

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 7 September 2017 , at 7.30pm at Cradoc Golf Club

Councillors Present: Jane Price
Tess Birtles
Bob Wood
Dilys Davies
Geoff Watkins
Valerie Davies
Kate Dunning

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)
Cllr Iain McIntosh

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Kate Dunning (holiday) and Cllr Bob Wood (unwell). Cllr Iain McIntosh was welcomed to his first meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on

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

4. Clerk's report including information from minutes

4.1 Under 4.2 Cllr Dilys Davies reported that the recent heavy rain had resulted in more standing water near Cae Crwyn. Although Highways had done some work there it had not solved the problem. Cllr Iain McIntosh said he would raise this at a forthcoming meeting with Brecon depot.

4.2 Under 4.3 Cllr Dilys Davies reported that the car had now been removed.

4.3 The Clerk reported that Highways had responded with regard to item 6 (speeding through Aberyscir and Cradoc) saying that evidence would be needed before additional signage would be provided. Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that speeding was a problem at numerous locations in the Yscir county ward and he had emailed Jen Fulcher in the traffic department at Powys County Council on 8 August asking for further investigation (installation of black lines across the road to monitor speed) at a number of sites. Having had no reply he had emailed again. The point was made that in many other villages there were plenty of warning signs but that these were lacking in Yscir. Cllr Iain McIntosh said he would keep the community council informed of any developments.

4.4 There is a double sided 30mph sign, obscured by vegetation on the road into Aberbran from Aberyscir. The question was asked 'where does the 30mph zone finish?' Cllr Iain McIntosh said that he would go and look at the signage and report back to Highways.

4.5 Cllr Iain McIntosh said that residents were concerned about speeding outside Cradoc school, a problem that might get worse with fewer cars parked on the road, now that the the new car parking arrangements at Cradoc school were in place. Residents were against the introduction of speed bumps but Iain was investigating a new design of bump, filled with liquid. These are soft if hit at slow speeds but hard if hit at faster speeds.. This was a long term consideration. A cheaper and more immediate option might be for increased road markings in the area of the school.

4.6 Cllr Jane Price suggested that a letter be written to the school expressing the Council's appreciation of the improvement in the parking arrangements and asking the school to monitor parking on the road. This was agreed.

- 4.7 On item 10 of the minutes Hugh Pattrick had been appointed to serve on the PCC Standards Sub-Committee
- 4.8 On item 14 of the minutes, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority said that they were clearing vegetation from the Gaer footpath and that a contractor had quoted £4,000 to improve the drainage of the footpath. This would be done when funds were available.

5. Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 August 2017

- 5.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6. To receive feedback on increasing fibre broadband access in Yscir

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that a lot of correspondence had been received about the implementation of fibre broadband in Yscir, much of it contradictory. Cllr Valerie Davies reported that at the BT Openreach meeting in Brecon recently, the engineers present said that there was a major design fault in the equipment that needed to be resolved before progress could be made. She said there had been a serious waste of public money.
- 6.2 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported on the work he was undertaking in this area. He was organising a petition with the aim of utilising a Welsh Assembly Grant of £800 per property for the introduction of faster broadband through the use of microwave technology. He would be visiting properties to canvas support for this project but would also be pursuing BT Openreach's implementation arrangements. It was agreed that all avenues should be pursued for the introduction of faster broadband. Cllr Iain McIntosh was thanked for his work on this.

7. To determine how to respond to the damaged wall opposite the bridge at Aberbran (also damage , again, to Aberyscir Bridge

- 7.1 The drystone wall on the bend approaching the Aberbran bridge is regularly damaged by large vehicles. The wall is privately owned. It was agreed to alert Highways to the problem and ask them to investigate and recommend a solution, including asking the owner to repair the wall. The problem is large vehicles coming from Aberyscir towards Aberbran. The same problem occurs at Aberyscir bridge with a combine harvester recently becoming stuck on the bridge. The Clerk had already reported the damage to Aberyscir Bridge to PCC.

8. To note the Community Council will be the contact point for anything relating to Battle Common

- 8.1 The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Powys County Council asking for the grazier association contact details to be updated. This relates to Battle Common. There were no known grazing rights here but a contact point was legally required. It was agreed that the Community Council would be the contact point through the Clerk.

9. To discuss correspondence received relating to problems of noise, trespass and dog fouling by guests at holiday properties in Aberyscir and to determine what action to take, if any.

- 9.1 Emails had been received by the clerk from two people complaining mainly about excessive late evening noise at a property in Aberyscir. The complainants requested that the Community Council took some action to deal with the problem. The correspondence had been circulated to councillors. Some councillors felt that this item should not have been on the agenda as the Council has no powers to take any action in this area. It is a matter for Environmental Health at Powys County Council if the issue cannot be resolved with the property owner. Councillors thought that this was a matter that the complainants should take up directly with the property owner whilst the people making the noise were in residence. As far as councillors were aware, the problem had not re-occurred since the complainants had raised the issue with the property owner. It was agreed that no action would be taken by the Council.
- 9.2 It was mentioned that the siting of the footpath leading up to the bridge was unclear. It was suggested that more signage was needed. The Clerk was asked to investigate this further.

10) Financial Matters

10.1 The clerk's hours (30hrs), pay (£262.73) and expenses (£33.95) for July and August were approved. Payment for the new printer was approved.

10.2 The Clerk reported that the external audit had been approved.

10.3 The cashbook indicated that after the expenditure approved at the meeting there would be a balance of £ 2,715 in the bank. The budget monitoring statement predicted an end of year balance of around £2,200, excluding any payment to PCC for election expenses.

10.4 The Clerk reported that he had drafted a letter to Santander requesting that 2 recent cheques issued in two councillors' names be reissued in the name of Yscir Community Council or the funds paid directly into the Council's bank account. This was approved.

11) To discuss the possible movement of the telephone box in Cradoc to an alternative site to allow it to be used as a mini library.

11.1 After a brief discussion it was decided not to pursue this proposal.

12) To compile a list of local businesses for Powys County Council

12.1 It was decided not to comply with this request from Powys County Council. It was thought it might contravene Data Protection Act requirements.

13) Invitation from Chris Davies MP to visit the Palace of Westminster

13.1 There was interest in this visit but further details were needed. The Clerk was asked to follow this up.

14) Correspondence

a) BBBNPA Community Newsletter*

b) draft vision for Powys for 2040 and well-being objectives

c) Review of BBBNPA Rights of Way*

d) Powys Household Waste Recycling Centres to increase opening hours*

e) Consultation on Electoral Reform by the Welsh Assembly Government*

f) Mid and West Wales Fire Service - Summer Bulletin*

g) PCC July Newslines*

h) One Voice Wales Training programme*

i) Bronllys Well-being Park Newsletter*

j) Brecon Advice Centre Annual Report

k) Tree Charter Legacy Trees*

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

14.1 It was agreed to pursue the Tree Charter legacy initiative in which the Council would plant a legacy tree. It was agreed to register for this initiative and consider it further at the next meeting..

15. Change of meeting date from 17 January to 10 January

15.1 It was agreed to change the date of the January meeting from 17th to 10th January.

16) Any planning applications that have arisen after the agenda was sent out

16.1 There were none.

17) Issues to report to Powys County Council

17.1 There were none.

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

The meeting closed at 8.55pm