

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 18th July 2022 at 7:30pm in Llangenny School Hall and remotely via the video conferencing platform Zoom.

Present: Cllr John Morris (Chairman)
Cllr Elaine Lusted
Cllr Colin Alford
Cllr Roger Bridgwater
Cllr Dean Christy

Attended Remotely: Cllr David Sharman
Cllr Phill Bowker
Cllr Jeff Greenidge

In attendance: County Cllr Matt Beecham and the Clerk **Absent:** Cllr Roger Llewelyn

1. **Apologies for Absence:** none received.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** none declared.
3. **Planning:**

3.1 Applications: to resolve responses to consultations received from BBNPA/PCC including any received after the publication of the agenda.

- (i) **22/0535/FUL:** Erection of 3 chalets, an amenity unit and a wind turbine (18.7m to hub height, 21.5m to blade tip), installation of a treatment plant and all associated works: **Caeronen Farm, Felindre, Brecon, LD3 0SG** (This application is not within the Vale of Grwyney. The council has been consulted because it neighbours the council subject to the development - Gwernfyed Community Council)

RESOLVED to: support the above application

3.1 Decisions: the following application was reported to have been permitted:

- (i) 21/20606/FUL - Ty Bach, Grwyne Fawr, Forest Coal Pit, NP7 7LY

4. County Council Report: County Councillor Matthew Beecham reported:

- **Llanbedr School:** Powys County Council (PCC) is reviewing the catchment area for Crickhowell. This essentially means closure of Llanbedr School has been postponed for the next academic year. The review will determine whether efficiency savings can be made if Llanbedr, Llangattock, Crickhowell and Llangynidr merge into one school on four separate sites. This is considered the most appropriate way to secure the long term future of the school. Work will start in September.
- **Speed limit on Glangrwyney Road:** Highways do not accept there is a 40 mph sign. Cllr Beecham will meet Cllr Christy on site to photograph the sign and email to Highways.

Signed:.....
Chairman

- **Glangrwyney Bridge:** the opening has been delayed – it will now open on 22nd July 2022. The bridge was originally due to open in March/April. PCC has been asked if penalty clauses can be imposed upon the contractor due to the delay.
- **Damaged Llanbedr Bridleway:** Cllr S Beecham has approached Matt Perry (Head of Highways) regarding the damaged bridleway and is awaiting a response. As PCC is responsible for the bridleway it was questioned whether it has emergency funding to fund the repair? Other issues further along the path also require attention. Cllr M Beecham offered to meet Cllr Bridgwater and Cllr Morris on site.
- **Swing in Llanbedr Playground:** the baby swing has been reinstated. PCC is due to replace the protective flooring under the swing later in the year. The protective flooring under the climbing frame, slide and roundabout was reported to also need attention.
- **Recycling:** PCC now recycle Tetra cartons (which should be placed in the red box).

School Funding: Cllr Beecham was asked to find out if PCC could justify funding of schools in the High School catchment area. Councillors in the north appear biased against the south with the High School (in a past survey) found to be the lowest funded school in Powys (and Wales). Cllr Beecham said PCC changed their funding formula in 2018/19 resulting in small rural schools being disproportionately overfunded. The High School is badly underfunded. One of the reasons this area gets a poor deal is because Crickhowell area is seen as affluent in comparison to the rest of Powys.

5. **Minutes:** the minutes of the 20th June 2022 meeting [Pages 1421 – 1425] were approved [Proposed Cllr Christy; Seconded Cllr Lusted].
6. **Clerk’s Report/information from the minutes:** no items to report.
7. **Hybrid Meetings - to agree Hybrid Meetings Policy.**
It was agreed to amend the policy to require presentations to be submitted prior to the meeting in electronic/written format for the purposes of screen sharing – questions to be levied at the end of the presentation to enable remote attendees to be seen should they have a question.

RESOLVED to: adopt the policy subject to the above amendment. [Proposed Cllr Sharman; seconded Cllr Christy]

8. **A40 Safety Concerns: to consider supporting letter from Five Councils to Welsh Government concerning safety concerns at site of former Conservative Club in Crickhowell**

Following discussion the Council agreed to support the letter to Welsh Government. The Clerk to forward the council’s comments to Crickhowell Town Council. [Proposed Cllr Christy; Seconded Cllr Lusted]

RESOLVED to: support the letter from the Five Councils to Welsh Government

Signed:.....
Chairman

9. Training for Councillors/Staff: to formulate training schedule

Details of One Voice Wales training programme were circulated with the agenda. It was suggested members attend different courses. It was agreed to book the following:

- Cllr Bridgwater - New Councillor Induction (21st July)
 - Module 8 – Introduction to Community Engagement (26th July).
- Cllr Lusted - Module 6 - Local Government Finance (25th July).
- Cllr Sharman - Module 12 - Community/Place Planning (date to be confirmed)
- Cllr Morris - Module 3 – The Council as an Employer (date to be confirmed)

Other members expressed an interest in attending courses in August/September. Members were advised to contact the Clerk. Black Mountains College, Talgarth was reported to be running a course in September on engagement with community councils. Cllr Bridgwater will provide further information.

10. The Finance and Governance Toolkit: to discuss forming a working group to review the council’s financial, governance and accountability arrangements in accordance with the Toolkit supplied by One Voice Wales

Due to the size of the document it was suggested a Zoom meeting is set up with the clerk and a couple of councillors to go through the checklist. Cllrs Morris and Lusted will attend an on-line meeting with the Clerk towards the beginning of August.

ACTION: meeting to be arranged beginning of August

11. Glangrwyney Village Hall Committee: to appoint a council representative

One Voice Wales advise if an existing trustee appointed as the council’s representative they cannot (without a dispensation) participate/vote in a matter arising from their office as charity trustee if they have a prejudicial interest.

It was proposed Cllr Greenidge is appointed the council’s representative [Proposed Cllr Lusted; Seconded Cllr Alford]. Agreed (6 for; 2 abstentions)

RESOLVED to: appoint Cllr Greenidge Glangrwyney Village Hall Representative

12. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee: to receive up-date on commemoration plans

Cllr Lusted reported the film maker has been away. She will speak to him on his return.

It was agreed a working group (Cllrs Morris, Bridgwater, Alford and Christy) meet in August to identify locations to plant the jubilee trees/bulbs.

ACTION: working group to meet in August to locate suitable locations

13. Llangenny Water Fountain: to receive up-date on proposed restoration plans

Cllr Morris has not seen the local contractor to see if costs could be reduced, but will speak to him when possible. It was suggested funding opportunities from Welsh Water Community Applications is investigated.

ACTION: other funding opportunities to be investigated

14. Llanbedr Nature Garden: to agree maintenance requirements

Signed:.....

Chairman

Cllr Morris has sympathetically strimmed the nature garden. West & West Housing Association confirm they will supply woodchip when available. Cllr Alford offered to assist with future maintenance.

15. Household Energy Saving Initiatives: to receive up-date on proposal to promote energy saving initiatives

Members were invited to meet with Cllr Bridgwater to discuss this initiative. Cllr Christy and Cllr Bowker volunteered to participate in a meeting.

ACTION: working group to meet to discuss promoting energy saving initiatives.

16. Speeding in Glangrwyney: to receive up-date on request for speed signs

The response from Lee Waters AS/MS via James Evans MS was noted. It was disappointing static camera signs will not be erected until the next financial year and whilst an electronic camera is considered more effective Welsh Government will not permit electronic signs in Glangrwyney as they consider the more prevalent they are the less effective they become.

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

- Communications strategy
- Fire Safety in the Community.
- Certified caravan sites

18. Finance:

18.1 The following items were approved for payment:
(Proposed; Cllr Sharman; Seconded Cllr Christy) and duly agreed.

Staff (Salary)	£
HMRC (Tax)	£
G James (Expenses: Office £25; Travel £6.30)	£ 31.30
G James (Reimburse: Zoom)	£ 14.39
G James (Reimburse – Microphone)	£ 89.99
G James (Reimburse – stationary - July)	£ 20.47

18.2 The Finance Report was received and noted. The clerk advised hall hire fees are £12 per hour.

13. To receive Highways issues:

Cllr Sharman reported the fallen trees by Millbrook Bridge remain in the river.
Cllr Bridgwater reported several issues with regard to rights of way.
(It was agreed rights of way issues will be covered under Highways).
Cllr Lusted reported potholes on Vicarage Pitch across to Penwylodd are reappearing.
Cllr Bridgwater reported the signs from The Mill road to The Bont are ineffective
Cllr Alford reported a problem with dog poo outside the school.

Signed:.....
Chairman

14. To receive Reports on Meetings Attended:

Cllr Morris attended a One Voice Wales meeting.

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

16. Miscellaneous/Late Correspondence as itemised in Appendix B was received;

It was agreed to write to Arwain to state the council looks forward to using the Wi-Fi facilities it funded for Glangrwyney Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:50pm

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Signed:.....
Chairman