

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 8 September 2014, at 7.30pm at Far Cottage, Penoyre

Councillors Present: Jane Price
Helen Howarth
Margaret Rees
Roger Price
Dilys Davies
Bob Wood

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)
Cllr Gillian Thomas

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Cllr Rees Price had said he thought he would not be able to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 July 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 asked Cllr Gillian Thomas to provide an update. She said that Lyn Parry had not responded to her emails but that she had spoken with him today and enquired about the possibility of enforcement action. Lyn Parry said that he would inform Welsh Water that unless they made a repair he would put up traffic lights and charge them the cost. Lyn Parry said that this usually provoked a response. Cllr Gillian Thomas was thanked for her work.

4.2 Under 4.2 the Clerk reported that Jo Lancey would be visiting the road outside Cradoc school on Thursday and hoped to install a temporary vehicle speed indicator sign at that time. There was also a mention of installing other signs and the Clerk was seeking clarification on this.

4.3 Under 12.1 Cllr Gillian Thomas said that she had reported the damaged road edges to Lyn Parry. Cllr Dilys Davies said that roadworks had started near Pen y Crug. It was reported that the edge of the road near the corner to Battle Hill was also becoming dangerous. Cllr Gillian Thomas said that she would continue to keep an eye on the situation.

4.4 Under 13 the Clerk reported that he had skimmed the new draft Local Development Plan and had not seen any significant changes that would affect Yscir.

4.5 The Clerk mentioned that for the last two meetings he had not been able to access the Cradoc Notice Board due to vehicles parking very close to it. Builders' vans had been using some of the spaces. Cllr Bob Wood thought that work on a nearby house might have finished which should alleviate the problem.

5. To discuss changes to the access to Powys Council Planning Department in Brecon

5.1 Cllr Dilys Davies reported that she had been unable to contact the Planning Department in Brecon. She had been transferred several times and nobody had returned her call. Cllr Jane Price had also heard that people were not getting response from the Planning Department. It was wondered whether the Planning Department in Brecon had closed. Cllr Gillian Thomas had not heard that this was the case but would check.

6. The clearance by the Probation Service of the Green Lane and bridleways on Battle Hill including consideration of a formal complaint

- 6.1 The Clerk updated the council on a meeting he had had with Nigel Hickey from the Probation Service and emails he had exchanged with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). NRW were happy for the Probation Service Community Payback workers to clear the bridleways on Battle Hill of vegetation but that they would be working there in a month or so's time and that period should be avoided.
- 6.2 The Probation Service would be undertaking the work on Saturday's if the weather was reasonable. It was agreed that the Probation Service should start work on Battle Hill and move on to the Green Lane afterwards in order to avoid clashing with the forestry work on Battle Hill. The Probation Service had suggested that a member of the council should visit the work to check that everything was satisfactory. This was agreed. The Clerk said that he would undertake this work in October but was not available during September. The following rota was agreed:
Cllr Bob Wood would visit on 13th September
Cllr Jane Price would do 20th September
Cllr Roger Price would do 27th September
- 6.3 Cllr Helen Howarth reported that there had been a significant tip of rubbish on or adjacent to the Green Lane. it was thought it might be rubbish for burning. Cllr Bob Wood said that he would investigate further on Saturday.
- 6.4 The complaint was then discussed. It was deeply regretted that in clearing the vegetation, the Community Payback workers had strayed onto private property, cutting hedges and trees that should have been left alone. Cllr Jane Price had spoken with the person supervising the work and the Clerk had spoken with Nigel Hickey and visited the owner to apologise.
- 6.5 The following measures were agreed to make sure that this did not happen again:
a) The Probation Service will be asked not to cut the tops of hedges or the sides, unless these impede access and agreement has been reached with the owner;
b) Where the bridleway passes a residential property, discussions will take place with the owner of the property beforehand;
c) The vegetation will only be cleared back to allow access; boundary hedges will be left untouched unless they impede the bridleway and agreement has been reached with the owner;
d) A representative of the council will visit the work while it is taking place to check that everything is satisfactory.
- 6.6 A draft letter of apology from the chairman of the council was circulated and it was agreed to send this to the complainant.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 To approve the clerk's hours (29) and expenses (£47.7) for July and August

The council approved the payment of £231.87 to the Clerk for July and August and £47.70 for his expenses.

7.2 To approve the annual return and note that no issues were raised by the external auditor

The annual return was approved by the council and it was noted that no issues of concern had been raised by the external auditor.

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

The Clerk reported that the cashbook was slightly out of date as the August bank statement had not been received in which another precept payment should have been received. The balance should be just over £2000. The Clerk also reported that a VAT refund had been received and the council would also be receiving £30 from Wales Audit office reserves. Members were satisfied with the accounts and the budget monitoring statement.

- 8. Request from Facebook page for the Council to consider the issue of mink living on the banks of the Yscir and seek help in removing them.**
- 8.1 Cllr Helen Howarth reported that the number of mink on the river was increasing now that the person who used to trap them had moved away. Cllr Gillian Thomas said that Powys County Council was getting rid of its pest control service but that this was a service that was charged for in any case. The merit of obtaining a quote from MK Pest Control was discussed but concern was raised about possible liability due to having to set the traps on private land. It was decided that Cllr Helen Howarth would approach Natural Resources Wales in the first instance. Depending on the outcome the Clerk would then contact Powys County Council and then possibly seek a quote for the work.
- 9. To confirm the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 18 August 2014**
- 9.1 It was agreed that the minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting
- 10. To consider responding to the Powys County Council's invitation to discuss the forthcoming budget reduction proposals**
- 10.1 After discussion it was decided that Cllr Bob Wood and the Clerk would attend the morning session at Elim Church on 8 October and report back to the next meeting. Cllr Roger Price might be able to attend the drop-in evening session after 5pm.
- 11. To consider and approve revised Financial Regulations**
- 11.1 The Clerk outlined changes to the existing financial regulations to reflect current practice. It was decided that a 3 year budget forecast was unnecessary. The Clerk was given the power to spend up to £100 in any one month on expenses but it was thought unlikely that this ceiling would ever be reached. The requirement for a written internal audit was removed in order to reduce costs.
- 12 Correspondence**
- 12.1 a) Fire and Rescue Service request to give a presentation to the Council
It was decided to see if Merthyr Cynog and Trallong Council's would like to combine on this and have a meeting at the school for the whole community.
- b) Consultation by PCC on a Sustainable Library Service for Powys
This consultation closes on 19 September; it proposes major budget reductions
- c) PCC Summer Ambassadors Programme - Notes for Councillors
- d) BBNPA - Action for Tourism booklet
- e) One Voice Wales - 8 motions to be considered at the Annual General Meeting
- f) Santander - Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting
- g) Play for Wales - Summer 2014
- h) Request for funding support from Shelter
- 13. Fly Tipping at the Cradoc Recycling Site (Cllr Bob Wood)**
- 13.1 Cllr Bob Wood reported that a member of the community had seen a woman fly tipping at the recycling site. He had taken photographs and reported the woman to Powys County Council. However, Powys County Council were reluctant to take any further action; following contact with the chief executive a warning letter was eventually sent to the woman concerned. Cllr Bob Wood asked that a letter be sent to Powys asking how many people have been prosecuted for fly tipping at the Cradoc site, and across Powys as a whole. It was agreed to send this as a freedom of information request.
- 14) Poor Sanitation of Wheelie Bins as black bin bags are no longer provided (Cllr Bob Wood)**
- 14.1 Cllr Bob Wood expressed concern about the state of wheelie bins that were being filled directly with rubbish without using black bags. This was a growing health hazard, particularly for more urban communities. He felt that it was short sighted of Powys County

Council (PCC) not to provide black bin bags. It was agreed to raise this point in the letter to PCC with regard to fly tipping.

15) Road issues -

15.1 Aberyscir Bridge

The council was pleased that this work had been completed without having to close the bridge.

16) To consider any planning applications received after the papers were circulated

16.1 There were none.

17) Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 12 November 2014 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club

The meeting closed at 8.45pm