

Minutes of The Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held in Glangrwyney Village Hall on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.30 pm.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Miss Bridget Barnes. **Present:** Mrs Sue Shaw (Chair), Mr Ian Maberley (Vice Chair), Mr David Sharman, Mr John Morris, Mr Roger Llewelyn, Mr Prydderch Rees and County Councillor John G Morris. Also in attendance Maria James (Clerk).

The Clerk reported Mr Jeff White has resigned from office due to work commitments.

**ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr White thanking him on behalf of the Community Council for the time he spent in office. Notices advertising the vacancy to be displayed on the notice boards in the Ward of Llangenny & Glangrwyney.**

2. **Declarations of Interest:** Mrs Shaw: (Item 7.1) Organiser of Beacons Preservation Group; Mr Sharman: (Item 7.1) Chairman Glangrwyney Village Hall; Mr Llewelyn: (Item 7.1) Organiser of Beacons Preservation Group.
3. **Planning:**
  - 3.1 **Decisions:** Permitted – Extension & alterations – Neuadd Fechan, Llanbedr (09/04019/FUL)
  - 3.2 **Other: BBNPA Consultation on Charging for Pre-Application/Planning Advice & Policy ES25.** BBNPA have written to inform responses received to these proposals will be discussed by Members prior to being implemented.
4. **County Council Report:** JGM reported problems experienced with roads, lack of grit and grit bins not being filled during the recent bad weather.

JGM also reported (as mentioned at the last meeting) PCC are proposing modernising secondary education over the next 4 years. Of the 13 secondary schools with 6<sup>th</sup> Forms in Powys none are able to sustain a full curriculum. Pupils may therefore have to travel to “Learning Centres” in order to study.

In response to PR’s question as to what stage Gilestone had reached JGM confirmed the outcome of the Judicial Appeal has been delayed. The result should be available mid January.

5. **Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Meeting** [Pages 864-866]: Proposed by DS, seconded by RL and agreed the minutes be accepted as a true record subject to an amendment to confirm that RL was present at the meeting. The Clerk apologised for this error.
6. **Matters Attended to** (*as a result of the Cancelled December Meeting*)
  - 6.1 **09/04168/FUL & 09/04169/LBC: Ffawydd, Llanbedr NP8 1SY** 09/04168/FUL: Proposal to convert barn forming part of traditional grouping of house and outbuildings into single holiday let for letting on a year round basis to the public. Clerk confirmed she received no objections to this application and had reported this back to BBNPA
  - 6.2 **Powys Local Housing Market Assessment:** Clerk had previously distributed the web link and questionnaire to Councillors and confirmed a response had been formulated to explain that, due to the short response period and amount of documentation involved, the VoGCC was unable to complete the questionnaire. However the Community Council would like to place on record that the VoGCC have held meetings with local communities, as requested by BBNPA who are currently preparing their LDP and, as a result of community input the Community Council have challenged BBNPA Settlement Levels. The VoGCC believe our three communities should all be Level 4 settlements, ie affordable housing only. PCC confirmed our comments will be noted.
  - 6.3 **BT – Public Payphones:** Clerk confirmed Powys CC have sent a consultation document showing their draft response to proposals by BT for the adoption of payphones in Powys inviting additional representations by 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The Clerk confirmed no payphones referred to in the document are located in the Vale of Grwyney.

**Llangenny Payphone:** As requested [Page 862 Item 6.6] BT have sent a plan showing where the kiosks are. One is confirmed (and agreed) as being located adjacent to the playground and one is shown on the Glangrwyney side of the bridge. Councillors are unaware of a kiosk the other side of the Glangrwyney Bridge. BT however advise that 3 calls have been made from this phone in the last 12 months. The Clerk confirmed she had phoned the number given and the line is constantly engaged. She has written again querying the position of this payphone and is awaiting a response from BT.

## **7. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

**7.1 Cwrt Y Gollen** SS reported that, following our last meeting, she had contacted Rhodri Davies to ask whether she would be able to view correspondence [Page 864 Item 6.1] reiterating the need to be kept updated with all developments.

Mr Davies asked for a quotation to be submitted for the enhancement works to Glangrwyney village hall. He also confirmed that the developer will contribute to the construction of the tennis courts (part of the planning gain) which will be match funded by Sports Lot then leased at a peppercorn rent to Crickhowell Tennis Club for 50 years. In answer to whether the BBNPA would have a problem agreeing a planning application for the tennis courts in view of the fact that the land is in a flood plain, he stated that the site would not be unduly affected by flooding. The Agent/Applicant is considering the use of the gymnasium by the wider community.

Mr Davies confirmed a meeting had taken place with Welsh Water, BBNPA, the developer and their agent as well as Ove Arup. He had sent a copy of the agenda for this meeting and stated that no minutes were available from this meeting.

JGM confirmed the PCC Planning Officer's Report was presented to PCC Board. PCC are concerned with the size of the development and will oppose the planning application if the developer does not meet all their requests for planning gain. JGM confirmed that currently planning gain amounts to approx £10,000 per dwelling.

Mr Davies had confirmed that the PCC Education planning gain now stood at approximately £2 million. The Authority and PCC had exchanged correspondence with the agent and their education consultant and a provisional meeting had been arranged for December to discuss the Education planning gain. However this meeting did not take place.

Mr Davies also stated that the BBNPA had not been formally advised of the PCC Board's decision.

SS confirmed she has received confirmation that CYG will not go before the PAROW meeting in February. The next meetings are scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> March/27<sup>th</sup> April.

JGM questioned whether it was worth contacting insurance companies to ascertain whether any difficulty would be experienced in insuring properties on a flood plain and confirmed pictures were in existence of the 1979 flood. However it was felt that this may have a negative effect on existing residents' insurance cover.

Councillors discussed the village hall enhancement cost. DS reported difficulty in obtaining quotes with people reluctant to provide quotations without definite instructions however it was agreed £125,000 should be submitted as the estimated cost of enhancement work to the hall. Councillors believe the hydro scheme previously discussed should also be pursued.

**ACTION: SS to write to John Cook questioning why no minutes available as detailed above.**

**7.2 LDP/UDP:** SS reported the National Park Authority Members Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> December had been changed to an LDP Working Group Meeting, followed by another LDP Working Group Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> January. The change of the agenda of these meetings were due to issues being raised by Councils, particularly in respect of settlement levels and candidate sites put forward by The Park.

It was felt that Town and Community Councils might not be aware that the Authority were now discussing issues in respect of settlement levels and candidate sites in camera and ultimately would not be in a position to put their case forward. It was agreed to write to John Cook requesting a meeting with a representative from each of the 49 community councils in order they may have an opportunity to express their community's views. Mr Cook to be informed we will be contacting each of the Councils directly with this suggestion.

Clerk read an email from a Llanbedr resident who having read the LDP report on the web site was pleased the VoGCC had taken residents views seriously.

**ACTION: Clerk to email councils as detailed above.**

**7.3 Vale of Grwyney Community Land Trust Ltd:** SS informed Councillors the last meeting of the Trust was held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and confirmed that Wales and West are to build 6 affordable houses in Llanbedr on behalf of Powys County Council. An offer of a public information/consultation meeting had been put forward by PCC. The next meeting of the Land Trust is scheduled for some time in February 2010.

**7.4 Llangenny Information Board:** JM confirmed he has purchased a gift for Mr Jeff Jones to thank him for painting the notice boards. The Clerk suggested JM be reimbursed for the cost of this wine (£6.99). JM to bring receipt in.

**7.5 Web Site:** The Clerk reported the VoGCC site was now live and that the LDP response to the BBNPA has been posted on the site. Minutes of meetings have also been up-loaded. IM reported the site appears to be in two sections with one section displaying out of date information. The Clerk explained she was able to upload minutes/reports but unable to alter Councillors contact information and the welcome page has not yet been entered.

**RESOLVED:** The clerk to contact CRiC to clarify whether any additional invoices will be payable for the web site and also to request the Clerk is provided with password controlled sole access to enable her to manage the whole of the VoGCC site.

**7.6 Any Other Business:** Clerk informed she has booked the halls in Llanbedr/Llangenny/Glangrwyney for 2010. She has distributed dates of meetings for 2010 to Councillors

IM reported The Green Valleys climate change organisation has won £300,000 as joint first prize winners in the Big Green Challenge. This has been made possible largely due to the money, time and support of the BBNPA. This prize fund will be used to fund further alternative energy sources within the whole of the National Park.

## **8. Finance:**

**8.1 Cheques:** Clerk's salary £135 & expenses £20 (December); ii) Clerk's salary £135 & expenses £20 (January); iii) BDO LLP External Audit - £138.00  
Proposed DS and seconded RL and agreed that the above cheques be paid.

iv) CRiC (Cedyrn Creative) – Website Development - £100

Councillors discussed the web site above [under Item 7.5]. It was agreed costs should be clarified and the web site should be fully functional to the agreement of Council before payment is made.

**8.2 Accounts:** Clerk reported the External Auditor has completed the audit . The following matters have been raised: i) Section 1 – comparative figures do not add up by £1. They assume this is a rounding up error. [this relates to 2008/09]. ii) Fidelity Guarantee - they believe this to be insufficient in view of the bank balances held on 31 March 2009 and the amount of precept then subsequently received in April 2009. Clerk queried this as the guarantee is set at £8,000 and the total balance held in April 2009 amounted to £7,051.

Agreed the Annual Return is approved and accepted by Council

**ACTION:** Clerk to query as detailed above and to display the Annual Return & Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

**8.3 Precept:** Clerk reported receipt of £1,333 (precept payment) on 31/12/09.

The Clerk had previously distributed a copy of the proposed precept [attached] for Councillors' deliberation in assessing the budget for 2010/11. The proposed budget and precept was discussed.

Proposed JM, seconded DS and agreed the precept be set at £6,000.

**ACTION:** Clerk to return the precept request to PCC by required deadline of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010

PCC had sent a letter requesting how much funding the Council is giving to its village halls – also provided examples of the new funding system. Councillors queried whether this is applicable to the VoGCC as the village halls are not owned by the VoGCC and the VoGCC only donate to them.

**ACTION:** Clerk to enquire whether this is applicable to the VoGCC.

**9. Highways:** Councillors reported issues relating to the lack of salt/clearing of roads during the recent severe weather. JGM previously stated PCC informed they had 400 tonnes of salt as of today's date (which will last for two nights).

RL reported British Gas was due to start renewing the mains pipe running through Glangrwyney however this has now been postponed.

## 10. Reports on Other Meetings:

Five Councils Liaison Meeting - SS/MJ attended. Mr David Morgan (Regeneration Manager, British Waterways) was a Guest Speaker and spoke of the 2007 breach in the Brecon & Monmouthshire Canal which resulted in 7.5 million expenditure (with an additional 7.5 million still required). Paul Funnel from BBNPA demonstrated e-planning, confirming he is happy to help with training (the estimated cost of obtaining a laptop/projector/screen is around £1,000). Other councils reported problems experienced with BBNPA allocating candidate sites. Suggested and agreed a User Group party of the Five Councils be formed. SS provided an up-date on Cwrt-y-Gollen. CTC requested the other Councils report any disability issues they are aware of in Crickhowell (ie access to shops, disability parking/signs, etc) at the next meeting.

Dyfed Powys Police - JM attended and reported the budget remains static.

## 11. Correspondence

- 11.1 Code of Conduct - Draft Guidance from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales - Noted
- 11.2 OVW — Consultation – Community Strategies & Planning – JM
- 11.3 OVW - WAG consultation on the Capital Finance Framework - Noted
- 11.4 OVW – Training for Councils - Noted
- 11.5 PCC – Register of Electors - Noted
- 11.6 PCC – Powys UDP – Further Proposed Modifications - January 2010 - Noted
- 11.7 PCC – Annual Inspection of Children’s Play Areas - Noted
- 11.8 BBNPA – Venues/Dates for Planning Advice Centres & PAROW Meetings 2010 – *display on notice boards*
- 11.9 BBNPA – Minutes of the LAF meeting held on 30/09/09 - IM
- 11.10 WAG – Flexible Support for Business Launch Event – 21/01/10 – Brecon - Noted
- 11.11 Planning Aid Wales: November Newsletter - Noted
- 11.12 Glasdon- Catalogue - RL
- 11.13 Clerks & Councils Direct - MJ
- 11.14 Rekk Youth Shelters - Noted
- 11.15 OVW – The Voice - PR
- 11.16 BBNPA – Calendar 2010 - MJ
- 11.17 The Society of Local Council Clerks Membership Pack - Noted
- 11.18 Signs of the Times: Quality Cast Signs - RL

### Miscellaneous/Late Items

- 11.19 OVW – Buckingham Palace Garden Party 20/07/10 - Noted

## 12. AOB

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm.