

# Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

## **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING Held at Canolfan Pennant on Tuesday 30 September 2014.**

### **Present:**

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

### **1- Apologies for Absence**

Cllr G Roberts, County Cllr D Mayor

### **2 - Declaration of Interests**

None

### **3 - Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting (29 July 2014) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr. MH Jones / Seconded: Cllr. DR Lloyd).

### **4 - Matters arising from Minutes**

The Clerk enquired how many people attended the Meeting with County Cllr D Mayor on 9 Sept 2014 – response was 7 Councillors plus 8 local residents.

### **5 – Correspondence**

The Clerk was pleased to confirm that his internet connection had, at long last, been restored. As there were nearly 300 unread emails, he had checked these and would report selectively on as following:-

- *Town Clerk, Llanfyllin – request for funding towards full medical emergency kits for first responders and two defibrillators.* The Clerk reminded Councillors that at a recent meeting there had been some inconclusive discussion about raising funds in Penybontfawr towards the cost of providing a Penybontfawr based defibrillator. The use of this apparatus does not require training as it includes electronic instructions. It could be located on an outside wall of the village hall, a code being required to detach it from the base. The Clerk agreed to further investigate possibilities and establish the cost and whether any grants are available. Cllrs were also aware that there was possibly a 'first responder' trained resident fairly locally (LlanrhaeadrYM based?).
- *Powys CC Rural Housing Enablers – Update.* The project has now come to an end and has helped establish a pipeline of potential developments supported by communities. The survey carried out in Penybontfawr had established that in 2013 there was then little immediate demand for affordable homes, and Councillors had hoped that the areas of land for new housing being put forward to the emerging Development Plan would provide some suitable housing stock in due course. However, as the later Deposit Draft Development Plan had now only identified only one future development site ( next to the Council owned bungalows), this now seems less likely
- *Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner - update on Plans for the area.* The most relevant item was the proposed closure of Llanfyllin Police station. An alternative location

was being sought possibly in conjunction with Llanidloes, Welshpool being noted as being with 20 miles. Councillors were inevitably concerned about the future lack of closely based police cover for Penybontfawr.

- *One Voice Wales - Funding sources update*
- *People's Postcode Lottery Trust – small grants up to £500 information.* Cllr JE Jones advised that the village hall would be seeking a grant from this source
- *World War 1 Centenary Commemoration Events – flyer about availability of various items for events*
- *North Powys Recycling and Waste - rollout dates for of new wheeled bins.* These have now arrived in Penybontfawr but Councillors were bemused about the inconsistencies in delivery to outlying properties. This may possibly relate to accessibility for the suitable collection vehicle.
- *PAVO Trustee Nominations and Annual Conference on 10 November 2014 – Closing date 10 Oct 14*
- *One Voice Wales - reminder about Conference and AGM on 4 October 2014*
- *Powys County Council Archives Newsletter*
- *Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for Wales – recruitment of new members for Wales*

## **6 - Finance**

- Current Bank balances were advised as:
  - Current Account - £2998.24 (as at 4 Sept 2014).
  - Deposit Account - £2742.37 (as at 4 Sept 2014).
- An Invoice for the Government Auditors fee in the sum of £210 has recently arrived. The Clerk expressed dismay about the ever increasing of the external auditors, particularly as no issues were again raised that required any correspondence and therefore the auditors were able to 'rubber stamp' the initial figures provided by the Clerk. Previous year charges have been:- 2011/12 - £60, 2012/13 - £108 and 2013/14 - £156. Therefore the current audit fee represents an uplift of 250% over three years and an uplift of 34.6% over last year. The Clerk proposed to challenge the level of the fee, but requested that a cheque be approved for payment of £210 to be held in abeyance pending the response from BDO. (Proposer Cllr G Smout/ Seconded Cllr R Lloyd)
- The Clerk reported a cheque for £70 had been received in respect of the interment of the late John Durnell in the Hirnant Cemetery. He noted that the burial rates had not been reviewed for the last few years, there having been no demand in this period. It was agreed that he would compare the Hirnant rates with other local cemeteries and report further.
- The Clerk revisited a discussion earlier in the year about the Community Council's lack of available funding for charitable donations, resulting primarily from unavoidable large increases in the base costs (e.g. the above auditor fee, insurance, cemetery and repairs). Powys Council normally seeks information about the proposed level of the Community Council precept for the following year in about mid-December, so two actions are necessary in advance of this date i.e. (i) an approximate Budget is prepared for next financial year which will then enable Councillors to consider the possible level and percentage increase in the Precept that might be sought (ii) a letter be drafted to the Tanat Chronicle to 'air' the financial issues in advance of a final decision

## **7 – Planning**

- The Clerk confirmed to Members that the Draft Deposit Local Plan currently identified only one area of land for future housing development, this being the land adjacent to the Council bungalows which was previously allocated for industrial use. He also surmised that local landowners would continue to promote other areas through the ongoing Development Plan process, so future additions may still be made before the Plan is finally confirmed
- The Clerk advised that notification has recently been received from the Planning Authority that the 45metre wind turbine application on Allt Goch has again been deferred pending resolution of some inconsistencies in the application documents.
- Notification has been received from the Planning Authority that the Consent has been granted to both the Ffynon Befr and Siambr - Wen planning applications

## **8 – Playground Inspection Report**

The RoSPA annual inspection report has been received and this whilst not identifying any serious concerns, again recommends some improvements. The issue of the adjacent fence and swing gate is perhaps the most significant. The Clerk has recently requested assistance from the County Councillor to obtain a response from Powys County Council in this respect and this has at last prompted an initial acknowledgement from the relevant department. The Clerk will produce a summary of the other repairs necessary for the next Meeting

## **9 –Highways**

The Clerk was requested to again raise with County Highways the poor condition of the road between Rhiwsaeth and Cwm-fedw.

No further information yet on when the County Highways will progress the road repairs to the nearby C2027 back road to Abertridwr.q2

## **10 – WW1 Commemoration Event**

No further information available.

Cllr RP Williams requested that Hirnant Community Centre be thanked for their recent enjoyable WW1 event that he and other Councillors attended

## **11 - Any Other Business**

None

## **12 - Date of Next Meeting**

Agreed as 7.30pm, Tuesday 28 October 2014.

*Meeting closed at 9.10 pm*