

# YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 7 October 2020  
at 7.30pm by videoconferencing using Zoom

**Councillors present:** Valerie Davies                      Geoff Watkins  
Jane Price    Kate Dunning  
Rebecca Watkins

**Also present:** Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)  
Cllr Iain McIntosh

**1. Apologies for absence**

1.1 Cllr Jane Price thanked everyone for taking part and welcomed Cllr Rebecca Watkins to her first meeting. There were no apologies.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 Cllr Jane Price declared that she had an interest in item 16 ( business owned by her son) and item 17 (financial interest).

*The agenda was re-arranged to allow Cllr Iain McIntosh to leave and attend another meeting.*

**3. To discuss the implications of the proposed schools transformation programme for Cradoc School**

3.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh updated the Council on proposals for the closure of Cradoc School, to which he was opposed. He had started a petition against the closure and had gained more than 500 signatories already. Merthy Cynog Community Council had suggested that the three community councils work with the school for a combined campaign to resist the closure. This was agreed and a meeting would be convened towards the end of October with the school and council chairs and clerks.

3.2 Formal consultation on the proposals was expected to start soon and be completed by next July. If Cradoc school were to close, it would not be before 2024 at the very earliest. Cllr Iain McIntosh thought that the only grounds for closure were for financial reasons and that there was a strong case for saving the school. It was suggested that the numbers on roll at other rural schools where there had been a new build such as Hay and Clyro were investigated to see if this helped the argument for retention. The next stage would be to see how the school governing body wished to handle the response.

*Cllr Jane Price asked for nominations for chair for the next two items. It was agreed that Cllr Valerie Davies would chair the meeting. Cllr Jane Price withdrew from the meeting.*

**4. Complaint about Battle MX Motocross business at Ty Newydd Farm**

4.1 Cllr Valerie Davies asked Cllr Iain McIntosh to introduce this item. He said that he had been approached by the complainants about the noise from the business. He had also been asked to investigate if the business had planning permission. Cllr Iain McIntosh said that Powys County Council could not find a record of a planning application but that as a landowner it would be possible to hold events for up to 14 days a year. He had visited the track and spoken with the owner who said that he was operating on no more than 14 days a year and was trying to reduce the noise as far as possible. Cllr Iain McIntosh said that he would like to have a meeting to try and resolve this but he thought it would be difficult as the business could not be

operated without a certain level of noise. Powys County Council were in contact with the complainants about the noise level.

- 4.2 Cllr Valerie Davies said that nothing had really changed in all the years it had been there. She could hear the motocross bikes which usually occurred around once a month on a Sunday. There was one occasion recently when the noise was unusually loud. Cllr Iain McIntosh said that the business owner did ask for the bikes to be fitted with mufflers to reduce the noise level.
- 4.3 The Council felt that there was nothing it could do about this situation, particularly as no laws had been broken. It was noted that one other resident in Battle had complained about the noise. It was agreed that the business owner was doing all he could to manage the situation, including liaising with a local business to avoid having events when a wedding was taking place in the area.
- 4.4 It was thought that there were unlikely to be any more events until the Spring. If any further information came to light, the situation would be reviewed. The Clerk was asked to respond to the complainant.

## **5. Consideration of request for funding for CCTV for the road between Battle End and Pont Faen**

- 5.1 The Clerk reminded councillors of a meeting that Cllr Jane Price had attended in March about requests for communities to install CCTV on roads to act as a deterrent to criminal activity and so that suspicious vehicles in the area could be monitored by the police. CCTV was going to be installed at Ty Newydd Farm and a contribution was sought (£500 suggested) to pay for two cameras that would focus on the road.
- 5.2 This prompted a wide ranging discussion that included the following points:
- a) there was a problem with thefts from farms and this initiative would increase community safety;
  - b) there was a concern about setting a precedent and having to fund similar schemes in future;
  - c) it was questioned whether the council should be paying for CCTV cameras though it was acknowledged that the police could not afford to put CCTV in all rural areas.
  - d) the level of contribution was debated; £500 was thought to be a lot if other properties came forward asking for the same treatment. A limit of one site per year could be introduced
  - e) further information was needed on the cost of the additional CCTV that would focus on the road.
  - f) the extent to which the Police could use the CCTV recording was queried.
- 5.3 It was decided to seek further information on costs and legality and make a decision at the next meeting.

*Cllr Jane Price was invited back to the meeting and took the chair. Cllr Iain McIntosh left the meeting.*

## **6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 August 2020**

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

## **7. Information from Minutes - Clerk's Report**

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that advertisements had been placed on the noticeboards and the Facebook page for 2 councillors. Both previous councillors are applying and are taking steps to be able to join videoconferencing meetings.

## **8. Progress report on Local Places for Nature Butterfly garden**

- 8.1 The Clerk reported that he had a site meeting with the Eleri Stephens from the school; the butterfly garden would be placed in the willow enclosure. The plants and materials should

be arriving soon and it was planned to install the butterfly garden between 21-24 October.

**9. To approve the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Virtual Annual Conference (cost £25)**

9.1 This was approved.

**10. To consider whether to pursue an application for another defibrillator using Community Heartbeat Trust ( see email)**

10.1 The email from Community Heartbeat Trust was discussed. Concern was expressed about the overall cost. It was agreed to organise a meeting with Mr Fagan from the Community Heartbeat Trust to discuss options and confirm the costs and sponsorship options before a final decision was taken.

**11. To note the work being undertaken by Upper Bridge Enterprises to make the website compliant with Accessibility and GDPR regulations and to approve the Accessibility and Privacy statements**

11.1 There was a brief discussion followed by approval of the statements previously circulated.

**12. To discuss problems caused by army vehicles using Aberbran bridge (Cllr Geoff Watkins)**

12.1 Although there is a sign telling MOD vehicles not to drive along the back roads, problems were still occurring with large army vehicles getting stuck at the bridge. After a brief discussion it was decided to complain to the base at Dering Lines.

**13. Financial Matters**

13.1 The Clerk's hours (22) and pay (£207.4) for August and September were approved. The payment to HMRC for PAYE for £67.80 was approved.

13.2 The Council noted that the cashbook showed a balance of £3,683 after the above payments are taken into account. The budget monitoring spreadsheet showed an underspend of around £50 with a projected balance of £2,613 at 31 March 2021.

**14 Correspondence**

a) Independent remuneration panel draft report \*\*

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 be raised with Powys County Council**

16.1 There were none. (The damage to Aberyscir bridge has already been reported to Highways.)

**17. Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 25 November 2020**

The meeting closed at 8.47pm