

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 12 May 2021
at 7.30pm by videoconferencing using Zoom

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

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (Clerk) Cllr Iain MacIntosh

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

3. Election of Chairman

3.1 Cllr Dilys Davies nominated Cllr Jane Price. This was seconded by Cllr Bob Wood. As there were no other nominations, Cllr Jane Price was elected as Chairman. Cllr Jane Price thanked everyone and said that she would undertake the role to the best of her ability.

4. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

4.1 This would be signed the following day.

5. Election of Vice Chairman

5.1 Cllr Dilys Davies proposed Cllr Bob Wood and this was seconded by Cllr Geoff Watkins. As there were no other nominations, Cllr Bob Wood was elected as Vice Chairman

6. To receive a report from PCSO Alex Daniels

6.1 PCSO Alex Daniels joined the meeting for this item. He reported that there had been little criminal activity in the area during the last month. He asked people to remain alert as rural crime was still a matter of concern.

6.2 Councillors Geoff Watkins, Kate Dunning, Valerie Davies and Iain MacIntosh had attended Speedwatch training, together with Peter Davies and the Clerk. The training had been very informative and the Clerk was asked to write to John Williams to thank him for putting on the course. PCSO Alex Daniels said that risk assessments for Battle and the road to the golf club were being completed and he asked for dates for the first meeting. The week of 1 -7 June was suggested. Cllr Valerie Davies volunteered to co-ordinate people's availability using a web based system. It was agreed to avoid school opening and closing times. After discussion it was agreed to start off with morning and lunchtime meetings.

6.3 Alex was thanked for his attendance and for organising the speedwatch initiative.

7. To confirm acceptance of the Code of Conduct and to update the register of Members' interests

7.1 All members confirmed their acceptance of the Code of Conduct. There were no changes to the register of interests.

8. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021

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

9. Clerk's report including information from minutes

9.1 The Clerk reported that he had replaced the perspex sheet on the Cradoc noticeboard and that the notices were now much easier to read.

10. To review the Council's Financial Regulations

10.1 There had been no changes and they were unanimously approved

11. To review the Council's Standing Orders

11.1 There had been no changes and they were unanimously approved

12. To review and update the Clerk's contract of employment

12.1 The Clerk explained that his contract had not been updated since 2012. Changes had been made to 9.1 to reflect the Clerk being paid on the appropriate scale as recommended by Society of Local Council Clerks. The revised contract was approved.

13. To confirm membership and remit of the Planning Committee

13.1 It was agreed that all councillors would be members of the Planning Committee. It was confirmed that the remit of the Planning Committee would be to consider any planning applications that cannot be considered at a scheduled council meeting and to make responses to the relevant planning authority.

14. To discuss the internal auditor's report and to approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 (circulated by email)

14.1 The internal auditor's report was approved. She had made two recommendations and these were discussed. The first recommendation was to change the way minutes were numbered from January 2022. It was agreed to trial a numbering system based on year/month/ minute number so the January 2022 meeting minutes would start 22/01/01 and the March meeting would start 22/03/01.

14.2 The internal auditor also thought that the level of reserves was too low. She recommended that the level of reserves should be increased by raising the precept. This would place the Council in a better financial position to deal with emergencies, e.g in case the clerk was ill for a long period and a supply clerk was needed. There was concern about increasing the precept but it might be possible to do this slowly. It was agreed to put this item on the agenda in January 2022 when the budget is set.

14.3 The accounting statement of the Annual Return, which had been previously circulated was approved. All questions in the annual governance statement were agreed.

15. To receive an update on the gift of a defibrillator

15.1 The Clerk reported that the school's defibrillator would be placed on the outside of the building and would be accessible to the community.

15.2 He had spoken with the person who was giving a defibrillator. There wasn't an easy way for the VAT to be reclaimed so she was going ahead with the purchase.

16. To receive an update on the Brecon Schools Reorganisation

16.1 Cllr Rebecca Watkins said the consultation was now closing and a lot of feedback had just been sent in. There had been massive support from the community. There would be no more news until Powys County Council considers the responses to the proposals in September.

16.2 Cllr Iain MacIntosh said that he had sent in his response which included 1275 signatures to the petition; a great response. He said that the only case for closure of Cradoc school was on financial grounds but the decision had to be made on educational, not financial reasons. Cllr Iain MacIntosh said that he had the support of Fay Jones MP and James Evans AM and

would be meeting them soon.

- 16.3 Councillors thought it had been an excellent campaign and Cllr Jane Price thanked Cllr Iain MacIntosh and Cllr Rebecca Davies for their hard work and asked for the Council's thanks to be passed on to the Save Cradoc School Committee which Cllr Rebecca Davies agreed to do.

17 Financial Matters

- 17.1 The Clerk's hours for March and April (33), pay (£302.55) and expenses (£71.91) were approved. The HMRC payment of £144 and the internal audit fee (£65) were approved.
- 17.2 The Clerk reported that the cashbook showed a balance of around £3,177. The budget monitoring spreadsheet indicated that spending was going according to plan.

18 Correspondence

- a) BBNPA Community Newsletter*
- b) letter from Fay Jones MP*
- c) request for support from Macmillan Cymru**
- d) joint One Voice Wales, SLCC training event*
- e) request for support from Hope House
- f) Powys Community Health Council Newsletter*
- g) Password article from One Voice Wales*
- h) request for support from Tenovus Cancer Care**

* circulated by email

** received by email but not circulated

19. Issues to report to Powys County Council

- 19.1 Cllr Dilys Davies suggested that if a bollard was placed besides Aberyscir bridge at the junction with the back road to Pont Faen, it might stop damage to the bridge caused by turning vehicles. Cllr Iain MacIntosh offered to contact Dai Lewis from Powys County Council to see if he would attend a site meeting to look at options to protect the bridge. This was agreed. It was re-iterated that a width or a weight restriction on the bridge would not be appropriate.

20. Any planning applications that arrived after the agenda was sent out

- 20.1 There were none.

21 To change the date of the August meeting

- 21.1 The Clerk asked to set an alternative date for this meeting as he might not be available on 25 August. It was agreed to set a provisional alternative date of 30 September if the Clerk was not available on 25 August.

22. Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Wednesday 14 July 2021 (7.30pm)

- 22.1 The Clerk thought that there might be a chance that this meeting could take place at the Golf Club. He would keep members informed.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm

