

# YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 23 January 2019,  
at 7.30pm at Cradoc Golf Club

**Councillors present:** Valerie Davies  
Geoff Watkins  
Tess Birtles  
Dilys Davies  
Kate Dunning  
Jane Price

**Also present:** Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)  
Cllr Iain McIntosh

**1. Apologies for absence**

1.1 There were apologies for absence from Cllr Bob Wood

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 There were none.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 November 2018**

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 reported that official Wigwam signs had now been installed by the bridge at Aberyscir

4.2 Regarding 14.1, the Clerk reported that Ben Humphreys from Powys County Council had confirmed that a gate would not be allowed on the Green Road, citing s147 of the Highways Act 1980. It was suggested that the householder could put unofficial warning signs near the property asking cyclists to slow down.

4.3 The Clerk reported that the bid to improve rights of way had been unsuccessful. He was trying to find out how many councils had applied and the reasons why Yscir was not chosen to be part of the project.

**5. To determine whether to provide financial support to the Sports Committee for the replacement of the marquee roof**

5.1 A request had been received from the Sports Committee to replace the marquee roof which was thought to cost in the region of £450. The Council recognised the value of the community events provided by the Sports Committee and agreed to provide support. The Clerk was asked to write to the Sports Committee asking for three quotes (if possible) for a replacement roof. In the event of there being only one supplier it was recognised that a single quote would have to suffice.

**6. To consider whether to have a war memorial for Yscir and Trallong**

6.1 It was reported that there was a plaque on the wall in Aberyscir Church dedicated to those who fell in the First World War and there was a private family memorial in Trallong Church

6.2 After discussion the following conclusions were reached:

- a) there was support for a memorial to those who had fallen in all conflicts;
- b) the memorial could be a seat with a plaque nearby;

- c) the plaque would probably not name the fallen but would be worded more generally
- d) Aberyscir Church and Common were considered as possible sites for the memorial with a preference being expressed for Aberyscir Common;
- e) the Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of a bench and a stone and the possibility of having a memorial on the Common.
- f) it was suggested that this would be a suitable project for the possible community donation
- g) an existing stone near the trig point on Aberyscir Common would be investigated to see if this was in fact an old memorial

**7. Councillors to return forms indicating whether they will be claiming the £150 member allowance or not and to determine a travel expenses policy.**

- 7.1 Councillors decided not to accept the £150 allowance but did agree that travelling expenses would be paid at 45p per mile for attendance at training courses or for work undertaken on behalf of the Council.

**8. Financial Matters**

- 8.1 The clerk's hours (27), pay (£233.81) and expenses (£39.95) for October and November were approved.

- 8.2 Payment to Brecon Town Council (£100), website hosting (£195), Cradoc Golf Club (£20) the Information Commissioner (£35) and HMRC (£71) for PAYE for October to December was approved.

- 8.3 The Council noted that the cashbook showed a balance of £3468 after the above expenditure in 8.1 and 8.2 is accounted for. The budget monitoring statement predicted an end of year balance of around £2,621.

- 8.4 An analysis of the Clerk's hours since 2013 was presented. In 2018 he worked 166 hours, down from 178 in 2017. The analysis was noted.

- 8.5 The draft budget paper was discussed. The following additional expenditure was allowed for in the 2019 budget:- £500 for the marquee roof, £50 for Councillor travel expenses, £100 for supporting the tourist signposting service operated by Brecon Town Council, £70 for refreshments after the litter pick. No provision was made for a war memorial but if necessary funds could be taken from the available balance and/or a fundraising event. It was decided to set a precept of £14 on a band D property which would generate an income of £3,656 and result in a projected balance in March 2020 of around £2,260.

**9. To determine arrangements for the Spring Newsletter**

- 9.1 It was agreed to set a deadline for the receipt of copy of 10 March 2019. It was hoped to produce a draft newsletter for the next meeting on 27 March. Cllr Jane Price would contact Margaret Rees regarding the WI article. Cllr Dilys Davies would provide a telephone number for the Young Farmers. Cllr Iain McIntosh would provide an article and it was suggested that the Sports Committee be asked for an article. The school, golf club and vicar would be asked to provide an article as usual.

**10. To determine if a response should be made to PCC consultation on Supplementary Planning Guidance on Landscape and Renewable Energy**

- 10.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh pointed out that the Ministry of Defence had a 10km exclusion zone around their training ground preventing wind farm applications; this would extend a long way into Yscir. After a brief discussion it was decided not to submit a response.

**11. Correspondence**

- a) BBNPA consultation on rights of way\*\*
- b) Welsh Government response to reform of community and town councils\*\*

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

\* circulated by email

\*\* received by email but not circulated

**12. To consider pot holes in Fennifach**

12.1 Cllr Tess Birtles reported that some residents had mentioed to her about the poor state of the road to Fennifach. Cllr Iain McIntosh said that he was aware of this and after the last frosts he would be chasing Powys County Council to undertake repairs. Cllr Tess Birtles said that she would inform the residents and check that they had emailed Iain about the potholes.

**13. To consider the lack of broadband in Aberyscir**

13.1 Cllr Tess Birtles reported that some of her neighbours were desperate for an improved service. Cllr Valerie Davies mentioned a service that was now available through EE. Cllr Iain McIntosh provided an update on the Dyfed IT broadband project. The next areas to be rolled out were Cradoc and Battle with about 80 properties having been installed so far. There had been some communication difficulties. Some people were near the end of their grant period; Iain agreed to talk to Welsh Assembly Government about this.

13.2 Cllr Jane Price thanked Cllr Valerie Davies for her work maintaining the Facebook page.

**14. Consideration of any planning applications received after the agenda was circulated**

14.1 There were none.

**15. Issues to be raised with Powys County Council**

15.1 Cllr Dilys Davies asked about gritting. Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that he had been pressing for more gritting but that there was no chance of getting anything other than the main roads and the road to Cradoc School gritted.

15.2 Cllr Tess Birtles asked about what was happening to the area by the Crug as the remaining gravel was an eyesore. Councillors offered to remove the gravel! Cllr Iain McIntosh agreed to raise this with Lyn Parry.

15.3 Cllr Iain Mcintosh reported that there was no truth to a rumour tha the day centre on Cemmaes Road was not closing.

15.4 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that difficult budget discussions were ongoing and it was possible that Council tax might increase by around 10%.

**16. Confirmation of date and times of next meeting Wednesday 27 March 2019 (7.30pm):**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm