

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr R Dover (Chair)
Cllr J Fynes
Cllr C Hall
Cllr. F James
Cllr C Jones
Cllr C Savage
Cllr. I Done
Cllr I Parry

In attendance:

County Cllr Arwel Jones
Mr M. Donkin: Clerk to the Council
Mrs A. Bond - Chair: Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council

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 29th October 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th September were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Fynes, seconded by Cllr Jones and approved unanimously.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1. Ref: item 7.2. The Clerk confirmed that the Playground inspections had been transferred to Sovereign Play Ltd.

5 Finance

5.1. Current position

The clerk had circulated papers which confirmed that the Council's accounts as at Thursday 21st November 2024 were as follows: -

Deposit account: £ 10333.12
Current account: £ 813.09
Pension account £ 75.30

5.2. Draft Budget for 2025 / 26

The Clerk referred to the draft budget as set out in the papers for the meeting and drew councillors' attention to the notes attached to the budget.

He pointed out that the Community Council had not increased its Precept for the past four years having set off some of the cost from reserves. While reserves remained comfortable he felt that the precept would need to rise in next year's budget and he had applied a rise equivalent to the current RPI index (2.7%)

The Clerk further said that he had set the Salaries budget to take account of the current pay award (see item 5.3. below) and a possible award to be made at this time in 2025. He had reduced the capital projects budget by half as no major projects have been proposed by the Council for next year. Nonetheless, given works being undertaken by the Canal & Rivers Trust (CRT) an amount has been left in case some capital expenditure is needed.

The Clerk said that despite efforts by the Council to encourage local organisations to apply for financial support the Donations budget remain considerably underspent. He had, therefore reduced the proposed budget by 50%. For some years there has been no call on the training and expenses budgets but the Clerk said he proposed retaining them at the current level as there is more interest in training at present.

He then invited questions.

Cllr Savage asked about the use of reserves. The Clerk said that these had not been used to as great an extent as allocated in the current budget because the past budgets had generally been underspent.

Cllr Fynes noted that a number of items in the proposed budget were less than the previous year. The Clerk acknowledged this and said that this was why the amount allocated from reserves had been reduced.

County Cllr Arwel Jones pointed out that under the Sustainable Powys initiative town and community councils would be grouped into 13 locality areas. The County Council hopes to achieve savings by doing this. Any council that asked for an increased precept greater than 7% would be likely to receive a cut in its allocation for the following year. He felt that 2.7% was reasonable.

Cllr Fynes then proposed adoption of the Draft Budget. This was seconded by Cllr Hall and approved unanimously.

5.3. Clerk's Salary.

The Clerk referred to the item in the papers for the meeting. The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The award has been back dated to 1st April 2024. The Clerk said that he had taken account of this in setting next year's budget.

Cllr parry proposed that Council accept the award and pay arrears backdated to 1st April 2024. This was seconded by Cllr James and agreed unanimously.

5.4. Approval of payments

Council approved the following payments as listed in the papers for the meeting: -

- Llanymynech Village Hall Rent for September and October meetings - £48.00
- TEEC - Website hosting / Domain name / automatic planning feature - £583.19

6. Planning

6.1 Application Reference: 24/1601/HH Grid Reference: E:326651 N: 320779 Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension and two storey rear extension Site Address: The Hafod, Chapel Lane, Llanymynech, SY22 6EW

The Clerk tabled the above application that had been received after the papers for the meeting had been sent out. Given the short notice the Chairman suggested that councillors look over the application and send him any comments within seven days (3rd December). If comments were received these would be forwarded to the Clerk who would inform the Planning Department.

Action: All

6.2. CADW – Lion Hotel, Llanymynech – Listing

The Clerk informed Council that he had received notification from CADW that the Lion Hotel has now been included on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. A notice will be served on the owner who will have the opportunity to request a review of the decision.

7. Other Matters

7.1. Montgomery Canal Development Project

The Chairman gave a progress report. He informed the meeting that Kathryn Woodroffe has now moved on to another post. The CRT is currently finalising plans for the new Williams Bridge. It will be a 'lift' bridge. It is expected that work will begin in the summer of 2025 and take some four to five months. Cllr Savage asked who would operate the bridge. The Chairman said that it would be operated by any canal boat crew. Cllr Fynes stressed the need for the mechanism to be vandal proof.

Cllr Done said that he had attended the Canal meeting at Welshpool. The CRT had considered raising the road at Williams Bridge but the cost would be prohibitive. County Cllr Arwel Jones

County Cllr Arwel Jones said that, as yet, no planning application had been submitted for Williams Bridge. Once this is agreed the CRT will have to go to contract. He felt that the price could be in the region of £2,000,000.

In answer to a question from Cllr Hall, County Cllr Arwel Jones said that the CRT had put in a request for an extension on the project until March 2026. All the above will depend on the CRT getting this extension, otherwise the project will cease.

The Chairman also said that the CRT had been unable to get access to land needed to take the debris from dredging so that further dredging has been put off until autumn 2025 when land next to the new bridge should be available.

7.2. Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Council's current contractor asking if he would be disposed to undertake additional work, particularly at Cae Haidd, but despite three communications he had received no response.

Cllr Done said that he was aware of other s who might be interested and Cllr Fynes thought that the Council could look at a joint tender.

The Clerk advised that, given the size of the contract, any change must go to formal tender. He suggested that, in the first instance, a subcommittee be formed to draw up a revised and more detailed specification. This could then come back to the next meeting of the Council for agreement and to determine further action.

Cllr Fynes said that if anyone knew of companies that might be approached, they should notify the Clerk.

It was agreed that Cllrs Done and Savage with the Chair in an ex officio role should form the group to consider this matter and bring its conclusions to the January meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Done, Cllr Savage, and Chairman

7.3. Dolphin Car Park

It was reported that a car appears to have been abandoned in the car park but, on checking the number plate, it was found that the vehicle is currently taxed until May 2025. Therefore, this is not a police matter. The Clerk suggested that the police might check in case the vehicle had been stolen and abandoned. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would contact the local PCSO.

ACTION County Cllr Arwel Jones

A member of the public (and former councillor) had raised the issue of the canal gate leading from the car park. There was some doubt about whose responsibility this was, Powys County Council or the CRT. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he had emailed the resident and taken up the matter.

7.4. Dog Bins

This matter has been reported by Cllr Savage and is in hand.

7.5. Social media activity for the Council

Cllrs Parry and Hall provided a brief report on current social media activity. There had only been one post this month about trees needing pruning.

Cllr Bond said that the link to Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council's website has been lost. However, there is soon to be a new link and domain name website and she asked that Carreghofa Community Council reestablishes the link once this is in place.

ACTION: Cllr Parry

7.6. Donation Requests

7.6.1. Llanymynech Canal Wharf

The following request for support has been received from Llanymynech Canal Wharf: -
They are seeking support to carry out improvements to the George Watson Buck canal trip boat.

I am writing as secretary of Llanymynech Canal Wharf which operates the George Watson Buck trip boat and visitor centre

We are currently looking to fundraise for some internal improvements to the boat for the 2025 season. Our anticipated budget for this is about £8,600 but even smaller amounts will help us run a more efficient visitor attraction locally.

In particular, we are looking for a fridge and catering equipment (approx. £200) so that we can offer light refreshments on the boat as well as in the centre. Not only would this help improve the sustainability of our group but more importantly improve the service to our passengers. If Carreghofa Community Council could help us in any way, we would, of course, be very grateful.

Cllr Fynes felt that the Community Council should give sufficient to enable the purchase of the kitchen equipment. The Chairman suggested a donation of £250 and this was agreed.

7.6.2. Llanymynech Community Café

A further request was tabled in support of the Community Café. The Clerk informed the meeting that last year the Council had given a donation of £100. This was increased to £200.

ACTION: Clerk

8. Amenities

8.1. Walls Bridge Playground - Walls Bridge Lease

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Hugo Van-Rees, Powys County Council's Farms Estate Manager, saying that Carreghofa Community Council is happy to negotiate a new and temporary lease on the Walls Bridge Playground. However, to date, there has been no response.

ACTION: Clerk to chase up

8.2. Football Field

There has been no progress on the matter of a rolling lease on the football field. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that there is no need to pursue this matter unless the land is, in fact, included as a site for development in the revised LDP.

It was agreed that the Council take no further action at present.

9 Highways and Byways

9.1 Road Repairs and Potholes

County Cllr Arwel Jones reported that work at the car park and the salt bins had been done, and some potholes had been repaired. Cllr James said that the blocked drains on the Offa's Dyke Path had still not been attended to and she felt that with the approach of wintery weather conditions will become much worse. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he expected the work to have been completed by Christmas.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones

9.2. Car wash

Complaints had been received about waste from the car wash being emptied on to the road and pavements making conditions hazardous for pedestrians. Cllr Fynes felt that if some screening was erected then run off during the time that the car wash is operating could be reduced but, at the end of the day the waste water would be washed onto the road. However, Cllr Savage said that running off detergent waste into the drainage system constituted an environmental hazard.

County Cllr Arwel Jones said that, as the car wash is on the A483, this is a matter for the Trunk Road Agent. He would get in touch with them.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones

10 To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies

10.1 Burial Board

Nothing to report. The Board has not yet met.

10.2. Powys C. C. and Town and Community Councils meeting

Nothing to report

10.3. Village Hall

Nothing to report

11 Correspondence

11.1. Matters of decision

There are no matters 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	6 th November	Joint OVW / SLCC event
One Voice Wales	6 th November	Department of Work and Pensions scam
Powys County Council	6 th November	Climate and Nature conference 7 th December
Powys County Council	6 th November	Canal & Rivers Trust event 8 th November
One Voice Wales	8 th November	Training dates November / December
Welsh Government via OVW	12 th November	Free Pension Credit webinars
Powys Citizens Advice	12 th November	Advice Service Report
Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service	12 th November	Charity Carol Service
Welsh Government via OVW	13 th November	Local Places for Nature exhibition
One Voice Wales	14 th November	Conference Report
Play Wales	14 th November	November e bulletin
Powys Action on the climate emergency	19 th November	Climate and Nature Conference
Welsh Government via OVW	20 th November	Dementia Action Plan survey

Item 12. Any other business from councillors

12.1 County Cllr Arwel Jones reported that the 'lady who looks after the flowers' on the war memorial has asked if Carreghofa Community Council could take on the work.

The Chairman said that we need to know what the task comprises before a decision is made. He would speak to Mrs Downes.

ACTION: Chairman

12.2. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that a Sustainable Powys meeting would take place on 3rd December. He would raise any concerns at that meeting and report back.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones

12.3. Cllr Done said that the 'high vis' signs to be placed on the planters are ready to be sent to the printer. He agreed to email the design to County Cllr Arwel Jones who would look at it from the highways point of view.

ACTION: Cllr Done

12.4. Defibrillator. Cllr Jones raised the question of the defibrillator which is now very old. She asked if it had been repaired. The Clerk said that Clon Hearts is currently promoting new defibrillators and he agreed to look into the provision of a new unit. Cllr Bond said that the West Midlands Ambulance Service first responders maintain the defibrillators for Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council and she wondered whether a similar arrangement could be reached with the Welsh equivalent.

The Clerk agreed to investigate possibilities

ACTION: Clerk

Item 13. To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public while two confidential matters are discussed.

As no members of the general public were present this was not required.

The Clerk confirmed that the Planning Department has been asked to carry out an enforcement review of the Llanymynech shop.

14. Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall

ACTION: All to note

As there is no December meeting the Chairman thanked councillors for giving their time and commitment to the work of the Community Council and wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

Approved by Council as a correct record: -

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____