime the Clerk said that he had sent the minute for the November meeting outlining the issues that Carreghofa C. C. would want to explore.

It was agreed that this item be kept on the agenda for future meetings.

### 7.3 Picnic benches

The Chairman outlined the options for new picnic benches: \_

- 1) Standard Picnic Table for 4 (Black £460) or
- 2) Standard Wheelchair Access Picnic Tables for 3+1 (Black £450) or Large Standard Wheelchair Access Picnic Tables for 5+1 (Black £545)

The meeting approved the purchase of one Large Standard Wheelchair Access Picnic Tables for 5+1 (Black £545) and one Large Standard Picnic Table for 6 - (Black £570)

The Chairman said that he would write to Councillor Arwell Jones regarding delivery/storage.

**ACTION: Chairman**

[Post meeting note: The Chairman has written to Cllr Arwel Jones](#)

### 7.4 St. Agatha's Clock

The Chairman welcomed Miss Stewart to the meeting. She said that the clock at St. Agatha's is a significant feature of the village. It was installed in 1840, a local man who became a well-known engineer in Manchester in the age of industrialisation.

The clock is now 182 years old and is showing signs of its age. There have been problems with the mechanism which has resulted in the clock stopping from time to time or failing to chime correctly. At the moment the clock is working but not striking.

The company which currently maintains the clock is Smiths of Derby. They have surveyed the clock and have quoted £8044 ex VAT to carry out remedial works. They say that the clock will have to be removed to their workshop in Derby and that the cost of removal and transport of the clock will be additional to the above quotation.

A second Company, Time Assured has surveyed the clock and quoted £2000 + VAT and say that the work can be carried out in situ.

Given the disparity of these two quotes a further quote is awaited from the Cumbrian Clock Company (the company that has carried out the restoration work on Big Ben).

Miss Stewart said that she is liaising with the Lichfield Diocese Clock Adviser about possible sources of grant funding.

Cllr McCluskey thought that the clock is an integral part of the village and has historical value. The first port of call is to get the third quote so that an informed decision can be made.

The Clerk asked if the Church had approached Llanymynech and Pant P. C. She confirmed that she had written to them but had not, as yet, received a response. If she did she would forward it to the Clerk for distribution to councillors.

Cllr Jones felt that, once all quotes were available, this should be an item for a joint meeting with Llanymynech and Pant P. C. There had not been a joint meeting since before lockdown.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Secretary of LL&PPC to suggest a joint meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### 7.5 General Level of Competence of Clerk's Qualifications

Council noted the report in the papers for the meeting. The Clerk said that he did not possess the necessary qualifications although he had participated in some session of the Calcar course. He stated that if the Council wished to attain Eligible Community Council status he would be willing to stand down once a suitably qualified clerk could be appointed.

The Chairman said that, in general, this applied to larger councils which may wish to undertake commercial activities. It was not mandatory for all councils to appoint clerks with the specific qualifications and that the matter should not, at this time, be taken further.

#### 7.6 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Council has already decided that it would not participate in the lighting of a beacon for the Jubilee celebrations. However, the Chairman had received note from Duncan Borthwick, reproduced below:-

"Can I organise something for the Queens platinum jubilee for 5th June? Do you know if there are any plans for anything? I thought maybe a big picnic or something? And I would like to plant some trees for the jubilee canopy. What do you reckon? Do I need permission from the Parish council if we were to hold something on Tan-y-Foel green for instance, or the Welsh side play park?"

The Chairman responded as follows:-

- 1) There are no local plans - only the national Beacons.
- 2) Tan-y-Foel is not "our" responsibility. He assumed it is Powys' as they are responsible for grass cutting. He also felt that the area is not totally child friendly with the road going around the grass
- 3) He suggested the playground - as we will hopefully have the new picnic tables by then and it is enclosed. An alternative would be the football field as again it is fenced.

The Chairman said that he would contact Mr Borthwick again after the matter had been considered by the Community Council.

Following discussion the meeting suggested that Mr Borthwick should use the Village Hall & grounds as, it is thought that Llanymynech and Pant were holding an event in Pant.

#### Post meeting note

The Chairman has written to Vivien Byrne for confirmation and approval for use of the grounds. If received he will liaise with Duncan Borthwick who can approach the Village Hall committee for use of the premises

#### 7.7 Powys Replacement Local Development Plan Draft Delivery Agreement

Council received the report in the papers for the meeting. The Chairman advised that, as there were few items that affected Carreghofa, Council should not make any representations at this time.

The Clerk was asked to contact Powys to acknowledge receipt of the plans, to say that there is no comment but ask that the Community Council be kept informed of developments.

**ACTION: Clerk.**

#### 7.8 Donation Request - URDD

Council received the request from URDD Eisteddfod but decided, with regret, that this did not meet the criteria of the Councils Donations Policy and, therefore, a donation was not made.

### **8. Amenities**

#### 8.1 Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field

The Chairman said that there was nothing to report.

#### 8.2 Footpath Closure

The Clerk tabled an email received from a local resident that morning and set out below:-

I have emailed Pant and Llanymynech Council who suggested I now contact you as this issue is within Wales.

I am writing to highlight what I believe to be a deliberate (i.e.: not vandalism) attempt to close a public footpath and hide the fact by re-orientation of the footpath sign.

The footpath in question is the one near the entrance to Carreghofa lane opposite Carreghofa Cottages. The sign has been turned 180 degrees to point in the opposite direction and then the nuts tightened to prevent it being re-aligned without the use of tools.

The footpath crosses the adjacent field and a wire fence has been fitted at the far side to prevent continuation along the footpath without climbing the mixed wire and wooden fence, something unachievable for anyone not fully able bodied and certainly prevents access to dogs on a lead. Indeed the wooden part of the structure is not a stile and does not look safe to climb upon.

I would be grateful if the council could confirm if this path closure has been approved and if not, then action is taken to re-open it and ensure the gate at the far end of the field becomes passable to people and dogs on a lead.

The Clerk said that he had contacted the resident to explain that footpaths and rights of way came under the jurisdiction of Powys C. C. but that he would raise the matter at the meeting. Council agreed to forward the matter to Calum Parr Powys Rights of Way and Access Officer.

**ACTION: Clerk.**

## **9. Highways and Byways**

### 9.1 Road Repairs and Potholes

In the absence of County Councillor Arwel Jones, these matters were held over until the next meeting.

## **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

Next meeting to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> February

### 10.3. Village Hall

Meeting postponed until February

### 10.4 CHC meeting

The Chairman was unable to attend but would circulate anything received from the group.

**ACTION: Chairman.**

## **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 Speeding on the B4398

The Chairman had received confirmation from GoSafe as follows:-

"Apologies this has taken so long, but we have to follow our procurement procedures to go out to tender and approve suppliers for any works carried out.

The surveys we are having carried out are strips placed across the road that record the speeds of all vehicles traveling on that stretch of road for 24 hours a day seven days a week. The speed van you have seen in Arddleen is carrying out enforcement rather than survey work, the speed surveys need to be carried out covertly so we can get a true reflection of the speeds travelled."

### 12.2 Canal path extension

The Chairman reported that he has received an invitation to meet with Powys representatives to discuss the footpath from the towpath at Carreghofa Lane to the Walls Bridge entrance gate.

Chairman offered various "time slots" and is awaiting responses.

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

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

**ACTION: All to note.**