

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on 16 May 2016, at Cradoc Golf Club at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Jane Price
Dilys Davies
Bob Wood
Tess Birtles
Margaret Rees

Also present: Michael Westhorpe (clerk)
Cllr Gillian Thomas

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Rees Price.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest

3. Election of Chairman

3.1 Cllr Jane Price was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Council. There were no other nominations. Cllr Jane Price thanked members for their support.

4. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

4.1 The Chairman then signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office

5. Election of Vice Chairman

5.1 Cllr Bob Wood was unanimously re-elected as Vice-Chairman. There were no other nominations.

6. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 March 2016

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

7. Clerk's Report including information from minutes

7.1 With regard to item 8 several Councillors reported that they had difficulty finding some of the properties. Most councillors had had too many newsletters but the Clerk explained that a smaller print run would not have been any cheaper. It was suggested that some newsletters could be placed in the library or the doctor's surgery. It was agreed to review the distribution list next year.

7.2 Under item 9.3 the Clerk reported that Jo Lancey from Powys County Council reported that there was a moratorium on traffic regulation orders but she would add the request for double yellow lines at the Aberyscir road junction in Cradoc to a list to be ranked. Cllr Bob Wood said that parking that close to a junction was breaking the Highway Code and drivers could be prosecuted for obstruction. There was a general discussion about the parking problems near the school. It was mentioned that more residents were parking on the road as the rent for their garages had increased significantly. Many of these garages are in a poor state of repair and it was suggested that Powys County Council be asked to remove the garages and replace them with parking spaces. It was decided to discuss this at the next meeting and the Clerk would write to the residents to obtain their views.

- 7.3 Under 14.1, Cllr Margaret Rees did contact the Sports Committee but they had no plans to celebrate the Queen's birthday. Cllr Margaret Rees suggested that the Community Council should send a birthday card to the Queen and this was agreed unanimously.
8. **To confirm membership of the Planning Committee**
- 8.1 It was agreed that all councillors should continue to be members of the Planning Committee.
9. **To review the Council's Standing Orders**
The Standing Orders were agreed without further amendments.
10. **To review the Council's Financial Regulations**
- 10.1 The Financial Regulations were agreed without further amendments.
11. **To update the register of Members' interests**
- 11.1 The Clerk circulated the relevant forms. These were checked and updated by councillors.
12. **Financial Matters**
- 12.1 The Clerk reported that he had a positive meeting with Mr Arthur, the internal auditor. The external auditors now required supporting evidence and more detail of the work done by the internal auditor. It was also likely that the fees for the external audit would increase significantly as in future the work would be charged for on an hourly basis rather than on a fixed rate. Concern was expressed at the scale of the possible increase. Mr Arthur's report was noted and the Council expressed its gratitude for his work.
- 12.2 Following examination of the income and expenditure for the last financial year the Council agreed to approve the statement of income and expenditure.
- 12.3 The Chairman read through each statement in sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return, affirming each statement in turn. After all the statements had been answered, the Council approved sections 1 and section 2 of the Annual Return and the Chairman signed the form.
- 12.4 The clerk's hours (29 hrs), pay (£229.60) and expenses (£49.25) for March and April were approved. Payment for the newsletter (£145) was approved. The Clerk reported that from invoice number 75 he had paid HMRC £41 which was the payment due for March only, rather than £88.60 which was the total for January to March. The Council agreed to send another cheque for the balance of £47.60 to HMRC.
- 12.5 The Council noted the current financial position as shown in the cash book spreadsheet and budget monitoring spreadsheet. The cashbook showed a balance of £1120 but this did not allow for precept income of around £1300 which should have been received as the most recent bank statement had not arrived yet. The end of year balance for March 2017 was expected to be around £1950. The Clerk thought that any overspend on audit fees would be covered by an underspend on clerk's pay.
13. **Response from Highways Dept. regarding the telephone box.**
- 13.1 The Clerk read the response from Alison Brown of Powys County Council:
In answer to your question as to why the telephone box was located in that position originally I have no response. One could attempt to look back at records if it was known exactly when it was first installed but given the statutory rights that the GPO and now British Telecom had and have to install equipment within the highway I think it possible that no specific permission was required.
- As to the use of the triangle for the collection of children before alighting the school bus I have been unable to establish whether our passenger transport section ever designated this as the most suitable location. I understand a 'vicinity' is specified to the bus companies but doubtless they collect the pupils from wherever they congregate and again I think it likely that it this location become custom over many years.*

Whilst not wishing to prevent your proposal from progressing I, as an officer of the Highways Authority, am unable to support a development that will result in traffic, whether it be vehicular or pedestrian, from being encouraged to a location for which the facilities are not suitable. My input will only be required if planning permission is sought as the Highways Authority are a statutory consultee in the planning process. If the change of use can be carried out without such permission I would have no grounds or authority to intervene.

I am sorry I cannot be more positive to your proposal.

- 13.2 Cllr Gillian Thomas reported that she had been to see Alison Brown on Yscir's behalf but it was to no avail. Cllr Tess Birtles had spoken with people from Llanfrynach about their telephone box conversion and was awaiting further information on the permissions sought. The Council was disappointed by the response from Alison Brown but agreed that nothing more could be done.
14. **Powys County Council consultation on secondary school reorganisation**
- 14.1 The Clerk briefly outlined the proposal to close existing secondary schools in Brecon and Gwernyfed and move post 16 education to the college. . Cllr Gillian Thomas reported that if nothing was done there would be a £3.5 million shortfall on secondary school budgets. . After a discussion it was decided not to respond to the consultation as a council but to encourage individuals to respond.
15. **Correspondence**
- a) One Voice Wales Representative on Area Committee
 - b) Fire and Rescue Authority Strategic Plan and Annual Improvement Plan
 - c) PAVO e-briefing**
 - d) Powys Archives Newsletter**
 - e) Letter from BBNPA about how committees deal with late communication from the public**
- * circulated by email
** received by email but not circulated
- 16 **Issues to report to Powys County Council**
- 16.1 Cllr Bob Wood expressed his concern about an article in the local paper about the closure of up to 70 recycling sites in Powys. Cllr Gillian Thomas said that she had followed this up and she had been told there was a review taking place but that as the Cradoc site was very well used it should remain open. The Council was reassured by this.
- 17 **Any planning applications that arrived after the agenda was sent out**
- 17.1 There were none.
- 18 **Confirmation of date and times of next meeting: Monday 11 July 2016 (7.30pm) at Cradoc Golf Club**

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm