Cyngor Cymuned **Carreghofa** Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2024

at Llanymynech Village Hall

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL RATIFIED BY THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON 30th JULY 2024**

Present:

Cllr R Dover (Chair)

Cllr. I Done

Cllr J Fynes

Cllr C Hall

Cllr. F James

Cllr C Jones

Cllr I Parry

Cllr C Savage

In attendance:

County Cllr Arwel Jones

Cllr Alice Bond Chair: Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council

Mr M. Donkin: Clerk to the Council

1 member of the general public

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| **1.Apologies for absence**  None, all present |
| **2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**  None |
| **3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday**  The minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2024 were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Fynes, seconded by Cllr Parry and approved unanimously. |
| **4. Matters arising from the minutes**  4.1. ref min 4.1. Cllr Done had looked at the war memorial site and concluded that it was not suitable for a flag to commemorate D Day. He had communicated this to the Clerk and no further action was taken.  4.2. ref min 7.7. The Clerk reported that he had received no comments regarding the Local Bus Network Re-tendering exercise and the deadline for comments and suggestions had now passed.  4.3. ref min 12 County Cllr Arwel Jones reported that he had visited residents who would be affected by the removal of street lamps. Those visited in Chapel Lane had asked that the lamps be left on but a request was made for reflectors to be fitted to prevent light spill into neighbouring properties. Cllr Done had already said that he is happy for the lamp on his property to be removed. |
| **5 Finance**  5.1. Current position  The Clerk reported that the Council’s accounts as at Thursday 20th June 2024 were as follows: -  Deposit account: £ 15445.44  Current account: £ 419.46 .  Pension account £ 74.58  5.2. Internal Audit Report  Council noted the Internal Audit Report as set out in the papers for the meeting. The Clerk pointed out that the points raised in the Action Palan had all been addressed with the exception of point 3 outstanding from 2022 / 23 - The risk assessment does not address the risks of supplier (procurement) fraud and other risks related to online banking. The Clerk said that he was unsure what was required and County Cllr Arwel Jones suggested taking advice from One Voice Wales.  Cllr Parry proposed the acceptance of the Internal Audit report. This was seconded by Cllr Fynes and accepted unanimously.  The Clerk said that he would forward a notice to state that the Council’s accounts are available to view. He and the Chairman would sign the Annual Return and send it to the External Auditor.  **ACTION: Clerk to contact One Voice Wales re the Action Plan and forward the Annual Return to the External Auditor.**  Approval of Payments  Council approved the following payments as listed in the papers for the meeting:-   * JDH Business Services Ltd. – Internal Audit fee £369.60   The Clerk tabled the following:-   * Invoices from Llanymynech Village Hall for rent for the April, May and June meetings totalling £72 * Reimbursement of payment for the purchase of plants for the village planter by Mrs H. Willams £29.50   These were also agreed. |
| **6. Planning**  There were no planning applications for consideration. |
| **7 Other matters**  7.1 Montgomery Canal Development Project  The Chairman said that an archaeological survey of the land on which the new Carreghofa Bridge would be built would commence on 1st July and could take 6 weeks.  County Cllr Arwel Jones reported that the Canal and Rivers Trust had applied for a further extension of 12 months for the project. If granted the expected completion date would be March 2026.  The Clerk confirmed that the Canal and Rivers Trust would pay for a replacement plaque for that lost when the WI Tree was replanted.  7.2 Community Shop  Cllr Bond said that the new mini mart in the old village shop had opened but had been met with mixed reviews. There had been complaints about the exterior décor but, she felt that there was nothing that the local councils could do. Cllr Done remarked that he had not heard anything positive.  Cllr Bond said that the proprietor is considering selling newspapers and may expand the range of goods as he settles in.  Cllr Bond further explained that there is now no possibility of reinstating a post office either at the shop or at a new facility in the Village Hall. The Post Office’s view is that there are facilities in Pant and Llandrinio which are available to local residents.  Cllr Hall said that she had contacted Link about the possibility of placing an ATM machine in the village. This will be considered and a reply is expected in about 3 months’ time.  Cllr Bond felt that there was little scope for continuing with the idea of opening a community shop. This would take time, be costly and rely on a sufficient number of volunteers being available. She felt that the best way forward is to encourage the shop owner to expand his range of goods.  Cllr Fynes felt that the Community Council should write to the proprietor supporting this point of view and bringing to the shopkeeper’s attention the disquiet about the exterior of the shop. He felt that a more attractive shop front might lead to increased foot fall.  **ACTION: Clerk to write to the shopkeeper**  7.3. Planters.  Cllr Done reported that all the wood for the planters had now been procured and is in the process of being cut. The work is progressing well and the first planters to be sited by the Boundary Stone should be in place before the next meeting.  Cllr Done said that a number of people had volunteered to be responsible for purchasing plants, planting them in the planters and maintaining them. Cllr Done said that he would undertake responsibility for the ‘mechanical’ maintenance.  The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Mr Heaton, the Council’s grounds maintenance contractor who had said that he would undertake strimming around the planters to keep the area neat and tidy.  7.4 Carreghofa walkabout including 7.5. The Green, Cae Haidd  The Chairman outlined the walkabout which took place on 20th June. The route followed that used in last year’s walkabout. The Chairman said that it was a useful exercise although many of the issues raised last year were still evident.  Cllr Fynes thought that there is a need to extend the grounds maintenance contract to include the verges between Carreghofa Lane and Talltoppen. Cllr Done said that he had cleared the nettles from the Old Walls Bridge . He felt that the hedges on the Walls Bridge playground should be lowered. The Clerk said that this had been done some while ago in order to allow the houses opposite sight of the playground as a deterrent to vandalism which was taking place at that time.  Cllr Done further noted that the overgrowth of greenery in the Powys County Council’s car park at the Dolphin needs urgent attention. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he had reported this to the County Council and it is scheduled to be done. Cllr Done has a number of photographs which he would circulate to councillors. It was agreed that all councillors should send any ideas about grounds maintenance to Cllr Done. He will collate these and pass them to the Clerk who will discuss the matter with Mr Heaton  **ACTION: All then the Clerk**  The discussion then moved on to the area at the end of Cae Haidd which contains the underground gas tanks. County Cllr Arwel Jones confirmed that the land actually belongs to the developer but they have gone into liquidation so the solicitors acting for them will be trying to liquidise the asset.  It was suggested that during the Council’s next ‘walkabout’ a schedule of works that need to be done should be compiled.  7.6. Social Media activity  Cllr Parry said that there was nothing to report. The usual topics were still being raised. Cllr Fynes said that he was having difficulty locating the Facebook page and Cllr Parry agreed to send the link to all councillors.  **ACTION: Cllr Parry**. |
| **8 Amenities**  8.1. Walls Bridge Playground and Football Field  8.1.1 Football Field  The Chairman referred to the fences on the football field which have been damaged again due to people forcing a way though rather than going round through the gate. Cllr Done said that if the Council could purchase some mesh, it should be possible to affect some sort of repair but if all the fencing needed replacing this would be a job for a professional contractor. Cllr Fynes asked if there was any logic in repairing the fence if people were going to continue breaking it down. Cllr Done agreed to look at the fence and report back to the meeting.  **ACTION: Cllr Done**  8.1.2. Walls Bridge  The Clerk informed the meeting that the RoSPA safety report had been received that afternoon at 5.00pm. He will circulate it to councillors. He said that, on a first cursory look there were only very minor matters needing attention. It was agreed that rather than wait until the next meeting The Chairman and Cllr Done would take appropriate action to deal with any issues needing attention.  **ACTION: Chairman and Cllr Done**  Cllr Done said that the seats on the ‘helicopter’ need replacing and he volunteered to do this.  **ACTION: Cllr Done**  The Clerk said that he had investigated the matter of placing a height restriction barrier at the gate of the Walls Bridge car park. He had taken advice from the Powys County Council Planning Department which is that the Community Council could probably erect a barrier without the need for planning permission acting under the terms of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1995, Part 12 Schedule 2. However, if the Council obtained a ‘Certificate of Lawfulness’ the Planning Department would be able to give a definitive answer re planning permission.  To allow access for cars and vehicles up to small van and SUV size a barrier of height 2.1 meters would be required. Costs vary but most fall within the range £1300 to £1500.  It was thought that the barrier should have a lock so that it could be opened to allow vehicles of greater height such as emergency vehicles (ambulances and fire engines) to gain access if needed.  The Chairman noted that heavy vehicles associated with the Canal restoration project may need to be on site and he recommended that this matter be held in abeyance until the canal project is completed.  This was agreed.  8.2. Olive Nial’s Memorial Bench  Cllr Done said that all the woodwork is now ready and the repair would be completed by the coming weekend.  **ACTION: Cllr Done**  8.3. Bus shelter  Cllr Jones asked about the possibility of erecting a bus shelter at the bus stop. The Clerk said that this idea had been raised some years ago but that the Trunk Road Agent was not disposed to allow a shelter at the current bus stop site. There could be an option to move the bus stop to the other end of the village.  County Cllr Arwel Jones confirmed that nothing could be erected on the A483 without consultation with the Trunk Road Agent. |
| **9. Highways and Byways**   * 1. Road Repairs Verges and potholes   County Cllr Arwel Jones said that the he has made repeated representations to the County Council and despite these and a visit by the new departmental manager nothing has been done to date. He said that the County Council was very involved with work with the Trunk Road Agent and until these were completed there was little likelihood of other matters being given priority. Cllr Hall agreed that she would go around the area and pinpoint places of greatest need.  **ACTION: Cllr Hall and County Cllr Arwel Jones**  9.2. Speeding  Cllr Done asked about the possibility of additional speed bumps on the B4398 between the crossroads and Carreghofa Lane. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that Powys County Council would be unlikely to take any action unless a survey using speed counters had show the necessity. He said that he would make a request for speed counters to be installed to verify the level of speeding on this stretch of the road.  **ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones** |
| **10 To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies**  10.1. Burial Board  Nothing to report  10.2. Powys C. C. and Town and Community Councils meeting  This group next meets in September  10.3. Village Hall  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** | | --- | --- | --- | | Powys County Council | 29th May | Planning decisions notice | | One Voice Wales | 31st May | Response to environmental principles governance and biodiversity targets consultation | | One Voice Wales | 31st May | Training dates June – September | | Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service | 31st May | Calon Tan – May magazine | | Canal & Rivers Trust | 31st May | Invitation to Information events | | Russell George MS | 1st June | June newsletter | | Keep Wales Tidy | 11th June | Tidy Wales Awards | | Kathyrn Woodroffe (Canal & Rivers Trust) | 17th June | Montgomery Canal project – archaeological investigation works | | Mid Wales Fire & Rescue Service | 20th June | Chief Fire Officer awarded King’s Fire Service Medal | | Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council | 25th June | Agenda and papers for the June meeting | |
| **12. Any other business**  12.1. Cllr James reported on her findings having walked the Carreghofa Trail. She noted that many in many areas the footpath was overgrown and some signposts were missing.  She agreed to send the report to the Clerk who would distribute it to all councillors and send a copy to Calum Carr, Rights of Way and Footpaths Officer at Powys County Council.  12.2. Cllr Jones requested that the Canal & Rivers Trust be asked to clear the towpath particularly in the area around the Carreghofa Locks.  **ACTION: Clerk to contact CRT**  12.3. Cllr Alice Bond reported that efforts were being made to get Shropshire County Council and Powys County Council to engage in joint action to resolve the problems around the Lion Hotel. |
| **13. Date of the next meeting:**  Tuesday 30th July at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall.  **ACTION: All to note** |

Approved by Council as a correct record:-

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

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

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

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