

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 11 January 2017, at Cradoc Golf Club at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Jane Price
Tess Birtles
Dilys Davies
Margaret Rees

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Bob Wood, Cllr Roger Price, Cllr Rees Price, and Cllr Gillian Thomas.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2 November 2016

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

4. Information from Minutes - Clerk's Report

4.1 With regard to item 4.3, Cllr Roger Price had informed the Clerk that he and Mr Tim Skinner had removed the trees from the river as the Environment Agency were not going to do anything. The Council expressed its gratitude to Cllr Price and Mr Skinner.

4.2 With regard to item 7.1, the Clerk reported that the cost of the notice (£126.60 before VAT) had been shared with Merthyr Cynog and Trallong Councils, bringing the cost down to £42.20 per council. It had not been possible to include Honddu Isaf Council in the notice. The Council was pleased it had been possible to share the costs.

4.3 With regard to the Aberyscir Bridge, Adam Parry from Powys County Council had looked at the damage and concluded it was only superficial. It was hoped to repair it, along with reinstating the coping stones next financial year.

5. To note arrangements for the May 2017 elections

5.1 The Clerk reported that community council elections would be held on 4 May with existing councillors retiring on 8 May 2017, when the new councillors would take up office. Nominations to become a councillor opens on 17 March and closes on 4 April. The Clerk will pick up nomination forms at a briefing meeting for Clerks on 28 February.

5.2 The Clerk had been advised that the cost of an uncontested election could be up to £400 and for a contested election up to £1600 for a ward of 1000 electors. Yscir has 371 electors but as many of the costs would be fixed it was agreed to use these figures for budget purposes..

6. To determine arrangements for the Newsletter

6.1 It was agreed that it would be beneficial to publish the newsletter in March to include an article on the council elections so that people would have the most notice of being able to stand for the council.

6.2 The deadline for copy to be received by the Clerk would be 15 February with the aim of having the newsletter ready for distribution by 1 March. It was suggested to contact Mr Richard Field with regard to an article about the church. Ms Rebecca Price had previously

supplied the Young Farmers' article but she had now moved house. The contact details for the YFC should be on their website. The Clerk was asked to include an article about the threat to the Cradoc recycling centre.

6.3 If the distribution of the newsletter clashed with lambing, Cllr Tess Birtles and the Clerk agreed to distribute more newsletters.

7. WAG consultation on changes to school governing bodies, in particular, the removal of the right for community councils to appoint a school governor

7.1 The Clerk reported that the Welsh Assembly Government was proposing a root and branch reform of governing bodies with an emphasis on skills rather than who the governor represents. One consequence was that it is proposed to remove the right of community councils to appoint a governor.

7.2 After discussion it was agreed to send a response recognising the need to have skilled governors but also regretting the loss of the community council governor as a good link between the local school and the community council was very valuable.

8. Correspondence received concerning Cradoc Recycling Centre

8.1 Chris Davies MP and Kirsty Williams AM had both written supportive letters to Powys County Council about the proposal to remove the Cradoc recycling centre. Negative responses had been received from County Councillor John Powell arguing that recycling facilities were available in Brecon and removal would help the fly tipping problem.

8.2 The Clerk reported that he had submitted Freedom of Information requests that showed that the Cradoc site was very well used with over 170 tonnes of material being recycled in 2015/16.

8.3 The Chairman suggested that if the recycling facility is removed, it would be better to turn the area into a parking lot for The Crug, to discourage further fly tipping. It was agreed to revisit this idea if the recycling facilities were removed.

9. Gritting of Road beyond Cradoc (Cllr Dilys Davies)

9.1 Cllr Dilys Davies reported that an accident occurred just before Christmas on the bends just past Battle End Farm due to ice on the road and that the police car that attended the scene also had an accident. After this, the road was gritted. It was noted that the road is heavily used by school buses and bus drivers had mentioned the lack of gritting making driving more dangerous.

9.2 The Council asked the Clerk to write to PCC to request that the road be gritted to Pont Faen ahead of further accidents occurring.

10. Financial Matters

10.1 The clerk's hours, pay (£111.73) and expenses (£0.90) for November and December were approved. The payment to HMRC for PAYE for October to December of £58.60 was approved. Payments to the information commissioner, Upper Bridge Enterprises, Wales Audit office and to the Clerk for the Brecon and Radnor Express advert were approved.

10.2 The Council noted the current financial position as shown in the cash book spreadsheet and budget monitoring spreadsheet. The Clerk reported that expenditure was within budget and the balance after the most recent expenditure would be £3240 with a projected year end balance of £2,636, rather than £2,355 as recored in the budget monitoring sheet. This was due to lower forecasted expenditure on the Clerk's salary. (Cllr Tess Birtles reconciled the January bank statement with the cashbook immediately following the meeting.)

- 10.3 The Clerk apologised for the analysis of his hours not being included in the papers. It was agreed to circulate these by email.
- 10.4 The draft budget was discussed. It was agreed to allow for the maximum expenditure on the council elections. It was considered that the increase in the Clerk's salary could be absorbed within the existing budget. It was agreed to raise £3,884 through the precept which would mean a £15 charge on a band D property, the same as in 2016/2017. This should result in a closing balance of around £1521 in March 2018, if the council election is contested. The balance could be £1000 higher if the election is uncontested. The draft budget was unanimously approved.

11) To determine the dates of meetings for 2017/18:

- 11.1 The following dates were agreed:

Monday 15 May,* Monday 10 July*, Wednesday 6 September, Wednesday 15 November, Wednesday 17 January 2018, Wednesday 21 March 2018

- 11.2 ***Following the meeting the Monday dates were changed to Wednesday 17 May and Wednesday 12 July**

12) Correspondence

- a) Request for funding from Wales Air Ambulance Service
- b) Letter from pensions regulator reminding us of our staging date - 1 April 2017
- c) Santander - 1 more share issued (now have 99)
- d) British Red Cross -request for funding
- e) Examination of Powys Local Development Plan
- f)*BT Payphone Removal

- 12.1 The Clerk reported that there had been some communication with Mr G Harris about the latest Powys Local Development Plan and that Cradoc was not on the list of BT telephones to be removed.

13) Consideration of any planning applications received after the agenda was circulated

- 13.1 An application for a single storey extension at Ffinant Isaf, Aberbran (P/2016/1309) had been received and members informed by email. After a brief discussion it was decided not to raise any objections to this planning application.

14) Issues to be raised with Powys County Council

- 14.1 The deteriorating state of Cradoc Road just as one leaves the village towards Brecon was mentioned. It was agreed to ask Powys County Council to repair this section of road which had been left during the last road repair.

15 Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 22 March 2017 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club

The meeting closed at 8.30pm