

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 6 November 2019,
at 7.30pm at Cradoc Golf Club

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

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 Bob Wood who was ill.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Dilys Davies declared an interest in planning application 19/1590/OUT as her son worked for the owner.

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 August 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 A letter of thanks from the Sports Committee for the contribution towards the marquee roof had now been received.

4.2 It was reported that no further problems with military traffic trying to go over Aberbran bridge had been observed.

4.3 The wording of the plaque for the Aberbran defibrillator was agreed as ' This defibrillator has been provided for the people of Aberbran thanks to the generosity of Mohammed Hilal Al Mansoori, Pont ar Fran, Aberbran.

4.4 There was discussion about the siting of the defibrillator. Councillors had not been aware of how close one needed to be to a defibrillator for it to be of use in an emergency. It was agreed to consider whether it would be possible to have more defibrillators in Yscir at the next meeting

5. Final arrangements for the next litter pick on Saturday 9 November

5.1 The Clerk reported that Cllr Bob Wood had suggested postponing the litter pick due to heavy rain being forecast. After discussion it was agreed to leave the arrangements as they were but take a final decision on Friday evening, when a more accurate weather forecast would be available.

6. To consider whether the website 'Next Door' is a possible forum for Yscir Community Council

6.1 A neighbour of Cllr Geoff Watkins had asked for this to be considered. This site is a forum

for sharing advice, equipment etc within the local area. Cllr Valerie Davies reported that only individuals could register for this service and it was necessary to have a street address to be an area co-ordinator.. Many properties in Yscir do not have a street address. Although the community council could not join 'Next Door', it was agreed that if an individual set up a local service, it could be promoted on the council's Facebook page.

7. Feedback from meeting about the Green Lane held on 26 October

7.1 It was reported that, whilst the public cannot drive a vehicle on a bridleway, there was a grey area concerning people who have an 'interest' in land accessed by the bridleway. The term 'interest' may only refer to hunting and sporting rights. The police were consulting their lawyers about this but their initial decision was not to prosecute. It was agreed that the community council would not pursue this aspect any further.

7.2 Cllr Iain McIntosh was taking further advice from Powys County Council concerning the changing of the character of the bridleway through chopping down trees and putting hardcore down.

8. To determine whether to make a response to the Welsh Assembly Government consultation on the National Development Framework

8.1 After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should respond asking why the Eppynt was included as a priority development area for wind and solar power when Ministry of Defence land and a 10km surrounding area was excluded from these possible developments.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 The Clerk's hours (19hrs), pay (£170.54) and expenses (£7.65) for August, September and October were approved.

9.2 Payments to the Clerk and HMRC were approved.

9.3 An unqualified audit report had been received from the external auditor. The clerk reported that this was good news as it is only when things are wrong that the auditors issue a qualified opinion. However, the auditors did comment on the lack of terms of reference of the Planning Committee in 2018/19 and stated that 'the Council should ensure terms of reference are adopted as soon as the Committee is established. This was agreed and had already been adopted for 2019/20.

9.4 The Council noted that there would be £3,169 in the bank after the above payments had been made. The budget monitoring statement predicted an end of year balance of £2790 with a significant underspend expected on the clerk's salary.

10. To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

10.1 The Clerk distributed letters indicating the recommendations for councillors' pay. Councillors returned their forms indicating that they would not be taking the £150 payment.

11. To consider requesting a 30 mile speed limit for the road entering Pontfaen village from the Brecon direction

11.1 Cllr Dilys Davies reported that there were concerns about speeding in Pont Faen, particularly when children were being picked up for school transport and dropped off. There were also a number of holiday cottages which house children who are not familiar with the roads.

11.2 It was suggested that the community speed awareness initiative could help to reduce traffic speed and Cllr Iain McIntosh agreed to chase this up.

11.3 The Clerk was asked to write to Jo Lancey to see if anything could be done to slow traffic down and to copy this correspondence to Merthyr Cynog Community Council.

12 To report water standing on the road between the entrance to Battle Fawr Barn (Ysgubor Uchaf) and Battle Fawr Farm entrance.

12.1 Cllr Dilys Davies reported the above problem which has occurred previously. It was agreed to report this to Powys County Council.

13) To consider whether the Community Council should support the VE day commemoration in May 2020

13.1 The Clerk reported that he had sent the flier concerning this to Ian Griffiths who had written back, on behalf of the Sports Committee, saying that he had been unaware of this commemoration but that he thought it would be possible to organise something, probably a beacon on Aberyscir Hill.

13.2 The Council was grateful for this and offered to promote the event on the Facebook Page. The Clerk was asked to explore how often the Sports Committee met and whether it would be beneficial for a member of the Council to join the Sports Committee.

14 To receive a verbal report on the Farm Diversification event

14.1 Cllr Jane Price reported that she had attended this meeting organised by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority but it had not been very useful as it did not appear to apply to working farms, or to farms outside the National Park.

15. Correspondence

a) Newsletter from Eluned Morgan AM

b) Clerks' newsletter**

c) Leaflet opposing the WAG proposed areas for possible wind and solar farm development

d) Powys County Council consultation on budget reductions*

e) One Voice Wales Newsletter*

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

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

16.1 An application had been received for a conservatory extension at 15 Oakfield Park, reference 19/18017/FUL. There were no objections to this planning application.

16.2 Cllr Dilys Davies left the meeting for consideration of planning application 19/1590/OUT:- outline application for erection of a building for use as office/reception/storage of grounds maintenance equipment, games room, WC, laundry and kitchen in connection with campsite together with erection of rural enterprise dwelling for manager, formation of vehicular access, landscaping and all associated works.

16.3 There was a discussion about the proposed development which would potentially cater for 100 people. The following concerns were raised:

a) building a house in the countryside;

b) the development being clearly visible from the road beneath Pen y Crug;

c) lack of public transport;

d) significant water consumption in potentially 39 changes of hot tub water per week;

e) light pollution of the night sky.

The Clerk was asked to formulate a response to the planning application, based on the above points.

17. Issues to be raised with Powys County Council

17.1 Cllr Kate Dunning raised the flooding that had occurred at the Forge in Cradoc recently. A drain was completely blocked and was not reducing the water running down the road.

17.2 Cllr Kate Dunning reported that, just after the clocks changed, hedges were being cut on Cradoc Road on the LHS, coming from Brecon, at around 5pm, in the dark with minimal lighting on the tractor. This was dangerous.

- 17.3 The Clerk was asked to report these issues to Powys County Council.
- 17.4 Concern was raised at the speed of traffic travelling round the blind bend outside the Forge. It was agreed to ask Jo Lancey whether anything could be done. If the community speed awareness campaign could be undertaken here it would be helpful.
- 17.5 It was agreed to re-apply to the programme to train volunteers to maintain paths and bridleways.
- 18. To review the Clerk's salary**
- 18.1 The Clerk left the meeting for this item. It was agreed that the Clerk should remain on the same spinal column point of the pay scale.
- 19. Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 15 January 2019 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club**

The meeting closed at 9.22pm