

Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING Held at Ysgol Pennant on Tuesday 26 March 2013.

Present:

Councillors: RP Williams (Chair), JE Jones, MH Jones, DR Lloyd, GJ Roberts, P Williams, Clerk
G Bradley, County Cllr D Mayor

1- Apologies for Absence

DG Smout

2- Declaration of Interests

None

3- Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (26 February 2013) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr JE Jones/ Seconded: Cllr DR Lloyd)

4- Matters arising from Minutes

The Clerk advised that he had not been able to locate a contact name /address in respect of the proposed charitable payment to Cymdeithas Adloniat Tanat. Cllr RP Williams promised to identify a contact.

The Clerk expressed frustration to County Councillor Darren Mayor, that despite various emails sent four or more weeks ago (which were mostly follow ups from earlier emails) about (i) a variety of highways issues including a request for a site meeting (ii) website funding (iii) car park fencing and hazardous waste bins, no responses or acknowledgements had been received and no action had been taken. Copies of the relevant emails were handed to County Cllr Darren Mayor who then committed to follow them up

Cllr GJ Roberts requested that commemoration events for the First World War was included as an Agenda item for the next meeting

5 – Correspondence

- *CFFI Dyffryn Tanat YFC - Request for a contribution towards cost of competing in the County Welsh Drama Festival - After discussion, Councillors voted to give a grant of £50 as part of the 2013/14 section 137 allocation - see 'Finance' item following.*
- *One Voice Wales - Copy of Wales Audit Office report on the Procurement and Management of Consultancy services*
- *Dyslexia Wales - Request for funding donation. It was agreed to postpone consideration until the February 2014 meeting*
- *One Voice Wales - Notification that the Minister for Housing has launched the Welsh Government's new regeneration framework 'Vibrant and Viable Places'*

- *Public Ombudsman for Wales Supply of 'Want to Complain about a Public Body' booklets. The pack included a Model Complaints Policy framework for public service providers. The Clerk recommended that the Community Council publish copies of its Policies on the proposed Community Council website, when created*
- *Play for Wales – Spring issue newsletter*
- *Wales Rural Observatory - Services Survey 2013. The Clerk confirmed that he will complete and return the survey.*
- *Powys County Council Standards Committee - Notification that the dispensation granted to town and community councillors who were Trustees of registered charities has now been extended to non-profit making clubs that contributed significantly to local communities throughout Powys but which were not registered charities (e.g. sports clubs, allotments associations, drama groups. Local festival etc.)*
- *Russell George AM - Newsletter*
- *'The Big Lunch' (2 June) update*
- *One Voice Wales – Information and posters about the measles outbreak in Powys*
- *Western Power Distribution – Notification of stakeholder workshop re: Draft Business Plan for 2015 – 2023*
- *One Voice Wales – Information about Fallen Stock Guidance issued by Welsh Government*
- *One Voice Wales - Notification about Montgomeryshire Area Committee meeting. There was again discussion about the short notice given for these meetings and the Clerk was requested to write to the Chief Executive about the very short notice given for OVV Montgomeryshire Area Committee Meetings which made it impractical for Councillors to attend.*
- *Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner - Notification of publication of final version of Police and Crime Plan*
- *One Voice Wales – Allotments/ Community Growing Training Programme Notification of courses during May*
- *Rebecca Evans AM – Newsletter*
- *One Voice Wales – Availability of Planning Training Modules*
- *One Voice Wales – Reminder about Councillor bursary scheme for training programmes*
- *Yew Trees in Hirnant Cemetery – The Clerk advised that he had been handed information by St Illog Community Trust about the yew trees in the cemetery. A survey has revealed that these range in age from 300 to 500 years (three trees)*
- *One Voice Wales – Spring 2013 edition of 'The Voice'*

6- Finance

Current Bank balances were advised as:

Current Account - £ 1843.68 (as at 4 April 2013)

Deposit Account - £ 3290.10 (as at 4 March 2013)

- Councillors approved renewal of membership of 'One Voice Wales' at the annual subscription of £60 (Proposer: MH Jones/Seconded: DR Lloyd).

- A request has been received from CFFI Dyffryn Tanat YFC for help with their costs incurred for competing in the English Drama All Wales Finals Competition. It was agreed to donate £50 (Proposer: GJ Roberts/ Seconder: JE Jones). This would count towards the s.137 contributions for 2013/14 and the cheque should therefore only be issued in the next financial year period.
- Cllrs approved the £70 cost of obtaining a Health and Safety Inspection Report for the playground from Powys CC (Proposer JE Jones/ Seconded P Williams)
- The Clerk advised that advice had been received from the national auditors that all Community Councils should now register with HMRC for PAYE. This had now been done and will mean that in future financial years all honorarium payments to the Clerk must be paid net of tax.
- The Clerk submitted his claims for expenses (£60.97) and the honorarium (£500) for the second half of the financial year which were approved (Proposer JE Jones/ Seconded GJ Roberts)
- The Clerk advised that the initial paperwork had been received from the Government Auditors setting the target dates for return of financial information. As these partially overlapped the Clerk's absence on holiday, he had agreed revised dates with the auditors, the significant target dates now being the Community Council Meetings at end of June and July

7 - Insurance Cover

The Community Council insurance cover is due for renewal at 1 June 2013

The Clerk updated Councillors about his enquiries about alternative insurance that would also provide full cover for Hirnant Churchyard including the perimeter wall, the nearby war memorial and for the graves/ gravestones. Despite a telephone call with the existing insurers (AON) they have failed to provide a revised quote probably because they had shown an unwillingness to include the cemetery wall specifically in the policy apart from under the Public liability section. An approach to Ecclesiastical; Insurance (which covers Hirnant Church) produced a straight negative response.

However, Zurich Insurance, who the Clerk had previously noted have been touting for Community Council business, has provided a premium quote on the basis of approximately the same terms as the existing cover plus cover for the war memorial (at replacement cost of £10000), the cemetery perimeter wall (at a replacement cost of £50000), and the gravestones (at a replacement cost of £20000). This quotation assumes that annual inspections of all structures are responsibly carried out by the Community Council representatives and that any maintenance work found to be necessary has in the past and will in the future be carried out. The Clerk had elaborated to the insurance company the recent inspection by Councillors of the graveyard. The quote by Zurich offered an annual premium of £1140.34 (against the AON quote on a lesser cover basis of £845.05). If the Community Council was to commit to a five year 'Long Term agreement', the premium would then be fixed at £1044.85 for Years1-3. Councillors were wary of the latter arrangement as it left it vulnerable to a non-competitive premium for Years 4-5. The Clerk was requested to clarify/ verify the five year arrangement on offer but, if it was confirmed as above, then to accept cover on the basis of a 1 year cover only at a the premium of £1140.34 (Proposer MH Jones/ Seconded JE Jones)

8 - Review of Risk Assessment & Asset Register

The current Risk Assessment document was reviewed by Cllrs and found to be fit for purpose. The Asset Register was also reviewed. Some amendments were thought necessary e.g. inclusion of the war memorial at Hirnant (recently found to be the Community Council's responsibility), and rewording of the Hirnant Churchyard description to make mention of the gravestones and perimeter wall.

9 - Replacement of car-park waste bin

See 4) Matters Arising above

10 - Planning

Powys CC had sent plans of areas of land that are being considered as being suitable for inclusion in the forthcoming Development Plan with a request the Community Council provide written comments by late May. There was lengthy discussion about the merits of the respective areas, but as there appeared to be an omission in the information sent, discussion was deferred until the next meeting allowing the Clerk to check for the missing detail.

A second Planning application consultation has been received in respect of the proposed wind turbine at Parc Isaf. This continues to cause Councillors' concerns due to the potentially high visual impact that would result on the Community Council boundary. After discussion the Clerk was requested to make a submission that it should be rejected unless the mast was designed to supply electricity to serve the applicant's farm only i.e. there was not a surplus generated as a result of the excessive size of the turbine mast that would then be sold back into the grid.

Cllr JE Jones enquired whether a planning consultation had been received in respect of Garth Cileos. The Clerk had no knowledge of this application and undertook to make inquiries.

11 – Highways

There was a discussion about the shortcomings of Powys County Council Highways in clearing roads in the immediate area after the exceptional late March /early April snowfalls. County Cllr Darren Mayor acknowledged that the County had failed to recognise the extreme snowfall in this area and had therefore failed to react immediately. He also advised that a full review performance in this respect was being carried out at County Hall. There was a possibility that Powys CC would also approve the erection of an electronic sign close to the Llancllys crossroads that could give advance notice to motorists when the high road over the Berwyns towards Bala was impassable. Cllrs reported that the car park light was again malfunctioning and also that the street light by the telephone kiosk had failed. Clerk to report to Highways.

See also 4) Matters arising above.

12 – Hirnant Community Centre – Gravestone inspection

Cllr RP Williams provided a verbal summary of the inspection of the gravestones, graves and perimeter wall carried out on 2 March. Cllrs JE Jones, G Smout and P Williams were also present, as was the Clerk. The Clerk has subsequently made a file record (including some photographs) of the findings and proposed actions, which are summarised as follows: -

- i) That some repointing of the lime mortar was necessary to a length of the perimeter wall on the curved corner, which would also benefit from some protective wood/ steel posts on the roadside edge.

- ii) The concrete coping has split in various places along its length. These gaps should be sealed to deter downwards penetration of water into the structure of this stone wall. Any lengths found to be particularly loose should be removed and re-concreted

A quotation will be obtained from a trusted local builder for undertaking the work outlined in (i) & (ii)

- iii) A number of vertical gravestones were found to be unstable and, as precaution these were immediately laid flat on the ground/ grave (as appropriate). Where possible descendant families would be notified of these actions in the hope that they might then have the gravestones reset to meet H&S standards
- iv) The war memorial was currently found to be in adequate structural condition

13 - Hirnant Community centre – Perimeter wall

Due to lack of time available, the discussion about proceeding with the proposed repairs was deferred until the next Council Meeting when it is hoped a formal quotation for the work will be available.

14 - Any Other Business

The Clerk enquired whether Cllr MH Jones and Cllr JE Jones were happy to put their names forward for the posts of Chair and Vice Chair respectively in the forthcoming Council year as per the previously agreed rota. They confirmed they would be willing to stand

15 - Date of Next Meeting

As discussed at a recent meeting, the Clerk confirmed that he would be away on holiday from 8 - 30 May and suggested the following dates for meetings

Tuesday 7 May 2013 - AGM followed by Community Council Meeting (rescheduled from 30 April)

Tuesday 4 June 2013 - Community Council Meeting (rescheduled from 28 May 2013).

The amended dates were agreed

Meeting closed at 9.45pm – Note: 7Due to heavy snow, the original meeting was unfortunately necessarily deferred to a specially arranged later meeting at which the Agenda items set out for 26 March (to which the Minutes above mostly refer) were dealt with.