

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM ON THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2020 AT 7 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Alan Pryce
Cllr Stephen Davies
Cllr Elizabeth Williams
Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry (Joined at 7.15 p.m.)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting as it was the first attempt at a virtual Zoom meeting and thanked all for attending.

APOLOGIES were given by Cllr Haydn Powell and Cllr Geoffrey Lewis as they both were unable to attend due to needing help and insufficient signal to join Zoom. These apologies were accepted.

There were no DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were discussed and agreed by all that they were a true record and would be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

MATTERS ARISING were itemised on the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minute 71-2020

Donations An acknowledgement of donations received were made by Hope House Oswestry; Tenovus Cancer Care; Bowel Cancer & RNIB.

Minute 72-2020

Data Protection The data protection yearly fee was due on 1st November 2020 for £40.00 which is Fee the same as last year. It was agreed by all that this be paid.

Minute 73-2020

Barclays Bank Statements for 28th August 2020 were as follows:
Bank Community Account - £5,440.09 which includes £1,833 precept less the deduction of three cheques £75.06
Business Premium Account - £3,016.84 (0.81 Interest)
The Clerk stated that the precepts were still being paid throughout the Covid- 19 Pandemic and that later on in the year discussions need to take place on Items that have been earmarked out of this financial year's reserves as listed in the Annual Return to the External Auditors - notice boards, painting of telephone kiosks and possible replacement of bench in Erwood. This was agreed.

Minute 74-2020

Telephone Two telephone kiosks have been listed for removal due to low usage by BT.

Kiosks These are in Erwood & Llaneglwys Villages. Powys County Council is enquiring whether residents agree to their removal, the community wish to keep them or that the Community Council adopt them. Local surveys have been carried out by Cllr Alan Pryce & Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry in Erwood and Cllr Geoffrey Lewis & Cornelia Rahdes in Llaneglwys Village. Both villages wish to keep them for use of the emergency 999 calls if at all possible. It was also noted that they urgently need a new coat of paint and to be cleaned up as in a dilapidated state at present. The Clerk to send these comments in to PCC in the morning as there had been a delay of two months in receiving this information by PCC. Their e-mail had been sent in error to Bronllys Community Council and not Erwood and the dead line was earlier this week.

Minute 75-2020

Bench outside The President of Erwood W.I. has written to say that due to the restrictions of Covid-19, the W.I. have scheduled their next meeting for April 2021 if conditions allow and that this item would be discussed then. The majority of the Community Councillors had agreed to wait until after their meeting before proceeding with replacing this bench. Cllr Stephen Davies stated that for safety reasons a notice was needed on the bench to warn the public it was unsafe and this was agreed by all the Community Councillors.

Minute 76-2020

Interest in A resident of Crickadarn has written to say that she is interested in helping in the Community Work. The Council is waiting for a letter of resignation from Mrs Anne Nicholls who is now living in Chepstow area close to her Son. Cllr Stephen Davies said he would get in touch with Anne to enquire on her health and inform her that a letter is required from her to the Community Council. When this is received, Erwood Community Council could advertise the vacancy and hopefully co-opt a new Councillor, The Clerk would e-mail this resident to let her know the present position.

Minute 77-2020

Clerks Pay Award The National Association of Local Councils has notified all Clerks that they have been awarded a pay rise back dated to April 2020. This would amount to .27p rise per hour for Clerks. Due to the Covid -19 pandemic, Community Councils have not held an AGM this year so the Clerk's salary for this year has not yet been agreed.

Minute 78-2020

S.L.C.C. National Conference The Clerk reported that the Society of Local Council Clerks will hold their National Conference this year virtually. This Conference runs from 12th to 16th October 2020 and Clerks can log in and attend any or all of the talks throughout the week. The cost for this conference is £25.00 + VAT, which is normally £150.00. The Clerk would like to attend as she thinks it would be beneficial to her and the Council especially with no travelling involved. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Powys Branch of the S.L.C.C. has again nominated her for the long service award so

she would particularly like to watch the awards ceremony at its AGM. All Councillors were in agreement with this cost.

Minute 79-2020

Highways

- Corn Barn, Crickadarn (a) Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry informed the meeting that the owner of the house adjacent to the Corn Barn reports that the owners of the Corn Barn are still proceeding to restore this building even though they were told by Planning not to do so. She is not happy that her concerns are not being followed up and Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry has recently e-mailed to the Planning Dept. urging them to take the necessary action. Cllr Parry to let the Community Council know of any update.
- Chapel House Farm, Abernant (b) Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry has recently been informed by Nigel Brinn & Lyn Parry, Highways that they are investigating this problem fully and will not be in touch until this work is concluded. Cllr Elizabeth Williams confirmed that Highways have now met up with the Hughes family.
- Drain by Alltmawr Isaf (c) Cllr Elizabeth Williams reported that the day after our last meeting, the drain was sorted out and so far water is being drained away satisfactory and the ditches have been opened but the big hole there has still not been filled in. Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry had taken photos of the work required at this location.
- Road by Ciliane Uchaf, (d) Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry stated that she has still to visit the road by Ciliane Uchaf to look at the problem there. It was first reported about 15 years ago and this very dangerous stretch of road has not yet been rectified satisfactorily.
- Roads – Gwenddwr Area (e) It had been reported to the Clerk that the road between Crickadarn and Gwenddwr is crumbling away in places. Cllr Karen Laurie Parry stated that she thought that work had recently been done to this road but would investigate.
- Directional Sign in Gwenddwr (f) It was also reported that the directional sign in the centre of Gwenddwr Village as been hanging down quite some time and in need of being fixed into its proper position. The Clerk agreed to forward the e-mail to Cllr Parry so that she could get in touch with Highways on these items.

Minute 80-2020

Cheques Cheques required:
 £40.00 - Data Protection Fee £30.00 – SLCC Conference

Minute 81-2020

Thanks The Chairman, Cllr Alan Pryce thanked the Councillors for joining this first virtual meeting and to the Clerk for arranging it. The Clerk also thanked everyone for their support to her in this new venture and was pleased that it all went well.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.