

Minutes of a meeting of the Manafon Community Council held on Wednesday the 9th of January at 7.30 pm at New Mills Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. R. Benyon (Chairman), Cllr's. C. Davies, J. S. Davies, J. Hall, E. A. Lewis, H. Lewis, T. Jerman, and Clerk Mrs. Rosemary Davies.

- 1) Welcome – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2) Apologies for absence – An apology for absence was received from County Cllr. Mrs Joy Shearer.
- 3) Declaration of interest – There were none.
- 4) Minutes of the last meeting – It was proposed by Cllr. C. Davies, seconded by Cllr. E. A. Lewis and agreed by all to approve the minutes of a meeting held on the 6th of November 2014. They were then signed by the Chairman.
- 5) Matters arising from the minutes -
 - a) Circular route foot path – The Clerk was asked to get in touch with Mr. Callum Carr to ask for an update to find out if the work on the path had been completed.
 - b) Mobile phone signal – Dwyriw and Berriew Community Council's were the only Council's to get back to the Council supporting any action the Council was carrying out as they too had problems in their areas with mobile phone reception. Dwyriw Council has left it in the hands of Russell George to see what he can do. It is important to keep operators involved to have any chance of success.
- 6) Correspondence -
 - a) One Voice Wales (O. V. W.) - Information was received advising the Council that the Model Standing Orders have been revised to reflect legal changes and better respond to procedural issues that some Council's have faced over the past few years. They are on the following web link, <http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk/members-area/resources/goodpractice-general?> This revised model will be used to review current standing orders. Also received was information informing the Council that Cllr. Mair Stephens the Chair of O. V. W. and Cllr. Bob Wellington, leader of the WLGA were promoting the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. O. V. W. will be developing a programme of work with the WLGA relating to Charters, members protocols, collaboration and development of service matters. Officers from both organisations will be meeting in early February to progress these matters and details of the outcome and actions will be communicated to member Councils thereafter.
 - b) A letter was received from Welsh Government informing the Council that the amount the Council can spend under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 has gone up from £6.98 to £7.20 per elector.
 - c) A letter was received from Mr. Granville, head of Property Services at the Church of Wales with regard to the Glebe land in Manafon being used for allotments. They would be prepared to consider allocating some of the Glebe land for allotments, however before they can proceed they would have to establish more details as to the area, location and tenure agreements. Before this can proceed Welsh Water are reviewing the arrangements for the sewage plant which they may seek to resite somewhere else on the Glebe land. Until they know more details they cannot discuss a possible sighting for allotments. They will keep the allotment idea in mind as they move forward.
 - d) A letter was received from PAVO who were joint hosting events with Powys County Council inviting Community Councillors to attend where they could view and comment on the new version of the One Powys Plan, Cllr. J. S. Davies will attend.
 - e) A copy of the minutes from Ysgol Rhiw-Bechan full governing body were received.
 - f) Precept – It was discussed and decided by all to set the precept for 2014 – 2015 at £3100
 - g) Buckingham Palace Garden Party – The form was received from O. V. W. As Cllr. R

Benyon is the chairman he was given the form to take home and complete.

- 7) Highway matters -
 - a) The Council are please to see the completion of the works carried out on the highway at Trem Hirnant.
 - b) The Clerk was asked to report to Powys County Council the amount of places where there is standing water on the highway. This is largely due to the fact that the drains need cleaning out and if done properly would help prevent this happening.
 - c) The Clerk was asked to find out what is happening with regard to the bridge at Lower Mill.
 - d) It was reported that works at the Gwernydd Caravan Park are taking place. It was felt that some of the work is making it more dangerous for pedestrians especially young children crossing the road at this point. It was decided that Cllrs. C. Davies and R. Benyon go and see the owners of the Caravan Park to see if visibility could be improved and make it safer.
- 8) Welsh National Eisteddfod – Manafon Community Council has been asked to contribute £1000 towards the cost of the Eisteddfod. It was decided to put a short report in the Manafon Messenger to find out what the views of the members of our community are and find out if anyone wishes to be involved in supporting fund raising activities.
- 9) War Memorial – Cllr. R. Benyon reported that the War Memorial was in need of some maintenance. The Clerk was asked to contact two Stone Mason's to see if they were interested in providing quotes for the work.
- 10) Reports of meetings attended – Cllr's J. Hall and T. Jerman had attended a meeting of the Manafon Messenger. They asked the Council what they thought of of the Manafon Messenger extending the area it covered to include the upper Rhiw valley. It was felt it was not for the Council to make that decision but perhaps the Messenger should ask the people who live in that area what they thought and then the Messenger committee make the decision.
- 11) Payment of accounts – There were none to pay.
- 12) Agenda items for the next meeting -
 - a) National grid connection
 - b) Eisteddfod
 - c) War Memorial
- 13) Date of next meeting – The next meeting of the Council will be held on 5th March 2014.
- 14) As there was no other business to discuss the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.