

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 15 January 2020
at 7.30pm at Cradoc Golf Club

Councillors present: Valerie Davies
Geoff Watkins
Tess Birtles
Dilys Davies
Kate Dunning
Bob Wood

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)
Cllr Iain McIntosh

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 There were apologies for absence from Cllr Jane Price. Cllr Bob Wood chaired the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were none.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 November 2019

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 5.1 the Clerk reported that the more formal litter pick did not take place due to adverse weather but that he and his wife did clear the road under Y Crug the following weekend.

4.2 Regarding 8.1, the Clerk reported that he had received a brief and unhelpful reply from the Welsh Assembly Government stating that Ministry of Defence constraints did not inform the priority areas for wind farm development.

4.3 No response had been received to the request for a 30mph speed limit in Pontfaen. Cllr Iain McIntosh and the Clerk were asked to chase this up.

4.4 Cllr Dilys Davies reported that a local farmer had resolved the problem of water standing on the road near Battle Fawr Farm.

5. To consider whether to provide financial support for the 75th anniversary of VE day celebrations to be held on 8 May

5.1 The Sports Committee had subsequently written to the Clerk saying that funds were not requested to pay for a slate memorial. The Council expressed its thanks to the Sports Committee for organising a celebration to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day on 8th May.

6. To approve the purchase of 'The Clerk's Manual from the Society of Local Council Clerks

6.1 The Clerk asked for permission to purchase this reference manual which would be better value and more useful than an updated version of 'Local Council Administration' which was now out of date. This was approved.

7. To determine whether to continue to support 'Visit Brecon' (see email)

7.1 The Council agreed to continue to provide a grant of £100 towards the cost of 'Visit Brecon' as it

would benefit local tourism businesses.

8. Financial Matters

- 8.1 The clerk's hours (25), pay (£223.35) and expenses (£32.85) for November and December were approved.
- 8.2 Payment to Brecon Town Council (£100), website hosting (£195), the Information Commissioner (£35) and HMRC (£78.20) for PAYE for October to December was approved.
- 8.3 The Council noted that the cashbook showed a balance of £3,678 after the above expenditure in 8.1 and 8.2 is accounted for. Cllr Tess Birtles confirmed that the bank statement agreed with the cashbook. The budget monitoring statement predicted an end of year balance of over £3,000.
- 8.4 An analysis of the Clerk's hours since 2013 was presented. In 2019 he worked 143 hours, down from 166 hours in 2018. The analysis was noted.
- 8.5 The draft budget paper was discussed. It was decided to set a precept of £13 on a band D property which would generate an income of £3,355 and result in a projected balance in March 2021 of around £2,785.
- 8.6 Mr Paul Arthur was confirmed as internal auditor.

9. To determine arrangements for the Spring Newsletter

- 9.1 It was agreed to set a deadline for the receipt of copy of 8 March 2020. It was hoped to produce a draft newsletter for the next meeting on 25 March.

10 To determine dates for meetings in 2020/21

- 10.1 The following dates were agreed for future meetings:

25 March 2020 (already approved)	6 May 2020	8 July 2020	
26 August	25 November	20 January 2021	24 March 2021

11. To take responsibility for the defibrillator in Aberbran and to consider other possible sites in Yscir for defibrillators and how they might be funded

- 11.1 Mohammed Helal Salem Bin Taraf Al Mansoori has provided the capital outlay for a defibrillator for the people of Aberbran. This is sited outside Ty Torlan. The Council will take on the responsibility for the upkeep of the defibrillator. The Clerk was asked to thank Mr Al Mansoori for his generous donation. Cllr Geoff Watkins was asked to check whether the defibrillator had been registered with the Welsh Ambulance Service and 'The Circuit', a national register of defibrillators.
- 11.2 Defibrillators are most effective if used within 10 minutes of the cardiac arrest. It was agreed that a site should be sought for a defibrillator in Cradoc as those at Aberbran and at the golf club are too far away. The Clerk was asked to explore whether planning permission was likely to be obtained to convert the telephone box to a defibrillator station. If this received a positive response, funding would then need to be identified. Cllr Geoff Watkins said that he would ask his brother in law to speak to Mr Al Mansoori to see if a further donation might also be available. The Council would also need to identify funds for a potential ongoing commitment of around £100 per year per defibrillator.

12 Correspondence

- a) email from Llandrindod Town Council promoting Powys Pride in 2020*
- b) Urdd: request for funding**
- c) Powys Dyslexia Support: request for funding**
- d) Letter about forthcoming consultation on the PCC Local Development Plan*
- e) Merthyr Cynog Christmas Newsletter*
- f) Planning Aid Wales Event on 23 January
- g) BBNPA consultation on aspects of Local Development Plan

PCC = Powys County Council; BBNPA = Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
* circulated by email ** received by email but not circulated

13 To note the three yearly re-declaration to the Pensions Regulator that Yscir Community Council has no employees on a pension scheme.

13.1 The Clerk reported that the above legal requirement had been completed.

14 To consider whether the building work at 1 and 2 The Bungalows, Aberyscir is in accordance with the planning consent granted.

14.1 It was queried whether the colour of the painting on the east face was in accordance with the planning consent. Cllr Valerie Davies reported that the owners had told her that BBNPA had advised on the colour. The online planning application was checked and the painting appeared to be in order. Cllr Tess Birtles reported that the houses blended in well from the A40 and everyone agreed that the houses were a massive improvement on the original prefabs. It was thought that the painting would fade with time. No further action was agreed.

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 Valerie Davies reported that Powys County Council had tried to clear the drains along the Aberyscir road but that there was still a lot of water running down the road to the bridge that would make the road particularly dangerous in frosty conditions. Cllr Iain McIntosh said he would report it again.

16.2 Cllr Tess Birtles reported that Powys County Council had removed the fly tipping at Y Crug very quickly.

16.3 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported on the problem of flooding at The Old Smithy. Work was needed to ensure water went into a culvert on the golf course, rather than down the road to the Old Smithy.

16.4 Cllr Kate Dunning reported that the hydrant covers at the junction of the road from Cradoc with the Upper Chapel Road were damaged. Cllr Iain McIntosh said he would have a look at this.

17 To note the Council's responsibilities under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and to approve the public report required under section 6 of that act.

17.1 The wording that the Clerk had put on the website to meet legal requirements was approved.

18. Report of meeting regarding woodland management at Cradoc Golf Club

18.1 The Clerk reported back on a meeting he had had with Colin Jones. The Golf Club has been in discussion with Natural Resources Wales about the management of the wood at Penoyre.. It is proposed to fell and clear a lot of larch trees that have grown up over the last 50 years or so. This will give more space and light for the older trees that were planted up to 200 years ago when the estate was created. More broad leaf trees will be planted (oak and cherry were mentioned) to create an interesting and sustainable woodland area and the existing older trees will be retained.

18.2 Councillors were pleased to hear that the Golf Club is actively managing the woodland for the benefits of future generations.

19. Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 25 March 2020 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club

The meeting closed at 8.27pm