

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 29 March 2022 at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr R Dover (Acting Chairman)

Cllr M Connell (Acting Clerk)

Cllr R McCluskey

Cllr C Backshall

Cllr F James

Cllr C Jones

In attendance:

Ms Clare Parsons of the Canal and Rivers Trust

1. Apologies for absence

County Cllr Arwel Jones

Mr M Donkin – Clerk to the Council – isolating due to Covid

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

Cllr McCluskey indicated an interest in the Planning Application – 22/0436/HH (See Item 6)

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2022 were agreed as a correct record; proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Backshall and agreed unanimously. In the absence of the Clerk, it was agreed the minutes would be formally signed off at the next (April) meeting.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 ref: min 4.1 Donation to Carreghofa Primary School

Cllr Dover advised the School is still planning to progress with the purchase of coins for pupils. However, there may be a problem due to the number required and options are being explored.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with the School

4.2 ref: min 7.7 Community policing.

Cllr Connell reported that there had been no response from GoSafe regarding the speed monitoring. It had been hoped that PCSO Pocock would be attending the meeting and would follow up.

ACTION: Cllr Connell to contact GoSafe for a date when the monitoring will commence and also invite PCSO Pocock to the next meeting

5. Finance Report

5.1 Financial Position

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

Deposit account: £18,855.67

Current account: £781.76

Pension account £72.76

5.2 Appointment of Internal Auditor

Council agreed to the appointment of JDH Business Services

Proposed by Cllr Backshall, seconded by Cllr James

5.3 One Voice Wales – renewal of membership

After a brief discussion, Council agreed to renew membership of OVW.

Proposed by Cllr Jones, Seconded by Cllr James

5.4 VAT

VAT refund (£605.03) request noted by Council

Approval of Payments

1. 1 large standard picnic table - £684.00 inc. VAT
2. 1 Wheelchair access standard picnic table - £654.00 inc. VAT
3. 2 Invoices received from Llanymynech Village Hall totalling £40 for meetings on 22/2/22 & 29/3/22 (invoices with Cllr Connell)

Proposed by Cllr Dover, seconded by Cllr James

5.4 Clerk's salary

Council approved adoption of the salary scale.

Proposed by Cllr Backshall, seconded by Cllr Jones

6. Planning

Cllr McCluskey gave a detailed presentation of his planning application (22/0436/HH).

Council was impressed by the attention to details regarding the environment and materials to be used with minimal disturbance to the existing nesting birds.

Discussions have been held with neighbours who were approving of the proposal and an initial meeting with the Planning Officer appeared favourable.

7. Other matters

7.1 Vacancy on the Council

No applications have been received.

Cllr Dover believes he may have a candidate interested and will discuss the matter with him.

ACTION: Cllr Dover to update Council at the next meeting

7.2 Council Elections

In the absence of the Clerk, there were no paper nomination forms available for dispersal. Cllr secured an electronic copy from the Election Office. This was a PDF document but Cllr Connell had transposed the document to Word.

Cllr Connell completed his form and sent it to EO who advised of corrections required. The document was updated and sent back to EO who issued an acknowledgement. It is assumed the form is in order.

Cllr Connell circulated his form to other Councillors for their information. Deadline for submission is 5 April 2022.

Cllr Backshall reported that she would not be standing/submitting a nomination form. Her work was taking more of her time and she was enjoying the challenge.

Council wished her the best and Cllr Dover thanked her for all her work – specifically the production of the website.

7.3 Canal developments (This item was undertaken at the start of the meeting)

Cllr Dover welcomed Clare Parsons, Enterprise Manager for England and Wales with the Canal & River Trust.

She advised that funding of £15m had been secured from the “Levelling Up” programme, split between Canal Resource (£14m) and Welshpool Canal Basin (£1m).

The £14m has been assigned to undertake work on 2 bridges (including Walls Bridge), 3 nature reserves and 4.5 miles of dredging/bank protection and will also include work on the “A483 crossings”.

There is concern regarding the Vyrnwy Viaduct as it is a poor state of repair especially regarding masonry and linings. Engineers are investigating and think they realise where/what the problems are. It is hoped this work will be covered from National Lottery funding with a full bid being compiled when the total extent of the work is established.

It is hoped that some aspects of the work will be undertaken by college students and apprentices. This is likely to be funded jointly by the Canal Trust and National Lottery.

Clare is hoping for letters of to strengthen the viability of the programme.

The only timescales given were that the work will be completed 2026/27(ish).

Clare was asked about “mooring” and whether these are included in the proposed work/costings. Current thoughts do not include this, although the costs are not high, so there would be a possibility.

Councillors highlighted concerns identified in earlier CC meetings and Clare said the best contacts would be Jason Leach/John Dodwell who should be able to give an idea how concerns can be handled.

(Maybe a bit early, but may be worth getting their contact details and issue invites).

Cllr Dover thanked Clare for attending the meeting and hoped the meeting on 30/3 with government reps and local residents would prove fruitful

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Canal Trust to issue invites as appropriate to the specialists – Jason Leach or John Dodwell to discuss concerns.

7.4 Picnic benches

Cllr Connell confirmed the benches been delivered, built and placed in the Walls Bridge area. Cllr Connell registered his thanks to County Councillor Jones for his help. One of the benches required additional work as the fittings were not aligned but this was resolved with a minimum of fuss.

7.5 Donation Request

After discussion, it was agreed that a donation of £250 be made, possibly with a request that it is used locally.

Proposed by Cllr Connell, seconded by Cllr Dover.

ACTION: Clerk to issue donation

This agenda item led to “wider” discussion. Cllr McCluskey stated that it was obvious there was a lack of applications from local organisations and we as a group should be looking at this. A suggestion was that we should compile a list of local organisations and contact annually to advise that donations could be available.

ACTION: Clerk to include agenda item for next meeting.

8. Amenities

8.1 Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field

Cllr Connell reported that the fencing along the “spare ground” by the football field had been repaired by County Councillor Jones. He advised Cllr Connell that the wooden posts were left over from a previous job and there would be no cost.

9. Highways and Byways

9.1 Road Repairs and Potholes

9.1.1 It was reported that there had been no improvement in the items listed at the last meeting

9.1.2 Cllr Backshall wrote to the Clerk on 27 March reporting that a tree had fallen across the footpath at Ty Gwyn.

9.1.3 The roads outside the shops (in the centre of the road) have started to deteriorate and require investigating.

9.1.4 Cllr James said the issues of potholes at Pen-y-Foel were getting worse.

9.1.5 Discussion covered the deterioration of The Dolphin car park. For discussion at the next meeting.

10. To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies

10.1 Burial Board

No meeting held in last month

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

No meeting held in last month

10.3 Village Hall

Cllr Jones reported no problems.

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 Red Lion Hotel

It was noted that the recent storms/high winds had blown down the surrounding fencing which had not been replaced. Cllr Connell said he would contact Russell George's office to ascertain whether any updates from Powys/Shropshire Councils.

ACTION: Cllr Connell to write to Russell George's office

13. Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 26 April 2022

ACTION: All to note.

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____