

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on the 18 October 2023

**PRESENT** Ctrs Morgan-Evans, Davies, Morgan, Phillips, Rippin, Bentley and County Councillor David Jones

**APOLOGIES** Clr Buckler

**COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** None

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Current A/C £400 Reserve A/C £14,100

The above figures take into account uncashed cheques and recent and forthcoming bills to be paid before the November meeting as follows: £3.38 (Aldi -bin bags for the play area); £34.99 (Screwfix : fire-proof document box for the Hall); £120 (Active Garden – repairs to the roundabout in the play area);£48 (Helen Rippin- Internet Survey Costs); £100 (Chimene Haines – Internal Audit for 2022-2023); £2904 (Outshine Windows for 3 replacement doors for the Hall including two fire exit doors); £13.20 – Safety Signs for the Hall); £200 (last cut of the season re hedges around Hall ); £50 (R Collins – last cut of the season re bowling green).

The 2022-2023 had been signed off by Wales Audit, the external auditors, with an unqualified report and no issues raised. Councillors thanked the Clerk for his work as ROF. In turn, the Clerk thanked the Chairperson for her help in preparing all accounts for both the internal and external audit. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been placed in the Skirrid Garage Window and on CCC's website.

Re audits in general, the Clerk had contacted the Clerk at Kilpeck Parish Council to confirm details read in '*Clerks and Councils Direct*' re the more straightforward and less expensive way in which audits in England, especially for smaller councils, were carried out. After some discussion, councillors felt that it might be useful to contact *One Voice Wales* and ask for their observations on the matter.

Councillors decided unanimously to consider 2 tenders only for the bar renovations as a search for a 3<sup>rd</sup> tender had not been successful. Having considered the 2 tenders, councillors then voted unanimously to award the

contract for the bar renovations in the village hall to Halden Property Maintenance, the contractors who had successfully installed the new toilet facilities a few years ago.

Damage to items in the play area had been broadcast on social media and it was hoped that a more stringent watch on anti-social activities there would result in reports to the community council in a timely manner with relevant names of people causing damage.

The **MINUTES** of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record with 2 minor amendments.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. County Councillor Jones, the Clerk and the Head Teacher of the local primary school had met with an MCC Officer in the Highways Department re the parking bays outside the primary school as they were causing a traffic hazard especially at dropping off and picking-up times at the school. It was decided that the 2 end bays should be amalgamated and used only for the school bus. It was also decided that a single yellow line should be installed on the opposite side of the road taking in the corner area where people also parked. The MCC Officer informed CCC that, unfortunately, both jobs could not be done this financial year but would be done, if approved, in 2024/2025. Cty Clr Jones and the Clerk asked for a decision as to whether the work could be done earlier if CCC paid for it and the MCC Officer said that they would ask. An answer is therefore awaited from MCC.
2. Road surface near Lower Stanton. No news.
3. It was agreed to email the Welsh Government to ask what the results from a recent speed survey of theirs were carried out near the former Park Hotel where a speed cable had been laid across the road. It was also agreed to ask for their assessment of the further phased steps they had taken to ease the speeding issue before any form of light-up signs or cameras could be considered for installation.
4. Re the 30 mph speed limit dispute near Trout Cottage, a positive dialogue had taken place.

5. The issue re the school bus and the road from the A465 to the Llanvihangel Court seemed to have been resolved with an acknowledgement that pot holes in said road needed some attention.

## **REPORTS**

1. Pandy Hall. The Hall would be open on Xmas morning and would also be a base for the Boxing Day walk. A Xmas Craft Fair would take place with the PTFA in charge and the HMC making refreshments. A new Wi-Fi contract was now in place at £3 per month cheaper than the previous one. The HMC had received a donation of a laptop and projector and had also received a long overdue payment (c. 18 months) of £3448.50 from OVO re the solar panels. It was also reported that there had been a good response to the televised Rugby World Cup matches.
2. Primary School. Cty Clr Jones reported that the AGM had been a positive meeting with all governor posts filled. Finances looked stable although there was some concern that the Federation's reserves might have to be accessed.
3. Police Report for September: A one- vehicle RTA had been reported on the Old Hereford Road with an injured person taken to hospital.
4. Cwmyoy Hall. No report.
5. CEC/CIC. No report.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1. MCC DM /2023/01228 15, Wern Gifford. No objections.

## **PLANNING DECISIONS**

1. BBNP 23/22120/FUL Crossways. Permission from BBNP. Noted.

**PLANNING UPDATES**      None

**OBITUARIES**            Mrs Mary James, Penbidwal Lane.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillors had no further comments on correspondence sent to them by email.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. There were various comments re the vagaries of the 20 mph speed limit and where the 30 mph limit had been retained. The Clerk informed councillors that a second 20 mph sign had been promised for the entrance to Wern Gifford off the A465 as in the present situation, traffic approaching from Hereford could not see that they would be entering the 20 mph area of Wern Gifford. Apparently, the contractor had forgotten to put the second sign up when out in the area. The Clerk had also been informed by MCC that the person commissioned to work out 20 mph areas for Monmouthshire was based in York !! The need for some local knowledge had obviously been overlooked or deliberately ignored.
2. Councillors congratulated Clr Rippin who, together with her colleague Bernice Fitzmaurice, had recently received the prestigious Sheridan Award for excellence in veterinary business management and leadership skills.
3. The Chairperson asked councillors for some suggestions re a venue for the Xmas meal ASAP. A councillor felt that a local venue should be chosen if a suitable menu were provided which gave a good choice and suited a variety of tastes.

The meeting closed at 20.50. Date of next meeting: 15 November 2023