

# YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 7 January 2015, at Cradoc Golf Club at 7.30pm

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

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

**1. Apologies for absence**

1.1 Cllr Gillian Thomas presented her apologies

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

**3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 November 2014**

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 4.3, the clerk reported that the Probation Service Community Payback workers had finished clearing the Green Lane and were now working on the bridleway on the North East boundary of the forest on Battle Hill. At some point a bill for fuel use was expected. This was noted.

**5. Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2014**

5.1 These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**6) Update on mink control on the Yscir River**

6.1 Cllr Helen Howarth reported that she and Brian Birtles were monitoring the situation. If there was much evidence of mink activity, then Natural Resources Wales would be contacted in April at the beginning of the new financial year to see if they would fund the trapping of the mink. This work was now outsourced to a former employee and was expected to cost around £35 to £40 a day. The Council would consider funding this work if Natural Resources Wales was unable to help.

6.2 Cllr Rees Price said that if ducks were seen nesting on the river this was a good sign that mink were not present.

**7) Update on the repair of Fennifach Noticeboard and the resiting of Battle noticeboard**

7.1 Cllr Bob Wood reported that the noticeboard was removed in December but that it was very wet and had been left to dry for four weeks. The screws had rusted and Mr Field was having some difficulty removing the uprights. Due to the good quality and attractiveness of the noticeboard it was agreed to pursue renovation rather than purchasing a new board.

- 7.2 The Clerk reported that he had met with Mr Pinniger and that he was happy for the Battle noticeboard to be resited outside his property where the bus turns round. The Clerk also met with Mr Malcolm Jones who owns the private lane and the land on which the bus turns round. He was also happy with the noticeboard position subject to there being no possibility of anyone having future claims of rights of way over his property.
- 7.3 The Clerk had circulated a letter to all the properties on the private lane and those overlooking the site. Only positive replies had been received.
- 7.4 The Clerk had written to Mr Jones saying that '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.' The Council approved this wording and subject to Mr Jones' agreement the repositioning of the noticeboard could go ahead.
- 8 **To note that there will be a meeting at Cradoc School on Tuesday 20 January at which the Fire and Rescue Service will give a talk: 'Working Together to create safer Communities'**
- 8.1 This talk would take place at 7.00pm. The Clerk said he would put a note about this on the Facebook page and on the website. Cllr Jane Price would welcome and briefly introduce Mr Neil Evans, the Station Manager.
9. **To consider whether anything can be done to reduce the risk of an accident near Cradoc School at the beginning and end of school**
- 9.1 Cllr Helen Howarth reported her personal experience of narrowly avoiding an accident due to congestion of cars, young children and parents. This is a situation that had occurred many times over a long period of time but she thought that more efforts should be made to see if anything could be done to improve the situation before a serious accident occurred.
- 9.2 A wide ranging discussion followed, the conclusion of which was that:
- a) Cradoc School should lead on any initiatives to improve the situation with the Council providing a supporting role;
  - b) the Clerk would contact the headteacher with a view to having a meeting with her and Cllr Helen Howarth to gather the facts and explore whether it would be worthwhile discussing this issue at the meeting on 20 January after the Fire and Rescue Service talk.
- 10 **To consider whether it is worth investigating the provision of community defibrillators for Yscir.**
- 10.1 The paper circulated by the Clerk was discussed. Cllr Rees Price reported that Cradoc Golf Club had purchased a defibrillator and he had shown this to the Clerk just before the meeting. The Community Council thought that it would be excellent if this facility could be shared with the local community and asked the Clerk to write to the Golf Club to see if they would be willing for information about the defibrillator to be put on the website.
11. **To determine arrangements for the Spring Newsletter**
- 11.1 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 by the end of February and chase items as required;
  - c) Cllr Bob Wood would proof read the items;
  - d) Cllr Helen Howarth would put the newsletter into its final form
  - f) all members would assist with collation and distribution
  - g) the distribution arrangements would be discussed at the next meeting with the newsletter being delivered at the end of April, after the main period of lambing

h) the newsletter would be called the Annual Newsletter as only one is produced a year

12) **Financial Matters**

- 12.1 The Council approved the payment of £262 for the clerk's salary for November and December. and £61.35 for his expenses. The three monthly payment to HMRC of £98.40 for PAYE was also approved.
- 12.2 The Council noted the current financial position as shown in the cash book spreadsheet. The Clerk said that the final precept instalment should have been received but he had not yet received the bank statement confirming this. The current balance should be around £2300. The budget monitoring spreadsheet projected a closing balance of £1708.
- 12.3 A paper showing an analysis of the Clerk's hours for 2014/15 was discussed. It was noted that he had worked 28 hours less than in 2013 and that half of his time was spent on work directly related to the bimonthly meetings and planning meetings. The other half of his time was fairly evenly spread between general administration, financial management, website and facebook work and specific projects. The Chairman asked if a specific record was kept of training courses attended. The Clerk said that this was not the case at the moment and he was asked to compile and maintain a list. The report was noted.
- 12.4 The draft budget paper circulated with the papers was discussed.. Each line of expenditure was discussed and the proposed amounts were agreed. Cllr Rees Price suggested that an additional line for expenditure on the noticeboards should be included. An indicative figure of £200 was agreed.. It was decided to set a Council Tax charge of £13 which should result in balances of £1,357 in March 2016. The revised budget was approved.
- 13) **To resolve a complaint about the position of the Fly Tipping Sign near Aberyscir Bridge**
- 13.1 Cllr Roger Price reported that Ieuan Thomas had contacted him to ask that the 'no fly tipping ' sign be removed from his land. Cllr Helen Howarth said that she had agreed with Natural Resources Wales the position of the sign but said that she had not realised this was on Mr Thomas' land. She apologised for this and said that she would get the sign moved onto a nearby wall. Cllr Helen Howarth also said that the sign had served its purpose with there being no more fly tipping in the river since its erection. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Thomas explaining the position.
- 13.2 Under this item, the Chairman raised the issue of recycling rubbish coming out of the recycling lorry due to it not being loaded properly. She reported that the Battle Hill road was littered with empty milk containers. Also the recycling bins were not returned to the correct properties and were left scattered down the roads. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the next meeting and the Clerk was asked to alert Powys County Council to this problem.
14. **Proposed dates of meetings for 2015 -16**  
The following dates were agreed subject to confirmation of availability from the Golf Club:  
Monday 18 May, Monday 13 July, Monday 9 September, Wednesday 11 November,  
Wednesday 13 January 2016, Wednesday 23 March 2016
- 15) **Correspondence**
- a) Request for funding from Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales
  - b)\* PCC letter: Community Delivery
  - c)\*\* Ageing Well In Wales - Invitation to Join
  - d) PCC letter detailing 20% cut in library hours from April 2015
  - e) BBNPA - Permission granted to instal satellite dish etc nr Pencrug
  - f) BBNPA - Consultation on draft supplementary planning guidance
  - g) Updated guidance on audit and budget procedures\*\*

**16. Planning Application P/2014/1245 -Insertion of Dormer Window in south facing roof slope at Bethany, Battle**

16.1 After discussion of the proposed alterations it was agreed that there were no objections.

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

17.1 It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 11 March 2015 at Cradoc Golf Club at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm