

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 21st December 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 John Morris

In attendance: County Cllr John Morris, PCSO Billy Dunne, One Member of the Public and Maria James (Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Colin Alford. **Absent:** Cllr Keith Powell.
- 2. Policing Up-date:** PCSO Billy Dunne reported rural crime is massively down with zero crime reported in the Vale of Grwyney between 1st October and 21st December and only two calls for service (one safety welfare check/one traffic incident). The reduction is put down to Covid restrictions. There has been a distinctive drop in crime throughout the force.

PCSO Dunne has done a lot of work this year tackling the issue of off-roaders which although reduced was reported to be a continuing problem in some areas. If members witness problems he urged them to use Dyfed Powys Police's new on-line system, designed to make reporting incidents easier – he will forward the link to the clerk.
(Cllr Christy arrived 19:39)

PCSO Dunne asked members what they want the police to prioritise. Speeding was noted to be a particular problem in Glangrwyney. County Cllr Morris stated Welsh Government has recently announced the default speed limit through most towns/villages will be reduced from 30mph to 20mph in 2021/22 after the Welsh Assembly elections. Discussion ensued as to whether static speed cameras and further traffic calming measures could be utilised to tackle this problem. PCSO Dunne asked to be informed of speeding vehicles, especially if there are particular times when it is more prevalent so the police can take action.

The use of flashing speed signs was discussed. It was questioned why it is difficult to get one in Glangrwyney when they are evident in other areas? County Councillor Morris suggested speaking with Crickhowell Town Council who purchased a mobile one for use outside the primary school. The clerk will make enquiries.

With regard to Covid restrictions PCSO Dunne reported the force will react to reports of private parties and large gatherings. If people are suspected of coming into the area please use the link on the Dyfed Powys Police web site to report incidents. He finished by asking everyone to adhere to the rules. *(PCSO Dunne was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 19:55)*

- 3. Declarations of Interest:** to be declared as required.

Signed:.....
Chairman

4. Planning:

4.1 Applications:

- (i) **20/19126/FUL** Small lean-to extension - oak frame on stone dwarf wall with slate roof. **Pontysgob Mill, Fforest Coal Pit NP7 7LS**

RESOLVED: no objection

- (ii) **20/18894/FUL** to erect an extension to an existing agricultural steel frame building. **Ty Cerreg, Llangenny NP8 1HA**

RESOLVED: no objection

- (iii) **20/19338/FUL** Proposed demolition of existing detached Pool House, creation of new outdoor pool, ancillary accommodation, etc. **Moor Park , Llanbedr NP8 1SS**

RESOLVED: no objection

- (iv) **20/19358/FUL:** Change the use of a cabin, currently used as offices/kitchen/toilet into living quarters etc **Army Reserves Centre , Cwrt Y Gollen Training Camp NP8 1TH**

The application was considered to lack sufficient information however the proximity of the cabin to a live firing range was considered to make it unsuitable for conversion to residential accommodation.

RESOLVED: to respond as outlined above.

4.2 Decisions: the following applications were noted to have been permitted:

- (i) **20/18615/LBC** Utility room extension, new porch. **Henbant Fach, Llanbedr NP8 1TA**
- (ii) **20/19053/FUL** General purpose agricultural building **Sunnybank, Llanbedr NP8 1SY**
- (iii) **20/18233/FUL** Conversion to provide holiday let **The Bothy, The Neuadd, Llanbedr**
- (iv) **20/18710/LBC** Mains water supply **Water Fountain adj to The Rectory, Llangenny**
- (v) **20/19157/TPO** remove lower branches of oak trees, etc **Mill Brook, Llangenny**

5. County Council Report: Cty Cllr Morris reported:

- Speed limit – the Welsh Parliament proposes reducing the speed limit in built-up areas from 30 mph to 20mph (as reported earlier)
- Flooding – high water levels in Crickhowell resulted in some flooding last weekend but no houses were affected. The Emergency Response Team and Natural Resources Wales appeared much better co-ordinated. PCC is in the process of distributing an emergency response report to residents affected by flooding. Cty Cllr Morris will send the clerk a copy for circulation.
- Covid Vaccination – the rollout of vaccination has started in Powys – presently it is only operating out of Bronllys Hospital for NHS, care workers and those over 80. The

Signed:.....

Chairman

Volunteer Bureau are doing a great job taking people not only for their vaccination but also their flu jabs. They should be thanked. Everyone should receive a letter to tell them when they should attend for vaccination.

- Schools – it is likely pupils’ return to school in January will be staggered.

County Councillor Morris left at 20:20

6. Minutes: Pages 1338 -1341 were agreed to be a true record of the 16th November 2020 meeting. (Proposed Cllr Sharman; Seconded Cllr Morris)

7. Clerk’s Report - information from the minutes:

- The clerk has not yet had opportunity to draft the councillor email protocol - ongoing.
- An application form has been received for the Heritage in Place Grant Scheme for Llangenny Water Fountain however before it can be submitted detailed costings have to be obtained. A local resident has agreed to assist with registering the land.
- Llanbedr Allotment Society report only half a plot remains vacant - they have some new members and are hopeful for the future.
- BBNPA report the stile on the footpath in Glangrwyney is the landowner’s responsibility. The landowner has agreed to make it easier to use and whilst under no compulsion to provide a dog stile has been asked to consider it.

8. Access to Sugarloaf Mountain from Llangenny - to discuss request for signage to alleviate problems experienced with traffic/parking.

Cllr Sharman reported meeting the complainants and witnessing the problem first hand. He brought the matter up at the last LAF meeting when advised to ask highways to erect signage to inform people there was no vehicular access to the Sugarloaf. The problem was reported to be exacerbated by drivers using i-phones for directions as the software shows there is to be a car park, when in fact there is not even a turning area. Cllr Greenidge advised reporting this error via the phone’s app and asking for the car park “label” to be removed.

It was suggested highways are asked to erect three signs advising there is no vehicular access to the Sugarloaf. One just off the main A40 in Glangrwyney, one at the bottom of the road leading up by Pen-yr-wyrlod and one at The Crossroads.

RESOLVED: to write to Powys CC to ask for signage to be erected.

9. Local Development Plan (LDP) - to discuss response to consultation on LDP documents: Due to time restraints it was suggested a separate meeting is held on Monday, 11th January to consider the council’s response. In the interim members were asked to look at the recently issued flood maps and study the Local Development Plan.

RESOLVED: to hold a separate meeting to discuss response as outlined.

Signed:.....
Chairman

10. Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing (MAFA): This survey was considered quite complex and more suited to larger organisations than this council. No response submitted.

11. Web Site - to decide which theme to use: It was agreed to proceed with “Textbook” as the new theme for the web site. The clerk will inform the web designer.

RESOLVED: to proceed as outlined.

12. Donations/Community Projects - to consider donations/projects: It had previously been agreed to delay the decision on which charities to support to give local organisations in need of assistance due to the pandemic opportunity to apply.

A request from CRiC for financial assistance was discussed. The clerk was asked to obtain further information on its financial position so an informed decision can be made on whether the council should offer support. Item to be placed on the next agenda.

The clerk was asked to compile a list detailing funding requests received for consideration at the next meeting. Members were also asked to consider whether there were any local community projects they wish to champion.

It was suggested the council introduce a formal grant application scheme for future applications. The clerk will draft an application form.

RESOLVED: to ask CRiC to supply further information and place the matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

13. Retrospective Planning up-date: The working party (Cllrs Fairclough, Christy and Sharman) will meet representatives from Cwmdau Community Council on Monday, 4th January 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

14. Information from Members to be included in the next Agenda

- Donations/support for CRiC
- Footpaths access/maintenance/registration

15. Finance:

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

Staff (Salary/Exp £25/Zoom £14.39)	-	£305:66
HMRC (Tax)	-	£ 25:40
Welsh Water (Llanbedr Water Trough)	-	£ 14.39
G James (reimbursement of stationery (11/19-12/20)	-	£195.39

(ii) The Finance Report was noted. It was agreed to transfer £400 from contingencies to cover the web site’s current and anticipated expenditure.

(iii) The Annual Return was returned from the external auditor. Comments were noted.

Signed:.....
Chairman

16. Highways: the following matters were reported:

- Grwyne Fawr – the edge of the road has been damaged by a fallen tree just up from gate Tyn y Llwyn. Road below Nant Y bedd needs repair – poor condition
- Llangenny - Vicarage Pitch – poor state of repair. Llangenny Bridge remains in need of repair. Millbrook – trees remain in river - it was suggested writing to the MOD in Maindee Barracks, Cardiff who have responsibility for Cwrt Y Gollen.
- Grwyne Fechan – overgrown hedge/blocked ditch at Green Cottage

17. Reports on Meetings Attended: Cllr Sharman attended a LAF meetings as noted previously.

18. Correspondence itemised in Appendix A was received and noted.

19. Miscellaneous/Late Correspondence itemised in Appendix B was received and noted.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21:34

Signed:.....
Chairman