

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday 21st March 2016 at 7:30pm in Llanbedr Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs D Sharman (*Chairman*), J Morris, D Christy, W Bowler, C Fairclough, E Lusted, C Alford, I Maberley and R Llewelyn. Also in attendance: Cty Cllr J Morris and M James (*Clerk*).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Nil.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** Nil.

3. **Planning Matters:**

3.1 **Applications:**

(i) **16/13232/FUL** - Planning permission for construction of new firing shelter and associated improvements to the existing firing range. **Cwrt Y Gollen Training Camp, Crickhowell.**

Members recalled part of the community benefit associated with the Cwrt Y Gollen housing application referred to an underground firing range for safety and noise reduction purposes. An above ground firing range was considered inappropriate and contrary to previous proposals. It was resolved unanimously to strongly recommend this application be rejected.

3.2 **Decisions/Other:** The following matters were noted:

(i) Application: 15/12965/TPO has been permitted - Crown reduce mature oak

(ii) Application: 15/12579/REM has been permitted - Springfields, Llangenny

(iii) Application: 15/12921/CON has been permitted - amendments to 11/06837/FUL St Peters Close, Llanbedr

(iv) Application: 15/13064/LBC has been withdrawn - Gwern Y Bustach, Fforest Coal Pit

(v) Cllr Maberley asked why wasn't the Council consulted on a planning application in Grwyne Fawr which, despite being sited within Crucorney CC's boundaries, affects the Vale of Grywney. It was agreed the Clerk write to BBNPA asking the authority to inform the Council of any future applications sited close to its boundaries with neighbouring communities.

(vi) The response received from BBNPA's Enforcement Department to the unauthorised works in Llanbedr was read to Members. The invitation to apply for retrospective planning was considered unsatisfactory as it was considered the applicant should be made to apply. It was proposed by Cllr Fairclough that the Council write to BBNPA requesting this. This was seconded by Cllr Maberley and unanimously agreed.

4. **County Council Report:** Cty Cllr Morris reported:

- **Budget decisions:** PCC now has to make £10 million savings rather than £12 million. Council Tax has been increased by 4.25%.
- **Crickhowell High School/Library:** Crickhowell High School has been awarded £1,000,000 capital spend in 2017/18. Subject to PCC's agreement the school plans to manage the library which, due to the way schools are funded, means it will have the extra money necessary to keep the library running at present. There is a possibility the £1 million spend will enable a state of the art library resource to be operated from the high school, although this is only an option at present. The Cabinet is due to approve the high school's request for a £500,000 loan (repayable over 20/25 years) to install an all-weather pitch and revamp the playing fields. Cllr Maberley questioned the longevity of the pitch noting in his experience all weather pitches are not very durable and therefore may need replacing before the loan is paid.
- **Closure of Lay-bys/Parking on Bellfountain Road:** Crickhowell TC has received a response from Edwina Hart AM stating she has no intention of changing the laybys. They are for rest and not parking. As PCC now operate a kerbside collection service it was suggested the recycling bins (with the exception of green waste) be removed or relocated to free up car parking spaces. Crickhowell TC is currently undertaking a Community Questionnaire, the result of which will determine what action is required.
- **The Crossroads:** white lines have been painted on the crossroads on Vicarage Pitch. Residents do not want them as they are in the wrong position – vehicles now have to stop on the way up and way down which is dangerous. Cty Cllr Morris has written to PCC requesting they be removed or amended to give right of way to the opposite direction.
- **New Development in Crickhowell:** Two bedroom/single persons accommodation is to be built in Crickhowell behind the Televillage. Powys is moving back towards Council housing.

Cty Cllr Morris left the meeting at 20.18.

5. **Minutes:** It was proposed by Cllr Christy that the minutes of the 15th February be accepted as a true record subject to a minor spelling amendment [Page 1121 Item 12]. This was seconded by Cllr Bowler, duly agreed and signed by the Chairman.

6. **Matters Arising from the Above Minutes:**

Page 1120 Item 6: The Case Officer declined an offer to attend a meeting, but supplied an up-date which was read to Members. Members noted the Authority has instructed solicitors to prepare an agreement in accordance with the decision of PAROW to approve the application subject to a section 106 agreement. The preparation of the agreement has been undertaken in the last few weeks and the Authority anticipates that the agreement will be signed and the decision issued in the next 4-6 weeks. The exact timescale is outside the control of the Authority and applicants as it requires the signature of other parties such as the local housing authority.

Page 1121 Item 13: Cllr Maberley reported the reason a special LAF meeting was called was budget cuts which proposed ceasing the role of the Rights of Way Officer and his Assistant. Following LAF's intervention this option has been rescinded for at least one year.

7. **Llanbedr Affordable Housing:** Following examination of the revised lease agreement Members recalled it had been agreed WWHA would be responsible for the cost of providing a water supply to the allotments. The Allotment Society to be responsible thereafter. Members also questioned when the i-pads will be given to the school and whether the houses have been allocated. The Clerk was instructed to ask WWHA.

8. **Five Councils Liaison Meeting:** Details of the forthcoming Five Councils were discussed. No requests have been received from the Five Councils regarding Mr Cadwallader's offer to speak on local issues. Members suggested the "successful working of cluster groups" be submitted as a topic. It was also suggested Crucorney and Llanelly Fawr, as neighbouring councils be invited.

9. **Queen's Birthday Celebrations:** Discussion took place as to how best commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. It was decided not to pursue the idea of a bonfire, but look at purchasing commemorative coins for the children in Llanbedr School. It was suggested coins dated 2016 be purchased together with a decorative casing. It was agreed to allocate up to £50 for this purpose. Cllr Lusted will ask the school if they have any plans.

10. **Any Other Business:** *for information only*

Llanbedr School held its "Easter Extravaganza" event on Wednesday, 16th March during which Cllrs Morris and Christy presented certificates and medals to the winners of the drawing competition. The school raised over £800 before match-funding from Barclays Bank.

Cllr Llewelyn was thanked for installing the new notice board and bench in Llangenny.

11. **Finance:**

11.1 Cllr Fairclough proposed the following payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Lusted and duly agreed: G M James (Salary/Exp) £225, HMRC (Tax) £50, Glangrwyney Hall £7 (Meeting 16/02/16)

11.2 The Clerk reported a VAT repayment of £1,018.75 had been received.

12. **Highways:**

Cllr Morris stated he was going to contact Highways again regarding the Bont Lane, but was pleased to report there is now a sign by the church in Llanbedr to stop HGVs travelling up Gwlordau Lane. PCC has agreed to put "Passing Place" signs at The Quarry Grwyne Fechan, but not "No Parking" signs. Cllr Sharman suggested the Council write to Cllr Morris regarding the ongoing problem with the Bont Lane. The work should not have been signed off as there is inadequate drainage provision.

Cllr Alford reported an army lorry went off the road and down into the field on the back lane from the Celyn Farm and the road has given out just past the Neuadd leaving a dangerous hole. It was suggested the Council write to request a sign stating "No access to MOD vehicles" be erected. Cllr Alford also reported a problem with mud on the road below Llwynon.

Cllr Maberley reported he was very pleased with the work done to cut back trees and overhanging branches in Grwyne Fawr.

Cllr Lusted referred to the white lines (as previously reported in Item 4) at The Crossroads on Vicarage Pitch which need to be removed or turned 90 degrees, ie painted on the lanes leading to Gelli Rhyd and Penwylodd.

Cllr Llewelyn reported the concrete bollards in the village need to be reinstated. (Cars have knocked them down).

Cllr Sharman requested the MOD be asked about Millbrook Bridge – a falling tree caused damage to the parapet wall a couple of years ago.

13. Reports on Meetings Attended:

Health Focus Group: Cllr Fairclough attended reporting the health centre is working well – they are taking on a pharmacist and also looking at employing care workers - issue is parking in the health centre. Day Centre seems to have settled down - OAPS are taken out to pubs for lunch.

Car Parking on Bellfountain Road: Cllr Sharman, Morris, Christy and the Clerk met with representatives from Crickhowell TC, Cty Cllr John Morris and PC Andy Pole to discuss the ongoing problem of cars parking dangerously on Bellfountain Road and Llanbedr Road in Crickhowell. The problem was noted to have arisen due to time restrictions imposed on the lay-bys in Crickhowell believed to have been imposed to stop trading. PC Pole reported there is legalisation in place to give police the power to stop people trading from lay-bys - although the Trunk Road Agency wishes to encourage drivers to stop for rest periods and therefore may not wish this implemented. It was recalled when the Welsh Government imposed the limits on the lay-bys they stated they could be reviewed after 12 months. It was suggested the Five Councils be contacted to ask if they would write to Edwina Hart AM in unison to ask for the restrictions to be removed, explaining the adverse affect they are having on the town, and possibly invite her to come and see the problem herself. In view of the information provided by Cty Cllr Morris [Page 1123 Item 4] it was considered ineffective to pursue this at present.

14. Correspondence: the following correspondence was received and discussed as appropriate:

1. **BBNPA:** Community up-date newsletter (circulated)
2. **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales:** Annual Report - February 2016: (Circulated)
3. **PAVO:** become a Member of the Community Health Councils in Wales (Circulated)
WG: Green Paper "Our Health, Our Health Service" - Summary of Responses (Circulated)
4. **BBNPA:** response re ENF/15/01580/ODP2
5. **Cymryd Rhan** - Invitation to Powys wide Timebank Visioning Day – 17th March (circulated)
6. **PAVO:** PAVO Stakeholder Feedback Report
7. **Wales Audit Office** : first in series of blogs on asset transfer from [AssetsCymru](#)
8. **Boundary Commission for Wales:** www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk/2018-review (circulated)
9. **Wales Audit Office:** Second in series of asset transfer blog posts.
10. **OVW:** Cynnal Cymru February Newsletter
11. **OVW:** March training (Circulated)
12. **Minister for Public Services:** Statutory Guidance for the Well-being of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Circulated)
13. **WG:** Local Government Ethical Framework - The Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016'; and The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016' come into force on 1 April 2016: (Circulated)
14. **PAVO:** March 2016 edition of the PAVO E-Briefing.
15. **Planning Inspectorate:** invitation to request to be informed of any Developments of National Significance in area (request).
16. **BBNPA** – Newsletter – March 2016
17. **Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner:** Newsletter (circulated)
18. **Llanbedr Village Hall:** receipt for hire payment
19. **PCC:** Draft Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People Consultation
20. **PAVO:** time to refresh *free* PAVO membership
21. **PAVO:** OPVC Newsletter - Turning the Tables PAVO November Conference
22. **ICO:** Data protection registration - renewal due – 21/04/16
23. **OVW:** Natural Resources Bulletin - Issue 5 - March 2016
24. **BBNPA:** up-date re Cwrt Y Gollen
25. **Friends of Crickhowell Library Newsletter:** - March/April 2016 (Circulated)
26. **BBNPA:** 16/13232/FUL (agenda)
27. **HMRC:** repayment of VAT
28. **Play for Wales:** brochure
29. **BBNPA:** 15/12965/TPO permitted
30. **BBNPA:** 15/12579/REM – permitted
31. **BBNPA:** 15/12921/CON – permitted

32. **BBNPA:** 15/13064/LBC - withdrawn
33. **Clerks & Councils Direct:** March 2016 Issue 104
34. **Tower Mint Ltd:** HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th birthday commemorative medal

15. Miscellaneous/Late Items of correspondence

1. **Llangynidr CC:** support of letter to Edwina Hart re lay-bys in Crickhowell.
2. **Llangynidr CC:** no items put forward for discussion at the Five Councils
3. **PCC:** Collections to take place as normal over Easter period (Circulated)
4. **Wales Audit Office:** asset transfer blog posts
5. **Wales Audit Office:** blog in asset transfer series
6. **BBNPA:** Information on "Adventures in the Sky" course (Circulated).
7. **Kidney Wales Foundation:** details of Walk for Life – April 24th
8. **Wicksteed Playgrounds:** play equipment
9. **Llanbedr School:** thanks for donation

16. Clerk's Report/ Items for inclusion in the next Agenda:

- Event to acknowledge funding received from the Big Lottery for new benches/notice boards.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:31 pm