

Minutes of a meeting of the Manafon Community Council held on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm. at New Mills Village Hall.

**Present** – Cllrs. R. Benyon, Chairman, J. S. Davies, C. Davies, T. Jerman, H. Lewis, Mrs. E. A. Lewis, Mrs. J. Hall, C. Cllr. Mrs. J. Shearer and the Clerk Mrs L. Stanton.

- 1) Welcome by Cllr. R. Benyon Chairman
- 2) Apologies for absence – There were none
- 3) Declaration of Interest – There were none.
- 4) 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 the meeting held on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014, minutes signed by the Chairman.
- 5) Matters arising from the minutes:
  - a) Highways, Clerk update meeting on responses from Highways department, basically resources were under pressure and actions would take place when resources when available.
  - b) Local housing needs – issue still not addressed as local resident who raised it was not available, Cllr. Benyon to resurrect discussion as OVW can only get involved if some specifics are presented. According to Cllr. Shearer, some requests are going in for individual properties to have the restriction removed.
  - c) Recycling – Clerk advised meeting that she had been pursuing with Powys CC as to when we would be receiving the rest of the recycling boxes, no firm date all we were told was sometime during the Spring.
  - d) Cllr. Shearer advised that we should find out why Manafon are not informed of the local forum meetings, there should be 2 imminent, probably Welshpool and Llanfyllin, Clerk should contact Susan Simpson ([Susan.Simpson@powys.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.Simpson@powys.gov.uk)) to find out details.
- 6) Correspondence – Clerk informed meeting of all correspondence received since last meeting. Main items; Still receiving correspondence that is more easily disseminated electronically, printing is prohibitive due to time / costs involved.
  - a) Local Transport Consultation – Councillors had been provided with the link in order that they could register views. It was agreed that it was important that rural bus services were preserved. In this instance Clerk will register views of council in the relevant web site that our rural bus service is critical.
  - b) Clerk will continue to filter correspondence and distribute as appropriately and effectively as is required.
  - c) A letter of thanks was read out from Rose Davies in respect of the leaving gift on her retirement.
- 7) Archiving –Cllr. J. Davies said he would pursue 2 avenues, one with Llandrindod County Hall if there were any facilities for archiving and secondly if Office Express could provide some digital means of storing documents, Clerk to explore and establish if any facility for archiving minute books; council documents at outside secure document facilities and obtain costs etc. etc.
- 8) Highways – A number of reports of ongoing issues with standing water and general poor state of the roads.

- a) Cllr. Mrs. Lewis reported that there was repeatedly standing water at the location of Glyn Cogan, Manafon, and Clerk to report to highways dept. It was commented by majority at the meeting that the condition of some roads was cause for concern and whilst it was understood there were resource issues within the highways department, shortcuts now will cost more to resolve ultimately.
  - b) Generally the gutters along the B4390 was all inadequate and were causing more and more standing water, Clerk to report to highways department.
  - c) Cllr. Shearer advised that we should try an approach via the local forum committee in respect of the general lack of maintenance of the local highways.
  - d) A complaint had been received concerning poor visibility at junction when entering onto the B4390 at the Green, Cllr. Benyon to investigate, action improvement if possible or report back to next council meeting.
- 9) Planning Applications – none received. Copies of 4 approved applications were advised to the Council by the Clerk.
- 10) Precept - Clerk advised that the forms for the 2015/2016 Precept had been received. A general discussion ensued in respect of what amount was required for the next financial year. Clerk was asked if accounts were available for this meeting, they were not but the estimate of expenses YTD was £2,500. For next financial year there was the second Eisteddfod payment to be made, World War 1 Battle of Britain may have some associated costs unknown at this stage. In the end it was agreed that we would apply for a Precept of £3,300, £300 less than 2014/2015, this was proposed by Cllr. J. Hall and seconded by Cllr. J. Davies. Clerk advised that a budget forecast would be available for next meeting and a spreadsheet would be maintained monthly and presented at each meeting thereafter.
- 11) Web Site development. Clerk advised that there was a £500 grant available for us to develop / enhance the web site and asked the Council for their approval to apply for it. The grant can be used towards the cost of an external body doing the development; this aspect was checked specifically by the Clerk before embarking on feasibility. Whilst the Manafon Messenger was one platform for sharing information within the Community, it wasn't entirely viable. An example being the current campaign to protect Montgomeryshire's health services, the community need to be made aware of such petitions so they can have their say. We are in an electronic age and need to make the best possible use of these resources and ensure that we were more inclusive as a community. Cllr. Shearer suggested the Clerk looks at other community council web sites, such as Aberhafesp for some ideas as to how ours can be improved. Cllr. Hall said that we should consider more links to local community areas e.g. WI; Messenger; maybe even consider a Facebook page, Clerk suggested we could have a section for placing sensitive information with access restricted to Councillors only. Clerk to pursue the grant and explore possibilities / options with developer, Clerk was prepared to learn how to make updates and maintain web site data for the future.
- 12) Reports of meetings attended – there were none Clerk advised no minutes or details of next OVW meeting (expected to be 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Llanbrynmair) received so far, informed by Councillors could be expected shortly.
- 13) Commemorative wreath – It was replaced as the original was in very poor condition, Council keen to maintain the spirit of the commemorative wreath, will be on the agenda September/October meeting to decide if we replace the wreath every year or retain wreath whilst in reasonable condition and make an appropriate charitable donation instead of replacing wreath annually.

- 14) Payment of accounts –
- a) Clerks salary £400
  - b) Postage stamps £27.60
  - c) Cllr. Benyon remembrance wreath £15
  - d) SLCC membership for 2015 £65

Additional point to agenda: - Clerks' holidays 2015, the Clerk made Council aware that she had some holidays booked before her appointment as Clerk and requested that where possible that dates set for meetings could take account of her availability, dates for holidays provided by Clerk and meetings to be arranged accordingly.

- 15) Agenda items for the next meeting
1. Minutes of the last meeting
  2. Matters arising from minutes
  3. Correspondence / Updates from Clerk
  4. Archiving
  5. Planning
  6. Highways
  7. Web site development
  8. Reports of meetings attended
  9. Recycling
  10. Payment of accounts / Budget forecast / Expenditure YTD

- 16) Date of next meeting – The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 at 7.30pm.

As there were was no other business to discuss the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 2105 hours.

Lorraine Stanton

Clerk to the Council

## **Action points from meeting 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

- a) Local housing needs - Cllr. Benyon to resurrect discussion with local resident.
- b) Local Forum / committee, Clerk should contact Susan Simpson @ Powys CC, to find out details of local forum committee.
- c) Local Transport Consultation – Clerk will register views of council in the relevant web site that our rural bus service is critical.
- d) Highways – Clerk to report to highways department on standing water at the location of Glyn Cogan, Manafon, and generally the gutters along the B4390 was all inadequate and were causing more and more standing water.
- e) Cllr. Benyon to investigate concern over exit from the Green onto B4390.
- f) Archiving- Cllr. J. Davies to pursue with Llandrindod County Hall if there were any facilities for archiving and secondly if Office Express could provide some digital means of storing documents.
- g) Archiving - Clerk to explore and establish if any facility for archiving minute books; council documents at outside secure document facilities and obtain costs etc. etc.
- h) Clerk to advise Councillors of details of next OVW meeting once received (expected to be 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015).
- i) Precept - Clerk to submit form for Precept claim, produce a budget forecast and a spreadsheet for monthly expenditure.
- j) Web Site development. Clerk to pursue the grant and explore possibilities / options with developer.