

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday 20th February 2017 at 7:30pm in Llanbedr Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs John Morris (*Chairman*), Caroline Fairclough, Howard Tothill, David Sharman and Dean Christy. Also in attendance: Cty Cllr Morris and Maria James (*Clerk*). **Absent:** Roger Llewelyn.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Wendy Bowler, Colin Alford and Elaine Lusted

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared.

3. **Planning Matters:**

3.1 **Applications:** None received.

3.2 **Decisions/Other:** BBNPA is currently consulting on the Crickhowell Community Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance. As the deadline for comment is 13th April it was agreed to agenda this for discussion in the March meeting.

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

- The white lines at the bottom of Bellfountain Rd/Standard St are due to be completed shortly. Several Members reported this gap has in fact already been filled in. Discussion ensued as to how to tackle the problem of vehicles parking in this area, as well as other streets in Crickhowell. Several ideas to improve the situation were noted to have been incorporated in the Crickhowell Community Plan as a result of the questionnaire distributed by Crickhowell TC. Another suggestion was to introduce free parking in the car park which could also improve the town's economy, although it was considered unlikely PCC would agree to a proposal which would loss it revenue. The parking restrictions imposed in the lay-bys were considered to have exacerbated the parking problems in the town and whilst previous requests for them to be removed have been refused there is now a different Minister in office, Ken Skates AM, who may be more amenable to this suggestion. It was suggested Crickhowell TC and the Vale of Grwyney CC unite in requesting restrictions be relaxed. It was agreed to place this on the agenda for the next Five Councils Liaison Meeting.
- The Crickhowell branch of Lloyds Bank is due to close at the beginning/end of March. The bank will operate a weekly "mobile bank" from the car park, similar to the service provided by NatWest. Cllr Morris suggested this be advertised on the Council's web site.
- The Council has a meeting regarding the budget this Thursday. A 4.5% increase in council tax is anticipated. Schools and social care will receive extra funding.
- The bollards previously reported as being confusing for drivers below Hall Farm in Llangenny are sited on private ground. Cty Cllr Morris will speak with the owner.
- Responses regarding the BT payphone consultation are to be returned to Cty Cllr Morris with a copy sent to One Voice Wales.
- Cty Cllr Morris informed Members of a private broadband scheme which is proving successful in the Dyffryn Cwannon Valley and therefore may be of interest to VoG residents. Further details can be obtained from him.

5. **Minutes of Meeting** [Page 1157 – 1159]. Cllr Sharman proposed the minutes of the 16th January 2017 be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Tothill and duly agreed.

6. **Matters Arising from the Above Minutes** *for information purposes*

P.1157 Item 6: As noted the gap in the white line in Bellfountain Road/Standard Street has been filled in.

P.1159 Item 13.5: Four provisional spaces have been booked on The Local Democracy and Government Boundary Commission Review in Brecon on the 9th March. Should demand increase some places may be withdrawn as initially only one space per council has been allocated.

P.1157 Item 3.2: Mr John Cook BBNPA has asked Chris Morgan to respond.

P.1157 Item 6: Cllr Sharman reported this event at the LAF meeting but was informed the land involved is owned by the National Trust not the National Park and therefore there is nothing they can do. This was reported as being incorrect as the Black Mountains is not owned by the National Trust but has six individual landowners. It was questioned whether it is being confused with the Sugarloaf Mountain, which is owned by the National Trust? Cllr Morris is due to attend a meeting of the Graziers Association shortly. This will be attended by Richard Ball (BBNPA) and the other landowners. He will ask if consent has been granted for this event to cross their land

- 7. Llanbedr Affordable Housing/Allotments:** Cllrs Morris, Christy, Sharman, Lusted and Bowler met Jodine Bishop and Daniel Cooke (WWHA) on site on the 31st January. WWHA has agreed to provide top soil for the allotments and improve the path with chippings. They will also gift “flat packed” sheds for use in the allotments, but not bases. WWHA confirmed the boundaries of the nature garden stating fences are due to be erected shortly.

The maintenance agreement was discussed, with WWHA confirming whilst there will be a degree of flexibility as to how it works it is unlikely chickens will be permitted. They are currently in the process of helping Llanbedr School with the planning application for its car park.

Llanbedr School has emailed the Clerk to confirm they have not received the i-Pads and Jodine Bishop has been asked to chase this up with the contractors.

Cllr Morris asked Members if they wanted to take on the nature garden, which was felt to be something the whole community could appreciate. It was agreed to place this on the agenda for consideration.

The Clerk will ask WWHA to confirm details of what they propose to do to repair the path and soil prior to inviting the Allotment Society to meet to discuss the lease agreement.

- 8. Llangenny/Glangrwyney Telephone Kiosks:** It was agreed to oppose BT’s proposals to remove the payphone service from Llangenny and Glangrwyney emphasising the importance of retaining service in rural areas where there is non-existent or poor mobile phone reception. The Clerk to write to PCC copying in OVW.
- 9. Five Councils Liaison Meeting:** Crickhowell TC is hosting the next Five Councils Meeting on Wednesday, 1st March 2017. It was agreed to submit (i) Appointing Five Council representatives (ii) Parking/Removing lay-by restrictions.
- 10. Planning Procedures:** BBNPA’s response was discussed. It was resolved not to proceed with an official complaint to the Ombudsman. The problem of retrospective planning within The Park is believed to be an escalating problem. It was suggested the Five Councils be asked if they too are experiencing problems with retrospective planning and, dependent on the outcome, write to our MP to report this problem and ask what can be done to help resolve it.
- 11. Broadband:** Residents in Glangrwyney asked the Clerk to bring the problem of poor broadband in the area to the Council’s attention to see if there was any way of expediting the provision of superfast broadband. Cllr Christie reported he had been informed Glangrwyney village will be connected within 6 months. Cllr Morris reported cabling installed in Grwyne Fechan a couple of years ago is currently been joined and should be connected before June. This news was welcomed. Disappointment was however expressed that Superfast Broadband would not cover the Grwyne Fawr Valley.
- 12. Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed:** The Council was asked to consider whether it wished to respond to the consultation document previously circulated. Cllr Fairclough volunteered to look at compiling a response.
- 13. Reform of school governance: regulatory framework:** This consultation was previously circulated due to the deadline being prior to the meeting. The matter was noted, but no response submitted.

14. Computer Software: The cost of purchasing an annual licence for Microsoft Office 365 for 5 devices (£59.99) was compared against a one user lifetime licence for Microsoft 2013 Professional (£44.99). The Council was asked to consider which it would prefer to purchase. Cllr Tothill proposed the purchase of a lifetime licence. This was seconded by Cllr Sharman and duly agreed.

15. Any Other Business: *for information only*

- The Clerk is due to attend a Clerks Briefing on the elections on the 28th February in Brecon when nomination packs will be distributed.
- Cllr Tothill reported he has distributed letters regarding gritting difficulties [Page 1154 Item 6]
- The Clerk has registered on the Wales Audit Office webinar on 'Financial Management and Governance in Local Councils' on 27 February at 18.30. Members can do so. The webinar will be available on YouTube the day after the live event.
- PCSO Billy Dune wishes to attend a meeting soon with the new PC in Crickhowell.

16. Finance:

16.1 Cllr Fairclough proposed the following items be approved for payment. This was seconded by Cllr Sharman and duly agreed: G James (Salary /Exp) £225, HMRC (Tax) £50, OVW Subscription £113

16.2 Risk Assessment: In line with governance requirements the Council was requested to review the effectiveness of internal controls. The Risk Assessment Schedule as previously circulated was discussed. It was duly agreed and signed by the Chairman.

16.3 Guidance for Internal Audit circulated at the OVW Finance training recently attended by the Clerk recommends bank statements are signed by a Member who is not the Chairman or a cheque signatory. Statements were signed by Cllr Tothill.

17. Highways: A schedule of highway works which Mr Ian Mills (PCC) has agreed to undertake following his meeting with Members was noted. Cllr Fairclough reported PCC has swept the road up towards Partrishow Church which was causing difficulties for the bin lorries.

18. Reports on Meetings Attended: The Chairman and Clerk attended the Independent Remuneration Panel's event in Abergavenny on the 15th February. Details of remuneration allowances were relaid. (Full details will be outlined in the IRP's annual report due for publication shortly).

Cllr Sharman attended a LAF meeting. Julian Atkinson (BBNPA) reported money is running short for maintaining footpaths – suggesting community councils might be asked to maintain footpaths in its area.

Cllr Morris attended a One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting. The Welsh Government consultation on the reform of school governance was discussed.

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

1. **PCC:** Rights Of Way Improvement Plan Reminder.
2. **OVW:** Inquiry into the general principles of the Trade Union (Wales) Bill.
3. **Powys CAB:** Flyer promoting Citizens Advice Powys Advise Clients on Debt Issues
4. **Powys:** Powys War Memorials Project - to repair, restore or maintain World War 1 memorials in Powys.
5. **Welsh Government:** survey into services provided and assets managed by town/community councils.
6. **PCC:** offer of Payroll Support.
7. **P Bowker:** copy of letter from Ken Skates re traffic calming works scheduled for Glangrwyney
8. **Brecon Beacons:** new Public Relations agency.
9. **BBNPA:** PAROW Agenda – 31st January 2017
10. **Powys Building Control:** Street naming and numbering guidance document
11. **BBNPA:** Agenda for National Park Authority, Friday, 10th February, 2017, 10.00 am
12. **OVW:** Welsh Government consultation on the reform of school governance.
13. **Powys Teaching Health Board:** Draft Everyday Health and Care Strategy
14. **OVW:** One Voice Wales January bulletin

- 15.**OVW**: One Voice Wales Innovative Practice National Awards 2017
- 16.**OVW**: **Programme 2017** to mark centenary of the First World War.
- 17.**OVW**: Wales Audit Office Newsletter
- 18.**OVW**: Investment in third sector services increasing but local authorities not making best use of third sector
- 19.**PCC**: Newyddion Powys Newslite
- 20.**CHC Powys**: Powys Community Health Council's Meeting Schedule 2017 -18
- 21.**OVW**: The Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Stakeholder Survey
- 22.**Five Councils**: Wednesday 1st March at 6:30pm – hosted by Crickhowell TC
- 23.**A Plcctn**: M4 Black Route and its potential affect on your community and Wales
- 24.**PCC Ian Mills**: Highways up-date
- 25.**CHC Powys**: Radnorshire and Brecknock Local Committee Meeting - 9th February in Brecon
- 26.**OVW**: Code of Conduct training – Builth Wells 16th February
- 27.**OVW**: White Paper 'Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed
- 28.**BBNPA**: Supplement: Single Integrated Assessments to agenda for National Park Authority, 10 Feb 2017
- 29.**Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918** The First World War Centenary in Wales
- 30.**Clerks & Councils Direct**: Newsletter
- 31.**Cty Cllr Morris**: Replacement of Llanbedr sewage treatment works at St Peters Close
- 32.**Cty Cllr Morris**: cans/plastic banks are being removed from community recycling sites.
- 33.**BBNPA**: weekly planning register– 13/01/17, 20/01/17
- 34.**OVW**: Auditor General for Wales: Community councils need to improve financial management/ governance
- 35.**BBNPA**: Agenda for National Park Authority, Friday, 10th February, 2017, 10.00 am

18. Miscellaneous/Late Items of correspondence

1. **BBNPA**: consultation on Crickhowell Community Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance (Circulated)
2. **OVW**: Devolution of Services Training - Builth Wells Tuesday 28th February 6.30-9PM.
3. **OVW**: First World War Centenary Programme Board - commemorative plans for 2018 (Circulated)
4. **Pension Regulator** – staging date – 1st May 2017
5. **BBNPA**: weekly planning register 10/02/17 (circulated)
6. **OVW**: **Boundary Commission** the 2018 review – secondary consultation period (Circulated)
7. **Plantlife**: National Plant Monitoring Scheme - opportunities for local volunteers in Wales (circulated)

19. Clerk's Report/ Items for inclusion in the next Agenda: None reported.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:35 pm

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