

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 26 August 2020
at 7.30pm by videoconferencing

Councillors present: Valerie Davies Geoff Watkins
Jane Price Kate Dunning

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)
Cllr Iain McIntosh

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Cllr Jane Price thanked everyone for taking part. There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were none.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2020

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 The Clerk reported that there had been no further progress on the butterfly garden though he was pursuing a different contact at the school..

4.2 Cllr Kate Dunning reported that with regard to 11.1, Lynn Williams had told her that she thought the Water Board had opened the hydrant to release water pressure and that she was not unduly concerned about this.

5. To discuss the ramifications of non attendance by councillors at remote meetings

5.1 The Clerk reported that Bob Wood and Dilys Davies had been accidentally disqualified from the Council through not attending meetings for a six month period. The Clerk had thought that the videoconferencing meetings did not count towards the 6 month period but it is only the time from 22 April to the first videoconferencing meeting that does not count towards the disqualification period. The Clerk said that he had spoken to them and apologised for not spotting this in advance. Both Bob Wood and Dilys Davies said that they would re-apply to be councillors.

5.2 Two casual vacancies will now be declared and an advert placed on the website to see if 10 or more electors wish to call for an election. If not, an advertisement for co-optees will be placed on the website and the Council will make 2 co-options at the next meeting in November.

5.3 Cllr Jane Price said that she had been very surprised to learn of the disqualification. She said that both had very good members who had attended well and contributed a lot to the community over the years. The disqualification is a great shame. The Council was pleased that they both wished to carry on as councillors and the Clerk was asked to write to them, thanking them for their service and that the Council hoped they would re-apply.

5.4 Cllr Kate Dunning asked if it was known how long virtual meetings would carry on for. The Clerk replied that One Voice Wales would write to councils when normal meetings could be resumed but there was no indication when this might be.

6. To make a co-option onto the council: Kevin Gore or Rebecca Watkins

6.1 As the standing orders indicate that a secret vote should be held, councillors had emailed

the clerk with their nomination. Councillors confirmed their nominations and the Clerk reported that both candidates had received 2 votes. Cllr Jane Price said that she thought both candidates were very good and it had taken her a long while to make her choice but she had chosen Rebecca Watkins and was giving her the casting vote. The Clerk was asked to thank Kevin Gore for his application.

7. Vehicles using the Green Lane: update from Cllr Iain McIntosh

7.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that the Police had contacted Mr and Mrs Puttick and told them that if a person had an interest in a piece of land accessed from a bridleway, they could drive a vehicle over the bridleway. Cllr Iain McIntosh had spoken to the Police again who were still investigating whether the owner of the paddock had an interest that allowed him to drive a vehicle over the bridleway. Cllr Iain McIntosh was disappointed that this matter had been going on for so long and had not been resolved.

8. Drainage in Battle and at the Old Smithy: update from Cllr Iain McIntosh

8.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh had met with Malcom Jones about water running down the road in Battle which wasn't going into the drains due to blockages and poor siting. Highways have been asked to look at this. Cllr Iain McIntosh said he was also looking into a blocked drain near the cul de sac at the top of the village on the right hand side but Highways had told him, this was a private road and not their responsibility. It is likely to be the shared responsibility of the three properties in the cul de sac but Cllr McIntosh is following this up.

9. Road safety on COO37 between Brecon and Cradoc: report from Cllr Iain McIntosh

9.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that he had had a meeting with Jo Lancey and action would now be taken to try and improve the safety of the narrow section of road just above Gludy Isaf farm. A road narrowing sign would be erected to complement the one in place when travelling to Brecon and warning signs would be painted on the road.

9.2 Cllr Kate Dunning said that problems were also caused by water standing on the road after heavy rain and vehicles travelling in the middle of the road to avoid the deep water.

9.3 Cllr Iain McIntosh was thanked for his work to improve the safety of this road.

10. To consider whether to pursue an application for another defibrillator

10.1 Cllr Kate Dunning drew the Council's attention to an organisation called Community Heartbeat that helped organisations convert telephone boxes to defibrillator stations. The Clerk was asked to find out more information about this. Cllr Iain McIntosh said he fully supported having a defibrillator in the telephone box.

11 Financial Matters

11.1 The Clerk's hours (7) and pay (£63.73) for July were approved.

11.2 The Council noted that the cashbook showed a balance of £2,840 after the above payment was taken into account. The budget monitoring spreadsheet showed an underspend of around £480 with a projected balance of £3,036 at 31 March 2021.

12 Planning Application 20/1239/HH Removal of existing porch and construction of a new porch at Ty'r Pentre Farm, Battle

12.1 There were no objections to this planning application which was for the same alteration as had previously been considered.

13 To consider whether to have an Autumn edition of the newsletter

13.1 The Reverend Michelle Bailey had asked whether the Council would be publishing an Autumn newsletter. The value of a hard copy newsletter was re-iterated but it was thought

there should only be one newsletter a year. It was decided that a Spring newsletter was the best time for this so that any Summer events can be promoted. After discussion it was decided not to publish an Autumn edition. It was suggested that the Reverend Michelle Bailey could write an article that could be put on the Facebook Page.

14 Correspondence

- a) PCSO Alex Daniels - getting in touch*
- b) Best Practice guide on community engagement from One Voice Wales*
- c) Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2019-20*
- d) Bowel Cancer UK appeal**

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

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

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

15.1 There were none.

16. Issues to report to Powys County Council

16.1 There were none.

17. Confirmation of date of next meeting: Wednesday 25 November 2020 (7.30pm)

It was agreed to discuss when the co-option should take place at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm