

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday 15th October 2018 at 7:30pm in Glangrwyney Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Caroline Fairclough (*Chair*), John Morris, Howard Tothill, David Sharman, Phill Bowker and Colin Alford. **In attendance:** Two members of the public and Maria James (*Clerk*).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Dean Christy, Cllr Elaine Lusted and Cty Cllr John Morris.

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

3. **Planning:**

3.1 **Applications:** None received.

3.2 **Decisions/Other:** BBNPA's response to the Council's query [Page 1209 Item 3.3] was noted.

4. **County Council Report:** Cty Cllr Morris submitted a written report:

- PCC's funding has been cut by 1% which in real terms equates to 3.7% (taking into account inflation). There is also a predicted £5m overspend in this year's budget.
- Yellow lines are down in Crickhowell. Cty Cllr Morris has written to Ken Skates AM complaining Crickhowell is being discriminated against due to the fact its lay-bys are the only ones in Powys with parking restrictions. He met with PCC officers and Crickhowell TC to discuss parking issues/solutions in Crickhowell.
- Signage informing HGVs the Glangrwyney to Llangenny road is unsuitable will be erected soon.
- Damage to Llangenny bridge is to be repaired asap.
- He is chasing Highways for a suitable date to meet regarding military vehicles.
- Consultation on green waste is on PCC's website - please promote.

Members reported the yellow lines in Standard Street/Bellfountain Road have made the road much safer to use. It was RESOLVED to thank Crickhowell TC for its support in this matter.

5. **Minutes of 17th September 2018 Meeting** [Page 1229 - 1232]. Cllr Sharman proposed the above minutes be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Tothill and duly approved.

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

Page 1230 Item 6: WG cannot authorise a third party to purchase or install equipment on the trunk road network. It suggests traffic speed issues are reported to Go Safe the organisation responsible for speed limit enforcement – *Clerk to put details on notice board/web site.*

7. **Llanbedr Allotments/Nature Garden:** Cllr Morris and the Clerk met representatives of Llanbedr Allotment Society on the 27th September (report circulated). It was questioned whether the Council (having agreed to support the Society in its infancy) would sponsor noted the cost of cutting the hedge. Following discussion Cllr Bowker proposed a one-off donation of £50 for the Society to use as required. This was seconded by Cllr Tothill and agreed by majority vote (6 in favour). WWHA to be asked if the hedge can be cut in November rather than January/February as stated in the maintenance schedule. The Society is holding its AGM on the 18th October in Llanbedr Hall.

WWHA inform the nature garden is being planted and seeded. Members approved the choice of hedgehog house and bug hotel. The Clerk informed Members that prior to the work carried out by WWHA the nature garden had been reported as being a dog toilet and dumping ground. Discussion ensued on how to prevent misuse of this area. It was concluded signage needs to be erected to inform dog owners of the requirement to act responsibly and to deter littering.

WWHA no longer has an in-house architect and therefore is unable to assist with the car parking application for Llanbedr School. They have agreed for the allotment sheds to be erected on the parking area, reporting two are ready for delivery and the third is currently being built.

WWHA would like to meet on site to discuss the nature garden and finalise the licence agreement. The Clerk will contact WWHA to arrange a convenient date and notify Members.

- 8. Retrospective Planning:** Lesley Griffiths AM has responded to the Council's concerns by stating she will consider whether additional fees are appropriate for retrospective applications as part of her current review of planning fees. Following discussion Members suggested Ms Griffiths is asked if:

- a) more money can be given to BBNPA - currently it lacks sufficient funds to enforce planning
- b) BBNPA can conduct a scrutiny review into enforcement and the retrospective planning system.

It was RESOLVED to write to Lesley Griffiths AM as outlined above.

- 9. Electronic Planning Notifications:** The Clerk contacted the Five Councils to seek their views on electronic notification of planning applications. Cwmdu CC complained to BBNPA previously to no avail and currently purchases plans as necessary. Crickhowell TC has been informed the new procedure is just one of a number of efficiency savings the Authority has to undertake.

Following discussion it was RESOLVED the Council write to BBNPA to state that whilst in principal this is a good idea difficulties are encountered with poor broadband and in practice the system is not working.

- 10. Llanbedr School Notice board:** A replacement notice board has been secured for Llanbedr School funded by Cllr Lusted. The Council was asked if it wished to make a donation towards the cost however concluded this was matter for the school and not the council.

It was RESOLVED to write to Cllr Lusted to thank her for her generosity.

- 11. IRPW Draft Annual Report:** The Panel's recommendation that the communication allowance is made mandatory for all councils (with the option remaining for councillors to take all or part of it) was noted.

- 12. Trees obstructing river between Llanbedr & Llangenny:** This matter has been reported verbally to Clive Williams BBNPA who has asked for further details to be emailed. Cllr Tothill will take photos and forward to BBNPA.

- 13. Community Newsletter:** The Clerk has emailed Rev Bowler to suggest meeting to discuss a combined community newsletter – awaiting response. The Council was asked if it would like to investigate producing an annual report (which may be a compulsory requirement for all councils in the future) - the Clerk will circulate a sample for consideration. Cllr Fairclough will speak to Rev Bowler.

- 14. Councillor Vacancy:** Cllrs Bowker and Tothill volunteered to distribute flyers to advertise the vacancy – Clerk to provide approx 130 flyers and amend notices in the notice board.

- 15. Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme:** Whilst no response has been received to notices on the web site and the notice boards Crickhowell Civic Society has emailed to suggest the Five Councils and local community groups form a working party to develop a combined project, ie skate park or similar, for the youth of the area. This was considered an excellent idea however to successfully meet the January deadline needs to be dealt with expeditiously. Cllrs Tothill and Bowker offered to represent the Council in the working group.

16. Any Other Business for information only: Members were reminded Remembrance Sunday this year is on 11th November. The Chair will lay a wreath in Crickhowell. Cllr Lusted to lay a wreath in Llangenny – if not available ex-councillor, Mrs Bowler, will be invited to represent the Council.

17. Finance:

- (i) Cllr Sharman proposed the following items be approved for payment. This was seconded by Cllr Fairclough and duly agreed: Staff (Salary/Exp) £267.07, HMRC (Tax) £49.40
- (ii) The Finance Report was noted.
- (iii) The External Auditors have completed the audit and provided their audit report which has been circulated. Comments contained therein were noted. In the future the Clerk will ensure the dates referred to are in compliance. The auditor referred to the level of reserves being too high. This will be looked at when the precept is set.
- (iv) The funding request from Citizens Advice Powys will be considered in January/February.
- (v) Agreed to send Powys Samaritans a letter of support.

18. Highways the following items were reported:

- Date for meeting to discuss No MOD signage.
- Roads throughout The Vale need sweeping.
- Skipper Lane (Ty Laid) to Neuadd, Llanbedr - Great Oak Road – road has sunk/is rough
- New salt bin required by Celyn Farm up to Partrishow (old one broken)
- Road up Grwyney Fawr is getting rough.
- Weeds growing in children's play area need spraying (where paving slabs replaced with tarmac)

19. Reports on Meetings Attended:

- **Llanbedr Allotment Meeting:** Cllr Morris and the Clerk attended – *reported under Item 7.*
- **OVW Conference:** Cllr Morris and the Clerk attended. Cllr Morris reported Cllr Debbie Wilcox, the Leader of Newport City Council spoke on mergers and services, better working partnerships and the set up of charters. Vicky Jacobs stood in for Alun Davies AM (who was unable to attend). She spoke on insurance and what we need to be covered for. Motions passed included a 5% increase in membership fees. The Clerk reported receiving conflicting advice regarding payment of the communication allowance following which it was agreed to ask HMRC for clarity.
- **Day Centre Meeting:** Cllr Sharman attended. He reported the working group did not include representatives from all the Five Councils. Crickhowell TC, the Church and Civic Society have been trying to negotiate with PCC, but the day centre (which costs approx £100,000 pa) is to close in April - clients will be transferred to Ross or Brecon. Whilst referrals have been made from WWHA and Crickhowell Doctors' Surgery these have not meet the required criteria - there are currently 18 clients. PCC agreed to hold another meeting in Crickhowell (following questioning as to why the meeting was in Builth Wells when it relates to Crickhowell). *Agreed to place this on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.*

20. Correspondence: the following correspondence was noted and discussed as appropriate:

1. **BBNPA:** Weekly Planning Registers (07/09, 14/09/18, 21/09/18, 28/09/18) (*Circulated*)
2. **Crickhowell TC** – Ken Skates AM - not prepared to remove restrictions on lay-bys.
3. **Cty Cllr Morris** – Cwrt Y Gollen up-date (*Circulated*)
4. **Crickhowell & District Civic Society** - Land Fill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme (*Circulated*)
5. **Welsh Government** – latest news on EU funds in Wales (*Circulated*)
6. **BBNPA:** 23rd October PAROW meeting changed – to 1pm (*Circulated*)
7. **Powys Teaching Health Board** – Powys 111 and GP out of hours Stakeholder Bulletin
8. **Welsh Government** - Welsh Government news (*Circulated*)

9. **Lesley Griffiths AM** - response to retrospective planning query (*Circulated*)
10. **Richard Morgan WG** – cannot authorise 3rd party to purchase/install equipment on trunk road network (*Circulated*)
11. **BBNPA** – up-date re planning query (*Circulated*)
12. **OVW**: WG Consultation - Unadopted Roads in Wales /Survey (*Circulated*)
13. **R Pickvance** – Black Mountains Trail Race 2018 (*Circulated*)
14. **OVW**: Brecon /Radnor Area Committee Road Safety Meeting postponed
15. **Play Wales**: new playful children’s website launched
16. **Welsh Government**: Assets and Services Toolkit - (*Circulated*)
17. **OVW**: September 2018 News Bulletin (*Circulated*)
18. **Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel**: report (*Circulated*)
19. **Planning Aid Training**: 17th October – Brynmawr (*Circulated*)
20. **WWHA**: works to nature garden underway/request to finalise assignment (*Circulated*)
21. **The Independent Remuneration Panel draft Annual Report 2019/20** -
22. **Ann Jeremiah, Crickhowell TC**: twinning meeting – 12 October 7:30pm (*Circulated*)
23. **Review Panel**: Final Report given to Minister and October Newsletter (*Circulated*)
24. **Powys Samaritans**: funding request
25. **Welsh Government**: latest news on EU funds in Wales (*Circulated*)
26. **CHC Powys**: notice of committee meeting – 11th October – National Park Visitor Centre
27. **WWHA**: details of hedgehog and bug hotels for nature garden (*Circulated*)
28. **Crickhowell TC**: Remembrance Sunday is 11th November - Church service at 10.50am.
29. **Powys Health Board**: NHS 111 Implementation in Powys: Digital Pack
30. **Crickhowell District Archive Centre**: thanks for donation
31. **Powys Teaching Board**: promotion material for new 111 telephone number
32. **Citizens Advice Powys (CAB)**: request for funding
33. **Sunshine Gym**: outdoor fitness equipment
34. **HMRC**: new online service to claim VAT refund – ref XTV126000104464

21. Miscellaneous/Late Items of Correspondence

1. **BBNPA**: Weekly Planning Register (05/10/18)
2. **BBNPA**: Planning Application Consultation Letter 18/16696/FUL
3. **Ann Jeremiah**: Twinning Committee meeting - 26/10/18 at 7pm in Clarence Hall.
4. **OVW**: Welsh Government Job opportunities
5. **OVW**: Annual Conference - Streetscape Products and Services
6. **OVW**: Annual Conference – insurance products
7. **Powys CC**: Crickhowell Day Centre Workshop
8. **PCC**: only area in VoG affected by Dog Banning Orders is Llanbedr playground
9. **NMwTA**: hazardous private trees within falling distance of A40 – contact owner

22. Items for inclusion in the next Agenda:

- Crickhowell Day Centre

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9:34pm

Signed:
Chairman