

PONTARFYNACH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Thursday 7th May, 2015

A meeting was held at Ysgol Mynach with the following present:

Alun Jenkins (Chairman), Eluned Evans, Jane Hopkins, Phil Lloyd, Elise Powell, James Raw, Cyng. Rhodri Davies

1. **APOLOGIES**

Rhodri Jenkins

2. **PERSONAL MATTERS**

The Chairman referred to the tragic events that occurred recently in Devil's Bridge where Mr. Stephen Cuddy, an employee of Ceredigion County Council lost his life during an accident while driving a waste/recycling vehicle. The Clerk had sent a letter of condolence, on behalf of the Community Council to the parents of the late Mr. Cuddy. The Clerk had also sent a get well card to his fellow passenger who had suffered injuries during the accident.

3. **MINUTES 2nd April, 2015**

The minutes were accepted as a true account of the meeting which was proposed by Jane Hopkins and seconded by Phil Lloyd.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) **Web Site :**

The Clerk referred for the need to update the Community Web Site at a cost of £35.00. It is envisaged that the Clerk in due course will be able to undertake the updating work but for the time being it was agreed to pay this amount to Alan Cole. Payment of £35.00 was proposed by Jane Hopkins and seconded by Phil Lloyd.

(b) **Speed of Traffic outside the School in Devil's Bridge**

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will contact the relevant officer of the County Council to enquire what is the current situation regarding speed of traffic outside the school and in the village of Devil's Bridge. The Clerk received information from Ceredigion County Council referring to the 'Community Speed Watch Scheme', where volunteers from the local community would be trained to monitor and report to the police any vehicle driving through villages at excessive speed. Following discussions it was decided to place the pamphlets on notice boards for local volunteers.

James Raw referred that the cables that have been placed in the area to measure vehicles/speed are often broken. He noted that he reports the broken cables to the County Council as otherwise they would not be working and recording effectively.

Cllr Rhodri Davies referred that the County Council will be re-looking at the matrix position of gritting situation during severe weather.

(c) Public Toilets at Devil's Bridge

A response was received from Jasmine Wilson, officer within the County Council with regards to a query sent by the Community Council to Ceredigion County Council suggesting locating porta loo toilets at Devil's Bridge over the winter months due to the fact that the County Council closes the toilets during winter months.

Planning permission would be needed as well as Council Tax on the units. The porta loos would need disabled access and the units would need to be emptied regularly to comply with health and safety. Toilet units of this kind are affected by bad weather and also tend to attract vandalism,

It is understood that the County Council has contacted local businesses already to enquire whether a local business would be willing to open their toilets for public use over winter months, but the County Council asked as well if members of the Community Council could enquire further with local business. The response also indicated that it had been impossible to attract local toilet cleaners, hence the cost of running the toilets will increase significantly because of the need to make a payment for the travelling expenses of cleaners.

A discussion took place on the above and as Officers of Ceredigion County Council had already contact local business there was no purpose for members of the Community Council to do so as well.

(d) Eisteddfod Cwmystwyth

Following confirmation that all members could discuss the situation it was agreed to present a donation of £50.00 to the Committee of Eisteddfod Cwmystwyth. The payment was proposed by Jane Hopkins and seconded by Phil Lloyd.

(e) AA Box at Devil's Bridge

Alun Jenkins reported that he had started tidying the AA box and surrounding area. A discussion took place about the possibility of locating a plaque in memory of Lewis Lewis, Minffordd, who organized and built the AA boxes at Devil's Bridge. The Clerk to investigate the possibility of implementing this suggestion.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2015/16

Following the usual practice of electing officials it was decided on the following:

Chairman: Rhodri Jenkins was elected as Chairman for the Year 2015/16

Vice Chairman: James Raw was elected as Vice -Chairman for the Year 2015/16

Alun Jenkins was elected Financial Officer for the Year 2015/16.

6. FINANCE

(a) Precept of £3,500 was received for 2015/16.

(b) Insurance Renewal

The Clerk reported that the insurance was due to be renewed before 1st of June. The amount quoted by AON, the present insurance company was £659.54 . (It is understood that the company had changed the policy this year and that the renewal amount is a

general policy for Community and Town Councils through England and Wales).

A subsequent quotation was received from Zurick Insurance for £422.74.

It was agreed that the clerk would consider both prices and in conjunction with the Chair decide on the most favourable policy.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received:

- (a) An invitation received from the Secretary of Ysgol Feithrin Penllwyn for Members of the Community Council to an open day to celebrate the Ysgol Feithrin reaching its 40th Birthday as well as celebrating the opening of a new location for the Ysgol Feithrin in a Portacabin on the grounds of Penllwyn School.
- (b) Details from the Planning Inspectorate that there had been a change to the timetable for the Planning Inspectorate to consider a request regarding the Sweet Lamb Rally Complex Wind Farm at Llangurig.
- (c) Details of public meetings organized by the Hywel Dda University Health Board regarding 'Healthy Talks - Let's Talk Health'. These are meetings to share information and listen to the public on how to improve the health service.
- (d) Agenda for a meeting of One Voice Wales Ceredigion held on the 29th April.
- (e) Ombudsman - Revised Guidance on the Code of Conduct. It is understood that the Ombudsman receives a number of minor complaints relating to town and community councils and that the Ombudsman's office now has revised the Code of Conduct to ensure continuity and determination to investigate more serious complaints.
- (f) Correspondence from Ceredigion County Council regarding standardising place names to ensure that the Community Council are happy with the wording Pontarfynach / Devil's Bridge as the official name of the Village. This was confirmed as per agreement set out in the meeting of the 25th of September, 2014.

It was decided that the Clerk make contact with Ceredigion County Council to enquire about placing a sign in Cwmystwyth indicating the area around Rhos Perian.

- (g) Post Office at Devil's Bridge:
Following inquiries a few months ago to the Post Office Service regarding the situation in Devil's Bridge, following the closure of the local shop in Devil's Bridge and the post office service a response was received from Karen Hulse, Customer Care officer within the Post Office Service. The response noted that the Post Office is continuing to consider having an outreach service in the area but so far there is no solution as a suitable available location has not been identified, but they would be open to any suggestions that the Community Council had to solve the problem. It was agreed that the Clerk respond showing appreciation for the response but also noting that residents of the Community have had to make alternative arrangements as the Service has discontinued in the area .
- (h) Following a meeting with neighbouring Community Councils and a subsequent letter sent by Trawsgoed Community Council a response was received from Ms Bronwen Morgan, Chief Executive of Ceredigion County Council. In the letter Ms Morgan stated that the County Council had noted the points raised, namely:

That one annual meeting between the County Council and Town and Community Councils was not adequate because there are different issues being raised by Town Council to those of rural Communities.

That the decision around distributing salt in one area and another during inclement weather was nothing to do with a lack of funding, but that it was decided by matrix whether to grit or not.

That more time was needed to discuss rural problems rather than having a long presentation on the finances of the County Council.

- (i) Correspondence from Ceredigion County Council in response to former enquiries from the Community Council for 'No Sat Nav Signs' in the Trisant and Devil's Bridge area and also 'Slow - Dangerous corners' on the road between Devil's Bridge and Rhosygell. Officials indicated it will not consider the applications at the present time as they are focusing on a review of speed limits on County Road following a request from the Welsh Government.
- (j) Intention to divert Bridleway 20/46 Aberbodcoll 2014
Details received from Ceredigion County Council that the above diversion has come into force on 15th April, 2015, but should there be objections that there is a right to apply to the High Court within 6 weeks of the above date.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) It was noted that heavy industrial vehicles were traveling several times a day back and forth on the road between Abermagwr and the Frongoch site in Trisant and that these vehicles were causing serious damage to the roadside dragging mud from the grass verge across the road in places making driving dangerous. The Clerk to contact the County Council as a matter of urgency to report the issue.
- (b) It was reported that a kissing gate needed attention on the footpath between Devil's Bridge and Borth near Fronhaul Bungalow. The Clerk to contact the County Council.
- (c) Jane Hopkins referred to a Bingo Night to be held on the 28th of May, 2015 in the Woodlands Cafe in aid of Miri Mynach.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4th June, 2015 at Mynach School, 7.00 p.m.