

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT ERWOOD MARKET HALL ON THURSDAY 16th DECEMBER 2021 AT 7 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Alan Pryce
 Cllr Stephen Davies
 Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Williams (joined by google)
 Cllr Haydn Powell
 Cllr Geoffrey Lewis
 Cllr Mrs Caroline Baldwin

The Chairman, Cllr Alan Pryce, welcomed everyone to the meeting in Erwood Market Hall. Masks were worn by all Councillors throughout the meeting due to the recent quickly spreading variant of the Covid pandemic, Omicron.

There were no DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST,

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were discussed and all Councillors agreed that they were correct so the Chairman signed them as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Minute 172-2021

Vacancy of Councillor Reference 156-2021. The Clerk stated that she has not received any interest in this post but it will be kept open just in case.

Minute 173-2021

Planning Application at Tregare Reference 160-2021. Cllr Elizabeth Williams enquired that, following the decision at the Planning Meeting recently, how long is this application deferred for but this was not known.

Minute 174-2021

Site for Proposed Notice Board In Crickadarn Reference 165-2021. Cllr Alan Pryce organised a meeting in Crickadarn to discuss the site for the proposed notice board there and Cllr Stephen Davies & Cllr Caroline Baldwin attended. They agreed on the verge between the telephone kiosks and road signs. Cllr Stephen Davies agreed to level off the verge when the notice board was ready to be fixed sometime in the early Spring.

Minute 175-2021

Rubbish Bin - Toilet Area, Erwood Reference 166-2021. Cllr Alan Pryce stated that there was no news regarding an extra rubbish bin being provided which was urgently needed outside the toilet area in Erwood. County Cllr Karen had agreed to follow this up.

Minute 176-2021

Updates by County Cllr. Reference 167(i)-2021. County Cllr Karen Laurie-Parry was unable to attend the meeting but had agreed to look into the speeding of traffic through Crickadarn Village and also on the A470 by New Gardens with the appropriate departments but no updates have been received as yet.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minute 177-2021

Estimated Costs for 2022 PCC Electoral Department has set out their guidance on the charges that will apply to the County Council & Community Council's elections on 5th May 2022.

Elections A contested Town or Community Council with up to 1,000 electors - £2,500.00.
An uncontested Community Council election of up to 1,000 electors will cost approx. £500 but if it coincides with a contested County Council election the cost will be apportioned equally and the overall cost would be less. The date of any retiring Councillors or new Councillors come into effect on 9th May. New Councillors are required to sign a declaration of acceptance of office within fourteen days after 9th May at or before the Annual General Meeting which must be arranged by 23rd May 2022.

Minute 178-2021

Proposed Defib. For Crickadarn An e-mail was read out from the Secretary of Builth Wells Health Care stating that the Friends would be happy to fund a defibrillator for Crickadarn and will order it straight away and any donation would be gratefully received. Cllr Elizabeth Williams stated the Health Care was already waiting for a number of new defibrillators to be delivered. It was agreed that a poster should be displayed on the notice boards with this information and Councillors all agreed that a donation of £200 should be given, proposed by Cllr Stephen Davies & seconded by Cllr Haydn Powell. It should be fixed in a prominent position in Crickadarn Village and this will be decided on when received.

Minute 179-2021

Councillor's Allowances 2022-23 Each Councillor opted out of receiving the £150 allowance for next year but the Ink Cartridges purchased by the Clerk for Cllr Alan Pryce & Cllr Geoff Lewis is to be recorded on the allowance form, £20 & £14.62 respectively.

Minute 180-2021

Draft Budget Form- 2022-23 And Precept For 20220-23 The Clerk had circulated the draft budget form to each of the Councillors and this was discussed and some adjustments were made. The final figure proposed for the budget 2022-23 was £5,913.67, proposed by Cllr Elizabeth Williams and seconded by Cllr Caroline Baldwin. It was then agreed by all Councillors that the precept should be £6,000 for next year as the reserves will be more than usual in the accounts at the end of this financial year and could be transferred if required. The amended budget form will be distributed at January's meeting to be signed off by the Chairman.

Minute 181-2021

Membership - SLCC The annual membership fee for S.L.C.C. is £80 for year 2022. This was agreed by everyone and the cheque to be signed at the close of the meeting.

Minute 182-2021

Membership - ALCC (Union) The annual membership fee for A.L.C.C. (Union) is due on 1st January 2022 and will probably be £45 the same as this year but no invoice has been received yet. Councillors agreed to accept this figure as the agreement commences before our next meeting.

Minute 183-2021

Risk Assessment The Risk Assessment form has been updated for this year and circulated to all Councillors. They all agreed with the amendments and the Chairman signed the form at the meeting as correct.

Minute 184-2021

Section 137 Expenditure The Welsh Government has issued the Expenditure Limit for purchases using Section 137(4)(a) for 2022-23 when no other power is available, which is £8.82 per elector, an increase of 41p each elector (e.g. approx. £3,000 for 350 electors).

Minute 185-2021

Telephone Kiosk, Requests have been made from a few members of Crickadarn community regarding the use of the red Telephone Kiosks for exchange of books, etc. Two of the kiosks - one at the Old School & one by Penyrheol Farm are owned by this Council and the kiosk in Crickadarn Village is listed. The Clerk has written to CADW to ask if the local residents would be allowed to hold books etc. for exchanges in Crickadarn Village kiosk, if it could be painted and if it would be possible for the plastic windows to be replaced with glass. No reply has yet been received and the Clerk to chase this up. To bring to January's meeting if reply is received by then.

Minute 186-2021

Barclays Bank Bank Statements at 30th November 2021:
 Community Account - £6,275.77 (£15 - One Voice Wales – Training)
 Business Account - £3,017.58
 Cheques signed at close of meetings:
 Renewal of SLCC agreement £80 & Union Fee £40.
 Cartridge Save – Purchase of 7 Ink Cartridges £81.19 (£67.66 + £13.53 Vat to be reclaimed - 4 for Clerk, 2 for Cllr A. Pryce & 1 for Cllr G. Lewis
 These payments were approved by all Councillors.

Minute 187-2021

Highways

Crickadarn Road (i) Reports had been received about the dangerous stretch of road on the right hand side below Cilbedwog turning on the outskirts of Erwood Village. The road has no verge and if two vehicles meet there and had to brake hard, at the present time with mud & lots of dead leaves on the road, the vehicle could slip down the very steep bank and end up in the River Clettwr below. Cllr Alan Pryce, Cllr Stephen Davies & Cllr Caroline Baldwin met on site and agreed that this should be reported to Highways as very dangerous and should be investigated urgently. A bund or something appropriate should be put there to prevent a very dangerous accident from happening. This was agreed by all Councillors. The Clerk to report this as Cty. Cllr.Karen Lauri-Parry was absent.

Sweeping of Roads (b) Cllr Alan Pryce praised the work carried out recently by Highways clearing the drains and leaves on the road between Erwood and Crickadarn.
 Cllr Haydn Powell reported that the Cefngarth pitch was very dangerous as the rotted leaves make it very slippery especially when meeting a vehicle there.
 Cllr Geoff Lewis also stated that the roads need cleaning around the Llaneglwys area. The Clerk was asked to write to Lyn Parry, Highways as County Cllr was not at the meeting.

Minute 188-2021

Broadband Scheme Cllr Caroline Baldwin reported to the meeting that there were now 92 residents interested in the Broadband Scheme so the request to the Dept.of Digital,Culture,Media & Sport (DCMS) was viable. The Project Team intended to write to each household by the end of the year. A face book page has been created and everyone is encouraged to speak to others in the community who were undecided at the moment. The Chairman thanked Cllr Caroline Baldwin, Cllr Elizabeth Williams, Cllr Geoff Williams and all of the Project Team for the work they have done in setting this up so quickly.

Minute 189-2021

Climate Change An e-mail had been received from Laura Shewring setting out details of a press release which had been drafted by a small working group that she would like to send on behalf of Erwood Community Council which was discussed. Cllr Stephen Davies proposed that this be accepted, seconded by Cllr Geoffrey Lewis and the Clerk was asked to reply accordingly.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Minute 190-2021

Application – The Clerk reported that the Planning Application for a two-storey extension at Bridge House Cottage, Erwood dated 5th May 2021 was withdrawn in October 2021. The PCC Ref No. is 21/0773/HH.
Bridge House Cottage

Minute 191-2021

Upper Terrace, Erwood Cllr Alan Pryce stated that a few chickens are being left to roam around the Estate and causing problems in resident's gardens. The owners have been notified but the problem continues and neighbours are concerned, especially as Avian Flu has been in evidence, they are breaking the law as the chickens should be kept inside at present. This is brought to the meeting for information only.

Minute 192-2021

Next Meeting The next meeting will be arranged mid January to sign off the amendments made to the proposed Budget for 2022-23 so that our precept request can be forwarded to PCC before the end of the month. Discussions took place on whether the next two months' meetings should be carried out by Zoom as the new variant is spreading very quickly and this was agreed by everyone. Cllr Caroline Baldwin agreed to set up a Zoom meeting and this was appreciated by all.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m. and Christmas greetings were given to all.

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