

**Minutes of the meeting of the Manafon Community Council held on Wednesday the 7th October 2015 at 7.30pm. New Mills Village Hall.**

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

- 1) **Welcome** by Cllr. J.R. Davies Chairman
- 2) **Apologies for absence** – Apologies from Cllr. J. Hall & C. Cllr. J. Shearer who would be arriving late, no apology received from Cllr. T. Jerman
- 3) **Declaration of Interest** – None
- 4) **Minutes of the last meeting**; minutes approved, proposed by Cllr. R Benyon, seconded by Cllr. H. Lewis and agreed by all.
- 5) **Matters arising from minutes (not covered in main agenda)**

**Cutting of hedge by Village Hall** – Cllr. H. Lewis advised still in progress unable to establish contact with relevant people. Clerk will drop note through door and try and contact tenants.

**Gwernydd Planning** - No further correspondence received by Clerk, Clerk will check on Powys web site to see if any progress/development and report at next meeting

**The telegraph pole that was in the road rather than in the verge at Dolryrhoel rock** – Clerk now to take up with BT/Highways, Cllr. Jerman still to provide details he may have related to this to the Clerk to pursue.

**Sewage Plant** – Main agenda item.

**Notice board** – Now in place thanks to Cllrs. Lewis & C. Davies for setting up. Clerk will update with literature ASAP, keys for notice board are with Clerk and Cllrs. J.R. Davies & H. Lewis.

6) **Updates on Sewage Plant STW/Fischer German**

A site meeting took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> September attended by STW, Co. Cllr. Mrs. J. Shearer and Cllrs. J. R. Davies & R. Benyon. A copy of the notes is filed with the minutes.

**Since that site meeting STW/Fisher German have advised that as a result of those meetings with caravan park owners they (STW/Fisher German) have decided to conduct a review of the scheme in its current guise however, they have stated that as the planning application is already in and fee paid this will carry on through the planning system at the same time as the review is being undertaken.**

Considerable discussion took place in respect of the planning application and Council are supportive of the need for a new plant but are unanimous in their objection to the proposed siting of the new plant. A formal response would be compiled and submitted to the Powys CC planning outlining the objections to the plan.

7) **Correspondence / General Updates**

- a) Clerk confirmed that the Audit documents had been received back for financial year 2014/2015. Clean audit received no remarks, notice has been displayed accordingly. Invoice received for £96.00 to be paid.
- b) Annual Audit for the financial year 2014/2015 has been concluded by BDO without any reservations/comments; the Notice of Conclusion was placed on both notice boards and

will be uploaded to web site ASAP, the annual return was approved and accepted by Council.

- c) Dyfed-Powys Fire Rescue have issued their draft improvement plan for 2016/2017, more details available on web site: <http://www.mawwfire.gov.uk/english/Pages/Home.aspx>
- d) Letter received from International Eisteddfod soliciting donations for Llangollen 2016.
- e) Letter received from CAB Powys soliciting donations.

#### **Requests for donations will be discussed at next AGM**

- f) Consultations, Clerk asked for clarification on informing Council when new consultations opened, regularly gets updates from Government website, agreed that Clerk would send links for relevant site to Councillors.
- g) Clerk confirmed receipt of £30 cash back from HP in respect of lap top purchase, paid direct into bank account.
- h) Local Council Award Scheme – NALC have launched the scheme to recognise success of the best local councils and providing a framework to support councils by giving them an opportunity to show they meet the required standards set by the sector. Clerk will explore further and revert if of any significance to MCC.
- i) Minutes of OVW Montgomeryshire Area Committee Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> June along with Agenda for meeting 6<sup>th</sup> October, Clerk was not aware of meeting prior to going on holiday so Council were not informed in time.

**Future dates for Area Committee Meetings are as follows: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.**

- j) Notification from Welsh Audit Office that Grant Thornton will be appointed Auditor on behalf of the Auditor General. The new arrangements will have a greater emphasis on governance with an extended Annual Governance Statement having a new section highlighting “thematic” areas for review at all councils. These themes will vary year on year and will address concerns arising from audit findings. In order to allow councils to develop their governance arrangements councils will be notified in advance of the specific areas that will form part of the “thematic” review each year.

It should be noted that the auditors will focus on budget setting and monitoring and the engagement of internal audit for the 2015/2016 audits so we need to make sure that our budget and adherence for the new financial year is as accurate as it can be.

Wales Audit Office is running a consultation on Audit fees from 2016/2017 financial year. Councils with a turnover of less than £25,000 pa will still need to prepare accounts but will no longer be part of a standard audit process from the 2017/2018 financial year.

## **8) Planning**

1 new planning application received by Clerk related to STW project. An in depth discussion ensued on the pros and cons of the planning application. MCC are supportive if the need for a new system but object unequivocally to the site chosen by STW. Concerns raised about the lack of adequate consultation by STW with the community as a whole prior to and subsequent to meeting at village hall convened by MCC, not STW.

On inspection of the application it was obvious to Council that STW Option 2 has never been offered before, this is the first knowledge MCC have of it.

MCC are adamant that the views of the community are made clear to Powys CC in respect of this application and will be responding online with their objections to the planning application. Manafon Community Council and the local community are supportive of the need for a new sewage plant, however both MCC and local residents object unequivocally to the proposed siting contained within the planning application.

A copy of the objections will be shared with the community and a copy filed with these minutes.

## **9) Remembrance**

Council discussed the option of making an annual donation to the Poppy Appeal, proposed by Cllr. Benyon and seconded by Cllr. E.A. Lewis. The level of donation was discussed and was proposed by Cllr. J.S. Davies as £20, seconded by Cllr. J. Hall. Cllr. J. Hall will lay the current wreath on Remembrance Day.

## **10) Highways**

Cllr. R. Benyon reported that the drain in Rhiew Close was resolved; Clerk still has to take some issues from last meeting to Highways Dept., and find solution for the hedge cutting at the Llanfair/New Mills Junction.

No other issues reported.

## **11) Reports of Training / Meetings attended**

Cllr. Benyon attended meeting with BT re the broadband situation locally. Ongoing issues with poor speed, erratic service and with no mobile coverage the internet is essential to the majority of residents. There is a suggestion that BT will be delivering FTTP (fibre to the property) suggestions were that may not be until +/- November 2016 which is unacceptable. He now has direct contact with BT Project Manager and plans were being made for a public meeting in Manafon in November.

## **12) Payment of accounts**

Clerk confirmed no payments made since last meeting, cheques raised for settlement of audit fee to LBDO for £96.00. Proposed by Cllr. C. Davies seconded by Cllr. H. Lewis, Clerk to arrange payment.

## **13) Proposed agenda for November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting (any additional items arising in the meantime will be added before issuing prior to meeting, please inform the Clerk of any amendments to minutes above or of any **additional agenda items by the latest 16<sup>th</sup> November**)**

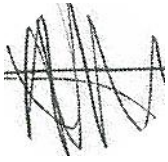
1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declaration of interest (as agenda points arise)
4. Minutes of the last meeting
5. Matters arising from minutes
6. Updates on Sewage Plant from STW/Fischer-German
7. Mobile & Broadband coverage including update on Public Meeting with BT
8. Budget 2016 and Precept

9. Review of Standing Orders
10. Correspondence / Updates from Clerk
11. Planning Applications/Updates
12. Highways matters
13. Reports from meetings / training attended
14. Payment of accounts
15. Agenda items next meeting
16. Confirmation of date of next meeting

**14) Date of next meetings**

**The next meeting of the Council will be held on 25th November at 1930 hours.**

Meeting closed at 2125 and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.



Lorraine Stanton  
Clerk & RFO to the Council

## **Action points from meeting:**

### **Clerk**

Coordinate planning objections with Councillors and upload to Powys CC web site, inform community via web site, notice board and Messenger to ensure the wider community are kept up to date.

Contact home owners re cutting of hedge near Llanfair junction, put note through the door if contact not made ASAP.

Send links for relevant consultation site to Councillors.

Clerk to explore potential benefits of Local Council Award Scheme.

Clerk still to take some issues to Highways Dept. (from September meeting / minutes)

Coordinate with BT re public meeting in broadband coverage.

Update web site with current information

Clerk to inform OVW on lack of improvement/development on mobile coverage (from September meeting / minutes)

### **Councillors**

Cllr. T. Jerman to provide Clerk with contact details re telegraph pole issue (from September meeting / minutes).