Cyngor Cymuned **Carreghofa** Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2023

at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr R Dover (Chairman)

Cllr. I Done

Cllr J Fynes

Cllr C Hall

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

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| **1.Apologies for absence**    None |
| **2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**  Cllr Savage for item 7.4. |
| **3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st October 2023**  The minutes of the meeting held on 31st October were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Fynes and approved unanimously. |
| **4. Matters arising from the minutes**  4.1. Ref: min 4.2. Village Hall governing document  County Cllr Arwel Jones reported that the legal department at Powys County Council had declined to offer an opinion and suggested that the Community Council seek its own legal advice. It was suggested that the Council seek a view from One Voice Wales.  **ACTION: Clerk**  4.2. Ref min 7.4. St. Agatha’s Clock Restoration  Cllr Savage reported that the person who had been leading the Restoration and involved in getting quotes is no longer involved with the project and the matter is, at present, in abeyance, The Clerk confirmed that a donation of £85 for the maintenance of the clock had been made. |
| **5 Finance**  5.1. Current position  The Clerk reported the current positions as follows:-  Deposit account: £ 14578.84  Current account: £ 592.84  Pension account £ 73.87  5.2. Draft Budget 2024 – 25  The Clerk presented the draft budget as set out in the papers for the meeting. He recommended that, because of the pressures on residents due to the cost of living crisis, the precept should be kept at the same level as this current year. He said that other organisations that count towards the total precept will probably increase their amounts and that, the Council should publicise the fact that the Community Council element has not been increased.  To achieve this, it would be necessary to allocate money from Reserves. However, the Council has sufficient reserves to allow for this and this had been done in the current year but the reserves had not had to be used due to increased income and underspending on expenditure heads.  The clerk referred to the donations budget. This is projected to have a considerable end of year underspending but the Clerk recommended that the budget remain the same as this year and that the Council make further efforts to publicise to local organisations that monies are available for local projects. Cllr Fynes suggested that this is highlighted on the Council’s Facebook page as this seems to be well used at present.  The Clerk also pointed out that there has been no spending on capital projects this year but recommended that the budget be the same as set for the current year in the expectation that there may be a capital project in relation to the football field.  Cllr James felt that a project to install ‘highway furniture’ could be undertaken, such as gates at the borders with a ‘welcome to Llanymynech’ type message. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that the Trunk Road Agent would have to be consulted in relation to anything involving the A483 and he doubted, given past experience, that approval would be granted. It was agreed to keep the capital project budget at the same level as the current year.  Cllr Fynes proposed adoption of the budget. This was seconded by Cllr Done and passed unanimously.  5.3. Clerk’s Salary Award  Council received the notice from the National Association of Local Councils - 6 NOVEMBER 2023 E01-23 | 2023/24 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT relating to the agreement reached by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.  Cllr Fynes proposed acceptance of the award/ This was seconded by Cllr James and agreed unanimously.  5.4. Section 137 update  Council noted the report in the papers for the meeting regarding the above.  5.5. Approval of Payments  No payments were listed in the papers for the meeting but two items were tabled at the meeting. These were:-   1. A payment of £61.28 to Ms Helen Williams for plants for the new planter at Walls Bridge (see item 12.1 in the minutes of 31st October) 2. A payment of £20 to E. A. Jones for a wreath laid at the Remembrance Day parade.   These were both agreed. |
| **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 referred to the report from Katie Woodroffe in the papers for the meeting. And felt that the project was making good progress.  Cllr Fynes asked about the width of the new road at Walls Bridge. The chairman said that it had to be wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic. There was some doubt about the existing bridge but Cllrs Fynes and Hall said that, although the old road will disappear the bridge will remain as a footbridge.  Cllr savage was concerned that a nature reserve too close to the River Vyrnwy would be in danger of flooding. County Cllr Arwel Jones pointed out that the new nature reserves will not be open to the general public.  7.1.2. Canal adoption  Council noted the answers given by the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) to the questions put to it from the October meeting. The Clerk said that, whichever option was chosen, liability would rest with the Community Council. Cllr Fynes said that as long as the CRT had agreed to a programme of work, they would insure those undertaking it.  The Chairman said that we are really only talking about simple tasks such as litter picking, clearing vegetation and perhaps, signposting. Cllr Done said that the stretch of canal between walls Bridge and Carreghofa Locks looked easily manageable although the clearing would require the use of a strimmer.  Cllr Parry asked how far people would commit to carrying out the work. A number of people had offered help on the Council’s Facebook page but there was no guarantee that this would be forthcoming.  It was generally felt that, rather than formally adopting a part of the canal, the Council could agree with the CRT to undertake minor works such as mentioned above as and when necessary and with the agreement of the CRT. In this case it is expected that volunteers would be covered by the CRT’s insurance.  **ACTION: Clerk to convey the offer to the CRT.**  7.1.3 Community Space  The Clerk had circulated a map from Katie Woodroffe and noted that she would like to have the Council’s thoughts on the use of the space outlined in red by Friday 15th December. A number of suggestions were put forward with the principal view being that the current playground and adult gym equipment could be moved to the new space together with the picnic tables to create a new playground and public open space picnic area. The current land left once the road is put in could be utilised to provide more parking for the school and football field.  The Council is of the opinion that the memorial trees should be transplanted into the new community space.  The Council would like the CRT to agree that the space be reserved for the community but that, given the short time before the 15th December deadline, more detailed discussion should be had in the new year.  **ACTION: Clerk to write to Katie Woodroffe**  7.2. Social Media Activity  Cllr Parry said that there was nothing new to report. Nonetheless, it was agreed that this item should be kept on the agenda in order to keep the Council up to date on matters of interest to the general public.  7.3. Donation request – Wales Air Ambulance Charity  The Clerk said that the last meeting had decided to keep this on the agenda pending the outcome of the negotiations on the re-siting of the Air Ambulance base. Cllr Fynes felt that, whatever the outcome the Council should make a donation. It was agreed that a donation of £250.00 be made  **ACTION Clerk**  7.4. Donation Request – Llanymynech Community Cafe  Council noted the request for support of the Café in providing a winter warm space as set out in the papers for the meeting and decided to make a donation of £150.00  **ACTION Clerk** |
| **8 Amenities**  8.1. Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field  The Chairman reported that he had still heard nothing from the Football Club about a meeting with the Council. He had heard, informally that the club is not seeking major works.  Cllr Fynes noted that the pitch had just been mown and looks in reasonable condition. The Chairman remarked that the pitch is regarded as one in a very good condition.  County Cllr Arwel Jones said that the new Local Development Plan (LDP) will not be published until the spring, and so we will not know whether the football field has been included in the new LDP until then.  8.2. Planters  The new planter is now in place and councillors felt that other planters should be erected in different spots around Carreghofa. Cllr James said that residents of Pen-y-Foel had expressed a willingness to help. She felt that a planter should be put in the car parking area at the foot of Pen-y-Foel. She also suggested that information / interpretation boards could be placed in these sites.  Councillors were asked to suggest appropriate sites for planters and board. Cllr Done said that he would go round the area and take photographs of suitable places.  County Cllr Arwel Jones cautioned that any planters would need to be maintained and this would require both effort and commitment.  **ACTION: All to consider suitable sites**  **Cllr Done to provide photographs** |
| **9. Highways and Byways**   * 1. Verges and potholes   The Chairman noted that the potholes on Carreghofa Lane had been repaired. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would be bringing the new Highways Officer round in December. He had reported the damage to the salt bins and expected that this would be rectified in December.  Cllr James said that the drain on the left-hand side or the Offa’s Dyke path is now completely blocked and, after the recent heavy rains, water had flooded across the road. She was concerned that in a cold spell the water would freeze and create a hazard to road users. Suction is required to clear the blockage.  County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would convey these points to the Highways Department.  **ACTION County Cllr Arwel Jones**  9.2. Gwelfryn  Council noted the reply from Powys County Council on the situation with Gwelfryn. It is apparent that the road is not adopted and that it is unlikely to be adopted in the near future. As such it is likely that residents would be liable for any costs associated with maintaining the road  9.3 Cae Haidd  Nothing further to report |
| **10 To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies**  10.1. Burial Board  There has been no meeting. 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. A meeting is being scheduled for January 2024. |
| **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** | | --- | --- | --- | | Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service | 9th November | Community Risk Management Plan 2040 | | Powys County Council | 9th November | Business Growth Grant | | One Voice Wales | 13th November | Training dates November and December | | Play Wales | 21st November | November e bulletin | | One Voice Wales | 21st November | Cost of living crisis team | | Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service | 21st November | More than just fire awards | | National Highways | 21st November | Pant lighting upgrade scheme | | Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service | 21st November | Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week | |
| **12 Any other business**  12.1 The Clerk informed Council of a complaint from a resident relating to the burning of plastic waste at Hen Bwythn. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that this had happened a number of times in the past and the matter had been reported to Powys County Council’s Planning and Enforcement unit. The owner of the property had claimed that the disposal was for ‘home use’ and the matter had been closed.  The Chairman felt that the Community Council should raise its concerns with the County Council. Cllr Done that, in the first instance, we should contact local enforcement to catch the perpetrator when the plastic was being burnt.  County Cllr Arwel Jones agreed to raise the matter with the County Council again stressing the Community Council’s concern. He also said that he would contact the local police.  **ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones**  12.2. Cllr Hall raised the matter of pheasant pens on land adjacent to the Caravan Park. These were supposed to be temporary but were still in situ. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that such pens were normally dismantled after use. Cllr hall reiterated that they were still there and that an unpleasant smell emanated from the. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would investigate.  **ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones**  12.3. The Chairman asked about progress on changing 30mph signs to 20mph. The 20mph sign between the A483 crossroads and the School is now flashing but appeared to have little impact on traffic.  County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would check on progress.  **ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones** |
| **14 Date of Next meeting**  Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall  **ACTION: All to note.** |

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

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

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

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

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