

Cyngor Cymuned **Penybontfawr Community Council**

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Canolfan Pennant on Tuesday 4 December 2012.

Present:

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

1- Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. MH Jones, GJ Roberts, P Williams, County Cllr D Mayor

2- Declaration of Interests

None

3- Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (23 October 2012) were approved, and signed (Proposer: Cllr JE Jones/ Seconded: Cllr DR Lloyd)

4- Matters arising from Minutes

Item 8 - Parking sign. There was further discussion regarding the resident complaint about a parking restriction sign that has been newly erected next to his property. Since the last meeting, some Councillors the Clerk have looked at the sign and cannot see any significant issue, but Cllr JE Jones agreed to inspect further to ensure that no damage was caused to the residence when it was erected by the Council

Item 8 - Pothole. The Clerk ascertained checked where the pothole is and will now report it to Powys Highways

Item11 – AOB. Cllr JE Jones suggested that post-meeting, Councillors should jointly inspect the waste bin deterioration that RoSPA raised as a possible issue. At the subsequent site meeting it was agreed that Cllr JE Jones would make good the small amount of damage with concrete surfacing.

5 – Correspondence

- *Citizens Advice Bureau – request for funding donation*
- *Powys County Council – Enclosing summary of Business to Nature (B2N) recommendations*
- *Welsh Government – Information about Marine Conservation Zones*
- *Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod – request for funding contributions.*
Decision deferred until February Community Council Meeting
- *Powys-Dyfed Police – Monthly Neighbourhood Management Update*
- *Severn Hospice – request for funding contribution.* Decision deferred until February Community Council Meeting
- *Boundary Commission for Wales – Newsletter update on Consultation process.* The Clerk reminded Members that it is proposed that Penybontfawr would fall within the proposed new Denbigh and North Montgomery Constituency but that for local Government purposes it would remain within Powys County Council.
- *Welsh Government – Request for nominations for Chair and Membership of the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse*

- *Welsh Government – Press announcement about Evidence Session of the Silk Commission re: Financial Devolution in Wales. (strengthening financial powers in Wales)*
- *Welsh Government – Sustainable Development Bill Bulletin*
- *Welsh Government – Notification of New Inquiry into the impact of changes to Housing Benefit in Wales*
- *Powys County Council – Statement of Licensing Principles – Draft Consultation 2012 on Revised Policy*
- *Welsh Government – Consultation on Local Government (democracy) (wales0 Bill*
- *One Voice Wales – Autumn Newsletter*

6 – Finance

Current Bank balances were advised as:

Current Account - £ 2205.68 (as at 4 Nov 2012)

Deposit Account - £ 3288.71 (as at 4 Nov 2012)

The Clerk noted that, in respect of the Current Account, there was un-cleared cheque for £108.

7 – Planning

The Clerk reported that a copy of the Consent Notice approving the new dwelling at Ffordd Goed had been received.

Parc Isaf Wind turbine –

4 Y Ddol, Penybontfawr

8 – Highways

Light opposite to Railway Inn still not working – Clerk to report fault again.

9 - Clerk Replacement

The Clerk advised that the local person who had apparently expressed a possible interest to a Councillor in acting as Assistant Clerk no longer wanted to be considered.

The Clerk then provided a copy of a draft advertisement to be placed in the next edition of the Tanat Chronicle requesting expressions of interest for either the Assistant Vacancy or for taking over fully. He explained that he was, so far, having difficulty making contact with the Tanat Chronicle by telephone or by email about copy deadlines; after the advertisement was approved, the Chairman kindly undertook to use his contacts to get it placed

10 - Hirnant Community centre – perimeter wall

Cllr G Smout provided a useful update on his further discussions with Heritage Lottery Fund about the possibility of obtaining a grant towards the cost of repairing the wall. As their criteria are likely to be stringent, the combined cost of the repair work and the involvement of external consultants would considerably elevate the likely overall cost. A HLF grant would provide a maximum of 90% of such costs but, as it felt that the available Community Council Funding Reserve would not anywhere near sufficient to cover the 10% balance, it was concluded that pursuing such a grant would not be feasible.

The Clerk mentioned that a Community Council does have borrowing powers but it was unlikely that our current Precept would cover the cost of such loan. Councillors were in any case not attracted to this idea.

A suggestion was made that the Churchyard (with the wall) should be offered to the Hirnant Community Trust. The Clerk pointed out that

- a) he doubted that the Community Council was allowed to divest itself of responsibilities by gifting this property to such an organisation
- b) the churchyard is run at a significant and unavoidable loss by the Community Council, even after receipt of the additional Powys County Council grant. Therefore such a proposal was not likely to find favour with the Hirnant Community Trust which is a far less viable financial position than the Community Council.

Other possible grant sources (albeit at a far lower contribution level) might be available from Cadw – Cllr G Smout to advise possibilities at next meeting. The Clerk mentioned his contact with the Head of Estates at Church in Wales and would explore whether they, as the original owners of the site, have any ecclesiastical grant streams that might assist with repairs.

The lengthy discussion was concluded at that point as the Clerk recommended that any decision about the way to proceed should be made with all Councillors present as it is likely to likely to completely drain the Community Councils financial reserves. It was also agreed that there was no evidence that the collapse of the wall was immediately imminent and there was time to consider all options fully. Include on next meeting Agenda for further discussion.

11- Any Other Business

No items raised

12 - Date of Next Meeting

Agreed as 7.30 pm on Tuesday 29 January 2012.