Cyngor Cymuned **Carreghofa** Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 31st October 2023

at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr R Dover (Chairman)

Cllr. I Done

Cllr J Fynes

Cllr. F James

Cllr C Jones

Cllr I Parry

Cllr C Savage

In attendance:

Mr M. Donkin: Clerk to the Council

County Cllr Arwel Jones

1 member of the public.

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| **1.Apologies for absence**  Cllr C Hall |
| **2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**  None |
| **3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th September 2023**  The minutes of the meeting held on 26th September were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Fynes, seconded by Cllr Savage and approved unanimously. |
| **4. Matters arising from the minutes**  Ref: min 4.2. Winter Warm Bank  Cllr Parry said that he had not managed to contact the appropriate person at the church and confirmed that he would do so and report to the next meeting.  **ACTION: Cllr. Parry**    Ref min 7.3. Village Hall governing document  County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he had not received a reply concerning any liability that the Community Council might have in respect of this document. He would chase the matter up.  **ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones**  Ref min 12.3 new speed limits  Cllr Savage said that the appropriate speed limit signs were now in place. |
| **5. Finance Report**  5.1. Financial Position  Council noted the financial position as set out in the papers for the meeting.  Deposit account: £15578.84. The second tranche of the Precept had been received on 31st August  Current account: £1364.94  Pension account £73.75  5.2. Half Yearly Financial Statement  Council received the half yearly financial statement set out in the papers for the meeting. The Clerk offered to answer any questions that councillors might have. There were no questions.  Cllr Fynes proposed adoption of the statement. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed unanimously.  5.3. Approval of Payments  The following payments were proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Savage and approved:-   * JDH Business Service – Internal Audit fee £348.00 * Welsh Government External Audit fee 2021 – 22 - £275.00 * Clive Heaton – Grounds maintenance contract 3rd Quarter - £637.10 * Additionally invoices from Llanymynech Village Hall for rent of meetings rooms in September and October were tabled. £48.00   5.4 Dual Invoices – correspondence with TEEC  The Clerk drew attention to the statement in the papers for the meeting where TEEC had submitted two invoices for the same services but with two different amounts viz: £120.00 and £432.00 for 12 months website hosting. The first invoice had been sent to Mrs C. Backshall (previously a councillor and the Council’s contact with TEEC) The Company responded by apologising for the mistake and said that the additional amount was because the Council ha=d elected to take the premium rather than the Basic service.  The Clerk referred to comments at the last meeting about the cost of website services and asked Cllr Parry (the current contact with TEEC) if he felt the additional charge was justified. Cllr Parry said that as well as additional features such as the Planning Portal the Premium level offered considerably more support and he felt that the Council was receiving value for money. The current position was accepted. |
| **6. Planning**  There were no planning applications for consideration. |
| **7 Other matters**  7.1 Montgomery Canal Development Project  7.1.1. Progress report  The Chairman gave an update on progress. He said that work had started on the towpath and Cllr Jones confirmed that hedges had been cleared between New Bridge and Walls Bridge. Notices were in place near Parsons Bridge but work had not yet commenced. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that there had been some complications.  7.1.2. Canal adoption  The Chairman felt that the idea of adopting a section of the canal had been well received. Cllr Parry had raised some issues put on the Council’s Facebook page as follows;-   * "Will the council provide tools to be used - strimmers, brush cutters etc..?" * What is the position with the Levelling Up monies granted in 2021 - when will we see evidence of that £14m or £16m started to be used.... ?? And helping our Tourism into Powys through our wonderful Canal infrastructure & Canal Walks/Bike Rides?" * "What are the financial implications of these options?" * "Who would be legally responsible if it was taken on? If someone hurt themselves while undertaking work, would we be liable ?" * " Which stretch of the canal is being considered? We live at Maerdy and would be happy to assist with a bit of path/hedge maintenance down our end   General Comments   * "We would support this proposal though our physical contribution would be limited, however we already do pick up  litter (& other folks dog waste) on a regular basis." * "Between the school and the top locks stretch is a disgrace."   Cllr Fynes wondered what the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) would provide in the way of support. He also asked whether individuals who take part in any work would be covered by the Canal & Rivers Trust insurance in the event of any injury.  County Cllr Arwel Jones asked what benefit would accrue to the Council and community .  Cllr Done said that the undergrowth had grown very quickly this year but the CRT only undertake two clearances per year, The Clerk added that the Trust is facing a reduction in government funding.  Cllr Done wondered whether the Council’s grounds maintenance contractor might undertake the work.  Cllr savage did not advise that the Council should enter into contractual arrangements in this respect.  It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the CRT and put the points raised by the meeting and individuals on Facebook to them to seek clarification.  **ACTION Clerk**  7.2. Social Media Activity  Cllr Parry was pleased to report that the website is once more up and running. He confirmed that all new councillors have been listed and asked all councillors to send him a recent head and shoulders photograph and potted biography which could be used to inform the public about their representatives.  He also asked for ideas on anything that might be included on the website. He said that there has not been much activity on Facebook in the last month.  7.3. Donation request – Wales Air Ambulance Charity  The Chairman reminded the meeting that, in the past, donations were restricted to bodies providing a direct service to the Carreghofa community. The Clerk said that the new guidelines would allow wider based charities to be supported if there was likely to be a benefit to the community.  County Cllr Arwel Jones referred to the current negotiations taking place on the re-siting of the Air Ambulance base. The Clerk said that the request was from the Air Ambulance Charity and was a separate matter from the negotiations referred to. Nonetheless Council decided to await the outcome of these negotiations after which it would make a decision on making a donation.  The Chairman asked the Clerk to make the charity aware of this.  **ACTION Clerk**  7.4. Donation Request – St. Agatha’s Church Clock  The request for a donation towards the maintenance of the clock as set out in the papers for the meeting was noted. The Clerk pointed out that the Council had already made a donation to the Clock maintenance this year but said that this could be taken as relating to 2022 / 23 as no donation had been made that year owing to the Council awaiting the decision on a full restoration of the clock. The last information on this was that the St. Agatha’s Parochial Church Council had taken three quotes for the work but no further progress seems to have been made.  Council agreed to make a donation of £85 for maintenance of the clock for the current year. Meanwhile Cllr Savage agreed that she would approach St. Agatha’s PCC to find out what the current position is on the proposed restoration project.  **ACTION Clerk to make the donation**  **ACTION: Cllr Savage to approach St. Agatha’s re the restoration.** |
| **8 Amenities**  8.1. Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field  Council noted the opinion from its grounds maintenance contractor in the papers for the meeting.  The Chairman said that he had not yet managed to set up a site meeting with the Football Club. The Clerk suggested that, when a meeting is arranged, the Council’s grounds maintenance contractor should be invited to attend. It was noted that Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council also maintain a football field in the village had done some work on it. It was suggested that that they be asked for details of what was done and costs.  A query was raised about the possibility of this land being included in the new Local Development Plan (LDP). It would not be sensible to spend money on restoration work if the future of the field was in doubt. The Clerk felt that it was not part of the LDP proposals but County Cllr Arwel Jones said that the new plan was not due to be published before next Spring but he would try to find out if the Football Field is likely to be included.  **ACTION: Clerk to contact Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council**  **ACTION: Chairman to arrange a meeting with the Football Club.**  **ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones to try to get information on the new LDP.** |
| **9. Highways and Byways**   * 1. Verges and potholes   County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he had visited Pen-y-Foel and agreed that there was work that urgently needs attention. Cllr James pointed out that with the recent heavy rains springs had flooded the roads and she was concerned that as the cold weather approached this could freeze and create dangerous conditions. The Chairman said the conditions on Carreghofa Lane were also becoming dangerous. He asked if Powys County Council had a problem with staffing. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that there were staff problems and some highways staff had been temporarily moved to assist with recycling. He also pointed out that pay differentials between private employers and local government played a pert in keeping staff numbers low.  County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would raise these issues again and would also take up the matter of the salt bins as reported in the papers for the meeting.  Cllr James also informed the meeting that there had been a spate of incidents; in one instance oil was taken from a tank and an attempted theft of a car had also taken place. The Clerk asked if these incidents had been reported to the police. Cllr James said that they had not. He said that he would inform the local Police Liaison Officer.  **ACTION Clerk**  **ACTION County Cllr Arwel Jones**  The Chairman asked if there was any information as to whether Gwlfryn had adopted status. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he had not received a response and would investigate further.  **ACTION County Cllr Arwel Jones**  9.2. Chapel Lane  Cllr Parry said that he had not been able to contact the owner of the corner house. He had emailed a contact to pass on the information to the owner. Cllr Savage felt that cutting back the vegetation would not greatly improve the visibility for traffic entering the A483. She felt that the angle of the road was, in itself, a problem.  9.3 Cae Haidd  Nothing further to report |
| **10 To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies**  10.1. Burial Board  Cllr Jones reiterated that the Board desperately needs to find an alternative burial site. The possibility of re-opening parts of the old churchyard at St. Agatha’s has received little support locally. It was suggested that the two local councils and the Burial Board jointly approach the relevant authorities at Lichfield Diocese to ascertain the likelihood of this idea bearing fruit.  This will be raised at the next meeting of the Burial Board to be held on 24th January 2024.  10.2. Powys C. C. and Town and Community Councils meeting  No meeting had been held  10.3. Village Hall  Nothing to report  10.4 CHC meeting  Nothing to 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. |
| | **From** | **Date** | **Subject** | | --- | --- | --- | | One Voice Wales | 4th October | Training Dates October | | Welsh Government via OVW | 4th October | Scrutiny of Draft Budget | | Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Services | 4th October | New Partnership to Increase the Number of Lifesaving Public Access Defibrillators | | Wales Local Places for Nature Capital fund | 4th October | Invitation for applications | | Play Wales | 4th October | Children & young people report | | One Voice Wales | 4th October | Air Ambulance | | Powys County Council | 4th October | Planning Decision Notice | | Russell George MS | 4th October | October newsletter | | Powys Green Guide | 16th October | Powys Community Action | | One Voice Wales | 16th October | **Second Phase of Wales Air Ambulance Service Engagement to Take Place in October** | | Smart Towns Cymru | 16th October | October newsletter | | One Voice Wales | 17th October | Training Dates October / November / December | | One Voice Wales | 17th October | Powys Community & Town Councils – Biodiversity grants available | | Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council | 24th October | Agenda and papers for meeting on 26th October | | One Voice Wales | 24th October | Remote event with SLCC – 8th November | | Play Wales | 24th October | Welsh Government response to ministerial review of play | | Powys County Council | 26th October | Road closures for Remembrance Day parades | | Play Wales | 26th October | October e bulletin |   **12. Any Other Business**  12.1 Wooden Planters  Mrs H Williams, the member of the general public present at the meeting said that the new planter authorised at the last meeting was now in place. She thanked Cllr Done for making the planter. She has now filled it with compost and asked if a small budget could be made available to purchase more compost and plants. Council agreed to a budget of £75. The Clerk said that, if Mrs Williams would submit receipts, he would issue payments up to the agreed amount.  Mrs Williams hoped that if the planter scheme was successful others could be located around the area. This was felt to be a good idea and Cllr Done said that he would identify some suitable sites.  Cllr Parry said that he would highlight this on the Council’s Facebook page.  It was further suggested that the front of the planters could be decorated with the Council’s crest. This is on the Chairman’s chain of office and the Chairman agreed that a copy could be made.  12,2, Remembrance Day Service and Parade.  The Chairman referred to road closures that will be in force during the parade on Sunday 12th November. County Cllr Arwel Jones produced a wreath which had been purchased for the occasion. The Chairman said that he would be unable to attend as he would be out of the country at the time. Cllr Parry, as Vice Chairman agreed to represent the Council.  Cllr Done asked about invitations for other councillors. The Chairman said that individual invitations were not sent out but all councillors were welcome, indeed encouraged, to be present.  12,3 Pylons  There is nothing more to report on the matter of pylons being located in the Vyrnwy valley and surrounding areas. The current activity has been a pre-consultation exercise and nothing more is expected until next year. The matter will remain on the agenda and kept under review.  12.4. Llanymynech and Pant By-pass  Cllr Fynes informed the meeting that the final planning application had been submitted for approval. However, to date, there is no allocation of monies for the scheme. The projection is that planning will be approved by 2025 and the bypass built by 2030 but councillors were sceptical that his would be achieved. |
| **14 Date of Next meeting**  Tuesday 28th November at Llanymynech Village Hall at 7.00pm. - Budget setting meeting.  **ACTION: All to note.** |

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_