

Minutes of a meeting of the Manafon Community Council held on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.30pm. at New Mills Village Hall.

- 1) Present – Cllrs. R. Benyon, Chairman, J. S. Davies, C. Davies, T. Jerman, H. Lewis, A. Lewis, J. Hall, and the Clerk Mrs Lorraine Stanton.
- 2) Welcome by Cllr. R. Benyon Chairman who opened the meeting by making a presentation to Mrs. R. Davies the retiring Clerk for MCC, Mrs Davies with a sapphire necklace and thanked Mrs. Davies for her service to the Council and the community over the 36 years. This was followed by a toast and photographs. The County Times were scheduled to attend but were unable to make the meeting however, an agreement was made that on production of photographs and text the event would be featured in the next publication.
- 3) Apologies for absence – County Councillor Joy Shearer (holiday)
- 4) Declaration of Interest – There were none.
- 5) Minutes of the last meeting – It was proposed by Cllr. J. Hall, seconded by Cllr. C. Davies and agreed by all to approve the minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday the 1st of October. They were then signed by the Chairman.
- 6) Matters arising from the minutes.
  - a) Replacement of Lower Mill Bridge – overall a vast improvement, since tarmac applied there is evidence of some standing water but overall a satisfactory improvement. Cllr. C Davies proposed the Clerk send a letter of thanks to the Highways dept.
  - b) Cutting back of hedge in New Mills completed.

Minutes agreed and signing proposed by Cllr. J. Hall, seconded by Cllr. C. Davies therefore minutes signed by Chairman.

- 7) Correspondence – Clerk informed meeting of all correspondence received since last meeting which was considerable and necessitated some discussion as to how some would be handled in future. Some would need filtering and some for sharing with Councillors; Clerk reported that “sharing’ was hampered by the fact that not all Councillors had access to the internet/email. In this “electronic age” much of the correspondence being received could only be shared properly if people could access the links that are embedded into messages. It was more costly to circulate minutes, correspondence etc. by post and some Cllrs. could be disadvantaged by not receiving some correspondence. If possible could they explore if family members could receive on their behalf.

All correspondence received during hand over discussed and dealt with appropriately. Major item related to National Grid and the impact to local communities, Clerk had placed notices detailing local meetings on the notice boards at the village hall and the church lych gate which should ensure the local community are aware of where they can attend meetings. Clerk to chase NG on their proposed attendance at Council meeting to discuss community aspects of their proposals.

Notice received of the proposed changes to the opening times of local Libraries, Clerk will forward details to Editor of Manafon Messenger for next issue; these are not ratified bit proposed.

Another important piece of correspondence was related to the reductions in funding for local government and the likelihood of devolved services within the community in the future.

- 8) Highways – Cllrs C. Davies & T. Jerman reported that there was standing water at the location of Llanwyddelen Bridge. A general remark from majority of Councillors that there was an unacceptable amount of standing water on many roads and that all drains within the Manafon parish need opening / remedial work to improve things; clerk to report to highways dept.

Cllr. C. Davies was to contact (Danny Jarman ??) the highways Dept. to see if a meeting could be organised to discuss local issues. Clerk was to issue all councillors with the email address of the highways dept. as provided by CC Joy Shearer.

The street light at the village hall is not working, Clerk to report to Powys CC as matter of urgency as it was considered a potential hazard given the location close to difficult junction.

- 9) Planning Applications – none received. There was some concern from Cllrs. that MCC were not informed on the outcome of planning applications received, Clerk was instructed to contact the Planning Department and resolve for future that MCC were kept informed on decisions made.
- 10) Archiving – Mrs. R. Davies had contacted Aberystwyth in respect of archiving of MCC records, seemingly they don't archive records outside of Aberystwyth and it was suggested that we contact Llanrindod Wells, Cllr. J. Davies said he would pursue with Llandrindod Council and Powysland Museum to resolve to establish if any facility for archiving minute books; council documents; costs etc. etc.
- 11) Reports of meetings attended – OVW meeting at Penstrowed Church Hall 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Main items for discussion were drastic reductions in funding for council services and impact on communities and services provided.

Devolving of some services to community councils was being considered, there may even be some compulsory merging of some smaller clusters of community councils to cover but in general there was a disagreement compulsory merges.

Other community councils raised issue of planning applications and short length of time from issuing to requiring responses, not always conducive to coincide with local meetings. Matter had been raised with Powys CC, Bob Benyon stated that Manafon had had a response that if application could not be heard to defer until next meeting and Clerk would inform planning department accordingly.

OVW is due to produce a draft policy on fly tipping.

Training, new module due on devolution of services, due diligence etc. intention is to deliver training locally.

Main issue for Manafon was in respect of local needs housing. A local resident was turned down for a mortgage because it was a property with these local restrictions. Offered a mortgage on a property next door at a higher rate of interest. Section 106 of the planning act on affordable housing is not giving local people a viable option and the consensus was that it was flawed in the way it was set up. Powys CC is trying to phase out the Section 106 restrictions.

Next meeting 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Llanbrynmair

- 12) Payment of accounts – Memorial cleaning undertaken and paid for and wreath paid for.

Eisteddfod support, as per last meeting it had been agreed to support financially. Payment of the first £250 to the Eisteddfod was proposed by Cllr. C Davies and seconded by Cllr. A. Lewis. £250 to be paid immediately with a further £250 in April 2015. Clerk to arrange cheque.

13) Agenda items for the next meeting

- a) Minutes of the last meeting
- b) Matters arising
- c) Correspondence
- d) Archiving
- e) Planning
- f) Highways
- g) Wreath
- h) Reports of meetings attended
- i) Payments

14) Date of next meeting – The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2015 at 7.30pm.

As there were was no other business to discuss the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Lorraine Stanton

Clerk to the Council

### **Action points from meeting 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014:**

Replacement of Lower Mill Bridge –Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the Highways dept.

Proposed changes to the opening times of local Libraries, Clerk will forward details to Editor of Manafon Messenger

Clerk to chase NG on their proposed attendance at Council meeting to discuss community aspects of their proposals

Cllr. C. Davies was to contact (Danny Jarman??) the highways Dept. to see if a meeting could be organised to discuss local issues. Clerk was to issue all councillors with the email address of the highways dept. as provided by CC Joy Shearer.

The street light at the village hall is not working, Clerk to report to Powys CC as matter of urgency

Clerk was instructed to contact the Planning Department and resolve for future that MCC were kept informed on decisions made

Archiving- Cllr. J. Davies said he would pursue with Llandrindod Council and Powysland Museum to resolve to establish if any facility for archiving minute books; council documents; costs etc. etc.

Eisteddfod - Clerk to arrange cheque

Clerk was instructed to contact highways department vis a vis standing water was standing water at the location of Llanwyddelen Bridge. A general remark from majority of Councillors that there was an unacceptable amount of standing water on many roads and that all drains within the Manafon parish need opening / remedial work to improve things.