

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2022 at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr M Connell (Chairman)

Cllr R Dover

Cllr F James

Cllr C Jones

In attendance:

County Cllr Arwel Jones

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr C Backshall

Cllr R McCluskey

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

None

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th January 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2022 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 reported that Carreghofa Primary School has now received the donation of £500.00 towards the cost of anniversary T shirts. With reference to additional monies for a project the Head had advised that the school is undertaking a project but has received other funding for it. She asked if the Council would fund presenting each pupil with specially minted 50p coin to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These cost £7 each. The Council agreed that it would fund this venture.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with the School

4.2. ref mins 7.5. The Clerk confirmed Powys C. C. had been informed that the Council would not be commenting at this stage but wishes to be kept informed on developments.

5. Finance Report

5.1 Financial Position

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

Deposit account: £18855.18

Current account: £1148.77

Pension account £72.76

5.2 IRPW - Determinations for Community Councils

Council noted the Determinations as set out in the papers for the meeting and make the following decisions:-

- Determination 44: Council noted that it could make a one-off payment to councillors of £150 but decided, in the light of the fact that in previous years all councillors had elected not to receive a payment, that the Council would not make this payment.
- Determination 45: Agreed to adopt the Determination
- Determination 46: Agreed to adopt the Determination

- Determination 47: Agreed to adopt the Determination
- Determination 48: Agreed to adopt the Determination
- Determination 49: Payment to the Chair of Council for miscellaneous expenses. Agreed to make £100 available
- Determination 50: Payment to the Vice-Chair of Council for miscellaneous expenses. Agreed to make £50 available

5.3 Approval of payments

There were no payments to approve but the Clerk apprised Council that Clive Heaton had notified him that his cost for grounds maintenance in 2022 / 23 would rise to £2123.68 + VAT (total: £2548.42). The Clerk pointed out that the budget increase would cover this and Council accepted the price increase for the next financial year.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Mr Heaton

6. Planning

There were no planning applications for consideration.

7. Other matters

7.1 Vacancy on the Council

The Clerk notified the meeting that a response had been received as a result of advertising in the Parish magazine. Unfortunately the individual concerned did not live in Carreghofa. The Clerk had written to him advising of the criteria for membership of the Council. These are that a person must be a citizen of the UK, Commonwealth or Ireland and be over 18 years of age and fit one of the following criteria:

1. Must be on the Carreghofa Electoral Register or
2. During the whole 12 months prior to appointment have occupied as owner or tenant land or premises in the Community or
3. During the whole 12 months prior to appointment his/her principal or only place of work has been in the Community or
4. During the whole 12 months prior to appointment the person has resided in the Community or within 3 miles of it.

The Clerk invited the individual to get back in touch if he qualified by reason of any of the criteria above.

7.2 Canal Developments

The Clerk informed the meeting that Ms Clare Parsons of the Canal and Rivers Trust had asked to attend a meeting and address the Council on the subject of the Vyrnwy Aqueduct.

She has pointed out that in addition to the Levelling Up Fund restoration project the Canal & River Trust is also progressing a multi-million pound bid for Lottery Funds to repair the Vyrnwy Aqueduct. This will support its future and its essential role in the Montgomery Canal, and also include a programme of heritage and nature focused activities for people living along the Canal corridor to Welshpool.

Council agreed that Ms Parsons should be invited to attend the March meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to issue invitation

7.3 Picnic benches

The Chairman confirmed that the two benches have been ordered and that a package had been delivered that morning. However, the Clerk informed the meeting that he had received an email that afternoon saying that the goods would be despatched tomorrow.

[Post meeting note: It transpired that the goods were despatched as 2 items and the second would be delivered on 28th February.](#)

7.4. St. Agatha's Clock

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had attended the Tirgwynt Windfarm AGM last week and raised the matter of the clock repairs. He appreciated that the fund was not open to the religious organisations but suggested that this went beyond "religion" and could be treated as a village icon. All members accepted the premise and made some suggestions for the Church to progress matters:

- 1) Create a separate group (with a bank account) - "Friends of Llanymynech Church Clock" - which effectively meant that any funds would not go into the church funds.
- 2) Request & complete an application form when publicised in the County Times.
- 3) Chairman related this to Caroline Stewart who said they were still awaiting the final estimate (from the company dealing with Big Ben).

The third quote from the Cumbrian Clock Company is still awaited.

Since the recent inspections, Caroline Stewart had said that the clock was operating better - but she is sure this improvement will not last. She will contact CC & Windfarm as soon as information is known. As she said at the meeting she was only going to be looking after the clock in the near future.

The Chairman said that this is a case of "wait and see" before taking any further action.

7.5 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Council noted the report in the papers for the meeting that Llanymynech and Pant had made no plans for celebrating the Jubilee in June. They were happy for Duncan Borthwick to use the Village Hall for an event. It was suggested that Walls Bridge could be a venue but the consensus was that the Village Hall is better as there is more car parking and there are indoor facilities in case the weather is bad.

7.6 Multi-location meetings.

Council noted that the Clerk had forwarded the results of One Voice Wales' survey of town and community councils on multi-location meetings. County Cllr Arwel Jones had experience of this in meetings at Llandysilio. He said that unless everyone at the meeting had his/her own laptop it was difficult for someone at a remote location to hear more than the chair of the meeting. It was felt that in the light of lack of public interest in Council meetings this would not be a viable option for councils with fewer than 1000 electors. The Chairman said that there was no merit in progressing this matter.

7.7 Community policing

Council noted the email in the papers for the meeting received from PCSO Sarah Pocock, informing the Council that she is the area's designated Community Police Officer and asking if there are any issues that the Council would like to bring to her attention.

The following issues were raised:-

1. Speeding on the B4398. The Chairman said that he had again contacted GoSafe about a survey of speeding between Newbridge and the cross roads with the A483.
2. The need for extra vigilance re vandalism once the new picnic tables are installed in Walls Bridge playground
3. The cross-over between Dyfed Powys Police and West Mercia Police. It is the Council's understanding that if officers from one force are with a case and the 'suspect' crosses the border between the two forces then the officers inform the other force rather than crossing into its territory.
- 4.

It was also noted that community officer for Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council regularly attends council meetings and it was felt that PCSO Pocock should be encouraged to, at least, attend a number of Community Council meetings each year.

ACTION CLERK: To inform PCSO Pocock of the Council's views.

7.8 Donation request – Llangollen Eisteddfod

The Clerk tables a request for support from the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, received that day. The Council regretted that it could not make a donation as the matter did not meet the criteria of the Council's Donations Policy.

8. Amenities

8.1 Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field

8.1.1 'It was noted that that some people are crossing the field adjacent to the football field and are causing damage to the external fencing. It was thought that walkers/ramblers were likely to be the cause.' As a result, there is now a well-worn path across the field."

Arwel Jones offered to put in some stakes to deter people from using the shortcut and this was gratefully accepted by the Council.

8.1.2 Path extension from towpath to Walls Bridge play area

The following email was sent to the Chairman by Calum Carr, Powys C. C. Rights of way and Footpaths Officer.

"We had a look at the section of verge as you had described its location on your email. It sounds like it could be a straight forward job. Josh, who came along as highways will come back to me with some rough quotes etc..."

With regards to the gate out of the park, it has a corral section on it making it difficult for push chairs and prams. Do we need to get rid of it or will it come under similar scrutiny from ROSPA?

Also, under this funding if it is acceptable with LCC I'll see about some works on the circular trail, in particular, the steps off the canal by the aqueduct which are in a poor state.

Will come back to you to confirm what schemes are acceptable to WG. Let me know if you have any questions at this stage."

The Chairman wrote back advising that the gate entrance could be changed and pointing out that there was a "plain" gate at the car park end of the play area which had never been mentioned in ROSPA visits previously.

9. Highways and Byways

9.1 Road Repairs and Potholes

9.1.1 In Cllr Backshall's absence the Clerk introduced the following matters from her:-

Flooding/blocked gullies in Carreghofa Lane

This afternoon, my next-door neighbour voiced two complaints relating to drainage in Carreghofa Lane and asked me to raise them at the next Community Council meeting:

- 1 Flooding: currently approximately 100m under water beyond the old railway bridge at SJ256208 My neighbour commented that it has caused particular problems for the Tuesday Walkers, as well as being a nuisance to the many other pedestrians that use the lane. I believe that this is the same spot that Michael investigated last year. Picture taken 21.02.22.
- 2 Blocked gullies; my neighbour has reported one (or more) blockages to PCC (via its website) but so far no action has been taken other than standard acknowledgement emails.

9.1.2 Cllr James raised issues at Pen-y-Foel. There is water ingress from roads higher up the hill which is causing problems because the ditches need digging out. The road outside the driveway to Pen-y-Foel House is also in need of attention.

9.1.3

The Clerk had also received an email from an resident (reproduced below)

Following the recent storms can I bring to the attention of the council the urgent necessity for the large cherry tree on the Cae Haidd green to be trimmed back. I have mentioned this issue in recent years to the local councillor and to the Powys authorities but the tree has not been cutback in at least the last decade. It is now so large that it is a danger to my property which adjoins the green. After each storm I have to remove twigs from my car on the drive and from elsewhere in my garden and it is only a matter of time before something more substantial comes down in these gale force winds. I have spoken to the grounds man you employ but his remit is only the grass and not the trees. More generally the apple trees on the field need a trim and restaking. One tree has already gone over in the wind and another I have restaked. None of these trees has been restaked or trimmed since they were planted many years ago. Please could you address these issues particularly with regards to the cherry tree.

The Clerk had responded informing the resident that Cae Haidd does not come under the jurisdiction of the Community Council. The Council had on one occasion instructed its grounds maintenance company to undertake some grass cutting but this was a one-off. He would, nonetheless, bring the matter to the attention of the Council.

County Cllr Arwel Jones agreed to raise these issues with the appropriate people at Powys C. C.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones

10. To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies

10.1 Burial Board

The Chairman noted that there were vacancies on the Burial Board; two from Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council and one from Carreghofa Community Council. Cllr Dover offered to fill the vacancy for Carreghofa and this was gratefully accepted

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

The Chairman was unable to attend and agreed to circulate notes when these are available

10.3 Village Hall

Cllr Jones was pleased to report that, after the lockdowns, everything was now 'back to normal'. She also reported that as a result of a bequest from an American donor the Village Hall had received a cheque for \$5000.00. This is the equivalent of £3633.00

10.4 CHC meeting

This group is yet to meet.

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. Local Elections

The Clerk informed the Council that usually Powys C. C. holds briefing sessions for clerks. This year these are being done via Zoom. Unfortunately he could not attend the first session and the second was this evening (22nd February). He pointed out that normally nomination packs would be handed out at face-to-face briefings but given the circumstances this year they will need to be posted out. Whilst candidates have the option of completing and submitting nomination papers online this year, Powys C. C. will still be supplying printed packs to those Councils that require them. Each Council will be recharged for the cost of nomination packs, with this in mind the County Council would like to know how many printed nomination packs the Council requires.

It was agreed the councillors could all submit nominations on-line.

13. Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 29th March 2022

ACTION: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____