

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday 19th December 2011 at 7.30 pm in The School Hall, Llangenny.

Present: Councillors John Morris (*Chairman*), David Sharman, Ian Mabberley and Elaine Lusted. *Also in attendance:* Maria James (*Clerk*).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs B Barnes, S Shaw, R Llewelyn, S Jones, P Rees & County Cllr J Morris.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Planning:**
 - 3.1 **Applications:** None received.
 - 3.2 **Decisions/Other:** It was noted BBNPA has **permitted** application number 11/07170/FUL Llangenny Stables Glangrwyney Crickhowell NP8 1ET: extension to existing stable box.
4. **County Council Report:** County Cllr Morris was unable to attend the meeting however reported, via the Clerk, on PCC's proposals for traffic calming in Glangrwyney. This involves the provision of new signs, chevrons, islands (*similar to those present on entering Crickhowell*) and speed operated signs. Officers will ask the Council to comment on these proposals in due course.
5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st November 2011** [*Page 940-942*] Proposed Cllr Mabberley, seconded Cllr Lusted and agreed the minutes be accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.
- 6.1 **Housing Survey/Llanbedr Affordable Housing:** The Clerk reported she had spoken with County Cllr Morgan concerning the housing survey referred to previously [*Page 940 Item 6.1*]. Cllr Morgan stated this survey was carried out some 9 years ago and unfortunately he does not have a copy. He did however provide comprehensive advice with regard to the type of questions that should be asked. A copy of the housing survey conducted by the Vale of Grwyney CC in March 2005 was supplied by Cllr Morris. Members observed the figures recorded do not appear to have changed significantly since this date. They also noted only 99 of the 429 forms distributed were returned.

The Clerk read out Mr Flynn's (*Affordable Housing Officer, PCC*) response to the request for clarification on the figures previously provided. He reported there are currently no applications from Glangrwyney for Glangrwyney but there are 18 applications - mainly from the Crickhowell area. For Llanbedr the same applies but the number is 20. He asked Members to bear in mind these applicants may qualify as having a local connection even though they do not currently reside in either village (*ie they may have moved out of their home villages due to lack of accommodation, etc*).

Members asked what was the current position with the planning application for the affordable housing in Llanbedr to which Cllr Sharman reported his understanding is this is due to go before PAROW in March.

Councillors discussed the advisability of conducting a housing survey. It was noted that the majority of the villages are Level 4 settlements with limits on the type/number of dwellings permitted, therefore why bother conducting a survey, raising residents' expectations, if needs can't be satisfied? It was suggested a survey will result in speculative rather than definitive figures and need will be more accurately determined from the number of applications received for the affordable houses in Llanbedr. Cllr Mabberley proposed the Council wait to see what happens in Llanbedr before a housing survey is conducted. This was seconded by Cllr Lusted and put to a vote. 3 for 1 against.

RESOLVED not to conduct a housing survey at present.

- 6.2 **Benches/Noticeboards:** In his absence Cllr Llewelyn asked for it to be reported that he was unable to carry out any maintenance works until the weather improves.
- 6.3 **Glangrwyney/Potential Flood Risk:** The Clerk reported the Environment Agency's Development Flood Risk Officer has experienced difficulty in locating the run-offs and needs to establish whether the run-offs were from a main river or ordinary watercourse. She has requested a map highlighting where the run-offs were located or any photos of the run-off areas. If this is not possible a site visit may be necessary to assess the problem. BBNPA has also written requesting further details including a complaint form/map which needs to be completed prior to them investigating.

Councillors considered how best to proceed. Cllr Sharman reported that in previous years a sluice gate with "winder" was present which allowed adjustments to be made as required. However this gate has now been replaced with a metal structure which cannot be adjusted. It was felt a proper sluice gate with "winder" should be

provided with responsibility for management determined. It was suggested the Clerk write to BBNPA to ask if they know who is responsible for the sluice gate as this is understood to be the source of the problem.

RESOLVED to write to BBNPA as outlined above.

6.4 Any Other Business *for information only*

Cwrt Y Gollen: the Planning Inspector has replied to the request as to whether costs can be reimbursed. The letter stated before making an award the Welsh Minister (or Planning Inspector) must be satisfied that (a) the party against whom costs are sought has behaved unreasonably (b) that unreasonable conduct has caused the party seeking costs to incur or waste expense unnecessarily. It was agreed no further action would be taken.

Local List Criteria Consultation: Cllr Morris reported he had tried to contact Rosie Burton on numerous occasions however has been unable to contact her to discuss this item.

7. Finance

7.1 To report and resolve to approve items for payment as follows: Clerk (Salary £108/Exp £25, Stationery & Postage £23.93) £156.93, HM Revenue & Customs £27; Welsh Water: Llanbedr Water Trough - £18.96

Proposed by Cllr Maberley and seconded by Cllr Lusted and agreed to pay the above.

7.2 Precept: As only a limited number of Councillors were present it was agreed to defer full discussion until the next meeting. PCC has written stating election costs will need to be considered when determining the precept – noting a contested election could cost £1,200 and an uncontested election in a ward £300. Cost to the elector of £1 Council tax is circa £480.77 (*a precept of £6000 equates to £12.48 per household*).

ACTION statement of the 2011/12 receipts/payments to be circulated to Members.

8. Highways: PC Mark Keane has responded to the request for further speed checks in Glangrwyney stating he has forwarded this to the Roads Policing Unit. He also stated he will be happy to attend a meeting to provide an update on policing in the area and thanked the Council for its support over the last year.

Members reported the following highways matters:-

Partrishow: Cllr Barnes reported via the Clerk that the roads from the Bishops Bridge in Partrishow both towards Gelliwelltog and the road from Penbair down to the Celyn Farm are in need of maintenance. **Llangenny:** the hill up from the cross roads in Llangenny –potholes / road has collapsed, grit box requested opposite the drive to Tycerrig in Llangenny. Roads need sweeping throughout the Vale of Grwyney before leaves block drains.

9. Reports on Other Meetings:

Llanbedr School Governors Meeting: Cllr Lusted attended and reported there are currently 30 pupils however there are quite a few young children due to start shortly. As a result of the closure of Cwmdru primary school it is understood at least one pupil will transfer to Llanbedr which imposes an obligation on the local authority to keep Llanbedr School open until that child(ren) leave the school.

OVW/LDP: Cllr Morris attended reporting the meeting proved very interesting and concerned housing needs for the whole of Powys. Whilst an informative meeting a lot does not affect this council.

Five Councils Liaison Meeting. The Clerk attended and reported on Council's request concerning the lack of parking for vehicles with trailers in Crickhowell. The Clerk of the meeting had provided a report which will be circulated to members.

10. Correspondence:

- 10.1 OVW - Summary of Responses to Welsh Government re Walker Review Consultation: The Walker Review examined the effectiveness and fairness of charging for water and sewerage services. Noted
- 10.2 OVW - Ordnance Survey – Local Council Surveys – how does a local council use or might use digital maps and how they can support such use. DS
- 10.3 OVW - Strong Roots Project: Green Futures' Training Programme – Training to be provided by Cynnal Cymru and will help Community Councillors to understand the concept of sustainable development and how it relates to their communities and support them to play a key role in delivering the vision of One Wales One Planet strategy. Charge of £10 per participant. Training commences in second week of January. IM
- 10.4 OVW - Buckingham Palace Garden Party - Two garden parties 22/5/12 and 29/5/12 – invitation to outgoing chairman. If interested form to be returned by 31/01/12. Clerk to forward details.
- 10.5 OVW - Journeys Survey / Mental Health Research Questionnaire - Noted.

- 10.6 OVW/WG - Welsh Government Consultation - Fire and Rescue National Framework 2012 Onwards – Email link provided.
- 10.7 BBNPA – Social Inclusion (including Child Poverty) Strategy & Action Plan Consultation - respond by 20th January 2012. BBNPA Purposes & Duty are to protect the natural beauty of the Park, help visitors enjoy and understand it and, to foster the wellbeing of local people. Noted.
- 10.8 PCC - Electoral Register – Clerk has received copy – Filed
- 10.9 National Assembly for Wales – Consultation on Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill - invitation to give your views on the questions given in attached Annex – deadline 02/02/11. The clerk asked if members would like a copy circulated – suggesting it could be agended for next meeting if required. JM will study.

Items of Correspondence previously circulated - for information purposes:

Oriel Cric Gallery – Invitation for Chairman to attend Christmas Exhibition 03/12/11

Miscellaneous/Late Items of correspondence:

PCC – Details of Xmas waste collection dates

- 11. **Clerk's Report:** The Clerk confirmed she had booked the halls for the forthcoming year and circulated a list of the meetings in 2012 to Members.

12. **To receive Matters for the Clerk to Action:**

Cllr Sharman reported he is due to attend a site meeting with the warden regarding the footpath by Ty'n-y-Cae which is shown by the definitive plan to be in the wrong location.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.