

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 25 November 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
Dilys Davies
Bob Wood

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Cllr Jane Price thanked everyone for taking part and welcomed Mr Wood and Mrs Davies to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

3. To co-opt Mr Bob Wood and Mrs Dilys Davies onto the Community Council

3.1 As nobody else had put their name forward for co-option, there was no need for a vote. Bob Wood and Dilys Davies were re-elected to Yscir Community Council.

4. To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 October 2020

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

5. Information from Minutes - Clerk's Report

5.1 Under item 5 Cllr Jane Price explained that she had withdrawn her request for funding for CCTV even though the Police were supportive of the idea. There were too many complications and a lot more paperwork required if public funding was used.

5.2 The Clerk reported that the butterfly garden had been installed at the school.

5.3 Under item 11, work had been started on making the website compliant with accessibility regulations.

5.4 Under item 12, the Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from the second in command of the Army base who said that he was following up the complaint about their large vehicle causing congestion with the commanding officer of the base from where it came. The Council was pleased to hear that action was being taken.

PCSO Alex Daniels had been expected to join the meeting but was not heard from (apologies received later).

6. To consider whether to pursue an application for another defibrillator using Community Heartbeat Trust

6.1 The Clerk reported that he not heard back from Mr Fagan from Community Heartbeat Trust. Following discussion, the following points were made:

a) £2,000 was too much for the Council to pay for a defibrillator/associated costs;

b) the Clerk was asked to find out more information about the defibrillators at Trallong and Merthyr Cynog;

c) Cllr Iain McIntosh offered to recirculate information he had received about grants and

- support for renovating telephone boxes;
- d) the community would be reminded about the defibrillator at Cradoc Golf Course in the next edition of the newsletter;
- e) the extra time taken to travel from the triangle in Cradoc to the Golf Club could make a real difference to the effectiveness of a defibrillator ;
- f) if they can be funded through grants, the more defibrillators there are in Yscir the better.

7. Independent Remuneration Panel Report: councillors' allowances for 2021/22

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that he had received responses from all councillor indicating that they would not be taking up the allowance of £150 per person.

8. Update on the proposed schools transformation programme for Cradoc School

- 8.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that the school had had two meetings with the public, from which a group was being set up to oppose the possible school closure. However, not much could be done yet as Powys County Council has not published any formal consultation papers on the future of education in the area. Cllr Iain McIntosh was now on the Cabinet of Powys County Council and had been summoned to a meeting with the Head of Education which was due to take place next week.
- 8.2 There was some discussion on increasing awareness of the petition and it was agreed to put notices on the noticeboards and re-publish the petition on the community website and Facebook page.

9. To consider the Clerk's pay for 2021/22 and an increase in non taxable homeworking allowance for 20-21

- 9.1 Cllr Jane Price reported that she had emailed the councillors and it had been agreed that the Clerk should stay on the same pay point (top of recommended scale) and that an increase in the homeworking allowance from £4 to £6 a week from April 2020 was approved.

10. Financial Matters

- 10.1 The Clerk's hours (27.68), pay (£255.35) and expenses (20.25) for October were approved.
- 10.2 The Clerk reported that the annual invoice from Upper Bridge Enterprises (£195) for hosting the website had been received. There had been no increase in price and this expenditure was also approved.
- 10.3 The Clerk reported that the Council had received an unqualified audit report but that he had to change how the value of the Santander shares was recorded. As they resulted from demutualisation of a building society, they should be valued at £1 on the asset register, rather than current market value.
- 10.4 The Clerk reported that the audit arrangements were changing with a more detailed audit taking place every 3 years. This would result in additional costs to the Council.
- 10.5 The Council noted that the cashbook showed a balance of just over £3,200 after the above payments are taken into account. The budget monitoring spreadsheet showed an underspend of around £230 with a projected balance of £2,793 at 31 March 2021.

11. To approve the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 November 2020

- 11.1 These were approved.

12. To consider whether the Council should support 'Playlist for Life'

- 12.1 The email circulated by the Clerk was discussed. It was agreed that this was a good initiative ,to support people with dementia and those that are lonely, which should be publicised by the Council. As the Council did not have a hub it was decided not to become a Community Help Point but the Council would signpost the initiative through the Facebook page and newsletter.

13. Report on the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Virtual Annual Conference (cost £25)

- 13.1 The Clerk reported that he had attended 4 sessions, the most helpful of which were on website accessibility and issues affecting small councils.

14 Correspondence

- a) CCTV consultation by Police and Crime Commissioner.
- b) Briefing sessions on changes to Neville Hall Hospital*
- c) Powys Dyslexia Support Newsletter**
- d) Brecon Advice Centre - Annual Report available**
- e) Refill Wales introduction*
- f) Citizen's Advice Bureau update*

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

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

- 14.1 Cllr Kate Dunning suggested that the Council should publicise and promote Refill Wales in the newsletter and on the Facebook page. This 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 There were none. (The damage to Aberyscir bridge has been repaired).

17. Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 20 January 2021

The meeting closed at 8.25pm