

April DRAFT

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN ERWOOD MARKET HALL ON THURSDAY 18th April 2024 AT 7PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr Stephen Davies
Cllr Alan Pryce
Cllr Louis Macdonald-Ames
Cllr Caroline Baldwin

IN ATTENDANCE:

Carrienne Ralph
Cllr Thomas Colbert

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lisa Payne

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES OF LAST MINUTE SIGNED

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, the minutes of last meeting were read, accepted by all and signed by the chair.

Minute 46.2024

Receipt of Donation with thanks

Cllr Alan Pryce spoke on behalf of Elizabeth Cox, Treasurer of the Erwood Market Hall to share thanks for their receipt of our donation of £500 from Erwood Community Council.

Minute 47.2024

Gifts Policy

The clerk shared that the gifts policy has been completed and the laptop and printer can be accepted as a gift to the council.

Minute 48.2024

Cllr Pryce Not Receiving Clerk Emails

Cllr Alan Pryce is not receiving emails from the clerk. It was agreed that Cllr Stephen Davies will attend to Cllr Alan Pryce's home to see if the problem can be fixed. If Cllr Alan Pryce is able to begin using his councillor email address this problem should be resolved.

Minute 49.2024

Co-Option of Councillor

As the council has not yet received any applications for councillor. It was agreed that if nothing comes in by the deadline of the 21st of April, the Clerk will ask electoral services about what happens next. Cllr Alan Pryce offered to mention the vacancy at the local coffee morning to see if he can stir

up interest. It was agreed that this is a good idea. It was noted that it would be good to have representation from Gwenddwr.

Minute 50.2024

Internal Audit Report

The clerk read out the internal audit report to the council. It was found that the clerk was overpaid by 20p in December 2023. It was agreed that the clerk will pay back this 20p in her April salary by being paid £303.10 instead of £303.30.

The internal auditor noted that the Cllr expenses look odd as everyone has been paid the same amount (bar councillors who resigned or who joined the council mid-way through the year). The council agreed that the payment of councillor expenses was justified because Determination 6 of The Remuneration Panel for Wales' Annual Report states these as mandatory payments for working from home.

***'Mandatory payments: Determination 6 Payment for extra costs of working from home.** All councils must pay their members £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home. Set payment for consumables Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.'*

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report. October 2023.

Minute 51.2024

Confirmation and signing of Councillor Expenses 2023- 2024

Cllr Stephen Davies agreed and signed the Councillor Expenses Forms, Declaration of Interest and Donations for the year 2023 – 2024. The clerk said she will send off the councillor expenses forms. These forms to be put on our website.

Minute 52.2024

Receipts of Donation

Receipt of donation has been given from Erwood Market Hall, Marie Curie Foundation, Kids Cancer Charity and Builth Wells Community Support. We are still awaiting receipt of payment from the Mid Wales Air Ambulance Charity and Llaneglwys Village Hall.

Minute 53.2024

OVW Meeting Update

Cllr Alan Pryce provided an update on the discussions given at the OVW meeting on the 9th of April in Llyswen Village Hall.

Minute 54.2024

April Bank Statements

The April bank statements had not arrived and so cannot be discussed. It was agreed that the clerk will email a copy of the bank statements to all councillors when they arrive.

Minute 55.2024**HMRC PAYE TAX Due**

This quarter, the council owe HMRC £226.52. It was agreed that this will be paid and sent via signed delivery to ensure arrival on Monday 22nd April and avoid the problem of missing cheques.

Minute 56.2024**Referendum Regarding Wind Turbines**

The clerk received an email from Llandrindod Town Council that has requested if Erwood Community Council will share support of a referendum regarding the proposed Bute energy park. It was put to the council and it was unanimously agreed that the council would be in favour of a referendum regarding this so that the public can be informed on a matter directly affecting our local area. It was agreed that the clerk will contact Llandrindod town council to request guidance on how to proceed.

Minute 57.2024**Community Shop**

It was agreed that the community council must gauge the local interest in this project before going forward. It was resolved that Erwood Community Council will have a stall at the local Erwood show in August to hold a poll and gauge local interest in this idea. The Clerk will contact the organisers to book a stall and get back to council regarding costs.

Minute 58.2024**Erwood Phone Box**

The Clerk has emailed BT to share interest in adopting Erwood phone box but has received no response. Cllr Tom Colbert offered to provide assistance for locating a member of Powys County Council who may be able to help with this matter. It was agreed that the clerk will email Cllr Tom Colbert with the details of the phone box and previous conversations with BT.

Minute 59.2024**PCSO Trudy Davies**

PCSO Trudy Davies has been in contact with the clerk to apologise for lack of contact due to ill health and to offer her colleagues contact details; PCSO 8188 Emma Jackson. It was agreed by all that the clerk will invite the PCSO to the next meeting of Erwood Community Council.

Minute 60.2024**Erwood Hall Defibrillator**

The Clerk has been receiving emails from the circuit to check on the defibrillator for updates and to update the Circuit as necessary. The defibrillator is checked on a weekly basis by Hall manager Michelle Slater, and it is checked on a bi-weekly basis by Cllr Alan Pryce. It was agreed that the defibrillator is in good working order and the clerk will update the circuit accordingly.

Highways**Minute 61.2024****Potholes**

Cllr Tom Colbert requested that the Erwood Community Council shares details of substantial potholes for him to investigate and report to Powys County Council. It was agreed that Cllr Stephen Davies will do this.

Minute 62.2024**Training**

It was agreed that Cllr Louis Macdonald-Ames will attend two training courses: New Councillor Induction and Code of Conduct. It was agreed that the clerk will send training dates to cllr Louis Macdonald-Ames so that this can be arranged.

Minute 63.2024**General Waste Bins**

It was noted by Cllr Caroline Baldwin that the General Waste Bins are not being picked up in a timely manner, which means bins are being left on local roads between Crickadarn and Llaneglwys for days longer than necessary, leading to littering as local animals tear the bin bags open. I was agreed that the clerk will contact Powys to ask if this can be helped.

Minute 64.2024**Signing of cheque from previous meeting**

It was noted that the clerk couldn't receive payment of her expenses in the March meeting because Cllr Alan Pryce was not present to sign the cheque. It was agreed that Cllr Alan would sign the cheque at the end of the meeting.

Minute 65.2024**Dwr Cymru Updates**

Cllr Tom Colbert has arranged for Dwr Cymru waterworks updates to be sent to the clerk so that local people can be notified of road disruptions.

Minute 66.2024**Items for Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM and the Annual Return will be discussed at the General May Meeting.

Meeting closed 20:13

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