

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015 at 7:30pm in Llangenny School Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs D Sharman (*Chairman*), J Morris, I Mabberley, C Fairclough, W Bowler, D Christy and R Llewelyn. **In attendance:** Cty Cllr J Morris and M James (*Clerk*).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr C Alford.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared.
3. **Planning Matters**

### 3.1 Applications:

- (i) 15/12965/TPO To crown reduce a mature oak tree – field adjacent to country land leading from Glangrwyney to Llangenny between the Old Mill and Tyn-y-Pwll. Cllr Bowler proposed a response of no objection be submitted. This was seconded by Cllr Fairclough and duly agreed.
- (ii) 15/12971/CON : Former Ammo Stores Cwrt Y Gollen Army Training Camp Crickhowell Powys NP8 1TF : To vary condition 1 of planning permission 09/02986/FUL for the “conversion of former ammo store into bat habitat, incorporating replacement roof”
- (iii) 15/12972/CON : Former Gas Chamber Cwrt Y Gollen Army Training Camp Crickhowell Powys NP8 1TF –To vary condition 1 of planning permission 09/02986/FUL for the “conversion of former gas chamber into bat habitat, incorporating replacement roof”.

*Items 3.1(ii) and (iii) were considered in unison.* Cllr Fairclough proposed a response of no objection be submitted. This was seconded by Cllr Mabberley. Cllr Llewelyn proposed the response objecting to the application as compiled by Cllr Sharman and previously circulated be submitted. This was seconded by Cllr Sharman. Discussion ensued in which Cllr Christy questioned the reason for objecting to applications which provide bat habitats. Cllr Llewelyn recalled previous applications on the site referred to there being no bats. Following further debate the motion to submit a proposal of no objection was put to the vote. 5 in favour 2 against. It was therefore RESOLVED by majority vote to submit a response of No Objection.

Discussion followed regarding Members submitting individual responses with concern expressed that such responses may be interpreted as those of the Council's. It was established any individual can submit a response on his/her own behalf provided it is clear this is not submitted as a Councillor, but as a personal opinion, and therefore not on behalf of the Council.

- (iv) 15/12921/CON: Land To South Of St Peters Close Llanbedr Nr Crickhowell Powys NP8 1SR – Erection of 2 no 3 Bed Dwelling Houses – 11/06837/FUL. It was RESOLVED to submit a response of No Objection.

### 3.2 Decisions/Other: it was noted the following applications have been permitted:

- (i) 15/12766/FUL to upgrade existing access and construct new lorry turning facility to harvest and extract larch – Mynydd Ddu Forest.
- (ii) 15/12826/FUL demolition of two double garages and construction of new media building – Moor Park, Llanbedr NP8 1SS.

4. **County Council Report:** Cty Cllr Morris suggested the Council meet with him, Crickhowell TC and the police to discuss ways of preventing vehicles parking dangerously at the bottom of Bellfountain Road. He will arrange this early in the New Year. Cllr Christy's offer to provide photographic evidence was welcomed. The closure of laybys in Crickhowell was felt to have caused or at least contributed to this problem and Members questioned whether these closures could be lifted? Cty Cllr Morris recalled PCC originally stated it would review after 12 months.

PCC plan to re-organise council depots which may result in the closure of the Llangattock depot meaning the nearest depot would be in Brecon. Workers are concerned they will experience problems getting to Brecon in adverse weather to get the machinery necessary to keep roads clear. It was RESOLVED the Council write to the Head of Highways expressing concern at this proposal.

Budget debate – the Welsh Government has announced cuts of 4.1% for Powys. Last year and in previous years WG has provided additional sums where there are huge cuts to help “soften” the landing. This will not happen this year - the settlement will be worked directly from the formula. There has been a fuss concerning this and as the Labour administration does not have the majority necessary to pass the budget – the decision on whether it goes through rests with the opposition parties - the Lib Dems do not support it - the Tories have a similar view - therefore the decision rests with how Plaid votes. PCC is investigating whether it qualifies for a rural security grant. The budget was calculated on a 3.75% increase in council tax however there is now a suggestion of 4.25%. More definite information will be available in January.

Discussion ensued regarding how PCC is getting rid of services yet rising council tax. Cty Cllr Morris explained that as education and social care are ring-fenced everything else has to be cut by that much more – and some services may have to be stopped to support others. Members noted PCC want rural communities to take on more however there is lack of information on precisely what is needed. The Community Council is due to set its precept however doesn't know what it will be expected to pay for. Cllr Sharman asked Cty Cllr Morris to keep the Council informed of what was happening in Powys.

*Cty Cllr Morris left the meeting.*

- 5. Minutes of Meeting** [Page 1109 – 1111]: Cllr Lusted proposed the minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 meeting be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Morris and duly agreed. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

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

Cllr Llewelyn was congratulated on installing the bench on Bellfountain Road.

The Clerk reported a tree had been entered in the Llangenny Church Christmas Festival decorated with cards outlining the Council's achievements during the year, ie new notice boards, benches, improvement on Cwm Pitch, as well as publicising the affordable housing in Llanbedr.

- 7. Llanbedr Affordable Housing:** Cllrs Sharman, Lusted, Bowler and the Clerk attended a meeting with WWHA on the 17<sup>th</sup> December - notes of which have been circulated. Rather than transferring the ground allocated for allotments/nature garden WWHA would prefer to lease it and have drafted a lease agreement and maintenance schedule for Members' consideration. Members agreed the lease for the allotments should be between the Council and WWHA rather than between WWHA and the Allotment Society. The Council could then sub let to the Allotment Society with rental income used to offset the cost of implementing the maintenance schedule for the nature orchard which, whilst currently considered minimal, will have ongoing cost implications for the Council.

Members questioned: i) the length of lease? b) the rent (*assumed peppercorn*)? c) rent reviews? - if so at what intervals?

The Council was minded to proceed with the lease providing it was over 50 years at a peppercorn rent. Cllr Fairclough proposed the Council accept the lease agreement (subject to the above conditions). This was seconded by Cllr Lusted and unanimously agreed.

The Clerk was instructed to inform WWHA the hedge needs trimming and offer the same arrangement as last year ie the Council organise it to be cut and forward the bill to WWHA for settlement direct. Confirmation was also sought that WWHA will pay for the metered water supply to be installed ready for connection (by the Allotment Society if required).

The affordable housing rental units were anticipated to be ready for occupation by the end of March 2016 with the low cost housing units in April 2016.

Members emphasised their wish that this housing go to local people noting WWHA are due to forward a poster for use in advertising the housing. This will be put on the Council's web site and on the notice boards. Councillors will actively promote via word of mouth.

- 8. Cwrt Y Gollen:** The question of whether to proceed with the complaint against the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority was discussed. It was agreed not to submit the report as compiled by Cllr Sharman. Discussions concluded the best way to progress the matter would be to challenge on points of law however this would involve a lawyer's expertise and has obvious cost implications. Cllr Maberley proposed leaving the matter in abeyance. This was seconded by Cllr Fairclough and unanimously agreed. It was agreed to take the matter off the agenda.

9. **Any Other Business:** None reported.

10. **Finance:**

10.1 Cllr Morris proposed the following payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Mabberley and duly agreed: G M James (£200 Salary / £25 Exp), HM Revenue & Customs £50; Welsh Water (Llanbedr water trough) £19:72

10.2 To determine the Precept: *due to time restraints this matter was deferred to the January meeting*

10.3 The Clerk reported in accordance with Greenbarnes' request for a replacement cheque (due to bank error) the original has been cancelled and a new one issued.

11. **Highways:** Cllr Morris reported the drain needs clearing between Milaid and Sunnybank on the Guddr Road. He also suggested meeting Allun Jones on site to discuss the water on the Bont Lane. Cllr Bowler reported one of the drains in Llangenny is blocked causing water to come into the village – it was suggested the Clerk write to Simon Crowther to ask him to investigate as this is an ongoing problem. Cllr Llewelyn reported some plates have been tightened on the Bailey Bridge but not all - the Clerk reported PCC has stated it is looking into this. The Glangrwyney sign was noted to still be missing. Cllr Mabberley reported PCC has carried out a lot of work in Grwyne Fawr – the overhanging trees are the responsibility of the forestry and should be cut back in early January. Cllr Lusted reported the road down to Penwylodd in Llangenny is pouring with water which is eroding the road - this was reported approx a year ago – when PCC said something would be done.

12. **Reports on Meetings Attended:** Cllr Fairclough reported attending a Health Focus Group; Cllr Mabberley attended a LAF meeting as did Cllr Sharman who attended a workshop on the Beacons Way - complaints have been received from walkers relating to a steep footpath by The Draen.

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

1. **OVW:** response to consultation Statutory Guidance for Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Circulated)
2. **PAVO:** guide to 'Health and Care Standards (Wales) 2015
3. **Police Commissioner:** Police Precept Survey - [www.bit.ly/Precept1617](http://www.bit.ly/Precept1617) open until 8/01/16 (On web site)
4. **OVW:** Community Health Councils are looking for members [member.recruitment@waleschc.org.uk](mailto:member.recruitment@waleschc.org.uk)
5. **BBNPA:** Request for I'm a Celebrity challenges in the Brecon Beacons (circulated)
6. **Cllr W Barry Thomas PCC Leader:** Community Deliverance update (Circulated)
7. **PCC:** update on three weekly waste collections (Circulated)
8. **PCC:** link to Powys Budget Simulator – [www.powys.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.powys.gov.uk/consultations) (Circulated)
9. **OVW:** Consultation on how to support/accelerate investment in green growth projects (Circulated).
10. **Llangynidr CC:** notes of Five Councils meeting (Circulated)
11. **Welsh Government/OVW: Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill** - consultation (Circulated)
12. **Powys Community Health Council:** full council meeting on 16th December 2015
13. **Welsh Hearts** - Every Second Counts Defibrillator Appeal
14. **PAVO:** Have your Say: Opportunities for Play in Powys - online survey
15. **PAVO:** help support children/young people to play/hang out survey
16. **PAVO:** ebriefing - December 2015 <http://pavofundingnews.blogspot.com>
17. **PCC:** request for details of precept.
18. **OVW/PHOF** - consultation on Public Health Outcomes Framework (circulated).
19. **OVW:** Natural Resources Bulletin - Issue 2 - December 2015
20. **Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Services:** Draft Annual Improvement Plan 2016-2017.
21. **Greenbarnes:** request for replacement cheque
22. **OVW:** Transparency of Senior Remuneration in the Devolved Welsh Public Sector –
23. **BBNPA:** draft supplementary planning guidance note (SPG) to aid implementation of adopted Local Development Plan - Cerrigcochion Road Development Brief, Brecon
24. **PCC:** Christmas waste collection dates (on web site and notice boards)
25. **OVW:** Publication of the Positive Planning Implementation Plan - The Planning (Wales) Act 2015
26. **Powys Community Health Council:** council meeting will be held on 16 December 2015
27. **Care and Repair in Powys:** Season's Greetings and newsletter
28. **Theatr Brycheiniog** - invitation to Spring Launch on 6 January 2016 (Circulated).
29. **BBNPA:** Application 15/12965/TPO– agenda
30. **BBNPA:** Application 15/12856/FUL – agenda
31. **BBNPA:** Application 15/12826/FUL – agenda

- 32. **Welsh Water:** Invoice £19.72 – Llanbedr water trough
- 33. **British Red Cross:** funding request

## **14. Miscellaneous/Late Items of correspondence:**

- 1. **PAVO:** invitation to Powys Volunteer Involvers Network meeting
- 2. **WG:** Invitation to Welsh Government Engagement Event on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill and Explanatory Memorandum – 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Liberty Stadium (Circulated)
- 3. **OVW:** Consultation - *More than just words....* strategic framework to strengthen provision of Welsh language services within health, social services and social care.
- 4. **WG:** The Microchipping of Dogs (Wales) Regulations 2015 (circulated)
- 5. **OVW:** Welsh Government is seeking to appoint an Independent Member to the Board of Community Health Councils (CHCs) in Wales
- 6. **OVW:** Invitation for Nominations - New Year 2017 Honours Round (circulated)
- 7. **PCC:** details of waste collections during Xmas (circulated)
- 8. **BBNPA:** Application 15/12766/FUL has been permitted.
- 9. **Wales Air Ambulance:** funding request to help them build a new airbase for Wales.
- 10. **WG:** Road Safety Review up-date - A40 Glangrwyney Start of 30mph to End of 30mph – Decision - Existing speed limit to be retained. Work to be undertaken to improve road safety as part of Prioritised programme of engineering work. Earliest start of prioritised programme of engineering work 2017/18).

## **15. Clerk's Report/ Items for inclusion in the next Agenda**

Setting the Precept.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bower for providing refreshments and closed the meeting at 9:26pm.