

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 25 August 2021
at 7.30pm at Cradoc Golf Club

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

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk) Cllr Iain McIntosh

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Cllr Rebecca Watkins was away on holiday. Cllr Bob Wood tried to join the meeting by ZOOM but this was unsuccessful so he emailed his apologies. (*Later discovered that the ZOOM invitation was not sent until 21.43 that evening!*).

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were none.

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 July 2021

3.1 These were approved.

4. Clerk's report including information from minutes

4.1 With regard to 2.4 neither Trallong nor Merthyr Cynog Councils had identified any potential speedwatch sites as most roads in their wards were national speed limit.

4.2 With regard to item 10, the Clerk reported that Highways did not own the area of land being considered for planting an oak tree. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Kate Dunning would try and find out who owned the site by contacting the builder who built the houses. She had spoken to immediate neighbours and there were no objections to planting an oak tree in a suitable position. The Community Council was concerned about maintenance of the tree in future years and ensuring that the tree did not block the visibility splay. The Council had no objections to Cllr Kate Dunning planting a tree away from the road edge on the understanding that she would be acting in a personal capacity and not on behalf of the Council.

4.3 The Clerk reported that the trees on Battle Common overhanging the road would be inspected by a Highways officer and that the contractor responsible for cutting the verges in Cradoc had been reminded of the requirement to clear up properly afterwards.

5. To receive an update on the provision and location of the donated defibrillator and to consider a request from Merthyr Cynog Council to support a defibrillator in Pontfaen

5.1 The Clerk reported that the order for the defibrillator had been received by St John's Ambulance but that it would not be in stock for 6 to 8 weeks. Cllr Geoff Watkins mentioned that no training had taken place for using the Aberbran defibrillator due to Covid and he suggested that training for use on the new defibrillator should be planned now and it might be possible to combine this with training for Aberbran.

5.2 There was a discussion on the request from Merthyr Cynog Council for help with the cost of a defibrillator for Pontfaen. It was pointed out that there were areas of Yscir, e.g Fennifach, without a defibrillator and this needed to be borne in mind when considering a donation for Pontfaen. There was a consensus on giving a small donation and through a show of hands it was agreed to donate £50.

6. **To receive an update on Speedwatch**

- 6.1 Cllr Valerie Davies reported that 11 speedwatches had been held from which it was possible to draw 2 conclusions. Most vehicles travelling past the school in the 20mph zone were speeding. Only 2 vehicles had been logged travelling excessively fast in Battle, this despite a number of residents saying that speeding was a problem and undertaking the speedwatch at various times between 8.30am and early evening. Most people had been positive about the initiative with only a couple of exceptions.
- 6.2 Approval was still awaited for undertaking checks on the road between the golf club and Cradoc village. 2 councillors had attended a speedcheck here with a traffic policeman which resulted in one person being warned and another being booked.
- 6.3 There was another potential speedwatch area in Aberbran in the Trallong ward but this had not been checked yet by the Police.

7. **To consider whether to make any preparations for Operation London Bridge**

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that if and when the Queen dies it will not be possible to hold council meetings for 10 days.
- 7.2 It was agreed to add a photo of the Queen with appropriate text to the home page of the website at the time.

8. **Financial Matters**

- 8.1 The Clerk's hours for July (14), pay (£95.78) and expenses (£19.79) were approved. The allowance to Cllr Jane Price (£60) was approved. .
- 8.2 The Clerk reported that the cashbook showed a balance of around £2,560 after current expenditure is taken into account.. An error on the budget monitoring spreadsheet was explained. (The insurance row should show £168 in the 'profiled expenditure to date' column and £0 in the variance column.) Spending was going according to plan with a projected balance at 31 March 2022 of around £2,600.

9. **To approve the updated Emergency Plan**

- 9.1 The Clerk had updated contact details and telephone numbers. The plan was approved.

10. **Correspondence**

- a) Consultation on draft local elections regulations*
- b) Remote training sessions*
- c) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons Celebrations 2 June 2022 *
- d) Invitation to Powys Dyslexia meeting*
- e) Revised guidance on Code of Conduct*

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

11. **To consider whether to reinstate converting Cradoc telephone kiosk into a library**

- 11.1 The location of the telephone box is considered to be dangerous by the policeman who assesses speedwatch. The Clerk has written to Highways to see if there are road safety objections to using the telephone box as a library.
- 11.2 The condition of the telephone box is deteriorating and concern was expressed about what it might cost to repair. Cllr Kate Dunning said she would have a chat with the people who lived by the telephone box and the Clerk would undertake a physical inspection. It was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting.

12. **Issues to report to Powys County Council**

- 12.1 Concern was expressed about the potholes on the Aberyscir road near the road to Y Gaer. Cllr

Valerie Davies reported that work was being done to investigate the cause and location of a blocked drain which was causing the pothole problems so there was no need to report the potholes at this time.

13. To consider the implications of multi -location meetings and to consider whether the Council wishes to have meetings at an alternative time or day of the week

13.1 The Clerk reported that in future councillors could attend meetings virtually or by telephone. Members expressed their preference for physical meetings whilst respecting the wishes of anyone who preferred to meet virtually.

13.2 It was agreed to change the time of the next meeting to 7.00pm to make it easier for the Golf Club to manage.

14. Date and time of next meeting: 7.00pm on 24 November 2021

Cllr Iain McIntosh left the meeting at this point.

15. Planning Application 21 /1405/HH To provide a staircase to the first floor and a first floor extension to Ty'r Pentre Bach, Battle LD3 9RN

15.1 There were no objections to this planning application.

16. Any planning applications that have arisen after the agenda was sent out

16.1 There were none