

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 20 January 2021

at 7.30pm by videoconferencing using Zoom

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

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk)
Cllr Iain McIntosh
PCSO Alex Daniels

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Cllr Jane Price thanked everyone for taking part and welcomed PCSO Alex Daniels to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

3. Virtual meeting with PCSO 8166 Alex Daniels

3.1 Alex apologised for not being able to attend the previous meeting. He reported back on the crime call-outs since November:- 7 suspicious activities, 3 road traffic collisions, 1 Anti Social Behaviour (off-roading) and 1 fraud. He said there had been an increase in scam and rogue trader activities with thefts of quad bikes, trailers and tools on the increase.

3.2 Alex said that specialist crime prevention officers could come out to any property to advise on security and he offered to send out leaflets on preventing scams.

3.3 Alex agreed to take forward the community speedwatch initiative which had been halted by the pandemic. Cllrs Iain McIntosh, Geoff Watkins and Kate Dunning needed to complete DBS forms. Cllr Valerie Davies had already returned her forms. Alex would arrange for the area outside Cradoc School and the road from the golf club into Cradoc to be assessed for safety. He would also send more DBS forms and any other requirements to Cllr Iain McIntosh.

3.4 Cllr Iain McIntosh asked if anything had happened about a proposed scheme to provide incentives (insurance discounts) for farmers to fit trackers to quad bikes and trailers. Alex agreed to look into this.

3.5 There was a discussion about Select DNA which is a way of labelling valuable items at risk of being stolen. Currently these are being targeted at victims of crime but Alex would see if local farms could be included.

3.6 Cllr Jane Price thanked Alex for his attendance at the meeting which had been very useful.

4. To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 November 2020

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

5. Information from Minutes - Clerk's Report

5.1 Under item 7 the Clerk reported that Cllr Jane Price would be taking up half of the councillor's allowance (£75).

5.3 Under item 10.4, the Clerk reported that a more detailed audit would not take place until 2023-24 for the 2022-23 financial year.

6. To consider further information on defibrillators

- 6.1 The Clerk's report was discussed. Listed building consent or planning permission would not be needed for siting a defibrillator in the Cradoc telephone box. This was not considered to be a greater security risk than the defibrillator at Aberbran. Some councillors expressed concern about siting a defibrillator in the telephone box when there was one already at the golf club. The alternative view was that every minute matters and ideally defibrillators should be within a two minute walk of the properties served. It was agreed that defibrillators were too expensive for the Council to fund so the Clerk was asked to seek funding from other sources.

7. Update on the proposed schools transformation programme for Cradoc School

- 7.1 Cllr Iain McIntosh reported that he had just received the following communication from Powys County Council: *"We have been developing a community impact assessment related to the proposal for Mount St Schools and Cradoc and we've received additional information from the three schools to inform this. As a result of the information received, we will be taking the community impact assessment back to Cabinet next week (26th) to ask them to consider the information received and to re-consider whether to proceed with consultation as previously agreed in December 2020."*
- 7.2 He did not know whether this was good or bad news but it was frustrating in that the campaign to keep the school open had a lot of momentum and was ready to swing into action when the formal consultation began.
- 7.3 Cllr Rebecca Watkins reported that the working group was really strong and had been on ITV. She said that S4C were now interested and asked if anyone knew of any Welsh speakers who could become involved. Margaret Rees and Bethan Price were suggested.
- 7.4 Cllr Rebecca Watkins informed the Council that some beacons would be lit at high points within the community on Sunday around 4.30pm. The intention is to make a promotional video for social media showing how large the community is that is served by the school. Members of the public were not encouraged to attend due to Covid restrictions; the Fire Service would be informed.
- 7.5 There will be BBC coverage if consultation on the closure does go ahead. Cllr Rebecca Watkins asked people to sign the petition and encourage others to sign it as well. A hard copy of the petition could be obtained from the Clerk.
- 7.6 Cllr Dilys Davies asked if it was known what would happen to the site if the school was closed. She thought that more people might sign the petition if it was going to be used for housing. Cllr Iain McIntosh said that nothing had been said but he would ask at the Cabinet meeting next week.
- 7.7 Cllr Jane Price thanked Cllr Iain McIntosh and Cllr Rebecca Davies for their work on fighting the closure of Cradoc School.

8. To determine whether to continue to support 'Visit Brecon'

- 8.1 After a brief discussion it was decided to continue with the £100 grant to Brecon Town Council to support 'Visit Brecon'.

9. To determine arrangements for the Spring Newsletter

- 9.1 It would be illegal to distribute a newsletter during the current restrictions. Cllr Dilys Davies asked if it would be possible to post a pared down version of the newsletter. There was support for this idea, particularly as the budget for the newsletter had not been spent this year.
- 9.2 The following items could be included in a newsletter:
- a) an article on the proposed closure of Cradoc School;
 - b) crime prevention and community safety

- c) consultation and awareness raising on purchasing a defibrillator
- d) promoting the continuing work of the Council during Covid restrictions.

9.3 It was decided to go ahead with a newsletter on the above basis and the Clerk agreed to produce costings on a postal newsletter. The publication date would be determined by the consultation on the school closure. Cllr Rebecca Watkins suggested that the school might be prepared to print a simple black and white newsletter.

10. To determine dates for meetings in 2021/22

10.1 The following dates were agreed:

24 March 2021 (already approved)	12 May 2021	14 July 2021
25 August 2021	24 November 2021	19 January 2022
		23 March 2022

11. Financial Matters

11.1 The Clerk's hours (29), pay (£270.72) and expenses (£12.90) for November and December were approved.

11.2 The following payments were approved:

PAYE for October to December	£131.60
Audit fee	£327.75
Brecon Town Council	£100
SLCC	£30

11.3 The Council noted that the cashbook showed a balance of over £3,400 after the above payments are taken into account. The draft budget showed a projected balance of £2,675 at 31 March 2021.

11.4 The Clerk presented his annual analysis of his hours worked. In 2020 he worked 166 hours which is typical from 2015 onwards. This was approved.

11.5 The draft budget paper was discussed. After discussion, it was decided to set a precept of £16 on a band D property which would generate an income of £4,175 and result in a projected balance in March 2022 of around £2,690. This increased precept would help with defibrillator expenses and allow the Council a margin.

11.6 Mrs Jane Johnson was confirmed as the internal auditor.

12. Planning Application 20/19422/FUL : Construction of a new general purpose agricultural building for livestock housing and demolition of existing redundant farm building

12.1 There were no objections to this planning application.

13. To discuss the theft of the memorial plaque from Aberyscir Common triangulation point

13.1 Cllr Geoff Watkins reported back from a conversation with Ian Griffiths. A large stone had been secured and Tony Evans, the monumental mason had agreed to embed a slot for the replacement plaque, free of charge. The monument may be placed near the bonfire, rather than near the triangulation point.

13.2 It was agreed to send a thank you letter to the Sports Committee for the work that they do and to mention this on the website and Facebook page.

14. To discuss the NHS, social care & frontline workers day 5th July 2021

14.1 It was decided to consider this item at the next meeting.

15. Correspondence

- a) emails from Cradoc School about the possible closure *
- b) Police and Crime Commissioner survey on priorities*
- c) Powys Dyslexia Support Newsletter**

- d) Letter from Tracy Baines (Jehova's Witnesses)
- e) Section 137 discretionary expenditure limit for 2021/22: £8.41
- f)Wales Air Ambulance request for funding**
- g) Home Start Cymru - request for volunteers

PCC = Powys County Council; BBNPA = Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

16. Consideration of any planning applications received after the agenda was circulated

16.1 There were none.

17. Issues to be raised with Powys County Council

17.1 Cllr Dilys Davies said that a constituent had complained about the excessive water on the Aberyscir road at the junction with Y Gaer. Both Cllr Iain McIntosh and Cllr Valerie Davies had reported this in the past. Work had been done there but Cllr Valerie Davies reported that a camera was needed to work out where the multitude of pipes under the road went. Cllr Iain McIntosh will raise this again.

17. Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 24 March 2021

17.1 It was agreed that it had been worthwhile paying £11.99 per month for Zoom Professional. The Clerk would cancel the membership in February and rejoin in March to save a month's fees.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm