

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 22 March 2017, at Cradoc Golf Club at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Jane Price
Bob Wood
Rees Price
Tess Birtles
Margaret Rees
Dilys Davies

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (clerk)
Cllr Gillian Thomas (after item 16)

Cllr Margaret Rees and Cllr Rees Price said that they would not be standing for re-election in May. Cllr Jane Price thanked them on behalf of the Council for their work on the community council. Both have been councillors for forty five years and their knowledge and experience will be sorely missed.

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Gillian Thomas who said she would be attending after a school governing body meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 January 2016

3.1 It was agreed that the minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Information from Minutes - Clerk's Report

4.1 With regard to item 8, the Clerk reported that the County Council had decided to close the recycling centre. A letter had been received by a resident expressing dissatisfaction with the community council, saying that 'it was at risk of demonstrating complacency and a willingness to just accept the decision, without a fight.'

4.2 The points raised in the letter were discussed. The Council had considered the changes to the Local Development Plan but had decided not to submit any comments. The resident might disagree with this but the Council had discussed it. With regard to the recycling centre, the Council strongly refuted the views expressed. The minutes of the last three minutes and the Facebook page provide evidence for this. The Clerk was asked to reply to the resident setting out the Council's position.

4.3 It was noted that there was already evidence of flytipping at the former recycling site. Cllr Tess Birtles said that she had informed Powys County Council on a regular basis but they had not been collecting the rubbish. It was suggested that if the rubbish builds up, the Chairman should write to the Brecon and Radnor Express with photos explaining that this closure had been opposed by the community council but that Powys County Council had said there would not be an increase in flytipping.

4.4 Under item 9 the Clerk read out a reply from Powys County Council saying that the road at Battle End Farm was on a secondary gritting route and would only be gritted when the weather was severe. The Council was disappointed with this response but felt there was no point pursuing the matter given the financial difficulty faced by the County Council.

4.5 Under item 14 the Clerk reported that Powys County Council had bid for the repair of Cradoc Road in the 2017-18 capital programme.

5. Risk Assessment Review

5.1 The Clerk reported that the noticeboards, troughs and seat had been checked and were structurally sound. The Council's data was now being backed up on a memory stick with a copy being given to the Chairman. The Council considered the risk assessment throughout all sections and agreed that all necessary measures were in place. The Council approved the risk assessment.

6. Internal Audit review and appointment of internal auditor

6.1 The Clerk reported that Mr Paul Arthur was willing to act as internal auditor again and this was approved. A letter of appointment to Mr Arthur was also approved.

6.2 The Council considered and approved the audit plan and question/action list, included as appendix 2 to these minutes. It was agreed that within the context of a Council of the size of Yscir, each area complied with the requirements of the Wales Audit Office.

7. To receive an update on the Spring Newsletter and distribution arrangements

7.1 Councillors reported that the newsletter had been distributed and very positive comments had been received. Mrs Westhorpe was thanked for her work in putting the newsletter together which looked very professional. It was decided to stick to this timescale in future years.

8. Request received to lobby for faster introduction on broadband in Battle.

8.1 The Clerk reported that a resident from Battle had complained about the slow introduction of fibre broadband to Battle. There was a discussion on which areas of Yscir had faster broadband and which hadn't. It was agreed to write to BT Openreach seeking clarification on the current situation and asking if implementation could be speeded up for the remaining areas as it was crucial to the operation of small businesses in the area.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 An invoice from the Clerk for £208 for expenses incurred in working from home for the 2016/17 financial year was approved. The clerk's hours (31.8 hrs) and expenses (£38.90) for January and February were approved.

9.2 An invoice from One Voice Wales for £59 to renew membership for 2016/17 was approved. The newsletter printing costs of £158, the clerk's pay and expenses and a training course fee of £35 were approved

9.3 The Council noted the current financial position as shown in the cash book spreadsheet and budget monitoring spreadsheet. It was noted that the overspend on the newsletter was due to the earlier production of the newsletter, with two newsletters being produced in one year. The end of year balance would be around £2532.

10. To note that the Council has complied with the workplace pension requirements

10.1 The Clerk reported that he had brought forward the compliance date and had completed the Council's legal obligations, including writing a letter to himself explaining that the Council would not be putting him on a pension scheme.

11 To receive a report on training attended

11.1 The Clerk reported that he had attended a webinar by HMRC on the end of year return. It had been very helpful.

12. Welsh Assembly Consultation on the future of Local Government

12.1 The Community Council noted the proposal to encourage clusters of small councils and the introduction of a training plan for councillors. The comment was made that a lot of training courses had been cancelled so it might prove difficult to access the training locally.

- 13) Speed of traffic through Pontfaen (request for support from Merthyr Cynog Council)**
13.1 Speeding was considered to be an issue In Aberyscir as well as in Pontfaen. It was agreed to support the request from Merthy Cynog Council for a 30mph speed restriction signs in Pont Faen or 'Slow Down' signs on the roadway either side of the main village.
- 14) Electoral Review of Powys**
14.1 The Clerk reported on his attendance at a recent meeting. The number of county councillors in Powys is going to be reduced from 73 to between 65 and 67. Electoral wards will be redefined to try and get as close as possible to 1616 voters per councillor. There are only 860 voters in Yscir electoral ward that includes Merthyr Cynog and Trallong. The review body is asking for suggestions at the moment and will be consulting on its recommendations in 2018. These changes could result in changes to community council wards. As the next community council will need to consider this it was decided to discuss this item at the next meeting.
- 15 Planning Application P/2017/0195 Change of use of land to form a glamping site for 6 units and associated works at Cilgwyn, Pontfaen, LD3 9ND**
15.1 After discussion it was decided not to raise any objections to this planning application.
- 16) Correspondence**
a) Santander Dividend payment
b) Walk for Life - request by the Kidney Wales Foundation
c) Bobarth Children's Family Centre - request for funding
d) Santander Annual Tax Voucher
e) Tenovus cancer care - request for funding
- PCC = Powys County Council; BBNPA = Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
* circulated by email
** received by email but not circulated
- 17) Any planning applications that arrived after the papers were sent out.**
17.1 There were none.
- 18) Issues to be raised with Powys County Council**
18.1 Cllr Jane Price raised the problem of a road edge that had broken away and was dangerous at Battle End.
18.2 Cllr Rees Price said that very bad potholes were developing where cars turn round opposite the garages at Cradoc School.
18.3 Cllr Gillian Thomas agreed to pick these issues up with Highways.
18.4 Cllr Jane Price said that the road was very muddy outside Cradoc School where cars were always parked. The road needed cleaning but this would be difficult as cars are parked there all the time.
18.5 Near the new entrance to a barn conversion between Cae Crwn and Battle Fawr Farm there is a standing pool of water due to a blocked drain.
- 19) Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 17 May 2017 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club**

In response to a question Cllr Gillian Thomas confirmed that she was not standing as a County Councillor in the next elections. On behalf of the council Cllr Jane Price thanked Gill for her work over the years supporting the community.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm.