

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 12 November 2014, at 7.30pm at Cradoc Golf Course

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

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Cllr Helen Howarth was returning from a commitment in Buckinghamshire and Cllr Gillian Thomas was at a school governing body meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 September 2014

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

4. Information from Minutes - Clerk's Report

4.1 Under 4.1 the Clerk reported that the subsidence outside Cradoc Golf Course had finally been filled. He had measured the depth of the subsidence (8cm) and sent photos to Powys County Council which prompted a flurry of emails and action. Councillors were very pleased that this repair had at last been carried out.

4.2 Under 5.1 Cllr Gillian Thomas had confirmed to the Clerk that Matthew Griffiths of the Planning department of Powys County Council was still based in Brecon.

4.3 The Clerk reported that he had visited the work of the Probation Service's community payback workers on Battle Hill. They hoped to complete the clearing of the main bridleway in the next few weeks. It was agreed to ask them to move to the Green Lane next and then back to the bridleway on the eastern edge of Battle Hill forest that goes to Sarnau.

4.4 Under 6.3 Cllr Bob Wood reported that the rubbish tip was not on the Green Lane.

4.5 Under item 8 the Clerk reported that he had spoken with Caroline Moscrop from Natural Resources Wales who had said that they had not previously funded mink trapment as they prioritised more invasive species such as crayfish. She thought that otters were outcompeting the mink for fish and thereby helping to control the mink population. She said that if the Council wished to go ahead with trapping the mink, Natural Resources Wales would need to check whether this was on their list of potentially dangerous operations. .

4.6 Cllr Helen Howarth had received more positive information from Martin Richards of Natural Resources Wales who had told her it may be possible to get some assistance with the mink. He also said that the sign discouraging flytipping should be ready soon. Martin Watkins from MK Pest Control had informed the Clerk that now would be a bad time to try and trap the mink due to the number of dead salmon likely to be in the river after spawning. He thought that January would be a better time and if required he could provide an estimate of the cost then. It was decided to bring this item back to the January meeting when Natural Resources Wales' position might be a bit clearer.

4.7 Under item 12 the Clerk reported that the Fire Service was proposing to hold a meeting at Cradoc School on 1 December to promote and advertise the work it does in the community. Cllr Margaret Rees said that this clashed with the Winter Fair at the Royal Welsh Showground.. The Clerk was asked to see if an alternative date was possible. It was

agreed that it would not be necessary to provide refreshments for the meeting. (*The date of the meeting was subsequently set as 20th January at 7.00pm at Cradoc School -all welcome*).

- 4.8 On items 13 and 14, the Clerk reported that there had been no prosecutions for flytipping and that 77 warnings had been issued since 1 January 2013 with 18 of these relating to the Cradoc recycling centre. Powys County Council said that it recognises the importance of effective enforcement and steps are being taken to resolve the current issues. With regard to not issuing black bags Powys County Council said that new collection arrangements would aim to divert all biodegradable waste, especially food, from being put in wheelie bins. Yscir Community Council was not convinced by this response but decided not to pursue the matter.

5. **Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2014**

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

6. **Information from Minutes- Clerk's Report**

- 6.1 The Clerk reported on progress with regard to clarifying access to the graveyard at St Cynog's Church. Paul Rees, Assistant Head of Property Services at The Representative Body of the Church in Wales had said:- 'I can confirm that visitors to graves will continue to have access to graves within the churchyard and that funerals will continue in existing graves and where there remains space.' In addition, information sent out by the estate agent detailing conditions of the sale was quite specific on visitors' rights of access to the graves on the land being sold.

7. **To consider sending a letter to Cradoc residents about dog fouling on the pavements**

- 7.1 Cllr Dilys Davies said that she had been made aware of a dog fouling problem on the pavements in Cradoc. It was not certain who was responsible so she had been asked if the Council would send a general letter to all residents about this problem. After discussion, it was decided not to send a general letter as this was thought to be ineffective. If further information and evidence became available, the Council would be happy to send a letter to specific people whose dogs may not be being controlled properly.

8. **To consider whether anything can be done to reduce the risk of an accident near Cradoc School at the beginning and end of school**

- 8.1 This is a longstanding item that Cllr Helen Howarth had asked to be discussed. The lack of a proper car park and the increased number of pupils arriving by car was discussed. It was noted that the police had recently been active outside the school. It was decided to consider this item at the next meeting so that Cllr Helen Howarth could make her views known.

9. **Financial Matters**

9.1 **To approve the clerk's hours (33) and expenses (£58.01) for September and October**

The Council approved the clerk's hours and expenses for September and October and authorised payments to him of £260.14 and £58.01 respectively.

9.2 **To note the financial position of the Council as contained in the cashbook and budget monitoring spreadsheet**

The Clerk reported that there was £1643 in the bank with another precept instalment due at the end of December. The budget profile indicated the Council is £259 better off than projected at this stage, due mainly to an underspend on the Clerk's salary. Members were satisfied with the accounts and the budget monitoring statement.

10. **To receive a report from the Clerk on a meeting he attended about the forthcoming budget reductions at Powys County Council and Powys Teaching Health Board**

- 10.1 The Council noted the paper circulated with the agenda. Councillors were very concerned about the level of savings required (£15.8m by PCC in 2015/16 and £38m by Powys Teaching Health Board) and the fact that Powys is the lowest funded authority in Wales.

11. Safety Inspection of Council Assets

- 11.1 Cllr Bob Wood and the Clerk had visited the troughs and noticeboards on 6 November 2014 and Cllr Bob Wood had subsequently checked on the condition of the seat at Aberbran Everything was satisfactory except for the uprights on the Fennifach noticeboard. These were rotting through and the right hand one in particular was in need of replacement. Cllr Bob Wood had spoken with Tim Field about replacing the posts. Replacing the posts in oak could cost £60 per post just for the material but other wood would be cheaper. Tim Field said he could clean the sign up and varnish it. It was agreed to opt for cheaper posts but set them in concrete which should reduce the rotting problem. The Council decided that the job was sufficiently small not to require a number of quotes and Cllr Bob Wood agreed to co-ordinate with Tim Field on replacing the posts.
- 11.2 The noticeboard in Battle had been taken down to allow access to the barn walls for pointing work. The owner informed the clerk that he was not keen for the noticeboard to be reinstated now that the barns were being converted to residential properties. Councillors thought that near the bus stop outside Beacon Lodge would be a good place to reposition the noticeboard if the owner and Highways were agreeable. The Clerk was asked to pursue this.
12. **To note that the Clerk has successfully completed the 'Working with Your Council' course.**
- 12.1 The Clerk was congratulated on successfully completing the Society of Local Council Clerks course for Clerks that had been funded by the Council.
13. **Planning Application P/2014/1018 Removal of Conditions 4, 5 and 6 of permission P/2011/0421 relating to the requirement to comply with the Code for Sustainable Homes at land at Cusop Farm, Aberyscir**
- 13.1 Councillors were surprised to learn that it was no longer necessary to comply with the Code for Sustainable Homes. It was necessary to comply with new building regulations, though.. There were no objections to the application.
14. **Correspondence**
- a) One Voice Wales - Minutes of Annual General Meeting and notice of mtg to be held on 17 October.
- b) Request for financial assistance from Powys Citizen's Advice Bureau
- c) PAVO e briefing
- 15) **Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 7 January 2015 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm