

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 17th January 2022 at 7:30pm. This meeting was held remotely via video conferencing.

Present: Cllr John Morris (Chairman)
Cllr Caroline Fairclough
Cllr Jeff Greenidge
Cllr David Sharman
Cllr Colin Alford
Cllr Paul Morris
Cllr Phill Bowker
Cllr Elaine Lusted

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

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None received. **Absent:** Cllr D Christy

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

3. **Planning:**

3.1 Applications: to resolve responses to consultations received from BBNPA:

(i) **21/20606/FUL:** Rear extension & associated alterations. Ty Bach, Grwyne Fawr NP7 7LY

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection

(ii) **21/20678/FUL:** installation of sewage treatment plant. Tyrywen, Forest Coal Pit NP7 7LP

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection

(iii) **21/20653/TPO:** Prune/fell various trees. Pendarren House OEC, Llangenny NP8 1HE

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection

3.2 Decisions: no decisions received.

4. **County Council Report:** County Councillor Morris reported:

- Powys County Council has been awarded a 9.6% increase in its settlement from Welsh Government, which equates to £18 million. The Cabinet is seeking a 3.9% council tax rise which they state is necessary due to the cost of social services.
- Glangrwyney “Halfpenny” Bridge. Whilst the bridge remains closed the metalwork is being fabricated off site and repairs should be completed towards the end of

Signed:.....
Chairman

February/beginning of March. Powys County Council is working with Monmouthshire Council to get the bridge and road completed at the same time.

Cllr Bowker informed members work has started on the road, but there is no signage to warn the bridge is closed to pedestrians. Cty Cllr Morris will investigate.

- Flooding – highways are currently clearing drains and are due to clear those in Llangenny, where it flooded previously, and Glangrwyney.

Cllr J Morris reported a blocked drain on Great Oak Road. Cty Cllr Morris said PCC is considering diverting the stream at the top of Great Oak Road (by the substation) to take water down Pregge Lane. He encouraged members to report drains needing clearing.

Members emphasised the need for drains to be cleared regularly believing it was not being done quickly enough.

An overgrown hedge in Grwyne Fechan was reported to cause problems for passing traffic. The clerk was asked to identify its location (ie map reference/photograph).

Cllr P Morris questioned what is happening with health care for Powys residents? There is a suggestion the factures side of Accident & Emergency will move from Merthyr to Mountain Ash (an extra 40 minute drive for Powys residents). Cty Cllr Morris will make enquiries. He suggested the council raise this with the local health board. This was agreed.

Cty Cllr Morris left the meeting at 19:55

5. **Minutes:** minutes of the 20th December 2022 meeting [Pages 1395 -1398] were approved as a true record (Proposed Cllr Sharman; Seconded Cllr P Morris).

6. **Clerk’s Report: information from the minutes:**

Military Training in Grwyne Fawr: A response to the council’s complaint is due to be received from HQ 160th (Welsh) Brigade. If this is not received within the next couple of weeks the Clerk will make further enquires.

Five Councils Meeting: a draft agenda has been issued for the 27th January 2022 however the meeting may be postponed due to Covid. Crickhowell TC will confirm following their January meeting.

7. **Himalayan Balsam: to receive up-date/consider funding request.**

The additional information requested was received just prior to the meeting - too late for members to make an informed decision on whether to support the application. It was agreed to defer discussion to the February meeting.

RESOLVED to: defer discussion to the February meeting.

Signed:.....
Chairman

8. Llanbedr Nature Garden/Hedge to Allotments: to discuss future maintenance

Wales & West Housing Association is arranging for its contractor to drop some woodchip off in Llanbedr when next working in the area so the council can renew the path.

Cllr J Morris will speak to the contractor regarding the allotment hedge.

9. Speeding in Glangrwyney: to receive up-date

Members noted James Evans MS's response to the council's request for help in combating speeding in Glangrwyney. His offer to attend a meeting was welcomed. It was suggested meeting in Glangrwyney so the problem can be witnessed first-hand.

ACTION: a meeting to be organised with James Evans MS.

10. Retrospective Planning: to receive up-date

Cwmdu Community Council has confirmed it supports sending a letter to Julie James MS (as previously agreed).

ACTION: Clerk to send letter to Julie James MS.

11. Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: to consider response.

It was agreed to defer discussion.

RESOLVED to: defer to the February meeting.

12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee: to discuss how to commemorate

Members discussed ways of commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Suggestions included lighting beacons and planting trees, possibly 70 to commemorate each year of her reign, with plaques to record significant events. Trees to be planted in either spinneys, or in a trail from Glangrwyney Hall to Partrishow Church. Cllrs P Morris and Lusted volunteered to identify suitable planting locations and research funding avenues.

ACTION: Cllrs P Morris and E Lusted will make enquiries and report back

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

- Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
- Retrospective planning
- Himilyan balsam

14. Finance:

14.1 The following items were approved for payment: (Proposed; Cllr Sharman;

Signed:.....
Chairman

Seconded Cllr Fairclough) and duly agreed.

Staff (Salary £268:27/Expenses £25/Travel £6.30) -	£ 299.57
HMRC -	£ 23.40
G M James (reimbursement – Zoom) -	£ 14.39
Glangrwyney Village Hall (Donation) -	£1,000.00
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (Llanbedr Water Trough) -	£ 13.33

Payment for strimming Llanbedr Nature Garden was deferred until an invoice is received.

14.2 Finance Report:

The finance report was received and noted. It was agreed to transfer £500 from the elections budget to donations to cover the existing deficit.

14.3 Precept for 2022/2023:

It was agreed to increase the clerk’s salary (as detailed in the budget report) with the suggestion the clerk records her hours to determine whether they should be increased. (Proposed Cllr Fairclough; Seconded Cllr Sharman). Unanimously agreed.

The budget report was noted. Following consideration of the current year’s receipts/expenditure and projected figures for the forthcoming year it was agreed to set the precept at £10,000 (Proposed Cllr Sharman; seconded by Cllr P Morris) and unanimously agreed.

15. Highways:

Vincent Playdon has been appointed Highways Supervisor for South Powys and therefore the contact for the Vale of Grwyney. Grit bins need filling/replacing in Llangenny, Partrishow and The Bont Lane.

16. Reports on Meetings Attended:

None received.

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

18. Correspondence as itemised in Appendix B was received and noted. It was agreed to

Item 18: request to support Llangattock Green Valleys’ application to participate in the Home Energy Audits for Powys Communities project. Due to the tight time scale members were asked to look at this and inform the clerk if they would like to support the application.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9:30 pm

Signed:.....
Chairman