

# YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 11 November 2015 at Cradoc Golf Club at 7.30pm

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

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

**1. Apologies for absence**

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Gillian Thomas.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

**3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 July 2015**

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

**4. Clerk's Report including information from minutes**

4.1 With regard to 4.2 the Clerk read a response he had received from Powys County Council with regard to the planning application for the swimming pool at Siloam Shalom. which had been approved through delegated powers. A planning officer stated that applications were only presented to elected members if a) protocol requires that application type (e.g. wind turbines) to be taken, b) the local member calls it in, in line with the Council's protocol or c) the head of service calls in the application. As these conditions did not apply the application was dealt with through delegated powers.

4.2 Under item 5 the Clerk reported that BT had confirmed that the telephone box could be adopted but that the box was a listed building. The Clerk then contacted Powys County Council and he was informed that if the telephone receiver was retained, listed building consent would not be required but if the internal equipment was taken out, building consent would be required, though there would not be a charge for this. After consideration of adaptations made to the Llanfrynach telephone box, it was decided to remove the telephone receiver and housing. The Clerk was asked to look at the Llanfrynach telephone box as a model and to try and find out who had undertaken that conversion. He was asked to submit a planning application and report back at the next meeting

4.3 With regard to the works on Aberyscir bridge, the engineer had written to the Clerk asking for feedback on the job. Councillors reported that they had done an excellent job and it had made a much bigger improvement that they thought possible. The Council was also pleased that the level of disruption had been kept to a minimum.

4.4 With regard to the Green Lane, Cllr Roger Price reported that he had cleared a branch away from the Battle end of the lane. Cllr Jane Price mentioned that there was another overhanging low branch at the Aberyscir end and she had bruised her back on it whilst on

horseback. Cllr Roger Price said that he would go down and remove it. The Council thanked him for this work.

**5. To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 23 September**

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

**6. To make a co-option onto Yscir Community Council from the following people who have expressed an interest:**

a) Valerie Davies, The Old Rectory, Aberyscir

b) Tess Birtles, Glanyscir Aberyscir

6.1 The Clerk read out emails that had been received from the two applicants. The Council expressed its appreciation for the applications but was disappointed no interest had been forthcoming from the Cradoc area as there was no-one from Cradoc on the Council. After a brief discussion, a secret vote was held. Tess Birtles received 3 votes, Valerie Davies received 2 votes and there was 1 abstention. Tess Birtles was accordingly elected to the Council. She will be a councillor until elections for the whole council take place in May 2017.

**7. To receive a report following a meeting with Upper Bridge Enterprises (UBE) on the development of a new website platform**

7.1 Cllr Bob Wood and the Clerk had met with UBE on 4 November. Cllr Bob Wood said that he had been impressed and the Clerk reported that he had always had very positive dealings with UBE. The new website should be easier to view on smart phones and tablets. After discussion it was agreed to proceed with the new website. As the licence for the old website was due to be renewed at the end of November the Council was keen to have the new website up and running before this had to be paid.

7.2 The following changes to the website were agreed:

a) the header background colour should change from lime green to a toned down darker green;

b) the 'contact us' information should be on a separate page accessed by a button on the top menu bar running across the page;

**8. Safety outside Cradoc School - report of incident**

8.1 An email from Mrs Howarth to the school was discussed. The Council was concerned to hear that Mrs Howarth's daughter had been nearly hit by a car reversing partially on the pavement outside the school. It was reported that there was an increased police presence outside school at the moment and Cllr Rees Price said that there was a meeting at the school on Thursday looking at removing some of the woodland to provide better parking. The Council agreed to await further developments from the school.

8.2 Cllr Roger Price said that he had spoke to the Walters' brothers and they were quite prepared to allow parking in one of their fields for special occasions such as sports day so long as it did not impact on their farming. The Clerk was asked to write to the school informing the head teacher of this.

**9) Financial Matters**

9.1 The clerk's hours and expenses for October were approved. it was noted that the Clerk's hours were significantly less than in previous years.

9.2 The Council noted that the expected balance at the end of the year had increased to £1,954 due mainly to an underspend on the Clerk's pay. The cashbook spreadsheet was noted.

9.3 The Clerk reported that most Councils pay their clerks an allowance for working from home to cover the costs of heat.light, broadband access, telephone etc. It was agreed to pay the Clerk £4 a week to cover these costs. The Clerk thanked the Council and said he would prepare an invoice for the Council for £208 once a year in March.

**10. Safety Inspection of Council Assets**

10.1 The Clerk presented a brief report on the Council's noticeboards, troughs and seat. It was noted that everything was in a satisfactory state of repair and that there were no safety issues to consider. The Clerk was asked to write a thank you letter to Mr R Oliphant and Mr G Watkins for cutting the grass around the seat in Aberbran.

**11) Issues to be raised with Powys County Council**

11) Correspondence

- a) Letter from BBNPA about the cessation of liaison meetings with town and community councils\*\*
- b) PCC consultation report on the closure of the Welsh Medium stream at Brecon High School\*\*
- c) Invitation to PAVO annual conference on 12 November 2015\*\*
- d) PCC email about phasing out of village hall grants\*\*
- e) PCC email about 3 weekly rubbish collections starting on 2 November 2015\*\*
- f) Dyfed-Powys Police October Newsletter \*\*
- g) PAVO e-briefing November\*

PCC = Powys County Council; BBNPA = Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

\* circulated by email

\*\* received by email but not circulated

**12. Any planning applications that arrived after the papers were sent out.**

12.1 No planning applications had been received but an email saying that from 16 January only electronic copies of the applications would be circulated was discussed. The Council was very concerned that this cost saving exercise would make it very difficult for the Council to fulfil its role in scrutinising planning applications. The following points were made:

- a) it was disappointing that this change was being introduced without consultation;
- b) it would have been better to have had a six month trial running both systems;
- c) in rural areas access to broadband was not reliable, for example, there was no access to the internet from the Golf Club at the time of the meeting;
- d) not all councillors have access to broadband
- e) the cost was being passed on to community councils as it is much easier to look at a hard copy of large plans than it is to view them on a computer.

The Clerk was asked to raise these points with Powys County Council.

**13. Confirmation of date and times of next meeting**

13.1 The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13 January 2016 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club

The meeting closed at 8.30pm