

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2025
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr R Dover (Chair)
Cllr J Fynes
Cllr C Hall
Cllr. F James
Cllr C Jones
Cllr C Savage
Cllr. I Done
Cllr I Parry

In attendance:

County Cllr Arwel Jones

1. Apologies for absence

Mr M. Donkin: Clerk to the Council

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

Cllr James, Item 7.5 (Tennis Club donation request)

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th November were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Fynes, seconded by Cllr James and approved unanimously.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- 4.1. Ref: item 6.1 Planning application – no comments received. As noted below, this item refers to the Dolphin Inn.
- 4.2. Ref: item 7.3. Abandoned car at Dolphin car park (County Cllr Arwel Jones). The car was noted to be taxed and legally parked. It was agreed to review the matter with the PCSO
- 4.3. Ref: item 7.5. Link to Llanymynech & Pant PC website (Cllr Parry). To be confirmed at next meeting
- 4.4. Ref: item 7.6 Donations (Clerk). It was noted that the donations had been made
- 4.5. Ref: item 12.1 Care of War Memorial (Chairman and County Cllr Arwel Jones) No update to provide on this and, in view of the size of the area it was suggested that this could be covered by the new grounds miniatous contract if required.
- 4.6. Ref: item 12.2 Sustainable Powys meeting (County Cllr Arwel Jones). Cllr Jones reported that the meeting had taken place, but there were no significant outcomes to report
- 4.7. Ref item 12.3 High vis signs for planters (Cllr Done). Confirmation was provided on the requirements for planter signs, and Cllr Done agreed to progress the matter. There was also agreement that it would be useful to encourage local company sponsorship for each sign, in the

order of £30-£40 for each of the 7 signs, and that this could be advertised locally and through Facebook.

5 Finance

5.1. Current position

The clerk had circulated papers which confirmed that the Council's accounts as at Thursday 23rd January 2025 were as follows:-

Deposit account: £ 12213.11. The final tranche of the Precept (£3820) was received on 31st December 2025

Current account: £ 922.84

Pension account £ 75.54

5.2 3rd Quarter Financial Statement

The clerk had circulated papers which detailed Council finances for the 3rd quarter of the year, including explanatory notes on commitments and expenditure to date. These were noted and accepted in full.

5.3. VAT

Council is asked to note that VAT totalling £830.64 for the year to 31st December 2024 has been submitted to HMRC.

5.4. Approval of Payments

Approval was sought for the following payments as listed in the papers for the meeting: -

Clive Heaton: Ground Maintenance Contract January – March 25 - £895.19

Cllr Fynes proposed approval of payments, seconded by Cllr Jones, and approved unanimously.

6. Planning

Confirmation was again provided that the planning application which had not received comments related to the Dolphin extension, and that this application was proceeding (Ref 4.1 above)

The Chair also confirmed that one planning application in the Carreghofa area had been approved since the last meeting and that this referred to the relocation of an electricity pole and cable in the field adjacent to the Walls Bridge area and associated with development of the new canal crossing.

7. Other Matters

7.1. Montgomery Canal Development Project

It was noted that no further details were available on progress related to the canal development. It was understood that the application for the new Carreghofa Lane bridge was progressing but that approval had not yet been confirmed. There was no update to provide as regards development work on Williams Bridge or the schedule and timescale for future dredging work in Carreghofa, although it was reported that some dredging work had been undertaken on the stretch towards Four Crosses.

7.2. Grounds maintenance contract

Following the last meeting it was confirmed that the current contract would be ending in March because of Clive Heaton's retirement and therefore the Council would need to set up a new grounds maintenance

contract. The Chair confirmed that, further to the very helpful advice provided by the Clerk, that any new contract and appointment would need to be subject to a tendering process, and this would need to be completed in the next few weeks. It was noted that the current contract was light on detail and requirements, and therefore this was an opportunity to secure greater clarity on requirements and timescales.

Cllrs Done and Savage had undertaken work on identifying priorities and locations for on-going grounds maintenance and also those areas which required short-term action to bring them into good order. The Chair thanked both for their work in progressing this matter, and noted that this provided a very helpful basis for work on the new contract. There was extensive discussion of specific sites, including the maintenance of the area at the rear of the Dolphin car park and the Boundary Stone area at Yan-y-Foel, both of which are subject to occasional maintenance by Powys Council, and it was agreed that these should be included in the schedule for works. There was also discussion of the passageway adjacent to Ashfield Drive which, although formerly a right of way, was heavily overgrown and no longer used. It was considered that this latter would not be a priority for maintenance.

The Clerk had worked up a draft contract proforma, and the Chair circulated this at the meeting for reviews and approval. It was agreed that the template was extremely useful and, subject only to minor modification and updating in relation to specific sites, should readily be adopted as a basis for tender. The Chair agreed to progress this matter, working with the Clerk to finalise the draft contract document in order to be able to request tenders.

Action: Chair / Clerk

There was some discussion of potential interested parties who might be interesting in applying for the contract. It was also agreed that these be submitted to the Clerk.

7.3 Notice from CADW (County Cllr Arwel Jones)

The meeting received the notice from CADW, issued on 11th December, relating to the crane formerly in situ at Carreghofa Locks. It was confirmed that the building has been removed from the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. It is understood the building was removed without Listed Building Consent by the then owner (now deceased) in c1995 for conservation work, and whereabouts since unknown.

7.4 Defibrillator

Following the last meeting the Clerk had contacted Calon Hearts about options for the replacement of the current defibrillator currently located at The Dolphin. They confirmed that they were able to provide a number of options, and that all that was required was an online application for a donation statement. The application had been made but no response had been provided as yet.

In the meantime also Cllr Savage had undertaken a number of enquiries as regards the status and functionality of the current defibrillator. It wasn't fully clear whether the current machine was in good order and simply required maintenance. The Chair suggested that members should return to this item at the next meeting following further consultation and confirmation of status, and subject also to receiving details back from Calon Hearts.

7.5 Donation Request - Tennis Club

Council considered a donation request which had been received from Llanymynech Tennis Club for funds towards the purchase of a new security gate and fencing for the new shelter. A request for £350 had been received which would put towards the cost of the new gate, noting that equivalent donation requests has been made to Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council.

Cllr James was able to provide more detail and background as regards the request. She confirmed that it would enhance the facilities for the Tennis Club, and also that it would be to the benefit of the village as a whole. It was noted that there was scope to increase interest in, and membership of the Tennis Club within the community, and also for visitors and holiday makers, and this could be publicised through the Facebook pages.

Members were generally supportive of the request, recognised that it was within the remit of the Council's donation policy, although it was noted that the amount requested was above the level for other approved donations. Following further discussion it was agreed that a donation should be approved, but that it should be for a lower amount of **£250**.

Action: Clerk

7.6 Social media activity for the Council (standing item) (Cllr Parry)

A verbal report was provided on current social media activity was provided, although it was reported that there had not been any significant items for discussion or review. There had been positive feedback on the new planters and these had been welcomed as a community asset.

8. Amenities

8.1.1 Walls Bridge Lease

Further to communication with Hugo Van-Rees, Powys County Council's Farms Estate Manager, regarding the leasing arrangement for the playground area a request had been received for confirmation that the Council would be seeking to secure a lease on the remaining parts of the Walls Bridge playground area following completion of the bridge, noting that the new crossing would sever the current site. The Clerk had responded that the Council did wish to retain the remaining land, although the final location of the playground itself would be subject to confirmation of the exact site plan.

Members again confirmed that they wished to retain the whole of the land as a playground and recreational area, although it was not possible to confirm exact locations. It was hoped that this would become clearer with the final submission and approval of the planning application for the new bridge. Members unanimously agreed to accept that a new lease should be negotiated and agreed for this site, and that this should be reviewed at the next meeting of the Council.

ACTION: Clerk

8.2. Football Field

Nothing substantive to report. It was noted the fencing appeared to be in good order and no issues or concerns had been raised. There had been reports of graffiti on signs and this would be investigated.

9 Highways and Byways

9.1 Road Repairs and Potholes

The state of Carreghofa Lane and adjoining lanes remained a cause for concern, and winter weather and heavy farm traffic had made the problem considerably worse. Cllr Arwel Jones agreed to progress this further.

Action: County Cllr Arwel Jones

Concerns were raised regarding the lighting at the rear of the Dolphin car park. Cllr Arwel Jones agreed to review this matter.

Action: County Cllr Arwel Jones

Cllr James noted that there were still issues in the Pen-y-foel area, particularly with blocked drains on the Offa's Dyke Path, and also edging and drainage.

Action: County Cllr Arwel Jones

10 To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies

10.1 Burial Board

Cllr Savage reported that she had received a detailed update from Terry Ingram regarding the cemetery. This confirmed that the problem of securing additional burial space remained a priority as the Diocese had refused to release burial land within the church grounds. It was therefore considered that alternative space could be provide within the existing council grounds. This, however, would be subject to cost, and it was no clear what funds would be available to support this work.

Members agreed that it would be really helpful to have further details about these proposals, and also have more detailed information about burial costs and potential sources of income to support site clearance. It was proposed that Mr Ingram be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss this.

ACTION: Clerk

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

Nothing to report

10.3. Village Hall

Cllr Jones reported that there had been a recent problem with a burst water pipe and that there had been limited damage to the changing areas.

11 Correspondence

11.1. Matters of decision

There are no matters 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
Powys County Council	10 th December	Planning Decision Notice 25/11 to 6/12
Welsh Government via OVW	10 th December	Day and Respite questionnaire
Nature and Us via OVW	11 th December	Deliberative Engagement
Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service	11 th December	Community Ambassadors
One Voice Wales	16 th December	Training dates January to March 2025
Welsh Government via OVW	19 th December	Age Without Limits Day: Micro-grants for Age-friendly Communities
National Government via OVW	19 th December	Consultation on Reforms to the Compulsory Purchase Process and Compensation Rules
Russell George MS	3 rd January	January newsletter

Powys County Council	6 th January	Local Bus Consultation
Powys Teaching Health Board	7 th January	Meeting in Public of the Board of Powys Teaching Health Board
One Voice Wales	17 th January	Training dates January to March 2025
Powys Teaching Health Board	17 th January	Information update
Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council	20 th January	Agenda and Papers for the January meeting
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service	20 th January	MAWWFRS supports Register my Appliance week.

Item 12. Any other business from councillors

Cllr Jones again raised the issue of the possibility of siting a bus shelter on the A483. It was noted that shelters had been provide in the Four Crosses area, and County Cllr Arwel Jones will progress this matter.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones

Cllrs Done and Savage also raised the issue of power and jet-washing activity at the car wash at the junction, and reports of material being sprayed onto the main A483 and drain blockages. County Cllr Arwel Jones again agreed to look into this matter and report back.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones

13. Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 25th February 2025 at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall.

ACTION: All to note

Approved by Council as a correct record: -

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____