

CLYRO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held at

7pm on Tuesday 14th November 2017

in the Village Hall, Clyro

MINUTES

PRESENT Cllr V Price (Chairman), Cllr E Brown (Vice Chairman), Cllr J Carter, Cllr J Fforde (acting clerk) Cllr G Franks, Cllr R Wells, Cllr P Bate, Cllr D Hood, Cllr A Hood, County Cllr. James Gibson-Watt,

APOLOGIES: Ms. Richardson (School Governor Representative)

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public: Ivor and Margaret Wadley, Peter Williams, Ron Francis. Applicants for the job of clerk: Ms. Wakeman and Ms Powell.

MINUTES October 10th and Oct 17th Minutes, having been amended for minor errors, were approved. Cllr. Brown suggested in future that all minutes be marked 'draft' before being approved, and Cllr. Fforde (acting clerk) would ensure that it was so.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON for duration of the meeting for fire regulations: Chairman Price.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST Cllr. Fforde declared that as his wife worked for the co-applicant in both planning applications below, he would absent himself from discussion or voting.

PLANNING MATTERS:

Application Ref: P2017 1222

Grid Ref: 323551.96/246013.55 for Section 19 application to vary condition no. 2 attached to Listed building consent P/2014/1006 to allow design changes at Barn F Cabalva Farm Whitney-On-Wye Hereford

There being no objections, the approval was carried unanimously

Application Ref: P/2017/1220

Grid Ref: 323551.96/246013.55 for Section 73 application to vary condition no. 2 attached to planning permission P/2013/0130 to allow design changes at Barn F Cabalva Farm Whitney-On-Wye Hereford

There being no objections, the approval was carried unanimously

MATTERS ARISING:

1: Policing Dog Fouling: Cllr. A Hood reported that there was still an issue of dog fouling in the village, and he had been in touch with the environmental section of Powys who said there was no longer a dog warden in Powys, and that what they did now was to circulate a handout to the communities pointing out offence by people who allow their dogs to foul public spaces. The system is meant to be self-policing, relying on anyone who witnesses dog fouling to report it to Powys and make a statement, in which case a fixed penalty notice may be issued.

Regarding the particular issue of fouling in the children's play area behind the Castle Estate, there was a suggestion for extra bins for dog waste, although this had already been suggested but nothing yet had been done. It was noted that the existing bin collections were efficient, and Cllr. D. Hood agreed with Cllr. A. Hood that extra bins were needed.

Cllr Brown suggested that it would be better to deter dog owners from children's areas, although it was pointed out that there was a right of way through the play area. Cllr. A Hood said that he thought another bin closer to the Children's play area would be a good idea, as it would give offending dog owners no excuse for not clearing up after their dogs.

Cllr. Carter asked if there were any signs making it clear to dog owners that this was an area where you must clean up after your dog. There was then general comment about the poor state of the children's play area in general

Chairman Price asked Cllr. Gibson-Watt for his comments who reported that he'd had a discussion with the Powys recreation officer Steve Butcher, who said that he (Mr Butcher) was in negotiation with the housing department who own the land and that it had been mooted that this council-owned land could be used for affordable housing, and another children's play area East of the Castle mound be created. Cllr Gibson-Watt stressed that this was very much a speculative discussion, with nothing had been yet mooted.

Cllr. Gibson-Watt reported that as far as he understood, Council policy was to offer regular waste collection from rubbish bins marked for all waste (dog included). Cllr A. Hood then said there needed to be more signage, and Cllr. G-W agreed to speak to PCC and find out about more signs, and potentially an extra rubbish bin.

2: Wilmot Dixon (school builders) undertaking works in the village, Conversations so far with Cllr Fforde: Cllr Fforde told the council that he had met with Wilmot-Dixon in his capacity as a resident of Clyro, and proposed two areas that he thought would serve the village well:

1: The removal of some pews and then making good in Clyro Church in order that some extra room be freed up for activities. The precise requirements should be co-ordinated through Rev. Thomas and Headmistress Mrs Groves.

2: There is an ongoing issue regarding speeding on the A438 through the village. Since recent traffic surveys have revealed that traffic speed is not sufficiently dangerous enough to warrant a reduction from 40MPH to 30MPH, we have been looking at secondary calming methods to increase driver awareness of the built up area. Of these, one of the most cost effective approaches seems to be the 'white picket fences' which has been shown to reduce traffic speed by up to 5MPH. I propose three sets of fences - one at either side of the village on the A438 and another on the Hay approach road B4351.

Cllr. Fforde agreed to chase up Wilmot-Dixon and to report at the next meeting.

3: Employing of new clerk - Cllr. Fforde reported that interviews for the job of clerk would take place once the meeting was over, and that both applicants were in attendance. (CVs have been distributed to Cllrs)

4: New website: Cllr. Wells offered to see what sort of permanent website could be done after regaining the use of the old web address, Clyro.org. Cllr Wells had looked at other Council websites, and he suggested that a basic website was set up with all the relevant information incorporated, but nothing too complex. It was proposed by Cllr. Brown and seconded by Cllr. D Hood that Cllr. Wells work with an initial budget of £100 to see what can be achieved for a more permanent CCC website.

Cllr. Wells made the point that we had to have a way in which Clyro residents can easily contact councillors, either through their published contact details or an online contact form by which messages could be sent to the clerk, who would then contact the councillors.

5: A representative of Persimmons had offered to the Community Council the freehold of a small part (used as a recreational area) of Buttercup Meadows housing estate, with a commuting fee.

Cllr. A. Hood had made some inquiries over the subject within Buttercup Meadows and observed a less-than-satisfactory feeling from the residents towards Persimmons. Cllr A Hood understood that when the estate was opened Persimmons charged £2000 as a one-off fee to all nineteen residents, many of whom felt that this offered very poor value for money, and that in their opinion, Persimmons had not lived up their responsibilities. Cllr. A Hood introduced Mr Peter Williams, a resident of Buttercup Meadows, and he reported that despite the £2000 fee, it was he and other residents who did routine maintenance on the area in question, and that as far as he knew, Persimmons had done one grass cutting and one hedge trimming in the past fourteen years.

Mr Williams said that he had sent an invoice to Persimmons to cover his equipment costs, only to be told that Persimmons did not have a contract with Mr Williams, they would not pay, and that:

'Powys had agreed to take over the maintenance and it wasn't up to them (Persimmons) to do maintenance'. Mr Williams said that he then contacted PCC and was told exactly the opposite - that Powys had no intention of taking over the maintenance. This went on, Mr Williams maintained, for many years, until in 2012 he asked Persimmons to cede him the land. He said that a contract was drawn up by Persimmons where they requested that Mr Williams agreed to maintain the land at his own cost - but that Persimmons would retain the ownership of the land. Needless to say, this idea was rejected.

Cllr. Carter asked if anyone had asked for their £2000 back, and Mr Williams reported that many people had indeed done this, but as far as he was aware, no refund had been given. Mr Williams reiterated that he would accept ownership of the land and take over responsibility of maintenance, and that this idea had been mooted by him to Persimmons many times.

The council thanked Mr Williams for all the hard work he had expended in the maintenance of this area of Buttercup Meadows, and that given that the parcel of land had been offered already to PCC (who refused to take it on) and that there had been an ongoing issue over responsibility for maintenance between Persimmons and the residents of Buttercup Meadows, the council unanimously agreed that they would NOT take over the freehold, and that we would append the following statement to our polite refusal of their offer:

"We understand that residents of Buttercup Meadows have been maintaining this land for many years at their own expense and have already made applications to Persimmon to take over ownership and responsibility, and we at the Community Council would approve of such a move."

6: Cllr Brown had, at a previous meeting, reminded the council that we had not reviewed the Council's Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Risk Assessment or Assets Register, despite having agreed to do so in May. Given that nothing had happened, Cllr. Brown said that he had read the documents, considered them to be generally fit for purpose and proposed that the council adopted the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders, and to perhaps look at them when we have a new clerk, and before the next year's AGM. As regards the Risk Assessment, Cllr. Brown was of the opinion that it could be dramatically improved upon, but for expedient's sake we should adopt that now, and again, look at it before next year's AGM, something that he said he was happy to do.

Cllr. D Hood suggested that a small committee of two or more when through these documents, and Cllr. Brown reiterated that we should wait until we have a new clerk, and engage them in the process.

Cllr Brown turned to the Assets Register and he regarded this as good, and that we had approved it in May.

In summing up, Cllr Brown proposed that we adopt the Standing Orders, Risk Assessment and Code of Conduct, the Assets Register having already been approved.

Cllr. A Hood gave his opinion that we should be rewriting the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders, as they were a generic document, and that there was nothing against us expanding them.

Cllr. Brown made the point that if you adopt the COC and SO and quote where they are from, then they (the local authority) are covering you. If you alter anything, then the Council could be personally liable.

Cllr. A Hood suggested that he and Cllr. Brown looked at them both together with an eye to updating them, and Cllr. Brown countered that he did not believe the Community Council had the legal expertise to do so.

After some discussion and confusion as regards procedure for voting and the order in which the proposals should be taken, it was accepted that the proposal regarding amendments to the Standing Orders, Risk Assessment and Code of Conduct (proposed by Cllr. A Hood and seconded by Cllr. D Hood) should be taken first. This proposal was defeated. The vote to accept the Code of Conduct and Standing Order (proposed by Cllr. E. Brown and seconded by Cllr. J Carter) having been previously passed, was accepted.

7: Shared cost of speed awareness cameras across Glasbury and Hay. This being still outstanding, Cllr Fforde agreed to find out some more information and re-establish contact with Hay and Glasbury Community Councils.

8: Trip to Houses of Parliament was cancelled. No action taken at present, but the offer remains open.

9: HayDay cafe 'Good Old Days' event on the 2nd December 4:00PM. All invited to attend.

REPORTS ON DOCUMENTS READ, MEETINGS ATTENDED, ACTIVITIES ETC, (incl)

SCHOOL GOVERNOR'S REPORT: With Mrs Richardson absent, there was no report.

POLICE REPORT: See below under 'correspondence'

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JAMES GIBSON-WATT:

Gwenyfed High School & Community Sports Centre

No further news at present. The Headteacher reports that plans for capital investment in the school remain on track. Budget situation is tight, in common with all schools in Powys, but the school is managing it well. The need to address the deteriorating situation in school delegated budgets across the county is becoming a high priority among council members.

Clyro C in W Primary School

All seems to be proceeding to plan with the new school.

Highways

Replacement of cats eyes that have ‘popped out’ on the B4351 still awaited. I will continue to chase this up. The ones that are there are very effective.

Planning

Poultry Unit at Lower House Farm, Clyro – following requests from local residents and myself, the Planning Authority has agreed to conduct a site meeting on the day that the application will be determined, with the committee meeting following the site meeting; date TBC.

County Council – Social Care and Budget

The council’s CEO is currently on sick leave and the Chief Finance Officer, David Powell, is acting CEO for the time being. A Children’s Services Safeguarding Recovery Plan has been submitted to Welsh Government for approval and an Improvement Board has been formed to oversee the recovery of the service from its current very unsatisfactory condition. The Board includes expert advisors from outside the council. The Improvement Plan and its implementation is subject to intense scrutiny by the Children’s Services Scrutiny Working Group, of which I am a member.

The CSSIW Inspectors will return to Powys to inspect Adult Social Care within the next couple of months.

The budget process for 2018/19 has started and several members’ seminars on the issue will take place over the next month or so. However, the 2017/18 budget is still showing worsening positions for projected end-of-year overspends in both adult and children’s social care services, the school transport service and delegated school budgets. This indicates a systemic problem within the council. To date the council’s Independent/ Conservative Cabinet appears to be relying on the further use of the council’s dwindling reserves to cover the position. This will not be an option in future years, as I keep pointing out from my position as Leader of the Opposition. The condition of the council’s finances remains a high risk issue for the future of service delivery across the county.

CORRESPONDENCE (incl):

- 1: Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Roadshows 2017 - *no action*
- 2: Citizens Advice Powys AGM invite 24th November - *no action*
- 3: Monthly crime report (PCSO Scott invited to meeting) - *Cllr. Carter agreed to write a letter to the Chief Constable complaining about the low physical presence of police officers in the area.*
- 4: PAVO e-briefing - *no action*
- 5: Powys Public Service Board - Have Your Say Day 20th Nov. - *no action*
- 6: FREE PLANNING TRAINING WORKSHOP Tuesday 21st November - *Cllr. Wells and Cllr. D Hood expressed an interest in going, and asked for the details to be forwarded to them.*
- 7: More planning decisions from Powys - *contents noted.*
- 8: BT prices going up. - *noted.*
- 9: PAVO AGM 29th November - *no action taken.*
- 10: Planning decisions from Powys - *contents noted.*
- 11: Fire and rescue stakeholder questionnaire (post) - *Acting Clerk was directed to fill out the form in that we did wish to be consulted on matters regarding fire and rescue as we were a stakeholder.*
- 12: Clerks and Council Direct (post) - *retained for future clerk to read.*
- 13: Play for wales magazine (post) - *no action.*

FINANCIAL:

Current A/C £3584.03 and Reserve A/C £2,832.95 (as at 5th Oct 2017)

Three bills were presented to the council:

- 1: Wales audit Office: £186.75 (Proposed by Cllr. Brown, seconded by Cllr. Carter)
- 2: PAVO payroll: £20 (Proposed by Cllr. Brown, seconded by Cllr. D. Hood)
- 3: To Cllr. E Brown for £25 (wreath for Remembrance day) (Proposed by Cllr. D Hood, seconded by Cllr. Wells)

The cheques all being approved, they were filled out by Clerk and signed by Cllrs. Brown and Price for Clerk to post.

AOB:

There being no AOB, the meeting was adjourned at 20:37

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