

# YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 8 January 2014, at Cradoc Golf Club at 7.30pm

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

**Also present:** Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence**

1.1 There were none.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

**3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 November 2013**

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

**4. Matters Arising that are not on the agenda**

4.1 With regard to 10.1, the Clerk reported that he had received a reply from Ms J Lancey with regard to a speed indicator warning sign near Cradoc school. She said that a speed survey will be carried out in the New Year to see if a speed indicator sign is justified.

4.2 With regard to 11.1, the Clerk had received a reply from Brecon Beacons National Park saying they would look into the concerns raised about the building work taking place at Shiloam Shalom.

**5. Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 December 2013**

5.1 These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**6) Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 9 October 2013**

6.1 These were approved and signed by Cllr Bob Wood

**7) Approval of Draft Data Protection Scheme**

7.1 The draft data protection scheme circulated with the papers was approved. It was agreed to review it in two years time.

**8) Financial Matters**

8.1 The Council approved the payment of £318.53 for the clerk's salary for November and December. and £96.66 for his expenses which included printer ink cartridges and a payment to Text Local. The three monthly payment to HMRC of £105 for PAYE was also approved. The increase in hours over the September/October period was queried. The Clerk explained that this was largely due to additional work on the website, data protection act requirements and attendance at a BBNP liaison meeting.

- 8.2 The Council noted the current financial position as shown in the cash book spreadsheet. Further discussion took place under 8.4.
- 8.3 An invoice from One Voice Wales for £30 for a training course for the Chairman was approved for payment.
- 8.4 The draft budget paper circulated with the papers was discussed. The opening balance was £1968 and the projected closing balance is £1369, a nett expenditure of £599. Each line of expenditure was discussed. The significant increase in expenditure on expenses was discussed. This was due to having meeting papers copied in Brecon and other one-off items. There was a discussion about whether it would be worthwhile to buy a printer/photocopier. It was agreed not to do so at the moment but to keep this under review.
- Consideration was given to establishing a separate budget head for the Farmwatch scheme. As this was unknown expenditure it was decided to cover this using the balances in 2014/15. It was decided to set a precept of £13 which should result in balances of £1,233 in March 2015. The draft budget was approved.

9) **Update on the new website**

- 9.1 The clerk reported that Upper Bridge Enterprises had nearly finished their work on the first five pages of the new website which would use £250 of the Government Grant. Cllr Helen Howarth said that she thought we would be able to further improve the website once we had received the training. Cllr Helen Howarth and Cllr Dilys Davies volunteered to receive training alongside the clerk.
- 9.2 The clerk reported that the launch of the Facebook page had been successful. Cllr Helen Howarth said that 48 people now 'liked' the site and she gave figures on the user profile. 74% of these were women but if the anonymous hits were also included this figure reduced to 46%. There was a good spread across all age ranges from 18 to over 65. She urged members who used Facebook to keep putting items on once a month to keep the page fresh. It was agreed that at least 2 weeks before a meeting the clerk would ask the community whether there was anything that the Council should be discussing at the meeting.
- 9.3 In order to promote the Facebook page and to generate material for the website, it was agreed to hold a photograph competition for photos taken in Yscir. It would be a condition of entry that any photos could be used by the Council on the website. The prize for the competition would be an Amazon gift voucher for £25 which would be funded from the Welsh Assembly's grant for website development. The photos would be judged by the Council at its next meeting. The closing date for the competition would be 11 March.

10. **Arrangements for the Annual Newsletter**

- 10.1 After discussion the following points were agreed:
- a) the content would be agreed at the next meeting in March;
  - b) the clerk would request contributions and chase items as required;
  - c) guidance would be issued on length, when the newsletter would be issued, and content (both looking back over the last year and looking forward)
  - d) Cllr Bob Wood would proof read the items;
  - e) Cllr Helen Howarth would put the newsletter into its final form
  - f) all members would assist with collation and distribution
  - g) The newsletter would be delivered at the end of April, after the main period of lambing work
  - h) there would be a feature on the new Farmwatch scheme
  - i) Cllr Dilys Davies would obtain copy from the Young Farmers

11. **Incorporating the TextLocal Service into the Neighbourhood Watch and FarmWatch scheme**
- 11.1 The clerk outlined two areas of the scheme that needed to be finalised:  
a) back-up contact arrangements in case the clerk was not available;  
b) who would be the recipient of the text alerts.
- 11.2 Cllrs Helen Howarth and Cllr Bob Wood volunteered to be contact points for initiating text messages to the community, in addition to the clerk.
- 11.3 It was decided to trial the system with a small group consisting of council members, Farmwatch members and neighbourhood watch co-ordinators. If others expressed an interest they would be added. After trialling it would be opened up to the rest of the community. An article would be included in the annual newsletter.
- 11.4 The availability of Farmwatch posters was questioned. The clerk said that the Police Community Support Officer was trying to obtain some but he had expressed doubt about their availability. The clerk was asked to follow this up again with PCSO Steffan Rees and also to inform him of developments on the combined Farmwatch/Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- 12) **Powys County Council Consultation on One Powys Plan Priorities**
- 12.1 Powys County Council's consultation was discussed. It was agreed that members would respond individually as everyone had different concerns. However, it was agreed that a very important issue was missing from the list: - the potential reduction in acute health services in South Powys due to the possible downgrading of services at Nevill Hall Hospital. The clerk was asked to make his point on behalf of Yscir Community Council.
- 13) **Proposed dates of meetings for 2014 -15**  
The following dates were agreed:  
Monday 19 May, Monday 28 July, Monday 8 September, Wednesday 12 November,  
Wednesday 7 January 2015, Wednesday 11 March 2015
- 14) **Correspondence**
- 14.1\* Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Assessment 2012/2013
- 14.2 Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation
- 14.3 Play for Wales Winter newsletter
- 14.4 Welsh Assembly Government Consultation on Accounts and Audit Regulations
- 14.5 \*\* PCC Candidate Site Update
- 14.6 One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting on Friday 17 January at Hay Primary School
- 14.7 Invitation for Chairman and guest to enter ballot for Buckingham Palace Garden Party
- The Chairman announced that she had applied for this.
- \* Received by email
- \*\* Received by email and forward to councillors
- 15) **Visit by BBNP Chief Executive to next Council Meeting**
- 15.1 Members were asked for questions they wished to raise with the Chief Executive when he attends the next meeting. Two issues were highlighted:  
What are the criteria for decision making on planning applications as these are not clear at the moment;  
Why do people get away without planning permission or not complying with regulations, for example, on visibility splays.  
The clerk agreed to send these questions to BBNP, along with any others brought to his attention.

Cllr Rees Price left the meeting at this point;

16) **Road Maintenance Issues**

16.1 Road Gritting on Cradoc Road between Cradoc and Brecon

The clerk reported that he had written to Powys County Council requesting that the above road be gritted as a matter of course. This was in response to an accident in which a car overturned and landed in the hedge.

16.2 Road Gritting from Cradoc to Battle (Dilys Davies)

Cllr Dilys Davies expressed concern that the road from Cradoc to the far side of Battle was not included in the initial gritting. Beyond Battle there are fewer properties so it is less critical that this road is gritted. The Council agreed that there was a good case for the road between Battle and Cradoc to be included in the initial gritting and the clerk was asked to request this.

16.3 Flooding on Cradoc Road below Pysgodlyn (Dilys Davies)

It was reported that the problems that had occurred over the holiday period had been resolved and the road was much better now.

16.4 Cllr Bob Wood raised the problem of water running down the road between Aberyscir and Aberbran. Powys County Council had been trying to rod out a blockage but with little success. Cllr Helen Howarth said the the workers were returning with a large suction machine later in the week.

16.5 The clerk was asked to enquire what was happening about the depression in the road on the hill out of Cradoc approaching the golf club. It is marked with red paint but nothing has been done to repair it.

16.6 Cllr Margaret Rees reported that there is a bad pot hole on Cradoc Road near Pen y Crug.

Cllr Helen Howarth suggested that pot hole reporting form on the PCC website should be drawn to the community's attention on the Facebook page.

17. **Confirmation of date and time of next meeting**

17.1 It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 12 March 2014 at Cradoc Golf Club at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm