

Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING Held at Canolfan Pennant on Tuesday 28 January 2014.

Present:

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

1- Apologies for Absence

GJ Roberts,

2- Declaration of Interests

None

3- Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (26 November 2013) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr. DG Smout/ Seconded: Cllr. JE Jones).

4- Matters arising from Minutes

No matters raised

5 – Correspondence

- *NCPCC – Winter 2013 Newsletter and request for contribution*
- *Powys CC – Notification of round table meeting on 16 Jan 2014 regarding budgeting for PCC and Powys Teaching Health Board*
- *One Voice Wales – Winter Newsletter*
- *One Voice Wales – Invitation to enter ballot for Chairperson attendance at Buckingham Palace 2014 garden parties*
- *Powys Archives Newsletter – There was discussion about lodging historic Community Council Minutes with the archive*
- *Welsh Government – Council tax reduction scheme consultation*
- *One Voice Wales – Notification of public appointment vacancy (Tax Professional and Academic Member to Welsh Government Tax Advisory Group)*
- *Powys CC – Rural Housing newsletter*
- *One Voice Wales – Information about partnership agreement scheme between PCC and Community Council*
- *Powys CC – Waste and recycling information*
- *Welsh Government - Notification about public consultation on proposed changes affecting ambulance services.*
- *One Voice Wales – Training programme Jan-July 2014*
- *Welsh Government – Natural Resource management e-bulletin*
- *Montgomery Community Health Council – re: ‘Stay Dry’ January anti-alcohol Campaign*
- *Powys CC – Waste management publicity materials etc. about recycling*
- *Police and Crime Commissioner – re: restructuring of Dyfed Powys police force*

- *Capita Conference – Notification of conferences (14-19 Qualifications in Wales) and (Developing Commercialism in Local Government)*
- *Post Office Advisory Council – Invitation to individuals to apply for membership*
- *Russell George AM – January Newsletter updating his recent activities plus copies correspondence to Ministers about a) Safer Routes in Communities Scheme b) Grants' and Tourism Brown signs*
- *Spinal Injuries Association – Fundraising packages for the 'Great British Fish and Chip Supper' on 16 May 2014*
- *Wales in Bloom Questionnaire*
- *One Voice Wales – Notification about Consultation about changes to the planning system including 'Place Plans' having the status of supplementary Panning Guidance. Cllr G Smout agreed to look at this.*
- *Wales Government – Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery final report*
- *One Voice Wales – Survey about Burial space availability. The Clerk advised that this had been completed and returned.*
- *Montgomeryshire Community Health Council – Survey about obtaining appointments with GPs*
- *Amenity Land Solutions – Planting products for trees, shrubs and amenity areas*
- *One Voice Wales - Notification of public appointment vacancy(Membership of Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group*
- *PAVO – Notification of course (Staff Development in your Organisation)*
- *Powys CC – Acknowledge of Clerk's request for a copy of the latest Definitive Footpath map*
- *Powys CC – Recruiting lay members for the Standards Committee*
- *Daren Mayor – Reminder that Orange pay compensation for loss of signal*
- *Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru – Reminder about request for funding contribution*
- *Canolfan Pennant – Request for contributions to the 10 May 2014 fundraising promise auction*

6 - Finance

- Current Bank balances were advised as:
Current Account - £4113.40 (as at 4 Jan 2014)
Deposit Account - £3291.06 (as at 4 Dec 2013)
- Approval was given to payment of the following invoices
A Hughes - £605.00 for Hirnant Cemetery mowing/ hedge trimming in 2013.
Proposer: Cllr JE Jones/Seconded: Cllr R Lloyd
A H Jones - £524.00 for Repair/ decoration of bus shelter. Proposer: Cllr DR Lloyd/ Seconded Cllr DG Smout.
- The Clerk advised that the Welsh Government has set the maximum 'section137 expenditure' limit for 2014/15 at £7.20 per elector (up from £6.98 per elector for 2013/14)
- The Clerk advised that since the last meeting, information about the Community Council Precept for 2014/15 had been requested by Powys CC. The Clerk had submitted a requisition for the same level of income as the current year. The impact of this on the Budget will be elaborated at the next meeting.
- The Clerk advised that an Annual Return need to be completed and sent back to Powys CC by 31 Jan 14 in respect of the Village Hall Revenue scheme. It would therefore be

helpful to discuss and agree the proposed donations to be made in the current financial year by the Community Council in respect of Canolfan Pennant/ St Thomas Church/ Bethania. The Clerk advised that in 20112/13 these were as follows :

Canolfan Pennant	£1000
St Thomas Church	£370
Bethania Chapel	£370

(There is also Hirnant Community Trust Hall but agreement on this to be deferred until next meeting).

The Clerk then expressed his concerns over the Community Council's financial position both in the current year and for next year - more at next meeting.

It was agreed that the Donations for Canolfan Pennant will be maintained at the same level Proposed: Cllr DG Smout (Note: As all of the remaining Councillors have involvement in the Village Hall Committee and therefore are required to Declare an Interest, there was no-one present able to Second the Proposal)

In respect of St Thomas Church/ Bethania Chapel it was agreed to maintain the donations at the same level (Proposer: DG Smout/ Seconded: P Williams).

Cllr DG Smout reported that our internal Auditor Alan Jones was prepared to continue to undertake the responsibility but with the understanding that, as he was now retired, he is no longer registered as a Chartered Accountant. The Clerk was pleased to note this change of heart.

7 - Maintenance as Assets

Following receipt of the PoSPA Health and Safety Inspection Report, the Clerk reported that he and Cllr DG Smout had recently spent some time looking at the state of the playground equipment and nearby benches/ fencing. Whilst the independent report raises some minor concerns, it was felt that these were, mostly more of a precautionary nature and therefore at the present time no immediate work was necessary apart from the following:-

- One bench (under the tree) has a broken seat slat and the protective coating generally requires attention. Cllr WE Jones kindly agreed to look at the bench further and carry out the necessary upgrading.
- Some of the timber posts supporting the chain link fencing separating the car-park from the playground require either replacement or bolstering. Part of the swing/kissing gate structure is also broken.

These items have previously been twice reported to Powys CC as they are their responsibility. Clerk to contact Powys CC again to urge repair on safety grounds

Similarly the Clerk and Cllr DG Smout had also carried out an inspection of Hirnant Cemetery and found there to be no further essential work necessary following the earlier Community Council 12 months ago when a number of gravestones etc. were laid flat as they were in possible danger falling over. It was noted that the families of the graves inspected had taken no action following being informed of this earlier safety action. Three of the trees to the rear of the Hirnant Trust Community Centre have branches close to overhanging the building – it was agreed the at the Clerk should first check ownership of these and then attempt to persuade a friendly tree surgeon to deal with them without charge

Councillors were delighted to note that the waste bin adjacent to the car park/ playground has now been replaced and thanked Cllr R Lloyd and Cllr WE Jones for bringing this about without any cost to the Community Council.

8 – Planning

- The Clerk reported that he had recently received several calls about the proposed *MicroGeneration wind turbine at Castel, Llanrhaeadr-Y-M.* The contacts were expressing concern that Penybontfawr Community Council had not objected. The Clerk informed these contacts that this was not correct and that a formal objection had been submitted to Powys CC on 30 October 2013. A copy of this was forwarded to the contacts for information. However, it is possible that, due to the late receipt of the Consultation letter from Powys CC, and therefore the Community Council's Objection being out of time, the Planning Authority had not recorded our response. Clerk to write to Planning Authority expressing concern and ensure that the Community Councils position is known.
- *P/2013/0953 – Horse ménage etc. at Caecrimon.* Notification received that full planning consent was granted.
- *TREE/014/0003 – Work to tree subject of TPO at Maes-Y-Fferm.* Consultation notice received. From planning authority. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should inform the planning authority that the Community Council was concerned about the loss of the tree and request that no works be undertaken until professional tree surgeon advice was available to inform the decision.
- *Powys Local Development Plan.* The Clerk informed Councillors about the Candidate Sites Update - December 2013. Most of the sites originally included remain on the list without modification, despite the representations submitted by the Community Council in May 2013. However it is stated that, at this next stage, they are the subject of further discussion with applicants. The Ysgol Pennant site is however now provisionally categorised as being 'Rejected'

9 – Highways

During their village walk, Cllr DG Smout and the Clerk had noted that, on leaving the car-parkin a vehicle the driver's view to the right (towards the Inn) was partially obscured by a privately owned hedgerow. There was discussion about approaching the owner of the tenanted property to seek permission for the hedgerow to be reduced in height. A contact number for the owner should be sought and an appropriate Welsh speaking Councillor to then make contact.

The very poor condition of the back road leading to Rhiswaeth and Cwm-fedw was discussed – Clerk to again report to Highways.

Cllr RP Williams raised concern about a rocking manhole cover – Clerk to report to Highways .

Cllr DR Lloyd advised that the collapsed drain in the road leading to the playground/ car-park was shortly to be repaired

10 – Community Council Website

In the absence of Cllr G Roberts, the Clerk advised that they had recently met and worked up a draft structure for the Website. A paper copy of this was provided to Councillors who were happy about the proposed content. The Clerk explained that there would be some costs incurred for setting up the initial website that should be covered by the Council Grant (£500 already received). Also, external 'hosting' of the site would incur a small annual charge. Details of the proposed amounts would be provided as they became known.

A complication is the need to provide a bi-lingual website. However, it is thought that only parts need to be fully bi-lingual which would considerably reduce the potential translation costs. Clerk to check whether the rapidly changing sections of the website can be excluded from this requirement which will save considerable translation costs. In this respect, the Clerk observed

that since he had taken over, meetings were necessarily always conducted entirely in English and the Minutes recorded in English. However he felt it would be sensible to formally regularise this on an ongoing basis and Councillors agreed unanimously to approve this proposal

11 - WW1 Commemoration Event

Cllr G Roberts was not present so no update given.

11 - Any Other Business

Councillors congratulated County Councillor D Mayor on his appointment to the County Council Cabinet with responsibility for Adult Social care who then provided a further update about future Powys CC budget cuts and probable impacts on staffing.

14 - Date of Next Meeting

Agreed as 7.30pm Tuesday 25 February 2014

Meeting closed at 9.47 pm