

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 23 March 2022
at 7.00pm at Cradoc Golf Club

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

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk) Cllr Iain McIntosh
Jane Joseph (new Clerk) James Walker (Observer)

22/03/5. Apologies for absence

22/03/5.1 Cllr Jane Price welcomed James Walker and Jane Joseph to the meeting. Cllr Geoff Watkins sent his apologies as he was ill.

22/03/6. Declarations of Interest

22/03/6.1 Cllr Rebecca Watkins declared an interest in item 17 9 (planning application for Blaengny Farm.)

22/03/7 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 January 2022

22/03/7.1 It was agreed that the minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

22/03/8 Clerk's report including information from minutes

22/03/8.1 The Clerk reported that the emergency line was working in the telephone box.

22/03/8.2 With regard to item 5.2, the Clerk reported that a Land Registry search had identified that part of the land next to the Pastures at Aberyscir was unregistered and part was owned by the Walters brothers. The Clerk was asked to speak to Mr Walters to seek permission to plant trees for the Queen's Green Canopy Project on this waste ground, away from the hedgerow.

22/03/8.3 With regard to 13.1, it was reported that some unofficial work had taken place to protect the verge beside the seats at Aberbran but that the meeting with David Lewis had not taken place. The Clerk would follow this up with Cllr Geoff Watkins and if necessary Cllr Iain McIntosh would pursue it with Highways.

22/03/9 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2022

22/03/9.1 It was agreed that the minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

22/03/10 To note the appointment of Mrs Jane Joseph as clerk and to discuss her request for paying for finance training

22/03/10.1 The Council approved the appointment of Mrs Jane Joseph as Clerk to Yscir Community Council from 1 June 2022. There would be an overlap period before then to ensure an efficient handover.

22/03/10.2 The Council agreed to pay the cost of the FILCA training course for Mrs Joseph once she had completed the ILCA course. It was anticipated that this would cost £60 after a bursary from the Welsh Assembly had been received. All future training costs would be shared equally with Trallong Council.

22/03/11 To approve the response to Powys County Council concerning the proposed closure of Cradoc School and to receive an update of latest developments

22/03/11.1 The Council approved the objection response to the proposed closure that the Clerk

had sent following the meeting in January.

22/03/11.2 Cllr Rebecca Watkins and Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that they had had an encouraging meeting with a solicitor and a barrister who believed there was a good case to challenge the decision to close Cradoc School. It is likely that the process will go to judicial review. The Council expressed its thanks for the hard work being done to keep Cradoc School open,

22/03/12 Risk Assessment Review including an update on the asset register.

22/03/12.1 The Council considered and approved the risk assessment.

22/03/12.2 The Clerk reported that the doors of both noticeboards were deteriorating. He was going to look at them with Cllr Geoff Watkins and would report back to the Council. Replacement may need to be considered in next year's budget. There was a brief discussion on how much the noticeboards were used and it was agreed to put something in the newsletter about this.

22/03/13 Internal Audit Review

22/03/13.1 The Council considered and approved the audit plan and question/action list.

22/03/14 Financial Matters

22/03/14.1 The Clerk's pay for January and February (£345.90) and expenses (£9.00) were approved. The Clerk's expenses for working from home (£312) were approved. Membership of One Voice Wales (£73) was approved.

22/03/14.2 The Clerk reported that the cashbook showed a balance of around £3,578 after current expenditure is taken into account.. The budget monitoring spreadsheet indicated that there had been an underspend on clerk's pay. The bill for external audit had not been received; this would reduce the balance by around £400.

22/03/15 To discuss whether to pursue the establishment of a Repair Cafe

22/03/15.1 The Clerk reported that the repair cafe in Brecon was working well. There was a concern about the financial commitment involved in running a repair cafe. It was decided that as the Brecon repair cafe was working well, there was no need to try and start one for Yscir/Trallong.

22/03/16 To consider whether to promote the establishment of a Heating Oil Club in Yscir.

22/03/16.1 After discussion, it was agreed that this was a good idea but it was not something the Council could get involved in directly. The Clerk was asked to write to the constituent who had suggested it and offer to advertise and promote it if she wished to pursue it further.

22/03/17 Correspondence

- a) Report from the Independent Remuneration Panel*
- b) Countryside access: letter from Green Lane Association*
- c) My Tree, Our Forest scheme *
- d) Kids Cancer Charity request for funding**

*circulated by email ** received but not circulated

22/03/18 Arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

22/03/18.1 Cllr Jane Price reported that the Chair of the Sports Committee was going to contact the Lord of the Manor as to whether a beacon could be lit on Aberyscir Hill. The school is organising an afternoon tea on Friday June 3rd which could be opened up to the community. and Trallong Village Hall is having a party in the hall on Saturday June 4th. Cllr Iain McIntosh said that there was also going to be an event at Upper Chapel on Sunday 5 June.

22/03/18.2 After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Rebecca Watkins would contact the Chair of the Sports Committee about contacting the Lord of the Manor directly about the beacon.

22/03/18.2 It was agreed that Cllr Jane Price would ask the school if there was anything the Council could do to support the school in opening up its celebration on Friday 3rd June to engage

the community.

22/03/19 To approve the draft newsletter and Annual Report and agree distribution arrangements

22/03/19.1 The Annual Report was agreed with the deletion of the financial paragraph (information available on website), amendment to the sentence about the telephone box and the insertion of a paragraph about the noticeboards. Cllr Kate Dunning offered to do this. With these changes the newsletter was approved.

22/03/19.2 It was agreed to distribute the newsletter by hand.

22/03/20 To consider having a litter picking day

22/03/20.1 It was agreed to organise another litter picking day in the near future, with refreshments at the golf club. The Clerk was asked to organise this.

22/03/21 Consideration of any planning applications received after the agenda was circulated

22/03/21 There were none.

22/03/22 Issues to raise with Powys County Council

22/03/22.1 There were none.

22/03/23 Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 18 May 2022 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club

22/03/23.1 Cllr Jane Price suggested taking the Clerk out for a meal as he would be leaving at the end of May. It was agreed to take him out for Sunday lunch on Sunday 29 May 2022 at 12.30pm for 1.00pm. The Clerk thanked the Council for this invitation.

22/03/24 Planning Application 21/1507/FUL for an eco-tourism and retreat centre at Blaengwy Farm

22/03/24.1 Cllr Rebecca Watkins left the meeting.

22/03/24.2 This planning application was discussed at length. Although the proposed development is not in Yscir, it is very close to the boundary and the increased road traffic will be using roads through Yscir.

22/03/24.3 Cllr Valerie Davies, who lives along the main access route to the development, reported that traffic has already increased along that road and it was now very common for vehicles to have to reverse to a passing place. The additional passing places that have been provided are narrow and only wide enough for cars to pass, not the tractors that frequently use the road. The road is poorly maintained which will get worse with increased traffic.

22/03/24.4 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that he had received a lot of correspondence from local people expressing concern about this development and that he had been informed that further details had just been received by the planning department and would be published very soon. The planning department was seeking the views of consultees on these changes.

22/03/24.5 The Council agreed with the issues raised by the Highways department and Natural Resources Wales. There was considerable concern about the vagueness of the proposals which could hide a very large increase in the number of vehicles accessing the site. The site has already been used for one noisy party.

22/03/24.6 Cllr Dilys Davies suggested that if permission were granted, it should be reviewed within a specified time period, say 5 years.

22/03/24.7 It was agreed to object to the proposals, reinforcing a number of points made by other respondents.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.