

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 13 January 2016 at Cradoc Golf Club at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Jane Price
Roger Price
Margaret Rees
Bob Wood
Tess Birtles

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (clerk)
Cllr Gillian Thomas

Cllr Jane Price welcomed Cllr Tess Birtles to her first meeting of the full Council.

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Rees Price.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 November 2015

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 With regard to 12.1, the Clerk reported that Powys County Council had decided to delay the introduction of consulting electronically on planning applications by one month and would be issuing guidance.

5. To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 2 December 2015

5.1 It was agreed that the minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Gillian Thomas confirmed she had requested that the application be dealt with by the County Council Planning Committee.

6. To note the plans for improved parking at Cradoc School

6.1 The Clerk circulated details of planning application P/2015/1213 for construction of new access and improved parking provision at Cradoc School. Cllr Gillian Thomas took no part in the discussion as she wished to be involved when this is discussed by the County Council planning committee. Yscir Community Council was very pleased that a scheme was finally going ahead as the risk to children at the beginning and end of school is high.

6.2 The Council had no concerns with the movement of the public footpath but it was concerned that a possible threat to the habitat of newts could delay or even jeopardise the scheme. It was resolved to support the planning application and to urge that the safety of the children far outweighs any concerns about the newts.

7. To note the changes to the website and to approve the invoice from Upper Bridge Enterprises (UBE)

7.1 The Clerk showed the new website to the Council on his laptop. He reported that he had had two training sessions and was progressing well with operating the site. He suggested that there should be a page for local businesses to advertise their presence and this was agreed. The changes suggested at the last meeting of the Council had been implemented.

- 7.2 The cost of this work was £200 for the website design and £151 for annual hosting (excluding VAT). The Council thought that this was reasonable and the invoice from UBE was approved.
- 7.3 The Chairman thanked Cllr Bob Wood for attending a meeting with UBE and she thanked the Clerk for his work on the website

8. To determine arrangements for the Spring Newsletter

- 8.1 It was agreed to follow the same arrangements as last year. These are:
- a) the content would be agreed at the next meeting in March;
 - b) the clerk would request contributions by the end of February and chase items as required;
 - c) Cllr Bob Wood would proof read the items;
 - d) all members would assist with collation and distribution
 - g) the distribution arrangements would be finalised at the next meeting with the newsletter being delivered during April, after the main period of lambing

9. To receive an update on the proposed conversion of Cradoc Telephone Box to a library

- 9.1 The Clerk reported that he had done some work on a planning application, had written to the two nearest properties and had been trying to ascertain who owned the land. He read out a reply he had received that day from Alison Brown, Area Development Control Officer for Powys County Council. This stated the following

Based on evidence that all the roads surrounding the box are adopted highways I believe it is reasonable to assume that although Powys do not own the land on which the box is situated, it does form part of the highway and therefore falls under our jurisdiction.

Whilst I appreciate that the box is of extremely limited size and its use would be aimed at local people, the position does not offer any convenient or safe off or on-street parking. I am concerned that pedestrians approaching the 'library' will necessarily have to cross highways not all of which can offer adequate visibility of all traffic.

I must therefore advise that I could not support the proposal to re-use the telephone call box as a local library for highway safety reasons. If, however, it could be relocated to a position where off or even on-street parking was not seen as a hazard I would happily review my opinion.

- 9.2 The Council was very disappointed to hear this as councillors were very keen to use the telephone box as a library. Cllr Tess Birtles said she had already begun collecting books for it and was willing to oversee the library when it was in operation. The following points were made:
- a) the children going to Brecon High School have to walk to the 'triangle' every day and stand on the highway waiting for buses. If safety is such a concern a dedicated bus stop and waiting area should be provided;
 - b) there is parking adjacent to the Old Smithy opposite Beacons View;
 - c) when the telephone box was in operation, people had to park and cross the road to use it;
 - d) the converted telephone box in Llanfrynach is on a busier road than the one in Cradoc
 - e) it is impractical and costly to move the telephone box;
 - f) this would be a popular and useful facility to local people and visitors alike.
- 9.3 It was agreed to write to Alison Brown asking her to reconsider her decision and if necessary visit the site. Cllr Gillian Thomas was also asked to have a word with Alison Brown. It was also agreed not to do any further work until this matter was resolved but it is hoped to undertake the conversion by the summer.

10) Financial Matters

- 10.1 The clerk's hours and expenses for November and December were approved.

- 10.2 The payment to HMRC for PAYE for October to December and the annual fee to the Information Commissioner were approved
- 10.3 .The cashbook and budget monitoring spreadsheets were noted.
- 10.4 The Clerk presented a breakdown of his working hours for the year. He confirmed that the internal auditor was happy with this approach but that as the Council had not been inspected by the external auditor he could not comment on their opinion. The Council expressed its confidence in the Clerk's bookkeeping and the analysis was duly noted.
- 10.5 The Clerk explained the draft budget spreadsheet for 2016-17. The budget was agreed without changes with a projected expenditure of £3,620. After discussion it was decided to raise £3,868 through the precept (£15 on a band D property) in order to try and build a reserve for the anticipated costs of the council election in May 2017. This should reduce the size of the increase in precept payment needed in 2017-18.

11. To determine the dates of meetings for 2016/17

- 11.1 The following dates were agreed:
Monday 16 May
Monday 11 July
Wednesday 7 September
Wednesday 9 November
Wednesday 11 January 2017
Wednesday 22 March

12) Correspondence

- a) Request for funding from Wales Air Ambulance Service
- b) Letter advertising the services of Builth Building Services
- c) Request for funding from British Red Cross
- d) Request for funding from Powys Citizens Advice Bureau
- e) Letter from PCC re delay in implementation of electronic consultation of planning applications*
- f) Wales Audit Office Newsletter**
- g) Dyfed -Powys Police Commissioner newsletter**
- h) Consultation on Local Government (Wales) Bill**
- i) Buckingham Palace garden party invitation draw

PCC = Powys County Council;

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

12. Any planning applications that arrived after the papers were sent out.

- 12.1 The planning application for Cradoc school had been dealt with under item 6.

13. Cerrigcochion Road Development Brief Consultation

- 13.1 This had been circulated by email. The Council thought that this area of Brecon was a good place for new housing development and should be supported. There was a concern about the increase in traffic on Cerrigcochion Road as this is a dangerous hill. It was suggested that alternative access points to the development should be explored. The Clerk was asked to convey these points to Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

14) Issues to be raised with Powys County Council

- 14.1 Cllr Jane Price reported that there had been a problem with a faulty streetlight opposite the school. Following a 999 call, the ambulancemen decided it was too dark to move a patient down some steps and had to call for backup lighting. The Fire Service responded. Cllr Jane Price had been asked to chase up repair of the fault. There was also an issue with faulty

numbering on the post .She thought that it had now been repaired but the Clerk was asked to check this and pursue if necessary.

- 14.2 Cllr Bob Wood reported that there were two roadwork signs, including a traffic light sign on the approach to Cradoc village from Aberyscir that had been there for two months following some roadworks that were now completed. The Clerk was asked to request their removal.

15) Confirmation of date and times of next meeting

- 15.1 The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 23 March 2016 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club

The meeting closed at 8.35pm