

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Councillors Present: Jane Price
Bob Wood
Rees Price

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Helen Howarth (holiday), Cllr Margaret Rees (concert), Cllr Dilys Davies (lambing), and Cllr Gillian Thomas (conference).

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 January 2015

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, Cllr Jane Price reported that the attendance at the meeting at the school with the Fire and Rescue Service had been very disappointing with only one member of the community attending. Despite that it had been a very interesting meeting, lasting around an hour and a half. The Fire and Rescue service offers free smoke alarms and safety checks, which are particularly of benefit to elderly and vulnerable people.

4.2 Under item 9, the Clerk reported that a meeting had been held at Cradoc School with Mrs Morris and Malcolm Roberts, a school governor. The school had started developing proposals for improving the car parking but these were not in the public domain at present. Cllr Helen Howarth had offered her support in any fund raising activities or in being involved in any steering group established to oversee this project. The Council was pleased that work was taking place and awaited further developments with interest.

4.3 Under item 10, the Golf Club had responded positively to the request to make their defibrillator available to the local community. The Clerk had written an article for the newsletter about this and would also be publicising it on the website. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Golf Club.

4.4 Under item 13, the Clerk reported that Martin Williams from Natural Resources Wales had spoken to Ieuan Thomas who had told him that the sign did not need to be moved. The Clerk had written to Mr Thomas confirming that this was the case but he had not received a reply. It was agreed that no further action need to be taken.

5. To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 25 February 2015

5.1 These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Update on the repair of Fennifach Noticeboard and the re-siting of Battle Noticeboard

6.1 Cllr Bob Wood informed the Council that the Fennifach Noticeboard had been repaired and reinstated. He circulated photographs of the repaired noticeboard. The Council was very pleased with this work and approved the invoice from Tim Field for £220.16.

6.2 The clerk reported that Mr Malcolm Jones was happy for Battle noticeboard to be re-sited near the bus stop. Yscir Community Council has no claim on the land on which the noticeboard is located, nor on the land adjacent to the noticeboard. Yscir Community Council will not, at any point in the future, claim to have any rights arising from people viewing the noticeboard over a period of years. The Council will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the noticeboard.'

6.3 Cllr Rees Price volunteered to collect the noticeboard from Malcolm Jones and to erect the noticeboard outside Mr Pinniger's house near the grit bin. He would speak with Mr Pinniger to confirm the positioning of the noticeboard. Cllr Rees Price was thanked for taking on this work.

7. Risk Assessment Review

7.1 The Council considered the risk assessment throughout all sections and agreed that all necessary measures were in place. The Council approved the risk assessment included as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

8. Internal Audit review and appointment of internal auditor

8.1 The Clerk reported that Mr Paul Arthur was willing to act as internal auditor again and this was approved.

8.2 The Council considered and approved the audit plan and question/action list, included as an appendix 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.

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

9.1 The Clerk reported that all articles had been received and sent to Cllr Bob Wood for proof reading. Cllr Bob Wood returned a hard copy of the articles with minor amendments highlighted. He was thanked for this work. As Cllr Helen Howarth was too busy to format the articles, the Clerk would seek assistance from his wife. It was hoped to have proof copies to distribute to members before Easter with the newsletter being available after Easter. It would be called the Yscir Community Newsletter rather than the Spring Newsletter as it was only produced once a year.

9.2 There were some small changes to the distribution lists with Cllr Dilys Davies being asked to distribute some newsletters that had been on Cllr Jane Price's list.

9.3 Cllr Helen Howarth had queried the location of three properties. These were thought to be fairly recent conversions and the Clerk would ask Roger Price if he knew where these were.

10. Financial Matters

10.1 The clerk's hours (27.45hrs) and expenses (£15.30) for January and February were approved.

10.2 An invoice from One Voice Wales for £56 to renew membership for 2015/16 was approved.

10.3 An invoice from Upper Bridge Enterprises for £156 for hosting the website was approved.

10.4 An invoice from Planning Aid Wales for £60 for Cllr Bob Wood and the Clerk to attend a planning course in Brecon was approved.

10.5 The Council noted the current financial position as shown in the cash book spreadsheet and budget monitoring spreadsheet. The end of year balance would now be just over £1500 due to the payment to Mr Field for the Fennifach noticeboard repair. The Clerk had noticed that several items of expenditure, whilst they had been approved had not been recorded in the minutes at the time. Confirmatory retrospective approval was given for:
the 2014 Newsletter (£155)
membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks (£64)
the external auditor's fee (£96)
HMRC payment of PAYE for July to September (£96)

10.6 The Council reviewed its position with regard to the holding of Santander shares (95 shares). It was decided to retain the shares.

11 To note the training events attended and identify any future training needs

11.1 The paper circulated with the agenda was discussed. Cllr Helen Howarth had added two training events that she had attended. The Clerk agreed to keep this up to date.

11.2 Travel expenses for councillors attending courses was raised by Cllr Jane Price. It was agreed that if a Councillor wished to claim travel expenses for attendance at a training course, this would be paid. The HMRC rate of 45p a mile would be used.

12 To determine if a response should be sent to the Welsh Assembly Government's White paper: Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People

12.1 The Council felt that the proposals would not deliver power to local people. They are more likely to snuff out democracy at a local level. The Clerk was asked to respond making this point.

13 To review issues around the recycling of rubbish in Yscir including rubbish on private land adjacent to the Green Lane

13.1 An email was discussed that outlined concerns received from local people and tourists about three large piles of rubbish on private land adjacent to the Green Lane. The rubbish appeared to be a mixture of business and domestic waste and had now been burned. The Council was concerned that rubbish should not be disposed of in this way and it was also an eyesore for people using the Green Lane. It had been suggested that a warning letter should be sent to the property owner alerting him to the correct way of disposing of rubbish. After some discussion it was decided not to send a letter at this stage as this could have been a one-off occurrence. However, the Council would keep an eye on the situation and would take action if the problem re-occurred.

13.2 Councillors thought that the recycling situation had improved since the last meeting. There was a lot of pressure on the garden waste bins and it was agreed to ask if a third green waste bin could be provided from March to September.

14 Protocol for members of the public speaking at meetings (paper enclosed)

14.1 The Clerk explained that the draft protocol was based on protocols used by other local councils. It was agreed to change the current standing orders so that anybody wishing to speak would only have to give notice 15 minute prior to the meeting, rather than 48 hours. It was also agreed that only one person could speak about an agenda item (unless there were opposing views) and the maximum time allowed would be three minutes.

15 Correspondence

- a) Invitation to join the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO)
- b) Meeting of Brecon and Radnor Area Committee of One Voice Wales on 30 January 2015
- c) Invitation to organise a fund raising walk for Kidney Wales Foundation
- d) Update on the Powys Local Development Plan**

- e) Lack of Health and Care facilities in Powys*
- f) Joint Training Event at Llandrindod Wells on 14 May 2015**
- g) Clinical Waste Update**
- h) Quarterly Newsletter from the Police and Crime Commissioner
- i) BBNP Community Newsletter*
- j) BBNP boundary changes resulting in a Cradoc property moving into the national park *
- k) Play for Wales Spring magazine
- l) Invitation to join Wales in Bloom competition**

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

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

16 Issues to report to Powys County Council

- 16.1 A planning application received since the agenda was circulated was discussed. This was P/2015/0240 for the erection of a building to house a domestic swimming pool and associated works at Siloam Shalom, Aberyscir. It was felt that the size of the swimming pool was inappropriate for a property of that size. As a lot of the development was to be below ground, it was felt there were insufficient grounds to raise an objection. Concerns were also expressed about possible noise from parties as there are plans to include a bar in the swimming pool. and a terrace. However, again it was felt there were insufficient grounds to object to the application. The Clerk was asked to respond to Powys County Council describing the concerns of the Council but saying it was felt there were insufficient grounds to make an objection.

17 To note that Cradoc School is applying for an Eco Schools Platinum Award

- 17.1 Cllr Bob Wood reported that Cradoc school is working towards the Platinum Eco-Schools Award. The school would like to set up 'Cradoc in Bloom' centred around the crossroads area of Cradoc. The children will be involved in fund-raising to help pay for plants and materials and it is hoped that local parents will become involved. The local community is being asked to donate any unwanted large pots, troughs or suitable plants when the season gets underway.
- 17.2 It was agreed to publicise this on the Council's website. If space permitted an article would be included in the newsletter.

18 Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Monday 18 May 2015 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm