

Minutes of the meeting held on the 15 May 2018

PRESENT Clrs Keates, R Morgan, T Morgan, Davies, Woodier, Rippin, Evans, James and Cty Clr Jones.

APOLOGIES Clrs Phillips and Bentley

The **AGENDA** was suspended to allow Mr Richard Evans Morgan to introduce himself to the Council as a prospective community councillor. He gave a brief outline of his career and expressed his interest in joining the Community Council which had filled 10 out of 11 vacancies at the last community council elections in May 2017. It was proposed that the final place be filled through co-option. Councillors thanked him for his presentation and would report back at the next meeting after checking out co-option criteria with MCC.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC None

FINANCIAL REPORT Current A/C: £400 Reserve A/C: £8660.52

The first Precept payment for 2018-2019 had now been received. Cheques written since the last meeting had been £42.84 to Merlin Waste, £231.84 to Zurich Insurance (Council Insurance) and £237.54 (Earth Anchors) for the new dog bin.

The 2017-2018 internal audit had now been completed by Mr C Haines, FCCA who had also written a positive report to accompany the annual return to the external auditor. Councillors perused the post-internal audit accounts and report. Favourable comments were made by councillors re the very healthy balance being taken into the new Financial Year. The Chairman, Clr R Morgan signed the Annual Return following approval by the Council.

Councillors had scrutinised the Report from MCC re the Section 106 monies and noted its positive recommendations. County Councillor D Jones agreed to ask for clarification re paragraphs 2.2, 2.3 and 3.3 on behalf of the Community Council.

The revised quotation from Active Garden re further playground equipment and its installation stood at ~~£36109.20~~ circa £3619 [\[amendment 15.6.18\]](#) inclusive of VAT.

The **MINUTES** of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. New leases re HMC and Bowls Club. The Council's solicitors had not been in touch. The Chair and Clerk agreed to pursue the matter.
2. Parking at the top of the Skirrid Pitch. Cty Clr Jones had referred the matter once more to the appropriate MCC officer.
3. Photos of suitable locations alongside the A465 had now been sent to SWTRA as a follow-up to the Council's original email. Councillors hope for a swift response.

4. Re an entrance gate at the top end of the play area, there was some debate as to whether a 'kissing gate' or a 'soft-closing gate' would be appropriate. Clr Evans agreed to liaise with a fencing specialist to complete the work involved.
5. The Clerk would try to contact Mr Mike Petts to progress the stump carving project in the play area.
6. Clr T Morgan agreed to contact Merlin Waste with regard to the installation of the new dog bin. The dog bin had been delivered to them from Earth Anchors and a date now needed to be arranged for the bin's installation.
7. The 'dangerous parking signs' competition would be progressed at the next meeting of the Primary School Governors (22 May).
8. Flooding at the end of the lane opposite the Lancaster Arms. Clr Woodier would investigate when appropriate.
9. Clr Evans had nearly finished repairs to the Hall roof.
10. Clr Rippin would find out from NRW the timescale involved re the wood extraction at Gwryne Fawr and in the Llanthony Valley. A reduction in the number of timber lorries operating in the area had been observed by one councillor. Serious damage to roads in the area (especially Cwm Coed y Cerrig and near to Foxwood Cottage) was reported, much of which had been caused by poor maintenance on the part of MCC.
11. The road reflectors at Crossways still needed attention. Clr Keates agreed to remind MCC.
12. Clr Rippin was still investigating the use of unsuitable material on the village Facebook page.
13. The BBNP Officer dealing with crossways Cottage had been informed about local residents' concerns about what was happening at this location.
14. Clr Woodier had assessed Blackwood Fire's Risk Assessment Report and agreed to work with Clr Evans re its recommendations.
15. Re the missing post box in Fforest Coalpit, Royal Mail had not given a definitive answer to a replacement in its recent email. The Clerk had written again asking for clarification.
16. A letter of congratulation had been sent to Mike and Sarah Wicksey.
17. Clr Morgan had contacted British Telecom about the appalling state of the phone box near the Old Station. He had received a reply from the BT Payphones Field Officer who had replied that a mistake had been made on the part of BT re the kiosk's removal in that BT had not contacted the Local Authority over the matter. This mistake would now be rectified and MCC would be contacted with a view to the kiosk's removal.
18. Footpath near Crud y Dail. No progress.

REPORTS

1. Cwmyoy Hall. The talk 'Life in the Valley during the 18th century' had been well attended and interesting. The film *Film Stars do not die in Liverpool* had been

attended by 24 viewers. The Garden Club had been on a 2-hour conducted tour of Craig y Bwla. The 30 people who had attended had had a very interesting time which had included tea and cakes.

2. CEG. Re the Woodland Group, it was reported that two shelters had been rebuilt. The new composting toilet was in place, craft courses had been held and charcoal was on sale again. Re Litter picking, a litter-picking strategy had been discussed with MCC, with a main focus on how to prevent litter dropping as opposed to relying on volunteers to pick it up. Other news included notice of the AGM on the 21 May at the Crown, Pantygelli and a chair-making weekend at Court Wood on the 19/20th May.
3. Primary School. No report. There would be a Governors' Meeting on the 22 May.
4. Pandy Hall Management Committee. No report.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

PLANNING DECISION NOTICES:

1. The Cloisters. Planning had been approved by BBNP
2. Station House. Planning had been approved by BBNP.

PLANNING UPDATES:

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES

The Clerk outlined recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales which allowed community councils to make available payments to councillors for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc. and certain payments for taking on special responsibilities. Costs incurred in employing carers were also outlined.

Councillors voted unanimously against claiming any such allowances and a NIL return would be made to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in September as community councils have been instructed to do.

GDPR

Crucorney Community Council was working towards compliance with the new Data Protection regulations although there was still conflicting advice re the nuances of these regulations, Councillors were made fully aware of their responsibilities in this respect. An email had been received from the NALC which informed councils that there was an amendment going through Parliament which would exempt community councils in Wales from having to appoint a Data Protection Officer. Clr Rippin agreed to put on the Council's

website a draft version (prepared by the Clerk) of a Data Protection Policy as soon as possible. The subscription to the IPO was being investigated by the Clerk.

OBITUARIES Mr Reg Lloyd, Llwyn Celyn.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments (apart from those mentioned in the Minutes above) on the following correspondence sent to them by the Clerk by email : several emails concerning the 106 Agreement, several emails re GDPR, BBNP decision on The Cloisters planning application, Royal Mail and post box in Fforest Coalpit, Aneurin Bevan Review, OVW correspondence inc. OVW services and notice of its area meeting in Usk, RECS Stakeholder Dissemination Workshop, Wellbeing of Future Generations, Weekly Register (14/5), Wales Audit (14/5) and the BBNP decision re Station House.

Comment was made re the suggested 'drop-in session' notification (24 May) but councillors decided that the Council would not participate in this initiative.

An email dealing with the village hall as a 'hub of well-being' would also be sent out to councillors.

2. The copy of Clerks and Councils Direct was taken for perusal by the Chair.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Clr Keates asked if any councillors would be interested in an organised trip to see the extensive A 465 roadworks around Gilwern/Brynmawr. Interest was expressed and Clr Keates promised to contact councillors when arrangements were further along the line.
2. Clr Evans was preparing signs (possibly hinged to face inwards and outwards) for the phone box at the entrance to Llanvihangel Crucorney. Shelves would also be available soon. He also suggested making existing dog-fouling signs more durable with backing material.
3. Clr Rippin suggested that a Council presence of some kind at the Llanthony Show might raise the profile of CCC. Photos of the play area, images of the portal website,, reference to future projects and a suggestion box were put forward as possibilities.
4. It was reported that the wooden fence along the Sun Pitch needed urgent attention.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m. Date of next meeting : 19 June 2018