

# Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

## **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING Held at Canolfan Pennant on Tuesday 22 September 2015.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: DR Lloyd (Chairman), JE Jones, MH Jones, G Roberts, DG Smout, RP Williams, Clerk GD Bradley

### **1- Apologies for Absence**

Cllr P Williams, County Cllr D Mayor

### **2 - Declaration of Interests**

None

### **3 - Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting (28 July 2015) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr.JE Jones/ Seconded: Cllr MH Jones).

### **4 - Matters arising from Minutes**

Cllr G Smout mentioned that the media was reporting that the proposed three weekly waste collection cycle was more likely to be extended to a four weekly cycle. The Clerk advised that he had not received either confirmation of the former or any correspondence about the latter.

### **5 - Correspondence**

- *Centenary Fields Trust - Notification about partnership with Royal British Legion to protect green memorial spaces in perpetuity. The criteria refer to 'living spaces' used primarily for recreation, or sport, and accessible to the public*
- *One Voice Wales re: Public Contracts Regulations 2015 - Model standard orders for Councils relating to public works contracts with an estimated value of £25000 or more.*
- *One Voice Wales re: letter from Wales Minister for Public Services relating to Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales 2016 - This specifies the principal areas of Wales where local authority boundary changes should be reviewed by 31 July 2018. Powys is not affected.*
- *Planning Aid Wales - Reminder about planning training workshop at Newtown (6.30pm , 30 November)*
- *Russell George AM re: NHS update - Outline of options being considered for future make-up of Mid Wales healthcare services.*
- *Llanfyllin Group Practice Patients Group - Reminder about public meeting (Llanrhaeadr - 7.00pm 23 Sept 2015) relating to changes to local NHS services.*
- *Council for Protection of Rural Wales – Relaunch of Best Kept Village Competition in Montgomeryshire*
- *Powys County Council Archives Newsletter*
- *One Voice Wales - Consultation on proposed changes to Chapter 10 of Planning Policy Wales and TAN4 ( both relating to retail development)*
- *Proposed Meals on Wheels Service - Enquiry about possible level of interest in proposed 'Dinners to your Door' service by current owners of Green Inn. As it was not known by*

Councillors whether there might be any possible local takers for such a service, it was agreed that it would be helpful if a poster could be made available to put up locally - to be requested.

- *Powys Public Health Team - Update about the 'Design a smoke free sign' poster competition for Powys primary schools. A winning submission has been identified and requests for signs now to be submitted.*
- *Welsh Government – Confirmation that legislation has now been passed that from April 2018, Stamp Duty Tax and Landfill Tax will be replaced by Land Transaction Tax*
- *Russell George AM – September Newsletter.*
- *Powys Community Health Council – Notification of Full Council Meeting (Llandrindod Wells – 10.30 am 23 Sept 2015)*
- *Wales Air Ambulance Services NHS Trust - Notification of AGM (Machynlleth – 10.30am 29 Sept 2015)*
- *Play for Wales - Autumn newsletter*
- *One Voice Wales - Montgomeryshire Area Committee Meeting ( Carreghofa – 7.00pm 6 Oct 2015)*
- *One Voice Wales - Proposed Motions for AGM on 3 Oct 2015*

## **6 - Finance**

6.1 Current Bank balances were advised as:

Current Account - £4771.14 (as at 4 Sep 2015)

Deposit Account - £3094.38 (as at 4 Sept 2015)

6.2 The Clerk advised that the Wales Government Auditors (BDO) have now completed their review of our Annual Return. Two minor comments were made as following:

a) The Community Council payments to the two local churches have been flagged by the Council as being under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, this repeating a practice of many years that has not previously been challenged by BDO. Such donations should apparently be flagged under s214 of the Local Government Act.

b) Fixed assets: The Council should include all fixed assets owned by the Council in Section 1 of the Annual Return. This should be the value of the fixed assets recorded in the Fixed Assets Register, measured at cost value. Assets comprise of land buildings, plant and equipment that will be of economic value to the Council over a period substantially longer than one financial year.

Assets held as community assets, such as playing fields, war memorials etc. which are not likely to be sold should be included in the accounts at their historical cost or given a value of £1.

Neither of the above prevented BDO approving the Annual Return, Councillors accepting the BDO report but noting that these issues need to be addressed in future years.

6.3 The following payment were authorised :

- JE Jones - £175.00 - Payment for repair work undertaken to the Hirnant Cemetery path as per estimate previously provided (Proposer Cllr RP Williams / Seconded Cllr G Smout)
- BDO Auditors - £210.00 – External audit fee ( Proposer Cllr G Smout / Seconded Cllr JE Jones)

## **7 – Planning .**

The Clerk reported that notification has been received from Powys County Council that an Appeal has now been made to the Secretary of State in respect of the proposal P2014/0296 – *Erection of single wind turbine Land at Allt Goch (Penllwyn Farm) Llanfyllin*. This was Refused by Powys County Council earlier in the current year.

Cllr G Smout also reported that he understood that Consent has recently been given to a s106 occupancy modification but has been unable to find any information on the Powys Council website about the reason for the decision. The Clerk advised that he had not received written notification of any recent approvals. This led to discussion about the standing of a Community Council in the planning consultation process, there being much concern that our comments are apparently irrelevant to the eventual decision, and are also often not even reported.

The Clerk also commented that the Decision Notices are now +being sent to the the Community Council irregularly and there have also been two known recent instances of Planning Applications never being notified to the Community Council.

Both the Clerk and Cllr G Smout have noted that the Powys County Council Planning website is often not maintained up to date and is difficult to navigate which makes it impossible on occasions to track the progress of planning applications. Where an application is to be determined by Committee, the full transcript of the Planning Officer Report to Committee and recommendations should also be available online which does not appear to be the case

It was strongly felt that the time has come to seek a face to face meeting with a senior Planning Officer to discuss our concerns. As previous written complaints have had little effect, The Clerk considered that this request should be channelled through and also involve County Councillor Darren Mayor.

## **8 – Highways**

The joint Community Councils meeting with the regional highways manager due to be held immediately prior to this meeting was unfortunately cancelled by the officer 24 hour beforehand. The Clerk has no information at present about an alternative date.

## **9 - Council Assets – maintenance**

Cllr JE Jones confirmed that he had completed the improvements to the pathway across Hirnant Cemetery and submitted his Invoice.

Cllr JE Jones also advised that he had inspected the playground to look at the works recommended by the RoSPA report. Some items have now been made good but he was awaiting advice from an expert in respect of one element

## **10 - Website information**

Cllr G Robetts advised that he would shortly be adding a visitor counter to the website. He also urged that local organisations should be encouraged to regularly send in events information to be include in the relevant section.

The Clerk advised that, apart from the approved Minutes, he would be sending an Audit completion notice for inclusion.

## **11 – Clustering**

Nothing further has been heard about the proposed cluster group meeting. The Clerk therefore anticipated that it would be likely that the meeting date would be set at short notice and if such circumstances arose, it was agreed by all that Cllr G Smout be authorised to attend and make any necessary decisions on behalf of the Community Council. There remained some general unease about the limited costings so far circulated which did not appear be favourable to this particularly Council.

## **12 – Any Other Business**

No items raised

**13 - Date of Next Meeting**

Agreed as 7.30 pm Tuesday 27 October 2015.

*(Meeting closed at 8.35pm)*