

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7:30pm. In accordance with The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held remotely via video conferencing.

**Present:** Cllr Caroline Fairclough (Chair)  
Cllr Jeff Greenidge  
Cllr Elaine Lusted  
Cllr David Sharman  
Cllr Phill Bowker  
Cllr Dean Christy  
Cllr Colin Alford  
Cllr John Morris

**In attendance:** Cty Cllr John Morris and Maria James (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None **Absent:** Cllr Keith Powell
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Christy declared an interest (not prejudicial) in Items 3.1(i) and (ii) - (involvement with both applications).
3. **Planning:**

### 3.1 Applications:

- (i) **20/18718/FUL** Change of use to allow use as Class A1 retail use with ancillary storage at first floor incorporating alterations to exterior of the building implemented as part of planning permission 17/15404/FUL with enabling works. **Crickhowell Conservative Club, High Street, Crickhowell NP8 1BW**
- (ii) **20/18780/FUL** Change of use to allow use as Class A1 retail use with ancillary storage at first floor incorporating alterations to exterior of the building (with alternative window openings) to those approved part of planning permission 17/15404/FUL with enabling works. **Crickhowell Conservative Club, High Street, Crickhowell NP8 1BW**

Due to the complexity of documents just published on the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority's (BBNPA) planning portal it was proposed this item is deferred to the next meeting. BBNPA will be asked to extend the deadline by which comments are required to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to allow members opportunity to review the additional documents.

**RESOLVED: to defer discussion and apply for an extension as outlined**

- (iii) **20/19189/FUL** Proposed single storey extension to East elevation to provide additional w.c. and store area, and internal alterations. **Gobpwllau, Llangenny, Crickhowell NP8 1HF**
- (iv) **20/19413/FUL** Proposed two storey extension to side elevation to provide additional kitchen area to ground floor and bedroom area to first floor. **Gobpwllau, Llangenny, Crickhowell NP8 1HF**

The precise location of the property was unclear from the site plan provided. It was

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Chairman

agreed to defer discussion until clarification is received. The clerk will apply for an extension.

**RESOLVED: to seek clarification on location and apply for an extension.**

**3.2 Decisions/Planning:** No decisions have been received.

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

- Covid - due to rising cases the council has gone back into business critical mode and is concentrating entirely on survival, supporting Covid services, the elderly and vulnerable. Staff have been co-opted to assist with the vaccine roll-out. The latest roll-out bulletin explains what is happening, although things are changing on a daily basis. Vaccine fraud is unfortunately prevalent with elderly people being approached by fraudsters purporting to sell vaccinations. Powys CC is hoping to position a temporary mobile testing unit in Cwrt Y Gollen which can test pupils on a weekly basis when schools go back. Cllr Christy reported the Clarence Hall has been offered, free of charge, for use as a mass vaccination centre. He is currently waiting to hear whether it is required.
- Flooding – Highways are currently prioritising the clearing of gullies. Cllr Morris said gullies remain blocked by Green Cottage causing icy conditions during the recent cold spell. Cllr Alford advised debris accumulated from clearing the gullies on Bellfountain Road has been piled on the side of the road between Dyffryn and Craig Y Bwla. He asked if the pile could be levelled.

The community council is due to be invited to a virtual meeting on flooding and the flood warden scheme. It was questioned whether farmers are allowed to do anything in the river to prevent flooding? Cty Cllr Morris advised Natural Resources Wales (NRW) state it's the landowner's responsibility to remove trees from rivers. It is also the landowner's responsibility to maintain the river bank. Cllr Bowker stated large parts of the River Grwyne are designated sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) and permission has to be sought before works can be undertaken. This can be a lengthy process and involve payment of a licence fee. Cty Cllr Morris advised NRW will be represented at the virtual meeting and should be available to answer questions.

- Thefts - unfortunately there have been a number of thefts in the area recently. Members were advised to remain alert.

*Cty Cllr Morris left the meeting at 20:10*

- 5. Minutes:** Pages 1342 -1346 were agreed to be a true record of the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 meeting.
- 6. Clerk's Report: information from the minutes:** The clerk has emailed Crickhowell Town Council regarding the mobile speed unit and is currently awaiting a response [Page 1342 Item 2]. No further items to report.

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Chairman

- 7. Footpaths - to discuss access/requirement to register unrecorded historic paths prior to 2026:** Cllr Fairclough referred members to legalisation requiring footpaths to be registered on the definitive map before 2026 advising of a map on the Ramblers site which highlights historic paths which have now disappeared. Members were asked to look at this map and identify footpaths in their areas. Cllr Fairclough will forward the link and the matter discussed at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued as to whether footpaths should have disabled access, ie gates rather than stiles. It was suggested BBNPA is asked to clarify what the position is regarding this, ie is it advisory or mandatory to provide disabled access.

Debate ensued concerning the use of self-closing gates. Whilst these gates provide disabled access farmers experience problems with people propping them open allowing livestock to escape.

**RESOLVED: to write to BBNPA to clarify the position on access for the disabled.**

- 8. Donations - to decide donations and consider funding request from CRiC:** Information provided by CRiC to support their grant application was noted. Following consideration it unanimously agreed to donate £500 to CRiC (Proposed Cllr Bowker; Seconded Cllr Christy). It was also agreed to donate £70 to Llangenny Playground (Proposed Cllr Alford; Seconded Cllr Morris) and £55 to each of the three churchyards (Llanbedr, Llangenny and Partrishow) for cutting the grass, (Proposed Cllr Morris; Seconded Cllr Alford).

**RESOLVED: to make the donations as outlined above.**

- 9. Community Projects - to discuss community projects:** Cllr Bowker reported Glangrwyney Village Hall has applied to Welsh Government for funding to develop the hall. They have passed Stage 1 and are now on Stage 2 of the process. He thanked the community council for its support, particularly Cllrs Greenidge and Christy, and hoped for continued support. Costs are not known at present however they will be seeking match funding.

Members discussed providing an information board detailing the history of Tin Town in Grwyne Fawr. The clerk was asked to get an indication of the cost.

**RESOLVED: to find out the cost of an information board as outlined above.**

- 10. Precept: to determine the precept for 2021/2022:** Following discussion it was agreed the precept remain at the same level, ie £8,000. (Proposed Cllr Sharman; Seconded Cllr Christy) and unanimously agreed. Thanks were conveyed to the clerk for the work undertaken in preparing the budget.

**RESOLVED: to set the precept at £8,000**

- 11. Retrospective Planning:** notes of meeting have been circulated. Another meeting of the working party is scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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Chairman

**12. Llangenny Water Fountain - to receive up-date and delegate responsibility for progressing project to refurbish the fountain:** It was agreed to delegate responsibility to the clerk for obtaining the required quotations.

**RESOLVED: to grant the clerk authority to obtain quotes.**

**13. Information from Members to be included in the next Agenda:**

- Glangrwyney Village Hall planning and grant application up-date
- Llanbedr School
- Speeding in Glangrwyney

**14. Finance:**

(i) The following items were approved for payment (Proposed; Cllr Lusted; Seconded Cllr Sharman)

Staff (Salary £266:67/Expenses £25/Zoom £14:39)	-	£305.86
HMRC	-	£ 25.20
Audit Office	-	£304.25

(ii) The finance report was noted. It was agreed to transfer £100 from the training budget to the audit budget to cover the current deficit.

**15. Highways:** It was reported the grit pile Powys County Council were due to deliver to Celyn Farm for local distribution has not been received and the salt bins have not been filled. The clerk will chase this. Salt bins were reported to have been filled in Grwyne Fawr.

The following matters were also reported:

Glangrwyney – speeding in village

Grwyne Fechan - Green Cottage – hedge needs cutting and drains clearing. Bont Lane needs sweeping – leaves are blocking drains.

Llangenny: Vicarage Pitch is in a poor state of repair with potholes. Millbrook – trees in river (previously reported) getting worse.

Grwyne Fawr – road is in very poor condition.

**16. Reports on Meetings Attended:** The Clerk attended the virtual meeting with Powys Council County – slides have been circulated.

**17. Correspondence** as itemised in Appendix A was received and noted.

**18. Miscellaneous/Late Items of Correspondence** as itemised in Appendix B was received and noted.

There being no further business the Chair offered condolences to the Clerk on her recent bereavement and closed the meeting at 21:41.

Signed:.....

Chairman