

Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING Held at Canolfan Pennant on Tuesday 30 July 2013.

Present:

Councillors: MH Jones (Chair), JE Jones, DR Lloyd, GJ Roberts, DG Smout, RP Williams, P Williams, Clerk G Bradley,

1- Apologies for Absence

County Councillor D Mayor

2- Declaration of Interests

None

3- Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (25 June 2013) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr. DR Lloyd / Seconded: Cllr. JE Jones).

4- Matters arising from Minutes

The Clerk advised that since last meeting, Powys County Council had written to all Community Councils confirming that a grant of £500 could be made to each Council towards the creation of a Community Council website. The Clerk had completed and returned the necessary paperwork and understood that payment would be included with the next Precept tranche, usually received at the end of August.

Councillors were very keen that any website created should benefit not only the Community Council, but also be available to the village hall committee and the primary school. The Clerk briefly explained the possible different structures and complications that might arise from joint inputting of information but then reported that he had very recently worked with an Oswestry based website designer in respect of the creation of another similar website and that the cost had fallen well below the proposed grant. It was however suggested by Councillors that, if possible, a locally based web site designer should be identified – all agreed to ask around and report on any possibilities at the next meeting

5 – Correspondence

- *One Voice Wales - Energy Efficient Interest Free loans for public sector bodies*
- *Shelter - Newsletter and details of local surgeries*
- *Wales Government - Information about Framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides*
- *One Voice Wales - seeking members for the Welsh Language Communities Alliance*
- *One Voice Wales - details of Health and Safety courses in South Wales*
- *One Voice Wales – external Funding Newsletter produced by Natural Resources Wales*
- *Wales Government – seeking members to join the Advisory Panel to Welsh Ministers about Public Policy Institute*
- *One Voice Wales – Details of final salary increase award for Clerks applicable from 1 Apr 2013*

- *One Voice Wales - Age Cymru 'Scams and Swindles' campaign*
- *One Voice Wales - details of various training modules for Councillors and Clerks*
- *One Voice Wales – Invitation to t Police and Crime Commissioners 'Victim focused Delivery' Event on 6th September 13*
- *Play for Wales – Newsletter*

6 - Finance

Current Bank balances were advised as:

Current Account - £766.40 (as at 4 July 2013)).

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

The Clerk advised that he had received confirmation from the Government auditors that there are no issues arising in respect of the Annual return and that an unqualified certificate and report will now be issued. Section 3 of the Annual Return proforma therefore requires signature by the Clerk and the Chairman, this being approved by Councillors (Proposer: Cllr DG Smout/ Seconded: Cllr P Williams).

The Clerk advised that, after a series of telephone conversations with the PAYE office, they had agreed that rather than administratively time consuming monthly returns being made in respect of NIL salary(honorarium) payments as required by the new system, a single return can be made at the end of the financial year on the basis that the Clerk honorarium will be paid in a single tranche then.

7 - Planning

The Clerk advised that he had now received a response letter, including an apology, from the Director of Planning Services about the failure of PCC to consult notify the Community Council about one planning application. It was also confirmed that a Tree Preservation Order has not been issued in respect of Hirnant Churchyard (contrary to verbal information provided by a third party to the Clerk) and also that the Enforcement Officer had been reminded to provide feedback in respect of an issue in the village raised some months ago.

The applicant (Mr A Howells) had agreed to attend part of the meeting to update Councillors on progress and provide background in respect of the current issues /difficulties relating to his proposed new dwelling on land adjacent to Ffordd Goed, Penybontfawr. Coincidentally, the Clerk has very recently received a notice of consultation from Powys CC about the revised planning application. A useful and informative discussion then ensued, following which Councillors agreed to support the latest the planning application and the Clerk was then requested to notify the planning authority accordingly, expressing at the same time the Community Council's concerns about the way this matter has been handled.

8 - Highways

The Clerk updated Councillors on his most recent telephone conversation with the local Highways officer. The responses obtained were:-

- 1) No action will be taken in respect of any blocked or collapsed road drains unless instructed through a senior manager i.e. being brought about by County Councillor pressure
- 2) Road verge cutting would be undertaken over the next 4 weeks
- 3) Notified potholes would be repaired but that it should not be expected for any work to be carried out in short timescale
- 4) The Hirnant back road – he will look into the various issues

The Clerk expressed this Council's dismay about how the service provided to this Community had deteriorated and the ongoing decline in the standard of local roads.

During the conversation it had been gleaned that County Councillor Darren Mayor has had meetings about the damage being caused to Llangynog roads by forestry lorries and that, as a result, provisionally the operators had agreed to make a contribution towards the repair costs. It was suggested that the County Councillor be requested to take a similar approach in respect of Penybontfawr Community Council roads that are also being damaged by forestry lorries.

Notwithstanding the above, Cllr JE Jones reported that a very large pothole notified by him to the Highways dept. had been repaired within 2 days.

Cllr P Williams again raised a seriously collapsed drain near his farm - the Clerk agreed to look at the drain with him and then take the issue up with Highways. At the same time the reported appearance of ragwort in the soils imported to the roadside following the upgrade work on the Hirnant road water supply would be reported.

9 - WW1 Commemoration Event

Councillor G J Roberts will provide an update on progress at the next meeting.

10 – Replacement Notice Board

The Clerk asked whether any progress has been made with either the Village hall committee or the school about their level of interest in sharing a new notice board. The respective Councillors involved confirmed that they will be able to comment in more detail at the next Community Council Meeting.

11 - Any Other Business

None raised

14 - Date of Next Meeting

Agreed as 7.30pm Tuesday 1 October 2013.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm