

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 20th February 2023 at 7:30pm in Glangrwyney Village Hall and remotely via the video conferencing platform Zoom.

Present: Cllr John Morris (Chairman)
Cllr Elaine Lusted
Cllr Colin Alford
Cllr Roger Llewelyn
Cllr Phill Bowker
Cllr Dean Christy

Attended Remotely: Cllr Roger Bridgwater
Cllr David Sharman

In attendance: Cty Cllr Matt Beecham, the Clerk and three Members of the Public

Apologies for Absence: None received **Absent:** Cllr Jeff Greenidge

1. **Declarations of Interest:** none declared.
2. **Planning:**
3. **Applications: to resolve responses to consultations received from BBNPA including any received after the publication of the agenda.**

Prior to the meeting notification had been received from BBNPA that Application 22/21658/FUL has been withdrawn.

The Chairman closed the meeting to enable a member of the public to voice concerns over the application to build a telecommunications installation on Partrishow Hill. Whilst this application has been withdrawn it is understood a further application will be submitted. Councillors listened to the issues raised following which the Chairman re-opened the meeting.

- i. **22/21658/FUL:** “Proposed telecommunications installation: Proposed H3G 25.0m Francis & Lewis ATS1300 Lattice Tower mounted on new 5.6 x5.6 R.C. Foundation and associated ancillary works.” Partrishow Hill , Llanbedr , Crickhowell NP8 1TA

It was questioned whether this application should be commented on now considering it has been withdrawn however as it is due to be re-submitted members discussed the concerns raised. These concerns included issues over access/water contamination/drainage/size/visual impact on landscape.

It was agreed a mast of this size would have an adverse visual impact on the landscape and unless material changes are made when the application is re-submitted the concerns made appear relevant.

RESOLVED to: note the concerns raised.

7.52 Members of the public left

Signed:.....
Chairman

- ii. **22/21480/FUL:** “Full planning permission for the demolition of existing bungalow and replacement new dwelling.” Ty Celyn, Bellfountain Road, Llangenny. Reconsultation due to amendment.

Following discussion it was agreed to support the application provided the new dwelling is built within the curtilage of the bungalow and doesn't encroach onto open countryside and satisfies planning policy.

RESOLVED to: write in support of the application as detailed above.

- iii. **23/21715/FUL:** “Replacement of existing single storey glazed conservatory with new single storey structure with larger footprint. Alterations to existing roof and gate way.” Old Post Office, Llanbedr NP8 1SR

Following discussion it was agreed to submit a response of no objection.

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection.

3.1 Decisions/Other: the following application was noted to have been withdrawn:

22/21145/FUL: “Proposed are a total of 6 handmade timber shepherd's huts for guests along with parking/turning areas, a storage unit to house a reception, bike storage, a wood store and refuse/recycling facilities, and also general maintenance supplied for the site and the applicant. One parking bay per hut is proposed with an entrance track/road. Also intended are associated footpaths and landscaping”.

Land north of Sunnybank, Llanbedr NP8 1SY

4. County Council Report: Cty Cllr Matt Beecham reported:

- It's been a tough month with the decision now taken to close Llanbedr School. The ongoing concern is there are no real transition measures in place to support the children, the majority of whom are going to Crickhowell Primary School. The solicitor who conducted the initial Judicial Review has suggested doing a second one on the basis the Cabinet was given incorrect legal advice when deciding on the closure. There is serious concern as to what PCC will do next within the catchment area.
- PCC is due to set its budget this Thursday. Council tax is anticipated to rise 5% which will rise 6.4 million in revenue however cuts across all departments of 16.4 million and savings going into the next financial year means there is likely to be a gap of just over 24.5 million. This is despite the fact Welsh Government increased funding to PCC by 8.7% this year. Given that the current administration do not have the numbers necessary to push a budget through there is a real risk an alternative budget will be put forward by the opposition.
- PCC has introduced a safeguarding information page on its web site - a tool of resources available for councillors aware of vulnerable residents.

Signed:.....

Chairman

- Powys Public Service Board is conducting a well-being questionnaire with the aim of ensuring Powys residents lead happy, healthy and safe lives and looking at increasing the effectiveness of public services.

Councillors referred to several ongoing highways issues:

Grwyne Fechan – the road is subsiding - it will cost the council more to repair if it collapses.

Llanbedr – issues reported to BBNPA regarding the bridleway in Llanbedr remain unanswered. PCC regard BBNPA as the co-ordinator with PCC contributing funds however nothing is getting done. PCC/Highways need to be pushed to get a plan to progress matters. There are grants available if there is a scheme in place. BBNPA was reported to have received funding for repairing footpaths on the Black Mountains and The Beacons.

Glangrwyney – the 30/40mph speed limit on the road towards the iron bridge is dangerous. Cllr Beecham stated PCC’s Head of Highways has been there and agrees it is a problem. PCC will look at this when the new 20mph speed limits are introduced in September. The plates need tightening on Glangrwyney Bridge.

Cllr Beecham stated it is extremely frustrating to get anything done. When issues are reported he is informed they are waiting for the budget. Any speeding issues are deferred to the introduction of the 20mph in the autumn. PCC appears to be reactive rather than proactive which will effectively cost more money in the long run.

5. **Minutes:** 16th January 2023 meeting [Pages 1449-1452] were approved as a true record [Proposed Cllr Lusted; Seconded Cllr Alford].

6. **Clerk’s Report/information from the minutes/Up-date**

Llangenny Water Fountain – builders state they can start the work in March/April. The council now needs to forward a cheque to Welsh Water.

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

Cllr Morris has experienced difficulties sourcing suitable trees however has now found a supplier who should be able to provide the necessary trees (4 oak, 1 silver birch, 1 walnut, 1 flowering cherry). Due to time restraints it was agreed to grant Cllr Morris power to spend up to £700 for the trees and up to £700 for plaques. (Proposed Cllr Lusted; Seconded Cllr Christy).

RESOLVED to: grant Cllr Morris delegated power to spend up to £700 on trees and £700 for the plaques

8. **Community Pantry: to receive up-date on proposal to set up a community pantry**

Feedback from the Five Councils and CRiC has been very positive. Cllr Lusted will try and speak with the Volunteer Bureau. It was agreed to place this on the next Five Councils agenda for discussion.

Signed:.....
Chairman

ACTION: to place on the next Five Councils Agenda

- 9. Communications Strategy/Facebook: to receive up-date on proposal the council adopt a communications strategy and discuss whether to open/operate a Facebook Page.**

Questions previously circulated to aid compilation of a communications strategy were discussed. It was agreed to:

- hold a “Meet the Councillor” event three times a year in each of the village halls to positively engage with constituents.
- promote the web site by siting notices on the noticeboards and in the village halls.
- not run a social media page or post on other social media sites – this decision will be reviewed in the future.
- Councillors to notify the Clerk of correspondence they think should be put on the web site.

RESOLVED to: proceed as detailed.

- 10. King Charles III Coronation: to consider/discuss how to commemorate the King’s Coronation**

Cllr Lusted reported Llanbedr Hall Association has offered to join forces with the council in holding a community event. It was agreed to form a working party to discuss ways of commemorating the coronation. The Clerk will email all councillors asking those interested in participating to attend a meeting in one of the halls.

ACTION: working group to meet to discuss ideas.

- 11. Certified Caravan Sites: to note regulations applying to certified caravan sites in the National Park and discuss whether different rules should be implemented.**

Following discussion it was agreed to write to BBNPA to ask:

- are certified sites only permitted to allow caravans to stay between 1st April and 31st October?
- are caravans allowed to stay more than two nights?
- Is the maximum number of caravans on a certified site limited to 5?

ACTION: Clerk to write to BBNPA to request answers to the above.

- 12. Information from Members to be included in the next Agenda**

Items previously deferred due to time restraints:

- Rivers - Sites of Special Scientific Interest: to discuss responsibility for maintenance.

Signed:.....
Chairman

- Boreholes and the effect on the water table: to discuss whether permission should be required for sinking bore holes.

Councillors were reminded they could notify the Clerk of proposed agenda items 5 days before the agenda is issued.

13. Finance:

13.1 The following items were approved for payment [Proposed; Cllr Lusted; Seconded Cllr Alford] and duly agreed.

Staff (Salary)	£
HMRC (Tax)	
G James (Reimburse Zoom £14.39/Stationery £4.30)	£ 18.69
G James (Expenses: Office £25/Travel £6.30)	£ 31.30
Powys County Council (Elections)	£597.33
M Williams (Strimming Nature Garden)	£ 80.00
Wales & West Housing Association (Licence)	£ 1.00
One Voice Wales (Training – R Bridgwater)	£ 35.00

Previously agreed:

Llanbedr Hall Association (Grant - Projector Screen)	£350.00
Llanbedr Hall Association (Donation)	£100.00
Glangrwyney Village Hall (Donation)	£100.00
Llangenny School Hall (Donation)	£100.00
Wales Air Ambulance (Donation)	£100.00

13.2 The finance report for February was noted.

13.3 The external audit for 2021/22 has been completed. The council has received an unqualified audit with no issues arising. The requisite notice has been displayed on the web site and on the noticeboards. The Clerk/RFO was thanked for her work in this regard. The internal audit for 2022/23 will be conducted in March.

13.4 In accordance with governance requirements the Council reviewed the effectiveness of its internal controls. It was unanimously agreed to adopt the risk assessment as circulated [Proposed Cllr Llewelyn; Seconded Cllr Bowker].

14. Highways: the following items were reported:

Glangrwyney: series of potholes outside Whitehall Cottage (opposite The Bluebell on the A40 - reported previously).

Houses are vibrating when trucks/heavy traffic travel through the village – causing plaster to crack. When this happened several years ago two manholes were removed which cured the problem. Problem needs to be registered.

Llangenny – road to Penwylrodd Farm up to The Crossroads – potholes – road in poor condition.

Signed:.....

Chairman

Llanbedr – blocked culvert at The Neuadd has been resolved by the groundsman.
BBNPA has solved the access site on the stile above Upper Cwm Bridge. Culvert on the
bridleway has been cleared and the damaged stile repaired.
Green Cottage – culvert/blocked drain.
Bont Lane needs cleaning.

15. Reports on Meetings Attended: none attended.

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

Item 23 - Cllr Sharman offered to represent the council in meetings concerning Gilestone
Farm.

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

Item 1 – Monmouthshire District Scouts Representative to be invited to next meeting.
Item 12 - Anthony Davies Ltd: acceptance of quotation to be returned.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:37pm

Signed:.....
Chairman