

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 21 August 2019,
at 7.30pm at Cradoc Golf Club

Councillors Present: Jane Price
Bob Wood
Dilys Davies
Tess Birtles
Geoff Watkins

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)
Cllr Iain McIntosh

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1. Apologies for absence

1.1 There were apologies for absence from Cllr Kate Dunning

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were none.

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 July 2019

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

4. Clerk's report including information from minutes

4.1 The Clerk reported that Ian Griffiths had expressed his thanks for the contribution towards the marquee roof, although his letter of thanks had not been received due to email technical problems.

4.2 The damaged drain, reported under 14.2 of the last meeting, has been repaired.

5. To arrange a date for the next litter pick

5.1 After a brief discussion it was agreed to hold the next litter pick on Saturday 9 November, starting at 10.00am at Cradoc Golf Club

6. To respond to a letter received concerning the barking dogs in Aberyscir

6.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported a conversation he had had with the dog owner who was keen to stress that electronic collars were not used on the dogs and that the number of dogs was not excessive..

6.2 The Council was reassured to learn from the letter received that there are no problems with the welfare of the dogs and that there are support arrangements in place for the dogs should they be required. The Council was also pleased that the sensory devices being used for controlling the barking of the dogs was not causing them harm.

6.3 Members reported that the dogs had been quieter of late. A written response to the letter from the owner was agreed.

7. Update on pedestrian signs on Aberyscir road

7.1 The Council was pleased to receive a map from Jo Lancey showing where pedestrian warning signs were going to be installed. Cllr Iain McIntosh was thanked for his

help in moving this forward.

8. Planning Application 19/17660/FUL Proposed swimming pool at Siloam Shalom

8.1 The position of the proposed pool has been changed to the front lawn. This is completely screened from the road. There were no objections to this application.

9. To consider draft Supplementary Planning Guidance from Powys County Council

9.1 This guidance, which contained helpful advice on acceptable design for planning considerations, was noted.

10. Financial Matters

10.1 The clerk's hours (10hrs), pay (£87.37) and expenses (£38.97) for July were approved. It was noted that the agenda had incorrect amount for the clerk's pay and expenses and the clerk apologised for this error.

10.2 The Council's insurance arrangements for 2019 were approved, costing £168. Cllr Kate Dunning was thanked for her help in reducing the premium.

10.3 Payment of £8 to the Society of Local Council Clerks, which was an outstanding VAT balance on a previous invoice, was approved. This money would be reclaimed at the end of the year and the clerk reported that the Council had received a VAT refund of £59.85 for 2017/18.

10.4 The Council noted that there would be £2,170 in the bank after the above payments had been made. The budget monitoring statement predicted an end of year balance of £2770 with a significant underspend expected on the clerk's salary.

11. To consider whether to contribute towards a commemorative present to celebrate Cradoc School's 50th birthday

11.1 The Clerk of Merthyr Cynog Council has written to Yscir and Trallong Councils asking if there is any support for a commemorative present to celebrate Cradoc School's 50th birthday in September.

11.2 After discussion it was agreed that:

a) there was support for this initiative in conjunction with the other councils;

b) the present should be something semi -permanent like a seat that could be moved, should it be required;

c) the head teacher should be consulted before any purchase is made;

d) Yscir Community Council would contribute £100 towards the present;

e) the Clerk was asked to communicate this to Merthyr Cynog Council.

12. To consider whether to support the provision of a defibrillator in Aberbran

12.1 Cllr Geoff Watkins reported that the person living at Pont yr Fran was willing to purchase a defibrillator and that discussions had been taking place about where to site the defibrillator... The defibrillator at Cradoc Golf Club was too far away to be of practical use. The area near the bus stop had been considered but it had not proved possible to discover who owned the land. A site nearer to the majority of houses in Aberbran was now being considered.

12.2 This would place the defibrillator within the Yscir ward and Cllr Geoff Watkins asked if the Council would be willing to take on the long term responsibility for the defibrillator if this went ahead. He explained that there would be expenditure of around £120 every four years for a replacement battery plus other expenditure and the need to communicate .. the presence of the defibrillator via the website and newsletter.

12.3 The Council considered that this would be a good community resource and agreed to support this venture and adopt the defibrillator on the understanding that the Council would not take on responsibility for procuring the defibrillator and that someone local to Aberbran would be responsible for the day to day oversight of the defibrillator. The Clerk was asked

to keep Trallong Council informed. The wording of a plaque, acknowledging the financial contribution from the owner of Pont ar Fran, would be agreed at a later date.

13. To discuss the problems caused by the military trying to send coaches over Aberbran Bridge

13.1 Two coaches containing soldiers, escorted by two military landrovers, had attempted to cross Aberbran bridge. This caused delays as they had to reverse and then turn round. The officer in command had immediately apologised. Members noted that there had been an increase in military traffic using local roads of late.

13.2 There was a discussion about the location of signs warning the military not to use these roads. Cllr Geoff Watkins had cleared one sign of vegetation that had become overgrown. It was agreed to write to the military, asking them to relook at their instructions regarding travelling to Sennybridge and to relook at the siting of the signs prohibiting military traffic on local roads. Cllr Geoff Watkins would provide the clerk with the details of who to contact within the Armed Services.

14. Correspondence

a) Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report for 2018/19

b) Brecon Advice Centre Annual Report and request for funding

c) Governance and Accountability for Councils in Wales - A Practitioner's Guide**

15) Consideration of any planning applications received after the agenda was circulated

15.1 There were none.

16. Issues to be raised with Powys County Council

16.1 Cllr Tess Birtles reported that Aberyscir bridge had been damaged again. Cllr Iain McIntosh said that he would take some pictures and report it to Lyn Parry. Concern was expressed about how often the bridge was being damaged and Cllr Iain McIntosh agreed to discuss this with Lyn Parry.

17. Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 6 November 2019 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club

The meeting closed at 8.38pm