

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE MARKET HALL, ERWOOD ON THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2019 AT 7.00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Stephen Davies
 Cllr Alan Pryce
 Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Williams
 Cllr Mrs Anne Nicholls
 Cllr Mrs Karen Laurie-Parry
 Cllr Haydn Powell

In attendance: Jason Hawkins, PCSO 8160, Hay Branch of Dyfed -Powys Police
 Ms Katherine Lewis for Agenda Item 1 only.

APOLOGIES were given by Cllr Natasha Sayer

DECLARATION OF INTEREST was given by Cllr Stephen Davies for Agenda 7(i) – Entry on to A470 from Chapel House Farm, Alltmawr.

Minute 43-2019

Dyfed-Powys The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Jason Hawkins, PCSO 8160 of the Hay Branch of Dyfed-Powys Police to the meeting who was only able to be present for the first half hour. Those present discussed the following topics:

- Ms Lewis, the Co-ordinator of the Erwood Speed Watch Scheme gave an updated of the work carried out so far. Many vehicles have been travelling well over the 30 m.p.h. limit some up to 60 m.p.h. Monitoring has mainly been carried out in the morning when the school buses pick up the school children which appears to be the most dangerous time of the day but other sessions had also been carried out. All volunteers need to update their details and forms were given to Cllr Alan Pryce to hand out to all concerned. Due to starting a new job recently, Ms Lewis stated that she will not be able to co-ordinate the scheme for a short while.
- The theft of quad bikes and trucks were also noted as a concern. PCSO Jason Hawkins asked Councillors and all the locals to be vigilant and telephone 101 with information on any suspicious circumstances.
- Scam phone calls were discussed where many people, not only the elderly, have been caught up in this scam and released thousands of pounds out of their bank accounts to the caller. The police do investigate if notified but are only able to advise the people not to get involved in this type of fraud.
- The Clerk stated that the monthly reports have not been received since last October, and Jason informed the meeting that this was due to a new IT programme being introduced in the branch but they would be sent out again when this work is completed.

PCSO Hawkins thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and said he would be happy to attend any meetings in the future. He was thanked by Cllr Stephen Davies for joining the meeting tonight.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were read out and it was agreed that they were accurate and were signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Minute 44-2019

PCC Cut Backs - Reference 36-2019. Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry stated that they will be holding a further PCC meeting in County Hall in May to have further discussion on these proposals.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minute 45-2019

Donations Letters of acknowledgements of the Council's donations of £20 were received from Brecon Advice Centre, Teenage Cancer Trust, Tenovus Cancer Care and Wales Air Ambulance Charity.

Minute 46-2019

Electoral Review The Final Recommendations Report on the Review of Electoral Arrangements for Powys had been received and forwarded to each Councillor. Councillors all agreed that they wished to reiterate their comments made on the Draft Report in 2018, in that the proposed name should include Erwood and be Bronllys, Erwood and Felinfach or Bronllys, Erwyd a Felin-fach (Welsh version). Also to repeat that this much larger area which includes Felinfach Community would be very difficult for one Councillor to represent efficiently. The Clerk to write accordingly.

Minute 47-2019

Travelling Expenses Each Councillor stated that they did not wish to claim any travelling expenses for 2018/19.

Minute 48-2019

Internal Audit The Clerk advised the meeting that Miss Christine Price our Internal Auditor had phoned to say that she has recently had an operation and having treatment soon so will not be able to carry out the auditing of the Council's accounts this year. Discussions took place on who could be asked to take over this role. The Clerk said that she had approached Mrs Pam Banks from Gwenddwr on this who sounded quite interested on condition that she could read through the audit plan on what is required for this post. It was agreed by everyone that Mrs Banks would be a very suitable candidate and be given a list of expected tasks. If she was still interested, she should be offered the job of our Internal Auditor. The Annual Return has already been received and has to be returned to Grant Thornton by mid June, so this work would need to be carried out sometime in May. This year's Audit focuses on Sub Committees or other Committees with terms of reference, standing orders and financial regulations and details of any contracts undertaken. Some of these requirements are not applicable to this Community Council.

Minute 49-2019

Invoice & Audit Fees The invoice from the Wales Audit Office for last year's audit eventually arrived in March in the sum of £182.75. No VAT was charged. Also a letter stated that the Wales Audit Office agreed that the audit fees had not been calculated correctly for the work undertaken for the last couple of years. As this error lies with the auditor, they have decided not to pass on the additional costs to Councils for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. Now that the error has been corrected, fees for the 2018-19 audits will be the full cost which means that Councils may see an increase in the audit fee compared to previous years.

Minute 50-2019

PAVO PAVO forwarded details of Powys County Council's budget plan for 2019-20 and the impact the cuts would have on many community events - £50,000 off Sports Development Powys, saving of £200,000 on Libraries with potential closure of 12 libraries. Positive funding of a new Community Enablement Fund of £100,000 and £90,000 allocated to Powys Arts and Cultural organisations. PAVO's grant was withdrawn totally making it impossible for them to support the third sector in Powys. Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry also spoke of the pressures PCC is continually facing and she would have more information after their meeting in May. PAVO is asking organisations affected by these cuts to complete their on-line survey.

Minute 51-2019

Powys Planning Site At the recent Clerk's meeting, the Clerks had been advised to write to Powys County Council to object to their plan to redact the publishing of third party letters of objections/support on the Planning Application Website to save money and now only publish responses from consultees. The Clerk notified the meeting that she had sent a reply to this effect following the Clerk's meeting as all the Clerks felt that these letters are an important part of decision making on planning applications.

Minute 52-2019

Operation London Bridge Councils are advised to have a plan in place ready for implementation on the death of a member of The Sovereign or Member of the Royal Family and have named this as Operation London Bridge. For a Sovereign's death there will be ten days of national mourning with a public holiday on day 10, the day of the funeral. Other topics to consider: webpage, events & meetings and religious services in the area and this should to be discussed with the local clergy. Councillors were asked to give some thoughts on what this area should do.

Minute 53-2019

BHIB Insurance Information has been received from BHIB about the importance of regular inspections of trees in the area as a case study revealed that a Parish Council was sued for negligence after a fallen tree almost killed a bus driver. Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry agreed to include the inspection of trees whilst travelling the area with Colin Davies of the Boughrood Depot in May. Any such problems noticed should be reported to Powys County Council for their action.

As the Insurance Policy expires on 31st May, a new quotation has been received from BHIB for the sum of £164.92, £7.60 less than last year. The Clerk to look at the details and if any amendments are needed to get in touch with BHIB. Also Zurich wishes to provide a quote again, so the Clerk was instructed to provide them with the necessary details and compare the quote with that of BHIB. If BHIB was the lowest quote, all Councillors agreed that it be accepted and the Clerk to confirm action taken at the next meeting.

Minute 54-2019

Bank Statements Bank Statements for year ending 31st March 2019:
 Statements Current Account - £1,413.33 (I cheque outstanding from Llaneglwys Hall - £150)
 Business Saving Account - £3,010.47

Minute 55-2019

Council Web Site The Transparency Code states that all Councillor's information needs to be put on the Council Web site but permission must be given for their telephone nos. and/or mobile nos. and e-mail addresses. Cllr Haydn Powell preferred his mobile no. and has no e-mail address. All other Councillors agreed for landline numbers and e-mail addresses to be added. The Clerk stated that she thought all her details should be on the web site too. Agendas should be put on this site no later than three clear days before a meeting and draft minutes not later than one month after a meeting. Cllr Stephen Davies updates this site and noted that the deadline for publishing these details is 1st July 2019.

Minute 56-2019

Donations Two requests have been received for donations towards their funds – Marie Curie Powys & Urdd Eisteddfod 2019 at Cardiff. It was agreed by all that £20 be sent to Marie Curie only.

Minute 57-2019Highways

Chapel House Farm Entrance (i) As Cllr Stephen Davies declared an interest in this item, he left the meeting and the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Alan Pryce took the chair for this item only. Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry stated that not much had taken place since her last update but she was keen to ensure that Mr Phil Hughes keeps in touch with herself and Powys County Council and has advised him to apply for the necessary planning permission before carrying out any work.

Road between Brynhaul and Erw'r Henallt (ii) Councillor Karen Laurie-Parry had asked Lyn Parry, Highways on several occasions for an update and although she had originally been told that work would be done before the end of the financial year, this has not yet been carried out. She will be meeting Colin Davies, Boughrood Depot in May and will bring this up with him.

Fly Tipping by Toilets, Erwood (iii) The Clerk had asked Powys County Council for a sign to put up outside the toilets to help deter potential Fly Tippers and it was actually delivered to Cllr Alan Pryce the same day as the request.

Pavement – The Holmes (iv) Residents of The Holmes Estate, Erwood have again shown concern about the unsafe surface of the pavement outside No. 1 The Holmes and think that the roots of the tree which are growing under the pavement should be removed as it is now dangerous. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Peter Sissons, Powys County Council to ask for the site to be visited again to inspect this pavement and report back.

Litter Bin – Toilets Erwood (v) Cllr Alan Pryce reported that the bin outside the Toilets in Erwood is now only being emptied once a week, although they had agreed to empty it two times a week to prevent it overflowing and rubbish being left on the pavement. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Boughrood Depot to ask them to visit twice a week again to help keep the village tidy.

- Pot holes - (vi) Cllr Haydn Powell reported that there were a few big pot holes on the Twmpath and also between Cefngarth & Nanyreofferiad. Boughrood Depot to be informed.
- Gwenddwr
- Dog Fouling (vii) Cllr Alan Pryce asked if the Clerk could write to Powys County Council for two signs on dog fouling as there is a problem of fouling on the Upper Terrace, Erwood.
- Light Repair - (viii) Cllr Alan Pryce informed the meeting that he had reported to Powys County Upper Terrace Council that the light No. ER24 does not switch off on the Upper Terrace, Erwood.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Minute 58-2019

Funding for Cllr Rachel Powell, Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Young People and Culture is running Library Services a session at Antur Gwy, Builth Wells on 8th May 6-8 p.m. to discuss alternative ways of funding and delivering the library services in Powys. Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry took details and stated she would try to attend.

Minute 59-2019

Bingo Night - Erwood Market Hall Committee is asking organisations who use the Hall to Erwood contribute towards the funding of the Bingo Nights. It was agreed that as the Community Council has recently given the Hall a donation of £450, that they would not give a donation on this occasion.

Minute 60-2019

Cartridges for The Clerk reported that she needed to purchase a colour cartridge for her Copier copier. Councillors agreed with this purchase and a cheque was signed at the close of the meeting.

Minute 61-2019

Cheques Cheques signed at close of meeting:
£20 – Donation to Marie Curie
£19.92 - XMA Ltd. - 1 Colour Cartridge

Minute 62-2019

Date of Next To be decided between Chairman & Clerk which could be the Annual General Meeting Meeting in May.

Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

THESE MINUTES WILL BE CONFIRMED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL.