

Minutes of the Crucorney Community Council meeting held on the 16 July 2019

PRESENT Clrs Davies, R Morgan, Morgan-Evans, Woodier, Bentley. Evans, Catley, Rippin. Clr R Morgan chaired the meeting.

APOLOGIES Clrs T Morgan, Keates and Cty Clr D Jones.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Current Account: £400 Reserve Account: £8,888.95 Both as at 5 July 2019

Since the last meeting a cheque had been signed for £60 (Merlin Dog Waste Disposal-18/6). Further cheques signed on the night were for £264 (Active Garden - replacement for vandalised slide in the play area); £1148 (Anthony Davies-play area gate and ramp); £25.48 (reimbursement to R Morgan for purchase of a printer ink cartridge for CCC at Ryman's); £37.39 – reimbursement to the Clerk for purchase of printing paper and minutes wallet for CCC at ASDA and Ryman's.

The Clerk reported that in spite of the Council's Annual Return having been audited by the Council's, longstanding, experienced and FCCA-qualified Internal Auditor, the External Auditors, BDO had requested further information and documentation.

These Review Points had been dealt with on the phone by the Chairperson and the Clerk as follows: 1) A missing date request had been withdrawn by BDO when it was pointed out the date had actually been provided 4 out of a possible 5 times; 2) A request for an explanation of S106 expenditure was agreed although BDO also acknowledged that they had not asked for this in their original Accounting Statement or Governance Statement requests; 3) Further details re Other Receipts Variations were agreed over the phone; 4) Further details re Other Payments Variations were agreed over the phone; 5) A request for further details re the Annual Precept was withdrawn by BDO; 6) A request for a copy of CCC's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations was agreed and would be sent to BDO.

Given that a very positive report had been written by CCC's well-qualified Internal Auditor and submitted to BDO, Councillors were again disappointed that BDO were subjecting already professionally audited accounts to a

disproportionate forensic analysis especially as CCC had had very positive 'unqualified reports' from BDO for the previous 2 years.

The Clerk and Chairperson informed Councillors that they had confirmed with BDO's representative on the phone that when Point 6 above had been complied with, the Community Council would be issued with an unqualified report and there would be no extra, unjustified auditing costs incurred from these extra discussions. The Community Council preferred to use what little money it had to provide community facilities especially for children in a rural area and not on inflated auditors' fees.

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Clr Woodier and Catley reported that supposed work on foul-smelling drains on Wern Gifford had turned out to be a Primary School project.
2. Parking outside the Primary School. This longstanding problem had been mentioned and minuted at the last Governors' Meeting.
3. Star Legal and new lease. A draft copy had now been received and distributed to councillors. Suggestions re amendments were requested from councillors.
4. Number of new houses for Wern Gifford. No further news. A revised MCC LDP was being negotiated.
5. The road between the 2 chapels in Pandy. No news.
6. Potholes and markings at the entrance to Llanvihangel Crucorney. No news.
7. Clr Morgan-Evans and Rippin were still researching the cost of buying and installing bus shelters. Planning considerations would have to be discussed with SWTRA.
8. Wi-Fi in the Hall. A reply was awaited from a possible provider.
9. Unauthorised access to field near the Pandy Inn. No news.
10. No news from Clr Keates re MCC and rural roads.
11. The CEG reported that they had not been informed of any enforcement action by the BBNP re litter bins/bags.
12. The Clerk and Chairman had discussed the issue of out-of-date bus timetables with Stagecoach. No practical outcome had ensued because the Stagecoach Depot in Cwmbran was at loggerheads with the Depot at Porth.

REPORTS

1. Cwmyoy Hall. No report.
2. Pandy HMC. The old furniture had now been removed. The new tables and chairs were felt to be an excellent acquisition. Cllr Bentley had consulted with the CEG re the repairs fund for the solar panels and the matter would be further discussed at a joint meeting with the CEG, HMC and CCC all in attendance. The meeting would be held on the 13 August at 6.00 p.m. at the Hall.
3. CEG. The Woodland group and the Walking Group continued with their activities. Litter-picking activities continued, too, alongside planning for future climate change workshops. CEG had attended the Abergavenny Arts Festival. News re future events had been posted online. Sadly, the litter bin between Bettws and Fforest Coalpit had been ripped out and taken away by vandals.
4. Primary School. The last meeting of the old governing body had now been held. The new amalgamated /federated governing body would meet for the first time in September. It was reported that Llanvihangel Crucorney Primary school had achieved a £34k surplus this year.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. BBNP 19/17502/CON Twr Mihangel. Councillors felt that questions should be raised re how this application would affect the agreed housing density, the affordable housing provision and any S106 payments.

OBITUARIES None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Emails re-distributed to councillors were as follows: Invitation to opening of new Post Office in Usk (19/6); Planning re Twr Mihangel (25/6); Preferred Strategies Document (25/6); Health News (26/6); Weekly register (1/7); Minutes of the NMLC Meeting (4/7); Road Closure at Longtown (5/7); Revised LDP at BBNP (5/7); Revised MCC LDP (9/7); Drop-in session at County Hall (15/7); Weekly register (15/7); Star Legal Draft lease (16/7); Ian Maberley email (16/7); New Model Standing Orders (16/7).

2. An email had been received from Mr and Mrs Jackman which stated that they would step down from their positions as Secretary and Chair of the CEG in April 2020. They also clarified the position re the setting up of a maintenance fund which would be further discussed at a joint meeting to be held on the 13 August.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. It was reported that Clrs Keates and R Morgan together with the Clerk and Cty Clr Jones had met with David Davies M.P. near the Skirrid Inn re the promised provision of double yellow lines at the junction with the Skirrid Pitch. The issue would hopefully be raised in the Press.

The meeting closed at 21.05. Date of next meeting : 20 August 2019.

S. G. Cooper (Clerk) August/2019