Cyngor Cymuned **Carreghofa** Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th July 2023

at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr R Dover

Cllr I Done

Cllr C Hall

Cllr C Jones

Cllr I Parry

Cllr C Savage

In attendance:

Mr M. Donkin: Clerk to the Council

2 members of the public.

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| **1.Apologies for absence**    Cllr F James  County Cllr Arwel Jones,  Cllr Alice Bond Chair: Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council) |
| **2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**  None |
| **3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2023**  The minutes of the meeting held on 27th June were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Done, seconded by Cllr Pary and approved unanimously. |
| **4. Matters arising from the minutes**  Ref: min 7.5 Powys C. C. Consultation on the local housing market assessment.  This is a consultation by Powys County Council on the housing needs for the next 15 years. The Chairman reported that he had put in a submission which stressed the need for both Powys and Shropshire County Councils to be aware that, as the village straddles the English / Welsh border, planning decisions need to take full account of cross-border migration in order to avoid overdevelopment. The submission also emphasized the need for lower-cost housing which met local community needs. |
| **5. Finance Report**  5.1. Financial Position  Council noted the financial position as set out in the papers for the meeting.  Deposit account: £14698.40  Current account: £1197.63  Pension account £73.31  5.2. 1st Quarter Statement of Accounts  The Clerk presented the Statement of Accounts and invited questions. The Chairman asked why the grounds maintenance budget was greater than the amount submitted by Clive Heaton for the first quarter. The clerk explained that an additional amount was agreed to cover one-off works which usually occur each year.  The Clerk pointed out that the excess on the Audit budget head is due to the fact that two invoices for the external audits of 2020 and 2021 were only received towards the end of the last financial year.  Cllr Hall then proposed the adoption of the accounts. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and approved unanimously.  5.3. Internal Audit  The Clerk informed the meeting that the internal audit is usually presented and signed off at the July meeting. However, due to the computer crash and the additional time needed to retrieve the data the report has not yet been received. The Clerk explained that the accounts should be sent to the Welsh Government’s external auditor by September. It was agreed that, once the report has been received, power be vested in the Chairman to act on behalf of the Council with the report coming to the September meeting.  5.4. Approval of Payments  The following payments as set out in the papers for the meeting were approved:-  Clive Heaton – 2nd Quarter grounds maintenance contract - £637.10  RoSPA – Playground and Gym Equipment safety inspection. £180.00  Additionally, two invoices totalling £40 for the rent of rooms at the Village Hall were tabled and approved.  Proposed by Cllr Done, seconded by Cllr Parry and agreed unanimously. |
| **6. Planning**  Application Reference: 23/1122/FUL  Proposal: Formation of vehicular access to serve Hen Bwthyn only and closing off existing access drive  (part retrospective)  Site Address: Hen Bwthyn, Wern, Llanymynech, Powys SY22 6PD  The application had arrived after the papers had been sent out but had been forwarded separately by the  Clerk. Cllr Done expressed concern that the newly proposed entrance is on a bend and could increase  the risk of accidents. He had witnessed vehicles reversing out onto the highway from this point. Cllr  Savage agreed. It was noted that the original entrance would remain but would no longer serve Hen  Bwthyn.  Council decided that it would only support the application if the Highways Department considered it  safe. |
| **7 Other matters**  7.1 Montgomery Canal Development Project  The Chairman referred to the report by K. Woodroffe, included in the papers for the meeting, He pointed out that there is now a link by which individuals can make comments / objections. He also noted that it is possible for organisations to adopt a section of a canal and suggested that the Council might do this for part of the Montgomery Canal at Carreghofa. The idea found favour with the Council and there was discussion about the section that might be adopted. It was suggested that this might be the length from the A483 bridge to Carreghofa Locks.  The Clerk advised that before any action is taken the Council should understand exactly what ‘adoption’ entailed. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the Canal & Rivers Trust to ascertain what adoption entailed and any liabilities that may pass to the adopting organisation.  This will then be considered further at the next meeting.  **ACTION: Clerk**  Mr Fynes (at this point a member of the public) mentioned damage to the fence at the Vyrnwy Viaduct. Cllr Done offered to inspect the fence and, mindful of liabilities, carry out any immediate repairs.  **ACTION: Cllr. Done**  The Chairman mentioned other points, principally the next stage of dredging, the need for the Canal & Rivers Trust to work with local landowners, and concern on the work to be taken on the two bridges, given that planning applications are supposed to be submitted in September.  Cllr Parry referred to the item in the Papers for the Meeting on proposed cuts to the Canal & Rivers Trust budget and how these may affect the current project. It was noted that the cuts will not come into effect until 2027 but the meeting noted its concern and agreed that this should be raised with representatives of the Canal & Rivers Trust who will be attending the September meeting.  7.2. Vacancy on the Council  The Clerk reiterated that following the Council’s leaflet drop three people had expressed interest in becoming a councillor. Only one attended the June meeting and she currently holds a position on a Parish Council and cannot, therefore, become a councillor on Carreghofa Community Council at the same time. Mr J Fynes, attending this meeting, explained that he was one of the three persons referred to but had been unable to attend in June. He confirmed his interest in serving as a councillor. The Clerk confirmed that the proper notices had been displayed and that the Community Council is able to co-opt.  Cllr Jones proposed that Mr Fynes be co-opted onto the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Dover and agreed unanimously.  7.3. Social Media Activity  Cllr Parry reported that the Council’s Facebook page was proving popular and had elicited a number of comments. Of these there was some considerable concern about the situation of the Lion Hotel. It was agreed that this should form an item at the next Joint Meeting of the Council with Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council.  Cllr Parry said that the minutes of Council meetings will be posted on the Facebook page. He also asked anyone with any interesting news to forward it to him . This might also include old photographs of Carreghofa.  7.4. Community Awards  The Chairman reported that Duncan Borthwick is instating Community Awards in memory of Rebecca Steer. Nominations are now open and include categories for youth, service to the community, lifetime achievement, community hero etc. These awards are cross-border. The Chairman said that nominations were short in the lifetime achievement and community hero categories.  The Chairman proposed Cllr Carol Jones for the lifetime achievement award. Cllr Jones has been active in the community for many years serving not only as a community councillor but at St. Agatha’s Church (she is currently secretary of the Parochial Church Council), the Village Hall and Burial Board. This was seconded by Cllr Savage and all agreed that this nomination should be put forward.  **ACTION: Chairman**  7.5. Winter Warm Bank  Cllr Parry reminded members that last winter the Community Council had supported schemes to provide warmth and shelter and suggested that similar support should be given during the coming winter. This was agreed and it was decided that Janet Downes (the Community Café) and Duncan Borthwick be apprised of the fact that the Council will consider supporting such schemes.  **ACTION: Cllr Parry** |
| **8 Amenities**  8.1. Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field  8.1.1. Football field fence  Cllr Done reported that the fence is badly battered although the integrity of the metal is fine. The fence has been breached in three places most likely as a result of vandalism. Cllr Done said that repairing the fence is not a big issue and he expressed willingness to undertake minor repairs. This was accepted with thanks.  **ACTION: Cllr Done**  It was reported that dogs are being exercised on the pitch. A ‘No Dogs’ sign is in situ. It was suggested that this matter be put on the Council’s Facebook page.  **ACTION: Cllr Parry**  8.1.2. Walls Bridge car park  Cllr Done said that the Walls Bridge car park is in need of re-surfacing. There is also confusion about when the car park is open. Cllr Savage suggested that signage should be upgraded and a set of posts erected at the gate at a height to prevent caravans and other large vehicles entering so that the car park can remain open for residents 24 hours per day. Cllr Done agreed and said that currently there is no sign to say that this is a legitimate car park.  It was agreed that County Cllr Arwel Jones be approached on the subject of re-surfacing and the Clerk enquire about the cost of signage.  **ACTION: Clerk** |
| **9. Highways and Byways**   * 1. Verges and potholes   9.1.1. Pen-y-Foel  The following matters requiring attention were submitted by Cllr James who could not be at the meeting:-   1. 1. Potholes on the lane between Offa's Way and The Coach House 2. 2. Pothole by Pen-y-Foel Cottage 3. 3. Pothole in the turning area at the top of the lane 4. 4. Pothole outside Vine Tree Cottage 5. 5. Blocked drain opposite The Coach House 6. 6. Blocked drain at The Offa's Dyke turning 7. 7. Loose stone has accumulated at the bottom of the lane approaching the A483 highway. 8. 8 Verge vegetation and soil encroaching on the road which causes  water from heavy rain to cross it in several places . This could be unsafe in the winter if the water freezes.   9.1.2. Carreghofa Lane  Pothole at the bottom of the Lane near Walls Bridge opposite the cottages needs attention.  **ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones**  9.1.3. Community Trail  Cllr Jones reported that a tree has fallen down blocking the last gate on the trail. The Clerk said that he will refer the matter to Mr Calum Carr, Footpaths Officer at Powys County Council.  **ACTION: Clerk**  9.1.4. Speeding on the B4398  The issue of installing a flashing sign to apprise drivers of their speed was raised again. County Cllr Arwel Jones would be asked to check with the Highways Department as to the feasibility of this. The Clerk will get prices and the matter will be brought to the September meeting.  9.2. Chapel Lane  Cllr Parry wondered what is the potential for an accident if the problem is left unresolved. Cllr Hall felt that it was high. It was agreed that, if the homeowner will give permission, the Community Council will ask its grounds maintenance contractor to undertake the work on a one-off basis. Cllr Parry agreed to provide details of the homeowner.  **ACTION: Cllr Parry, Clerk**  The Lime trees on the A483 require cutting back . The Clerk thought that this is part of the maintenance contract. Cllr Savage said that a little pruning would deal with the situation and offered to undertake the work.  **ACTION: Cllr Savage**  9.3. Cae Haidd  The Clerk said that County Cllr Arwel Jones had reported that the land housing the gas tanks is, o9nce again, up for sale. He has emailed the Agents advising them of the Gas Tanks for the estate and also that the road is adopted by PCC and in his view cannot be sold. A reply is awaited. |
| **10 To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies**  10.1. Burial Board  No meeting held  10.2. Powys C. C. and Town and Community Councils meeting  The meeting was cancelled  10.3. Village Hall  .a meeting was held but Cllr Jones was on holiday. It was announced that the fee for renting rooms at the Village Hall will rise from £10 per hour to £12.  10.4 CHC meeting  Nothing to report. |
| **11. Correspondence**  11.1 Correspondence for Decision  There was no correspondence for decision  11.2. Correspondence to note.  Council noted the correspondence sent out by the Clerk since the last meeting and itemised in the papers for the meeting.   | **From** | **Date** | **Subject** | | --- | --- | --- | | One Voice Wales | 27th June | Training Dates July | | Powys County Council | 3rd July | National 20 mph Restricted Roads Scheme | | WAA via OVW | 3rd July | Welsh Air Ambulance | | Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service | 3rd July | Farm fire safety – barn fires | | Go Safety Survey via County Cllr Arwel Jones | 3rd July | Traffic Speeding info | | One Voice Wales | 3rd July | Training Dates update | | Powys C. C. | 3rd July | Planning Decision notice | | Powys C. C. | 6th July | Planning Application Reference: 23/0807/HH | | Play Wales | 10th July | July e-bulletin | | One Voice Wales & Friends of the Earth | 10th July | Climate Change and Nature Action Guide | | Russell George MS | 10th July | July Newsletter | | County Cllr Arwel Jones | 18th July | Canal & Rivers Trust future funding | | Powys Dyslexia Support Group | 19th July | Closure of service | |
| **12. Any Other Business**  12.1 Pant Lighting scheme.  The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a communication from national Highways (West Midlands) notifying the Council that a postcard is currently being sent to 794 local business and residential addresses in relation to the A483 Pant lighting upgrades.  Further to this National Highways will be engaging with our strategic partners, road hauliers, local authorities and emergency services.  The postcard advises that “We’ll be upgrading the current lighting to LEDs on the A483 in Pant. The new LED lighting will be more energy efficient and require less maintenance in the future. We’ll also be replacing the cabling which will make any future maintenance of the lighting quicker and easier. We’ll work from 31 July 2023 to 15 September 2023, Monday to Friday. To reduce the impact on the surrounding area, we’ll work during the day, between 8am and 4pm. We may also be required to carry out some road marking renewals on the A483 between Chapel Lane and Parsons Lane. This work is likely to take place overnight for three nights towards the end of August”  12.2. Dolphin Car Park  Cllr Done, said that he found it to understand the details of the information forwarded by Cllr Hall.  It appears to have two titles and he asked whether Powys County Council will still hold the lease. There is a need to have two clearly defined car parks. Cllr Hall said that it appears that the landlords of the Dolphin are purchasing the land with the lease attached. The situation needs clarifying and the matter will be brought to the next meeting.  12.3. The matter of a more obvious Council noticeboard was again raised. The possibility of the Council having its own designated space on the main noticeboard at the Village Shop was re-visited. The Chairman said that he would discuss the matter with Duncan Borthwick.  **ACTION: Chairman**  12.4. Ms Helen Williams, a member of the public attending the meeting, asked in the entry sign to Llanymynech at the junction of the B4398 and Carreghofa Lane could be made more attractive by the addition of a planter. She offered to maintain it if the Council would provide one. Cllr Done said that he may be able to construct a planter and it was left to Cllr Done and Ms Williams to follow this up.  **ACTION: Cllr Done** |
| **14 Date of Next meeting**  Tuesday 26th September at Llanymynech Village Hall at 7.00pm.  Representatives of the Canal & Rivers Trust and Powys County Council will attend the meeting to provide an update on the project.  Members of Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council will be invited to join the meeting for this item which will be taken first.  **ACTION: All to note.** |

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

Proposed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_