

Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING Held at Canolfan Pennant on Tuesday 27 November 2012.

Present:

Councillors: RP Williams (Chair), JE Jones, MH Jones, GJ Roberts,, DG Smout, P Williams, Clerk G Bradley, County Councillor D Mayor

1- Apologies for Absence

Cllr. DR Lloyd

2- Declaration of Interests

None

3- Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (4 December 2012) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr JE Jones/ Seconded: Cllr GJ Roberts)

4- Matters arising from Minutes

Clerk advised that some items would be updated by him later in Agenda so nothing raised at this stage .

5 – Correspondence

- *Oswestry University of the Third Age - Launch of new U3A on 13 March 2013*
- *Age Cymru Powys - Enclosure of winter edition newsletter ' Powys AGEnda*
- *One Voice Wales - Re-launching of successful Volunteer responder system for policy consultations and request for new members*
- *Powys County Council - Notice of consultation period for Council Tax Reduction Scheme that will be handed over to be run by local authorities*
- *One Voice Wales - updated list of grant schemes available for environmental projects*
- *One Voice Wales - Copy of Keep Wales Tidy's Annual Review for 2011-12*
- *One Voice Wales – Applications for the chair to Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa (CCDG)*
- *One Voice Wales – Applications for appointment to the Alcohol & Education Members to the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse (APoSM)*
- *Janet Finch - Saunders AM/AC - sending best wishes for a happy and successful New Year.*
- *One Voice Wales - Information about the Strong Roots Project – Green Futures Training Programme*
- *One Voice Wales - Request for nominations to the Consumer Council for Water (CCWater) Wales Committee*
- *Dyfed-Powys Police - Neighbourhood Management Update*
- *One Voice Wales - Notice of Montgomeryshire Area Committee Meeting on 15 Jan 2013*

- *Powys County Council Standards Committee - Notification of the extension of the blanket dispensation granted to Community Councillors to participate, speak and vote in respect of Council business relating to schools*
- *One Voice Wales – Publication of the third Annual Report of the statutory Director of Services (Apr 11- Mar 12)*
- *One Voice Wales – Information about the new Welsh National Planning Policy document that states that the economic benefits of development should be given the same consideration as social and environmental issues when Councils are drawing up Local Plans*
- *Powys County Council Standards Committee - Notification of blanket dispensation granted to Community Councillors who are Trustees of Charities*
- *One Voice Wales - Notification that CyMAL, in conjunction with Heritage Lottery Fund, will be holding events shortly to start discussions with organisations in Wales on how to develop ideas, partnerships and events to commemorate World War One*
- *One Voice Wales - White Paper proposals for the Sustainable Development (SD) Bill*
- *One Voice Wales – Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill – OMV wales response on behalf of Community Councils*
- *Dyfed-Powys Police – Copy of warning to Penybontfawr residents about illegal parking close to junction of B4396 (Hirnant Road) and B4391*
- *Rusell George AM - News and programme update. County Cllr D Mayor added information to one item: the Powys CC funding grant for the forthcoming financial year is lower than any other region in Wales and has been cut back so spending will need to be further curtailed.*
- *One Voice Wales – Winter edition of ‘ The Voice’*
- *Urdd National Eisteddfod (Wales’ largest youth organisation) – update and request for funding contribution*
- *Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations – Notification of meetings in late March regarding Community Engagement / building relationships with local people*

6- Finance

Current Bank balances were advised as:

Current Account - £ 3428.88 (as at 4 Jan 2013)

Deposit Account - £ 3289.21 (as at 4 Dec 2012)

An Invoice has been received for £585.00 from A Hughes for the annual maintenance of the Hirnant Churchyard. The Clerk reported that this was slightly above the original quotation as it included for additional maintenance of the adjacent War Memorial. Payment was agreed (Proposed G Smout /Seconder: MH Jones). A cheque was signed accordingly

The Clerk informed Councillors that in the period since the previous Community Council meetings, and with a limited time for response, a request had been received from Powys County Council for submission of the Community Council's bid for Precept payment for 2013/14. He had therefore looked at the Council's finances over the previous three financial years, and submitted for an uplift of 2.7% over the Precept payment for the current year 2012/13. There is of course no guarantee that this 2013/14 bid (for £4959 including concurrent functions) will be accepted as a result of the severe financial constraints being imposed on Powys County Council but, if agreed, the Precept would then still be nominally lower than the amount received for 2011/12.

This bid took into account the following:

- i) After allowing for extraordinary Election costs, the Community Council had submitted a bid for Precept 12 months ago based on a reduction of 5% below the previous year.
- ii) The Precepts including concurrent grant awards were: £4926 in 2010/11 and £4965 in 2011/12
- iii) The Grants already notified for 2013/14 in respect of Concurrent functions for recreation and cemeteries have been slightly increased after taking into account separate recent submissions by the Clerk about actual costs incurred (e.g. rising insurance cover and the high cost of maintaining Hirnant Churchyard without this being offset by any income over the past 2 years)
- iv) The probable inadequacy of existing Community Council reserves to cover the potential cost of repairing the Hirnant Churchyard wall

The Clerk then advised that he had also recently received a request for submission of a bid for Village Hall Annual Revenue Grant. Whereas this County Council Grant has previously been based on historic payment information, for 2013/14 it is now to be based on forward projections. To assist budgeting, the Community Council has previously agreed to determine the annual donation to the village hall at our February meetings. This decision was advanced to the current meeting and it was then agreed after discussion that the donation should be £1000 in for the current financial year (Proposed; G Smout /Seconder: MH Jones) – a cheque was signed accordingly. Information was also provided that the Village hall finances are currently in a reasonable state and it was therefore considered likely that a similar donation may well be made in the next financial year and that the Clerk should bid for this amount.

There was also discussion about Hirnant Community Centre and whether it came into the category of a village hall for the purpose of this Village Hall Grant submission. The Clerk mentioned that he had recently received a verbal request for a further donation. Cllr G Roberts then provided useful background into the origin of the Hirnant Trust, and it was concluded that it was definitely a Charity rather than a Community owned building. It should therefore be added to the list of local charities to be considered for grants at the next meeting.

A section 137 Notice had been received from Wales Government that the maximum sum for charitable donations during 2013-14 has been set at £6.98 per elector

7 – Planning

P/2012/1348 – 4 Y Ddol Penybontfawr –The Clerk reported that he had discussed the Community Council concerns with the Planning Officer explaining that Councillors had some concerns that the expansion of this dwelling would take it well up-market and therefore beyond the local needs category. Recently the Planning Officer had made contact again and advised that the existing property has a floor area of 70 sq.m, the proposed extension a proposed floor area of 40 sq.m, and that, as this was under the maximum gross area set by planning guidance for affordable/local needs housing, the extension would be permitted. Planning consent has now been granted for the proposed extension to this 'local Needs dwelling'.

The Clerk reported that he had attended the quarterly County Council planning briefing. Powys County Council are still preparing the Local Development Plan and have confirmed that they will seek opinions from all Councils early in 2013 before publishing the draft LDP.

Dyfnant Forest Windfarm - A copy of the Non-Technical Summary of the preliminary Environmental Appraisal has recently been received. Councillors further discussed the Community Council position of this planning application and concluded that whilst the proposals

would not have any significant impact on this Community Council, the Clerk should write to the Campaigning Group to express representative support.

The Clerk reported that he had obtained a copy of the planning submission by Llanrhaeadr -Y-M Community Council in respect of the proposed Parc Isaf Wind turbine. As this token in content indicating no strong opposition, he had had not submitted a separate Objection

8 – Highways

Powys County Council has advised that there is a LED street light replacement scheme that will be rolled out across all areas during 2013. This will save electricity and reduce the Council's carbon footprint. Councillors confirmed to County Cllr D Mayor that they request that all streetlights in Penybontfawr to be brought back into use i.e. those currently switched off for economy reasons would be reinstated.

Councillors were pleased to note that the car-parking lighting had been repaired at long last – thanks to County Cllr D Mayor for assisting with this.

A number of potholes issues were raised to be reported but there was also general concern about the many potholes that were appearing and the rapidly deteriorating condition/ subsidence of the verges of some roads – the back (eastern) road from Penybontfawr to Llanwddyn was particularly cited as becoming potentially hazardous. Also a number of extensive new water run- offs from adjacent farmland have materialised as a result of the heavy rains that were flooding lengths of well used roads sometimes to a dangerous extent (eg the Llangynog road). County Cllr reiterated that financial cut backs would make it very difficult for Powys County Council to maintain roads to the same standard as previously.

The damage caused by the many logging lorries in particular was also raised. The Clerk undertook to contact FCW to ascertain which areas of forest locally were to be clear felled over the next 12 months – the condition of public roads be used by the logging lorries extracting the timber from these areas could then be recorded on a ' before and after' basis

The Clerk was asked to investigate whether salt storage boxes could be installed in Y Ddol and the village car-park.

9 - Clerk Replacement

The Tanat Chronicle advertisement requesting expressions of interest for either the Assistant Vacancy or for taking over the Clerk role fully would appear in 1 Feb edition. However the Clerk informed Councillors that as he had now resigned from his other Clerk role this therefore made it more practical for him to continue fulltime as Penybontfawr Clerk providing that there was occasional flexibility about dates of meetings in some months (May and October was mentioned). Councillors kindly indicated a willingness to be flexible in this respect.

10 - Hirnant Community centre – perimeter wall

Cllr G Smout updated on discussions held with Cadw about the possibility of a grant for repairing the Hirnant Churchyard wall. Their priority criteria related to the repair of buildings and therefore whilst an application could be submitted, they advised it was unlikely to be supported.

The Clerk would follow up the earlier approach made to his Church In Wales contact as no response had yet been received.

The question of whether the wall was likely to be insured was discussed – Clerk to contact Insurers to ascertain extent of existing cover.

11- Any Other Business

The Clerk mentioned that a Hirnant resident has kindly undertaken to make a replacement metal framed noticeboard for outside the Hirnant Community Centre – the two existing wooden noticeboards are in very poor condition. The use of this would be shared by the Community Council and Hirnant Community Centre. The Clerk had indicated to him that the Community Council would be pleased to offer to make a contribution towards the costs of materials.

12 - Date of Next Meeting

Agreed as 7.30 pm on Tuesday 29 January 2012.