

Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING Held at Canolfan Pennant on Tuesday 24 November 2015.

Present:

Councillors: DR Lloyd (Chairman), JE Jones, MH Jones, G Robert, DG Smout, RP Williams,
CoutClerk GD Bradley, County Cllr D Mayor

1- Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Williams

2 - Declaration of Interests

None

3 - Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (27 October 2015) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr MH Jones / Seconded: Cllr.JE Jones).

4 - Matters arising from Minutes

None other than raised later in Agenda

5 – Correspondence

- *British Red Cross - Annual request for funds.* Deferred for consideration at February 2016 meeting
- *One Voice Wales - Notification of various training courses available to Community Councillors*
- *Wales Government – Inviting applications for the following appointments a) the National Entity for Welsh for Adults Scrutiny Committee b) the Community Health Council Committee c) Wales Commissioner to the Equality and Human Rights Commission d) Chair of Arts Council of Wales*
- *One Voice Wales - Updating information available to Community Councils to help the understanding and exercise of the rights to protect and improve footpaths*
- *Tanat Cain and Vyrnwy Valley Cycle Route proposal – Report on meetings, progress and funding possibilities for this proposal.* The Clerk will provide more information at the next meeting as Community Council support is essential to this proceeding.
- *One Voice Wales – Consultation Event relating to Guidance for Allotments and Community led gardening projects*
- *Public Health Wales – Confirmation that signage designed by primary school competition is now available for erection.* The Clerk advised that he had agreed the location in Penybontfawr playground and confirmed that there would be no costs to the Community Council
- *Russell George AM November Newsletter –* The Clerk read out the sections relating to secondary school re-organisation, GP recruitment and Mobile coverage
- *Powys County Council – Advice about the criteria necessary to qualify for larger /additional waste bins*

- *Dyfed- Powys Police and Crime Commissioner – Notification about public consultation to ascertain what the public wish to pay for their policing. The outcome will help drive the level of precept that will be sought by the Commissioner for the 2016-17 financial year.*
- *One Voice Wales – Copy of responses on behalf of Community Councils to the consultation about the Statutory Guidance for the well-being of future Generations (wales) Act 2015*
- *Wales Government – October update for Community Councils.* The Clerk commented that he had not seen any earlier versions of this but that it provided some useful information on the progress of various new legislation, consultations etc.

6 - Finance

6.1 Current Bank balances were advised as:

Current Account - £4148.16 (as at 4 Nov 2015)

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

6.2 The Clerk advised that information has been received from the Society of Local Clerks about the necessity to provide set up pension provision for Clerks. He has therefore registered the Community Council with the Pensions Regulator to receive further information about the criteria, but on first read, it is likely that Penybontfawr Community Council may be exempt from this obligation as the Clerk Honararium is below the threshold. In any case, a Clerk can elect to opt out. This issue needs to be diligently monitored by Councillors and the replacement Clerk over the next 12 months.

6.3 The Clerk has drafted a provisional Budget for financial year 2016-17. This must drive the level of the precept request to be submitted by the Community Council for next financial year but as there is considerable uncertainty about the services and the possible direct costs relating to those provided by the cluster group possibly with effect from April 2016, it was pointless to discuss or finalise a Budget at present. However, as the precept request will need to be submitted no later than 22 January 2016, by which time more clustering detail might become available, an extra Community Council meeting will be necessary – see Section 8 following. This impossible scenario was strongly emphasised to County Councillor Darren Mayor

7 – Council Assets management

The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the guardian of Bethania Chapel cemetery who confirmed that all available plots are sold and, therefore, there was no charge level that would help inform the Community Council in respect of Hirnant Cemetery. No information had been received since the last meeting in respect of the St Thomas Cemetery graveyard but Cllr RP Williams was able at the meeting to verbally advise some basic figures. However these need to be clarified - therefore, a decision on the Hirnant Cemetery figures must be deferred to the next meeting

8 – Clustering

There was lengthy discussion about ongoing uncertainty of the detail of clustering proposals and the impacts, financial and otherwise, upon this Community Council. Cllrs JE Jones and G Smout updated the disappointingly few outcomes from the cluster group 20 October meeting, these principally relating to the setting up a Community Interest Company. The Clerk then shared a draft document setting out the proposed structure of this company which will require the extensive commitment of at least one Community Councillor from each member of the eventual cluster group

There was also a further meeting of the cluster group at the same time as this Community Council meeting, which representatives of the Penybontfawr had not attended due to the clash of dates and the short notice period. However, County Councillor Darren Mayor had been present at the

meeting and had then come on to the Community Council meeting, so he was able to update. Powys CC is currently waiting their Welsh Government precept settlement but it has become apparent very recently that this might be much lower than originally budgeted for earlier in the cluster process. A letter has been received by all Community Councils in the last few days indicating that the earlier figures may, in effect, be seriously flawed which throws the whole clustering process into uncertainty as available funding may now be much lower. The Clerk commented that until the financial implications and proposed service levels affecting this Community Council were categorically known, no commitment either way could be expected from this Council. This was supported by all Community Councillors.

The way forward is therefore completely unclear at present. The Clerk proposed a provisional date be reserved on 15 December (7.30 pm) for a further Community Council meeting to focus on such additional information then available – Clerk to advise nearer the date if this meeting is definitely proceeding.

9 – Clerk replacement

The Clerk enquired whether Councillors had identified any interested persons to take over this role. None had surfaced to date, so it was agreed to place an advert in both the local English and Welsh speaking media - Clerk to draft and pass to Cllr G Smout. The Clerk advised he would definitely need to hand over the role by 1 April as current plans meant that he would be away during most of April and May which are critical months for annual returns etc.

10 - Planning .

A letter has been received from Powys County Council that w.e.f. from 1 January 2016, all planning consultations would be notified online to Community councils.

The Clerk commented that he had another recent run-in with Powys County about correspondence being sent out electronically to the incorrect Community Council (three recent failures recently taken up with Powys CC). Therefore, whilst accepted as a cost saving method of communicating by Powys CC, he expressed concern about (i) about the ability of County Council officials to identify the correct contact despite the dedicated Clerk e-mail address being registered with Powys CC for some three years now (ii) how it will be possible to understand /interpret the detail of Planning Applications plans at A4 scale, this being the usual printer size only available to most Clerks (iii) the additional printing cost that will be incurred by the Community Council.

He re-visited his earlier suggestion that the Clerk could be provided with a Community Council 'lap-top' which included the program/ equipment that enabled projection of such documents on a screen at Community Council meetings

11 – Highways

The Clerk advised that the Permanent Traffic Order relating to changes to parking restrictions in Penybontfawr village centre was formally made on 23 November 2015. It was not yet known when the County Council will implement the changes.

The Clerk circulated details of the routes identified for full and secondary bad weather gritting treatment so far as they effect access to and within the Community Council area. Cllr Roger Lloyd was able to verbally add useful substance to this basic information.

12 - Website information

Cllr Graham Roberts provided an interesting insight into the encouraging levels of 'hits' upon the Community Council website over the last 5 months.

The Clerk mentioned that he had received two recent direct approaches for information about deceased residents of the area – therefore, it might be useful to include the Hirnant Cemetery graveyard information on the website

13 – Any Other Business

No items raised

13 - Date of Next Meeting

Agreed as 7.30 pm, Tuesday 26 January 2016

In the event of more information becoming available post- meeting about the 'clustering' proposal, Tuesday 15 December was provisionally identified for an extra meeting - Clerk to confirm beforehand

(Meeting closed at 9.20 pm)