

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday 16th May 2011 at 7.30pm in Llanbedr Village Hall

Present: Councillors John Morris (Chair), Elaine Lusted (Vice Chair), David Sharman, Roger Llewelyn, Bridget Barnes, Sue Shaw & Prydderch Rees. Also in attendance: County Councillor John Morris, Maria James (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Ian Maberley & Samantha Jones

2. **Declarations of personal & pecuniary interest in items of business listed below:** None received.

3. **Planning**

3.1 Applications:

i. **11/06636/FUL** Proposed re-alignment of the public highway adjacent to Coed Mill, Llanbedr (*resubmission of application 11/06190/FUL*). Councillors remain opposed to the application believing there to be no significant difference to the previous application. Agreed by majority vote to oppose the application citing the reasons originally submitted.

ii. **11/06441/FUL** Build a new PVC conservatory to front of Tregod, Llangenny NP8 1HD. No objection.

RESOLVED Clerk to write to BBNPA as outlined above.

4. **County Council Report:** In response to recent reports in the media concerning Councillors' allowances County Cllr Morris stated he is not a member of the Cabinet and has not had a pay rise this year or last. The Cabinet, which took up position last week, has in effect replaced fifteen people with ten. County Cllr Morris is supportive of the allowances as he is aware of the amount of work and responsibilities involved.

i. **Highways:** the potholes referred to in Grwyne Fawr [Page 917 Item 4] were repaired shortly after the Council's last meeting. Councillors reported potholes in need of repair by the Celyn Pitch, Partrishow and on the Cwm Pitch by the Gudder, Llanbedr. Resurfacing of The Bont Lane remains outstanding. County Cllr Morris to report.

ii. **School Modernisation Programme:** The school modernisation consultation programme has now closed. PCC are assessing the response. Towards 2014 PCC will be looking at small schools. The closure of the 6th Form in Brynmawr has resulted in Crickhowell High School receiving some additional 20 applications.

iii. **National Park Authority:** County Cllr Morris has been appointed a Member of the Brecon Beacons National Park (*replacing William Powell*).

5. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting 18/04/11** [Pages 917-919]: Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Lusted and agreed the minutes of the April meeting be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. **Matters Arising:**

6.1 Llangenny Playground: The Clerk reported she has spoken with Mr Steve Butcher of Powys County Council. He is aware the lease has expired and is arranging a meeting with PCC's legal department to discuss how to proceed. If the Church is agreeable PCC may continue to hold the ground on a rolling lease. Fundraising/grants could then be utilised to finance some new equipment. Mr Butcher is happy to meet on site to discuss further once the position with the lease has been determined.

6.2 BBNPA Community Charter: Following submission of the Council's observations on the Community Charter [Page 917 Item 6.3] BBNPA has written to state the draft Charter circulated was amended from the OVW/WAG/WLGA model to remove elements outside the National Park authority remit. BBNPA will be writing to Councils later this month once they have addressed the responses received.

6.3 Any Other Matters Arising:

Community Projects: Further to the last meeting when Community Projects were discussed [Page 918 Item 6.5] Councillor Maberley emailed Councillors to inform them money from the Beacons Trust is only available for environmental projects. Following on from these discussions Cllr Shaw suggested the Council inform the village hall committees funding may be available from the Beacons Trust should they wish to consider installing solar panels. (Llangattock has recently installed a PV system on their hall and may be able to offer advice in this regard).

ACTION Clerk to contact the committees offering support if required.

Vale of Grwyney Community Land Trust: Cllr Shaw reported the Financial Services Authority advise the accounts do not need to be audited and therefore auditors fees will not be incurred however fines may be levied due to the late submission of the accounts. Once the accounts have been returned and it has been determined how much money is available the Bodfach Trust will be offered their money back and shareholders contacted to determine whether they wish their investment returned or whether they wish to donate it to Llanbedr and Llangenny Churches. The balance of monies can then be returned to PCC.

Benches: As requested previously [Page 918 Item 6.5] Cllr Llewelyn inspected the benches/noticeboards and reported:

Bellfountain Road: arm broken, slats missing, seat ok.
Llangenny Noticeboard – Perspex needs cleaning/renewing - frame needs varnishing.
Hall Farm Bench: seat good condition - needs varnishing.
Glangrwyney and Llanbedr Benches – need varnishing
Glangrwyney notice board – needs varnishing.

Cllr Barnes reported the bench by Partrishow Church is in good condition.

RESOLVED Cllr Llewelyn to attend to repairs/price up cost of replacement perspex.

7. Finance

7.1 Cheques - Clerk's salary (£108) Expenses (£25); HM Revenue & Customs (Tax) £27; Welsh Water Drinking Trough Llanbedr - £19.18; S Shaw - Chairman's Allowance £75

Proposed by DS, seconded by RL and agreed to pay the above.

Insurance: Zurich Insurance has quoted £225 for insurance. AON in response has agreed to reduce their fee to £313.70 (*from £461.72*).

RESOLVED unanimously to purchase insurance via Zurich. Clerk to arrange.

7.2 Other: The Clerk reported applicants applying for funding had been informed the Council considers donations on an annual basis (normally in June/July). One applicant expressed surprise at this arrangement. Councillors discussed whether the procedure should be amended however agreed the current arrangement should be continued.

Chain of Office: Fattorini state the replacement cost for the Chain of Office is £2,000/£2,200. Additional links (sold as pairs) cost approximately £220/£250. Hand engraving is approximately 37p per character, machine engraving £1.38. The Chain of Office should be refinished (*extra layer of gold*) every few years at a cost of around £180/£200.

In previous years the Council purchased a link and the outgoing Chairman arranged for it to be engraved, Due to the expenses involved this practice ceased several years ago. The question was posed as to whether this tradition should be revived.

RESOLVED to place on agenda for discussion next month

- 8. Highways :** The Car Park & Market Officer responded to the request [Page 916 Item.13] to consider parking facilities in Crickhowell for vehicles with trailers by stating the car park layout in Crickhowell would not lend itself to make provision for vehicles with trailers and it wouldn't be cost effective to reserve spaces specifically for agricultural vehicles. The situation is different in Talgarth as there is a regular livestock market within the town and demand is higher.

RESOLVED to enquire why parking is free in Talgarth and question why charges are published for parking vehicles with trailers in Crickhowell when no spaces are available.

Glangrwyney: traffic congestion was reported throughout the village of Glangrwyney over the bank holiday weekend as a result of the car boot sale held by the Cricket Club. Difficulties were also experienced in contacting the police to report the congestion problems. Advertising signs in the village

were noted as being left up longer than necessary and reported as presenting an untidy appearance.

Councillors queried whether a footpath exists by the village hall car park and bridge. The stile present is overgrown and needs to be opened up.

RESOLVED to write to BBNPA to establish the existence of a footpath; the Cricket Club to complain about the traffic congestion/signs; the police requesting they take action to alleviate congestion.

9. Reports on Other Meetings: None.

10. Correspondence

- 10.1 *Kompan – Children’s Play Equipment Catalogue - EL*
- 10.2 *WAG – Community Council’s Survey 2010 – Findings Report – Email link*
- 10.3 *Fields in Trust – Queen Elizabeth11 Fields Challenge - Noted*
- 10.4 *PRP ‘s Newsletter – The Regenerator - Noted*
- 10.5 *Clerk’s & Councils Direct - Clerk*

11. Miscellaneous/Late Items : None received.

12. Matters for the Clerk to Action: Cllr Lusted reported she has been informed the X43 Bus service is being disconnected in June. Clerk to make enquiries with the bus company.

Invite PC Mark Keane to the next meeting to discuss policing within The Vale.

13. Any Other Business: Cllr Barnes reported lead had been stolen off the roof of Partrishow Church last weekend.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.