

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE MARKET HALL, ERWOOD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT     Cllr Stephen Davies  
                                  Cllr Alan Pryce  
                                  Cllr Elizabeth Williams  
                                  Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry  
                                  Cllr Anne Nicholls

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr Natasha Sayer & Cllr Haydn Powell

DECLARATION OF INTEREST was given by Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry to Agenda Item 7 (a) Planning Application at Bridge House, Erwood and she requested that this item be moved to the end of the meeting. This was agreed by the Chair.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were discussed and it was agreed that the Chairman arrived at 7.55 p.m. and not 8.55 p.m. so this was to be amended and then the minutes could be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Minute 166-2017

Cherry Trees by                     Reference 141-2017. This work had not yet been done so the Clerk was  
 The Holmes                             asked to chase Mr Sissons.

Minute 167-2017

Facebook Page                     Reference 155-2017. Cllr Natasha Sayer had e-mailed the Clerk with some  
    queries regarding setting up a facebook page and these were discussed at  
    the meeting.

- Facebook Title – to be Erwood Community Council not Community
- Cllr Natasha Sayer to be in charge with two others to read through before items are put on facebook.
- The Chairman and Clerk were nominated.
- Criteria – This to be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to thank Cllr Natasha Sayer for her input on this.

Minute 168-2017

Policy for Data                     The Clerk had adapted the Policy used by Presteigne & Norton Community  
 Protection                             Council and all agreed that this should be used for Erwood and was signed  
    and dated by the Chairman.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minute 169-2017

## May Elections

A letter was received from Powys Returning Officer showing that the sum of £301.81 was charged for the uncontested elections in Erwood in May. This sum would not be invoiced but taken off the next quarterly precept payment.

Minute 170-2017Section 137  
Expenditure

This expenditure which could be used for the benefit of the Community has been increased from £7.57 to £7.86 per elector this year. Erwood Community Council has never purchased anything under this section and the Clerk was asked to write to One Voice Wales for examples of what it could be used for.

Minute 171-2017

## Police Report

The Clerk had received November's report from Dyfed Powys Police, the contents of which were noted.

Minute 172-2017Local Resilience  
Forum

The contact for Powys on this Dyfed Powys Forum is Wayne Jones, Principal Emergency Planning Officer.

Minute 173-2017Renewal of SLCC  
Membership

The membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks had increased from £55 to £59 this year and the Association of Local Council Clerks which was the Union membership from £10 to £30. Totalling £89. The Clerk stated that she learns lots of very important information from attending these meetings and it was agreed that the Community Council pay the renewal charges.

Minute 174-2017

## Speed Watch Signs

Information was read out of the cost of speed watch signs which could be suitable for Erwood at £1900.00 plus VAT. The co-ordinator for Erwood's Speed Watch Scheme, Kate Lewis, had sent a message to say that new recruits would be trained up in the New Year and another programme would be set up. The Clerk to write to One Voice Wales to enquire whether the Community Council could claim back the VAT if they decided to purchase any of these signs. Also would need to get in touch with the Trunk Road Agency. To be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Minute 175-2017

## Risk Assessments

The Clerk handed to Councillors the risk assessment form which had been amended for 2018-19. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Chairman sign the form as correct.

Minute 176-2017

Members  
Allowances

The Clerk had asked each Councillor to let her have their decision as to whether or not they wished to claim the £150 per annum (£500 for the Chairman) which has been agreed by the Independent Review Panel. The following Councillors wished to forego this allowance: Chairman Cllr Stephen Davies, Cllr Elizabeth Williams, Cllr Natasha Sayer and Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry. Cllr Alan Pryce, Cllr Anne Nicholls and Cllr Haydn Powell agreed to let the Clerk have this information soon.

Minute 177-2017

Precept for 2018-19

The Clerk had typed out a temporary budget plan assuming each Councillor would take up their allowances. This would have to be amended to take into account their replies so until this was known, the Council would be unable to work out the precept required for next year. The travelling allowance for each Councillor of up to £400 each would also need to be included. The Clerk was asked to adjust the figures on the budget form and send around to each Councillor. This item to be decided before 25<sup>th</sup> January so therefore the next meeting would have to be arranged prior to this date.

Minute 178-2017

Highways

Trees by The Holmes,  
Erwood

It had been reported to Cllr Elizabeth Williams that the roots from the tree in front of the estate are growing under the pavement outside No. 1 The Holmes and residents are very concerned that these roots are undermining the wall of this house and also making the pavement very uneven and dangerous. Councillors wondered if this tree should be cut down for safety reasons so it was agreed to write to Mr Peter Sissons and the Boughrood Depot to get advice and guidance regarding this and report back to the next meeting before any action is taken.

Road above  
Tregare

Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry informed the meeting that the Council would consider this in their capital programme for next year but to widen the road would be very expensive. Mr Brynmor Powell is prepared to let the Council move the hedge back into his field so Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry was asked to advise him to write a letter to Powys County Council to that effect. In the meantime, a soil bund has been mentioned as a less expensive measure. A recent accident was reported by Cllr Elizabeth Williams, to 101, when two cherry pickers from Open Reach had to swerve to avoid a female pedal cyclist. Evidence such as photos was required. The recovery vehicle was Lanes of Abergavenny. She e-mailed Lyn Parry and copied in Colin Davies, Boughrood Depot and Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry. The Incident No. is DP/2017/1207/293. The road was closed a few times the following days as work was being carried out to the telephone pole.

Entries to A470 Chapel House, Abernant – A survey is being carried out on the road. Powys are expected to make a contribution after the survey.

Cefn-yr-Allt, Crickadarn Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry stated that she had been told that the road up to Cefn-yr-allt was a bridle way. The Chairman confirmed that the road to Llwydiat had been tarmaced so is maintained and the gullies are checked every year.

Road Opposite Gromaine Lodge This slip road off the main A470 leads down to the River Wye and has a No Entry sign there.

Street light in Erwood Cllr Alan Pryce reported that the street light at the bottom of Duck Lane in Erwood was not working. Ref. ER12. The Clerk agreed to report this to Powys Lighting Dept.

#### Minute 179-2017

Planning Application at Bridge House, Erwood A planning application Ref P/2017/1321 had been received for improvements to existing dwelling & conversion of cartilage buildings to provide 4 no. dwellings at Bridge House, Erwood for Mr & Mrs Keith Jones, Llandefalle. Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry left the meeting while this item was discussed. Councillors all agreed that this application be supported.

#### Minute 180-2017

Bank Statements Bank Statements as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017:  
Balance in Community Account - £1836.16 (£35 paid for Data Protection)  
Balance in Business Savings Account - £4501.29  
Cheques signed at close of meeting:  
Renewal of SLCC membership - £59.00  
Renewal of ALCC membership - £30.00

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### Minute 181-2017

Start Time of Meetings The Clerk asked the Councillors whether they would prefer a 7 p.m. start time for Council meetings during the winter months. They agreed that the decision be left with the Chairman and Clerk.

#### Minute 182-2017

Date of Next Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 if a decision has to be made on the precept for 2018-19

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AT THE NEXT MEETING