

November

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN ERWOOD MARKET HALL ON THURSDAY 23rd November 2023 AT 7PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr Stephen Davies
Cllr Alan Pryce
Cllr Geoffrey Lewis
Cllr Caroline Baldwin

IN ATTENDANCE:

None

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Tracey Jones
Cllr Lisa Payne

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES OF LAST MINUTE SIGNED

The chair Welcome everyone to the meeting, the minutes of last meeting (12th of October 2023) were read, accepted by all and signed by the chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING October 2023:

Minute 227.2023

Councillor Resignation

Cllr Tracey Jones has resigned from council. Erwood Community Council thanks her for her time and the Clerk will look into the policy regarding councillor's allowance and repayment due to early resignation. The clerk will then work with the chair to speak to Tracey Jones regarding repayment of councillor allowance for the time from November 2023 to March 2024.

Minute 228.2023

Right of Way Sign & Fence Fallen Over

Ref 225.2023

Clerk has the email address for the landowner and will work with the Chair to configure an email asking whether the landowner will look into making repairs to the right of way sign, style and fence.

Minute 229.2023

Vacancy of Cllr

The clerk has received interest from a local person regarding the vacancy of councillor. This email was shared with all councillors present. The application was supported by all councillors present. It was agreed that the applicant will be invited to the next council meeting. In regards to the new vacancy now made available with Cllr Tracey Jones' resignation, the council will begin the process of advertising the new vacancy.

Minute 230.2023**October Statements**

The current financial accounts were read out by the chair and accepted by all. Barclays Bank Statements for 31st October 2023: Community Account: £2,271.70 (Three payments left the account; £40 for the council's annual data protection fee, £279.30 for the Clerk's monthly salary, £179.04 to HMRC for the Clerk's tax). Savings account: £532.43, no change.

Minute 231.2023**Barclays Bank Letters**

Gwyneth Davies had received another letter from Barclays Bank as the bank needed confirmation of the change of address. The clerk said she will ring the bank's helpline and try to speak to someone again.

Minute 232.2023**Payment of Ink cartridges approved**

The clerk required new ink cartridges for her work. The cost was £40.06. It was agreed by all that this can be paid.

Minute 233.2023**NALC Change of Clerk Salary**

The NALC 2023/24 local government services pay agreement means that the clerk's salary has increased by £1 per hour (to £12.63) effective immediately and backdated to the beginning of the 1st April 2023. The monthly cost of the clerk's salary before tax is now £378.90 and the backdated pay amounts to £210. Due to the crossover period of the retired clerk working until June 2023, Gwyneth Davies is entitled to £90 in back payments. It was agreed by all that these payments can be made.

Minute 234.2023**Appropriate Sum under Section 137 (4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024 – 2025**

The appropriate sum under the above law will change to £10.81 per elector. The letter was read out to council, accepted by all and it was requested that the clerk finds out how many electors are in our constituent.

Minute 235.2023**Bute energy Park Aberedw**

The Clerk shared the information regarding Aberedw & Bryn Gilwern Energy Parks. There were no comments.

Minute 236.2023**Powys Green Guide**

Cllrs Caroline Baldwin, Stephen Davies, Geoffrey Lewis & Alan Pryce are all in the Erwood Climate Action Group. This group is already registered on the Powys Green Guide. Therefore Erwood Community Council does not need to register on the Powys Green Guide.

Minute 237.2023**Home working arrangements and consumables**

Clerk read the letter from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales discussing how the

council's home working arrangement falls within the HMRC definition of "home working" arrangements and therefore will be exempt from PAYE.

Minute 238.2023

Wales Air Ambulance Charity Donation

The council has received a letter requesting a donation to the Wales Air Ambulance Charity. It was agreed by all that we will make our charity donations at the end of the financial year in March 2024.

Minute 239.2023

Documents Missing from Website

The clerk pointed out that there were missing documents on the council website (minutes from August 2023 onwards and Agendas from September onwards). Cllr Stephen Davies said that he will add these documents onto the website.

Minute 240.2023

Query for Clerk's Contract

Due to the NALC changes to clerk salary, the clerk's contract needs updating. Furthermore, point 8. of the contract that states the council documents must be kept in a fireproof safe will be removed. It was agreed that the clerk needs to provide an up-to-date health and safety assessment as she has moved to new home.

Highways

Minute 241.2023

Gwenddwr Road Repairs

The clerk has received an email from a resident in Gwenddwr village who has highlighted that there are multiple road repairs needed in Gwenddwr. This email was read out to the council and it was agreed that the Clerk will contact Powys Highways Daniel Relf to notify Powys County Council. Cllr Alan Pryce also highlighted that there's a pothole by the salt box up 40yards from upper house entrance off A470 in Erwood. This will be reported to Daniel Relf too.

Updates as necessary

Minute 242.2023

Trudy Davies PCSO

The clerk has continued to try to get hold of PCSO Trudy Davies, but not received an answer yet. It was agreed that the clerk will research to find out who the PCSO is for Erwood, in case the contact has changed.

Minute 243.2023

Springfield Lane

Cllr Stephen Davies has gone to speak to highways at their Boughrood depot, but has been unable to speak to the correct people. Cllr Caroline Baldwin sent an email to County Councillor Tom Colbert and this has been forwarded to Powys County Council.

Minute 244.2023

Footpath to Erwood Bridge

Cllr Stephen Davies went to see the land owners of the land towards Erwood Bridge. But it is

difficult as there is more than one landowner. The landowner wants to know what would be required for a footpath, width, length, materials etc. They haven't approved but are interested. Cllr Caroline Baldwin agreed to speak to Rights of Way to discuss what is needed, they have a meeting on the 4th of December. When we have a description of what is needed the council can write to the landowners.

Minute 245.2023

Gwenddwr Footbridge

The Powys ROW volunteers went there and cleared away the scrub etc. Cllr Caroline Baldwin said that if it is structural then we need to speak to Powys Rights of Way Officer PCC. Cllr Stephen Davies said he will take some more photographs of the bridge and send them to Powys Rights of Way Officer.

Minute 246.2023

Street Light

Cllr Alan Pryce pointed out that there is a streetlight that is permanently on in Erwood. He has asked if the Clerk will contact Powys county council to report it.

Minute 247.2023

Erwood Defibrillator

The Erwood defibrillator has been used. The pads have been replaced by David Ronicle and will expire in 2028. Cllr Alan Pryce has asked the clerk to find out who the point of contact is for the defibrillators if there is a problem.

Minute 248.2023

Crickadarn Notice Board

Cllr Geoffrey Lewis highlighted that the Crickadarn notice board has jammed and it is very difficult to use. Cllr Stephen Davies said he will have a look and try to fix it.

Minute 249.2023

Broadband update

No further update is yet available on broadband project. The team is waiting to hear back from Powys CC, OpenReach, and Voneus on potential options for the community.

Meeting Closed at 8:39pm.

The next meeting of Erwood Community Council will be held at 7pm on Thursday 14th December 2023 at Erwood Market Hall.