

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 27 March 2019 ,
at 7.30pm at Cradoc Golf Club

Councillors Present: Jane Price
Bob Wood
Valerie Davies
Kate Dunning
Tess Birtles
Geoff Watkins

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)
Cllr Iain McIntosh

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Dilys Davies (lambing).

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 January 2019

3.1 15.3 should read 'Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that there was no truth to a rumour that the day centre on Camden road was closing.' With this amendment, 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 4.3 the Clerk reported that 16 councils had applied for the rights of way funding and that following assessment by the Local Access Forum Yscir had come 11th. There may be further opportunities to apply in the future.

4.2 Under 15.2. the Clerk reported that the gravel store in the layby adjacent to the Crug would continue to be used by Powys County Council.

4.3 The Clerk reported that proposals had now been published on new county council ward boundaries. The Yscir county council ward will be extended to include Honddu Isaf and Llanddew increasing the number of electors from 893 to 1433. These changes will be introduced in 2022, if approved.

5. To note Wales Audit Office Reports on Financial Management and Governance – Town and Community Councils 2017-18 and Internal Audit Arrangements at Town and Community Councils in Wales

5.1 The reports and the Clerk's summary paper were noted.

6. Risk Assessment Review

6.1 The Council considered the risk assessment throughout all sections and agreed that all necessary measures were in place. The Council approved the risk assessment.

7. Internal Audit review and appointment of internal auditor

7.1 A letter of appointment to Mr Paul Arthur ,the internal auditor was approved.

7.2 The Council considered and approved the audit plan and question/action list. 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.

8) To approve the Emergency Plan previously circulated by email

8.1 With some corrections to telephone numbers and email addresses, the report was approved.

9. To receive the report on the meeting about reducing speed of traffic through Aberyscir and to make suggestions for the siting of pedestrian warning signs.

- 9.1 There was considerable discussion about speeding and the efficacy of warning signs. It was decided to pursue having 'slow' painted on the road on the approaches to Aberyscir bridge and to propose pedestrian warning signs at the Gludy bend on the Aberyscir road and at the start of Aberyscir village from the Aberbran direction.

10) Financial Matters

- 10.1 The clerk's hours (22.5), expenses (£5.40) and pay (£197.59) for January and February plus expenses for working from home (£208) were approved.
- 10.2 Membership of One Voice Wales at £66 was renewed.
- 10.3 The above payments and £182.75 to the external auditor were approved.
- 10.4 The cashbook indicated that after the expenditure approved at the meeting there would be a balance of £2,813 in the bank at the year end, which is slightly more than predicted in the budget..
- 10.5 It was noted that the Clerk's pay (SCP 22) will increase from £10.953 per hour to £11.22 per hour from 1 April 2019 as per the national pay award

11. To receive an update from the Clerk concerning the proposed war memorial and to determine further action

- 11.1 The Clerk reported that he had had a meeting with Will Davies from CADW who thought that the old stone (grid reference 982326) close to the trig point on Aberyscir Hill was a standing stone and therefore could not be used as a war memorial. Will Davies said that he would begin the process of formally scheduling the standing stone.
- 11.2 Councillors thought that £700 for a war memorial bench sited on Aberyscir hill was too expensive, given the small number of people that would use it. Alternative suggestions were made including a commemorative plaque on the trig point, a stone with a plaque adjacent to the two seats in Aberbran and a memorial stone on Aberyscir Common.
- 11.3 It was decided to ask the community for their thoughts in the newsletter

12. To determine whether to grant funds for a new marquee roof for the Sports Committee

- 12.1 As further details had not been received from the Sports Committee, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

13 To consider the revised garden waste collection arrangements by Powys County Council

- 13.1 An email from a resident was considered. The reduction in the garden waste recycling facilities was regretted and representations had been made in the past about this.

14. To consider whether to pass a motion stating that that Yscir will not volunteer to host an underground nuclear waste dump.

- 14.1 As Powys County Council had determined not to have a nuclear waste dump in Powys it was felt that no further action was needed.

15. To approve the draft Newsletter and determine distribution arrangements

- 15.1 The same distribution arrangements as last year were approved.
- 15.2 The Clerk reported that the Golf Club and the WI had not supplied articles, despite being reminded several times. However, there was more than enough material for an 8 page newsletter already. It was agreed not to move to a larger newsletter as this would cost an additional £100. There was concern that the school articles took nearly half of the newsletter. It was decided to not wait for any more articles to arrive. Cllr Kate Dunning volunteered to proof read the newsletter.

16. **To determine a date for the Spring litter pick**

16.1 After discussion, it was decided to hold a litter pick on Friday 26 April at 10.00am at Cradoc Golf Club.

17. **To receive an update about Cradoc School**

17.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that he was now a governor of Cradoc School and was lobbying for a new school as the current buildings are in a very poor state of repair and way beyond their expected shelf life.

17.2 Cllr Jane Price commented that the external lights at the school were on late at night again. The Clerk was asked to alert the head teacher to this.

18. **To receive an update about the Dyfed IT broadband project**

18.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh said that more people were being connected now but that the connection dropped briefly while this was taking place. The connection should pick up again quite quickly and people were asked to bear with it. There was a concern that Dyfed IT might be moving on to new projects and Cllr Iain McIntosh said that he was trying to ensure that Dyfed IT finished this project first. However, he did say that the Welsh Assembly Government were being very slow about paying Dyfed IT for the work completed.

19. **Hedge Cutting debris left on roads**

19.1 Cllr Bob Wood reported that he had a complaint about the debris left on the lane to Aberyscir church after cutting the hedges. Cllr Iain McIntosh had raised this with Highways who told him that the contractors were not legally bound to clear up afterwards. Some councillors thought there was a legal obligation to clear the road afterwards. Highways said that they would contact the contractors and ask them to clear up afterwards.

20. **Noise nuisance caused by barking dogs in Aberyscir**

20.1 Cllr Bob Wood had received another complaint about the barking dogs about a month ago. There were 15 dogs in residence at the time. However, things have been much quieter since then. It was commented that this was normal with dogs coming and going and some dogs being a lot noisier than others. It was agreed that the problem had not been resolved and the Clerk was asked to write to Environmental Health about it.

20.2 If there are any more complaints it was suggested that the complainant should be told that the Council had written to environmental health and that they should contact that department directly.

21. **Correspondence**

- a) Children's Wales Air Ambulance Appeal - request for financial assistance**
 - b) Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod - request for financial assistance **
 - c) Urdd National Eisteddfod - request for financial assistance**
- ** received by email but not circulated

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

22.1 There were none.

5.

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

23.1 Cllr Valerie Davies mentioned the very poor state of the back road to Pontfaen. Cllr Iain McIntosh thought that action would be taken on the pot holes soon and he would ask Highways to have a look at that road at the same time.

Confirmation of date of next meeting: Wednesday 8 May 2019 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club

The meeting closed at 9.10pm