

# Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

## **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING Held at Canolfan Pennant on Tuesday 23 June 2015.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: DG Smout (Acting Chair), JE Jones, MH Jones, RP Williams, P Williams, Clerk GD Bradley

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

Cllrs DR Lloyd, G Roberts, County Cllr D Mayor

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

The Clerk presented each Councillor with a copy of the latest Advisory Note from One Voice Wales relating to the Statutory Guidance on Access to Information Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. This outlines the latest Code of Conduct requirements in respect of those items where Councillors should declare a personal or prejudicial interest at meetings. A Register of interests will be added to the Community Council website and relevant interests recorded when declarations are made. There was a lengthy discussion about the difficulties of 'drawing the line' in a very small community where residents often worked or with or for one another, and it was agreed that practically a 'common sense approach' must be taken.

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

The Minutes of the last meeting (19 May 2015) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr. MH Jones / Seconded: Cllr. JE Jones).

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

None

### **5 Correspondence**

- *Russell George AM - dates of Summer Advice Surgeries.* The Clerk will post this on the Noticeboards
- *Powys County Council - Notification that Consultation /online survey has commenced regarding provision of public transport from November 2015*
- *Montgomeryshire Village Projects – Summary of recent Study outcome*
- *Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner – Quarterly update on work of Commissioner*
- *Powys County Council - Details of focus group meeting dates to discuss Early Years Education provision in Powys*
- *Powys County Council – Update on County recycling performance during 2014/15*
- *Russel George AM – June Newsletter*
- *Powys County Council – Invite to a Presentation by Planning Policy and Development Management Service on 6 July at Llandrindod Wells*

- *Wales Assembly – Notification of start of consultation period on Public Health (Wales) Bill.* The Clerk commented that this legislation would require, inter alia, the preparation of a community toilet strategy (!)
- *Powys County Council – Advising that the Council is considering introducing a three-weekly collection of residual waste (currently two-weekly). Other waste would still be collected on a weekly basis*
- *Powys Archives Newsletter*
- *Powys County Council – Notification of consultation meetings regarding changes to secondary education.* Councillors expressed considerable concern about the mooted possibility of the loss at secondary level of Welsh language medium education in this area. There was lengthy discussion about which of the Community Council, the school, or a local parent group would be best placed to represent the views of Penybontfawr community. However, as it is apparent that, as yet, the Ysgol Pennant Governors have not discussed this renewed threat, Cllr P Williams (as a School governor) was requested to raise this at their next meeting. Ideally, parents of current pupils at the school are better placed to be involved at this stage, with the Community Council willing to correspond with the County Council to endorse local opinion later in the consultation process. It was hoped therefore that a representative of the school will attend the forthcoming consultation meeting.

## **6 - Finance**

### **6.1 Current Bank balances were advised as:**

Current Account - £2005.96 (as at 4 June 2015)

Deposit Account - £3093.54 (as at June 2015). The Clerk reminded Councillors that he has recently transferred £350 from the Current Account to the Reserve Account - see previous Minutes.

6.2 The Clerk provided final information for the 2014/15 Financial Year ( Receipts and Payment Summary and Bank Reconciliation Statement). These have been independently audited and approved by RA Jones on behalf of the Community Council and he has completed and signed the relevant section of the External Audit Return proforma.

The Audit Return proforma was presented to Councillors and approved by all present (Proposer: Cllr P Williams/ Seconded: Cllr RP Williams) and the acting Chairman and Clerk then duly signed off the relevant sections.

This proforma will now be sent off to the Government Auditors and there will be a further stage to be processed by the Community Council when the auditors have satisfied themselves about the information provided.

The Clerk mentioned that on 24 May 2015 he had submitted the relevant proforma to HMRC office for refund of VAT paid for 1 Apr 2012 to 31 March 2015 financial periods (three years) which, if accepted, will recover £153.18 to the current Financial year account. A copy of the Return proforma was provided the internal auditor as he had subsequently queried this.

### **6.3 The following payments were authorised :**

- R A Jones - £30.00 - Payment for internal audit services (Proposer Cllr MH Jones/ Seconded Cllr J E Jones)
- MH Jones – £30.00 - Payment for repair of bus shelter (Proposer Cllr RP Williams/ Seconded Cllr J E Jones)

## 7 – Planning

- *Planning Application Ref: VAR/2015/0025 (Discharge of occupancy restriction under section 106 agreement) Garth Y Gelynen, Penybontfawr*

A number of Councillors present indicated that they had connections (not necessarily financial) with the applicant and the Clerk therefore advised them not to participate in the discussion. The remaining Councillors noted that this type of occupancy restriction had, in effect, been invalidated by another recent decision approving discharge in apparently similar circumstances and therefore concluded that the Community Council could not in the circumstances now oppose this application.

- The Clerk reported that notification had been received from Powys County Council that the *Planning Applications P2015/0411 and P2015/0286* had now been approved
- The next stage (the Deposit Draft) of the Powys Local Development Plan process has now been released. This identifies that only one area of land in the Community Council is now included for future housing development ( P49 HA1 - 0.4 ha of Land East of Ysgol Pennant, Penybontfawr). It anticipates that 10 houses (one to be 'affordable' category) could be built on this area which was included in the previous Development Plan for industrial development. A note suggested that some highways alterations would be necessary.

The Clerk observed that (i) this might still not be the final outcome as other landowners who have previously promoted their land could still dispute this allocation at the Local Development Plan Public Inquiry (ii) Penybontfawr is Designated as a 'Large Village' in the Deposit Plan and the extent of the village Development Plan boundary is now defined. Therefore other infill housing could still be built, subject to planning approval within this 'village envelope' (iii) If there is a proven need for 'affordable housing' within the area at a later date, the Deposit Plan indicates that this does not necessarily need to be constructed within the development boundary.

It was concluded that the Community Council did not wish to raise any representations in respect of the Deposit Draft

- The Clerk thanked Cllr G Smout for processing the planning application consultation *P2015/0365* during his absence on holiday . This related to a proposed hydro scheme, pipeline and ancillary structures at *Tynant Farm Nr Penybontfawr*. Councillors raised no Objections to the application.

## 8 – Highways

Cllr G Smout was pleased to confirm that BT and the County Highways department have now agreed an alteration to the dates when the length of Hirnant Road will be closed following his representations on behalf of the Community Council about the poor timing of the originally proposed period of closure. It has been agreed that this road closure will now be for 3 days only in the week beginning 21 July.

The Clerk advised that preliminary advice has been received from County Highways that a length of the B4396 (towards Llynclys) from the junction of with the B4391 (including the narrow bends where the road is considerably degraded) will be closed for re-surfacing in the week prior to the August Bank Holiday (24 August onwards). Notices will be posted about this road closure shortly.

Cllr G Smout advised that the changes proposed to the parking restrictions in Penybontfawr village have now been approved by the County Council, but he had no knowledge as to when these would be implemented. Three local objections had been received but clearly these had been disregarded together with the late representations that the Community Council had made about the discrepancies between the final plan and that initially discussed with the Community Council

## **9 – Clerk/ IT**

Whilst not contemplating resignation in the very near future, the Clerk indicated that this might become more likely during 2016 due to his desire to spend more time travelling abroad. He emphasised that this was a sole reason, as otherwise he would be happy to continue in the role. From the succession point of view, he therefore suggested that ideally in the meantime a Deputy Clerk might be sought to ensure that there was a 'smooth' handover upon his resignation, particularly bearing in mind that there will be an Community Council election next year, and also that the clustering proposals might be implemented. It was suggested that Councillors might start to look out for a suitable local person.

The Clerk also believes that, as IT increasingly dictates how the Clerk role is undertaken, the time might now be approaching when it could be cost effective to invest in suitable equipment which would pass on with the role. Printer ink and paper has become an ever increasing cost, and it would be possible to reduce this by using a lap top computer and projector to display correspondence, documents etc. at Community Council meetings, the initial outlay being offset by later savings. To be discussed further at a later date

## **10 - Council Assets – maintenance**

Cllr JE Jones advised that he had not yet inspected the condition of the path across Hirnant cemetery but hoped to do so when he made good damage to the adjacent Memorial surround wall.

## **11 - Website information**

Cllr G Roberts was not present at the meeting so no update.

## **12 – Clustering**

The Clerk advised that there was no further information to report about the Community Council being involved in a possible cluster group. A meeting had been promised for July but it is presumed the financial breakdown of costs has not yet become available from Powys County Council.

## **13 – Any Other Business**

Cllr P Williams raised an local issue about failure of the County Council to adopt the new cul de sac off Ffordd Goed, Penybontfawr. Apparently the highway is not yet constructed to adoptable standard but the developer is failing to undertake the remaining work despite some pressure from County Council. It is understood that the Council's Enforcement officer is currently involved. The Clerk commented that he was also having no success in obtaining a response from the County Council about the issue of the detached vertical slabs that were part the new pavement associated with the adjacent 4 house development off Hirnant Road . This is likely to be a similar issue i.e. the works agreed by the developer as part of a highways agreement associated with e grant of planning consent are not being enforced by the County Highways department (note: this development is currently incomplete so the road has presumably not yet reached the point when it can be required to be adopted as a public highway) .

Both of these issues to be raised with County Cllr Darren Mayor.

## **14 - Date of Next Meeting**

Agreed as 7.30pm, Tuesday 28 July 2015.

*Meeting closed at 9.35 pm*