

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 24 November 2021
at 7.00pm by ZOOM

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

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Cllr Iain MacIntosh presented his apologies as he had 2 other meetings to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were none.

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

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

4. Clerk's report including information from minutes

4.1 All of the Clerk's items were on the agenda.

5. To consider the future of the telephone box in Cradoc

5.1 Cllr Kate Dunning reported that the people living opposite the telephone box had no special feelings about it but it was suggested it might make cars slow down if it was thought there might be pedestrians about. As the telephone box has been out of action for years, this was considered unlikely.

5.2 The Clerk confirmed that the telephone box was in a very poor state of repair.

5.3 Cllr Geoff Watkins reported that the telephone box at Aberbran had been repaired and put back into use by BT. It was now an operational telephone box. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact BT to see if the telephone box at Cradoc could also be brought back into service and repaired.

6. To receive an update on Speedwatch and to determine whether to hold further meetings during the Winter.

6.1 Cllr Valerie Davies reported that 4 further meetings had been scheduled for the forthcoming weekend. A lot of cars were travelling too fast into Cradoc from the golf club road with the fastest recorded speed being 51mph.

6.2 Cars were still travelling too quickly past the telephone box but it was not allowed to have speedwatch there due to safety reasons.

7. To receive an update on defibrillators

7.1 The Clerk reported that he was still waiting for the case for the defibrillator destined for Battle to arrive. It had been suggested that locating the defibrillator by the grit bin next to Beacon Lodge would allow cars to stop easily and is a central location in the village. The Clerk was asked to pursue this with local residents.

7.2 The Clerk reported that there had been no interest shown from Fennifach residents for providing an external power supply for a heated defibrillator cabinet. Accordingly it was

decided not to apply for a grant for a defibrillator from the Welsh Assembly.

8. Independent remuneration panel report: to determine whether councillors should be able to receive the £150 allowance in 2022/23

8.1 The Clerk explained proposed changes to councillor remuneration by the Independent Remuneration Panel. After discussion it was decided to leave arrangements as they were giving councillors flexibility to choose whether to accept the allowance or not.

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

9.1 Cllr Iain Macintosh had circulated an email outlining several meetings he had had with the Education Department of Powys County Council (PCC) arguing the case for Cradoc school to remain open.

9.2 Cllr Rebecca Watkins reported that, since becoming a member of the Powys County Council Cabinet, Cllr Iain Macintosh could no longer be part of the campaign group for keeping the school open. This was difficult but necessary for legal reasons.

9.3 Cllr Rebecca Watkins said that a solicitor had been appointed and a legal challenge made to the Welsh Assembly decision to allow PCC to delay consideration of the school closure proposals.

9.4 PCC are expected to produce a report on 2 December with consultation over the Christmas period and statutory notices on 12 January. This leaves little time for appeals.

9.5 Cllr Rebecca Watkins and Cllr Iain Macintosh were thanked for their hard work supporting the school and Cllr Jane Price reiterated the support of the Community Council

10. To consider the Clerk's pay for 2022/23 and to note his forthcoming retirement

10.1 It was agreed that there should be no changes to the Clerk's pay. The Clerk thanked councillors for the kind words he had received following the announcement of his retirement at the end of May 2022.

10.2 After discussion it was agreed to try and appoint a new clerk with an overlap with the existing clerk. It was also agreed to approach Trallong Community Council about this.

11. Financial Matters

11.1 The Clerk's payment for August, September and October (£195.33) and expenses (£0.90) were approved. The HMRC payment of £74.80 for PAYE was approved. Payment to Upper Bridge Enterprises for hosting the website (£195 was approved).

11.2 The Clerk reported that the cashbook showed a balance of around £3,666 after current expenditure is taken into account. Spending was going according to plan with a projected balance at 31 March 2022 of around £2,800.

11.3 The Clerk went through the draft budget. A change was made to increase the amount for councillor allowances to £300 in case any new councillors wished to take up the allowance. The rest of the budget was agreed and it was agreed to raise a precept of £27 on a band D property. It was noted that it may be possible to reduce the precept next year if council elections are not needed. It was decided not to do anything about increasing the council's balances in this budget as the precept was already being increased significantly.

12. To consider arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons 2 June 2022

12.1 The Clerk reported that he had had difficulty contacting Ian Griffiths who had thought that the Sports Committee would take this on. Cllr Geoff Watkins provided the clerk with Ian's telephone number to facilitate further discussions.

13. To approve the amended model Informal Resolution Protocol

13.1 This process for handling minor complaints was approved.

14. To consider taking part in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative (Cllr Valerie Davies)

14.1 Cllr Valerie Davies outlined this initiative. The Community Council supported the idea of celebrating the Queen's 70th Jubilee by planting some trees.

14.2 It was agreed to plant a small grove of 4 trees on the area near the Bungalow at Aberyscir which was being cleared by Cllr Geoff Watkins. It was agreed to obtain the trees from the Woodland Trust and to purchase an official plaque costing £90. Further details of the proposed trees to purchase would be discussed at the next meeting.

15. Correspondence

- a) PCC delay in producing proposals re school reorganisation *
- b) Consultation survey from Police and Crime Commissioner**
- c) Wales Air Ambulance appeal for fund**
- d) BBNP consultation on Future Beacons*
- e) Possible closure of Dolau CP School *
- f) Marie Curie request for funding**

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

16. Issues to report to Powys County Council

16.1 It was agreed to raise the following issues;

- a) the road from Pontarysgir up over Aberyscir Common, down to Pont-Faen and back to Pontarysgir has a lot of bad potholes (often failed repairs of previous potholes);
- b)there is only one light working out of three at the junction of Oakfield Park and Cradoc Road.It is requested that one of the two lights not working should be lit. Cllr Kate Dunning agreed to provide the clerk with the number of the street light that should be turned on. An alternative light that could be switched off could be suggested.
- c) the 30mph sign as you enter Cradoc village is too close to the village and is the wrong side of the junction of Oakfield Road.
- d) there should be a 'road narrows' sign on Cradoc Road. (Cllr Iain Macintosh has chased Jo Lancey about this.)

17 To note correspondence with the Ministry of Defence concerning army traffic using the back road to Sennybridge through Aberbran

17.1 The Council noted the reply received from Colonel Sion Walker. Cllr Geoff Watkins reported that he had not seen any army traffic of late.

18. To consider whether to approach Trallong Community Council about hosting a repair cafe.

18.1 This was considered to be a good idea but concern was expressed about whether sufficient volunteers would come forward. Cllr Geoff Watkins and the Clerk said they would be happy to support this project. After discussion it was agreed to write to Trallong Council about this and to gain further information by talking to the Brecon Repair Cafe.

19. To consider the poor response received from the Ambulance Service to a local person

19.1 Councillors were very concerned to hear that an elderly resident with a broken femur had to wait 20 hours for an ambulance to arrive as it was not deemed a life threatening case. It was decided that a family member should write and complain. Cllr Kate Dunning said that she would send Cllr Dilys Davies a link to a website for complaining to the Welsh Ambulance Service.

20. Planning Application 20/194222/FUL : construction of a agricultural building at Fennifach Farm and demolition of an existing farm building.

20.1 There were no objections to this planning application.

21. Consideration of any planning applications received after the agenda was circulated

21.1 There were none.

22. Confirmation of date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 26 January 2022

The meeting finished at 20.43pm