

Minutes of the Council meeting of the Manafon Community Council held on Tuesday the 2nd August 2016

Present –Chairman Cllr. J. Davies, Vice Chairman Cllr. H. Lewis, Cllrs. C. Davies, E.A. Lewis, R. Benyon, J. Hall and Clerk L. Stanton.

51. Welcome

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

52. Apologies for absence (absence forms for previous meeting were signed off)

Apologies received from CC. J. Shearer and Cllr. T. Jerman

53. Declaration of interest

No obvious declarations of interest, any which arose during meeting, would be dealt with under that agenda point.

54. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes were discussed in full, it was agreed that the minutes were agreed and proposed by Cllr. E.A. Lewis seconded by Cllr. R. Benyon and it was therefore resolved by all to accept as a correct record of the meeting.

55. Matters arising from minutes / Action Points update

Item 48 – Clerk had received verbal confirmation from Powys CC in relation to policy on hedge/verge cutting, a hard copy of policy not available; Basic policy is that urban areas (within a speed restricted zone) and rural have different policies. The only identified urban area in our Parish is the green area in Glan Rhiw, this cutting is 10 times per annum paid for by the housing association, outside of that everything else is classed as rural. Hedges are the responsibility of the adjacent land owner, grass verges 1 cut per annum. If the grass verges are narrow then it can mean the hedges are inadvertently cut in places. Comment was made that the cutting operation has not been helped by more rapid growth this season.

Powys CC admitted to being behind on cutting but all should be up to date by end of week w/e 13th August, new contractor was appointed, and then withdrew and a delay occurred in appointing a new contractor resulting in delays to the operations. Greenfingers have been awarded the contract and some cutting has been subcontracted locally to contractors. With specific regard to Glan Rhiw, according to Powys CC it was cut on the 28/4; 27/5; 15/6; 5/7.

Issues can be reported via the Powys CC number, 0845 6076060, or online using this link - https://forms.powys.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?LANGUAGE=EN&VAR_SELECTED_SERVICE_REF=23036&UE=public&ebz=1_1471420791171&VAR_RETURN_URL=http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/roads-transport-and-parking/report-a-problem-with-hedges-trees-or-verges/?id=430&L=0&formid=ICT_WEBTRANS

The contact responsible for this operation is Andrew Collins, direct number 01597 827465, email: Andrew.Collins@powys.gov.uk

No further action for Clerk to take.

56. Water Pressure issues, replacement of asbestos pipe between New Mills & Manafon

Issues with pressure still ongoing for some residents, and a discussion took place in respect of this and the water supply from Manafon to New Mills, the main had been replaced between Berriew and Manafon but there was still the issue of an old asbestos pipe feeding New Mills. Clerk advised that STW (Severn Trent Water) had visited mains at the Green several times and a major repair was imminent, Cllr. Benyon advised that the leak behind one of the bungalows was still ongoing despite 3 repairs. Clerk was requested to inform Severn Trent Water and ask what is being proposed to resolve both matters as this may be contributing to current issues

57. Correspondence Updates / General updates from Clerk

All town & community councils are being asked to participate in the “fly a flag for the Commonwealth in March 2017, Manafon do not have a flag so will not be participating.

One Voice Wales – the AGM notions had been published, Clerk gave a brief synopsis, most were specific to other larger councils, the conference takes place Saturday 1st October and it was unanimously decided not to attend.

Our service provider for Web site and email has been transferring data to new host servers, will have to enlist help of Glenn Roberts to resolve some issues, Clerk to organise.

58. Planning Applications/Updates

Clerk advised that the bi-weekly reports from Planning @ Powys CC were arriving and were vetted to see if any applications fell within our Parish, only those would be circulated to Council. Latest check on pending applications (P2016/0168) show neither changes nor decisions.

59. Highways matters

Clerk to report following matters to Highways department: **a) Large pot hole** on the Llanfair Road on B4389 beyond Cefn and Belan Deg. **b) Ragwort** is appearing in several places, Council asked Clerk to establish if this is a “notifiable” weed pest to report, it is dangerous to animals in a ‘dry state’ and has been seen growing in several places, specifically on B4390 opposite Lower House Farm and in other areas by rivers. Clerk to establish if reportable and do so, councillors were to report specific sightings to Clerk and she would report to Highways. **c) Gutter/Drain at Dolryrhoel Rock**, some issues meaning vehicles are getting stuck, Llanwyddelan bridge side of the road at Cefn Bach. **d) Llanfair junction at New Mills**, Bad junction anyhow but there are visibility issues caused by hedge and briars, can’t see past the old pump when trying to exit the Llanfair Road towards New Mills/Manafon.

60. Reports from meetings / training attended, specifically Berriew CC meeting

Cllr. R. Benyon attended the Berriew (Public) meeting to gain an update on Superfast Broadband installation, see appendix 1, minutes from Public Meeting 14th July 2016.

For Manafon parish it was unanimously decided to invite Martin Jones from BT to our October meeting as delivery of the service has been intimated for by September it will be interesting to get an overview.

After the public meeting of Berriew CC, Cllr. Benyon raised the point about highways issues affecting parishioners from both communities and the “political correctness” of how it should be handled. It was agreed that for Manafon & Berriew councils that any highways matters can be reported with a copy to the respective Community Council.

On behalf of the Council Cllr. J. Hall attended the induction of the new Vicar at Bettws Cedewain.

61. Financial update from Clerk including budget comparison and payments to be made

No expenditure since last meeting so expenditure YTD remains at £671.89, compared to a total budget of £3,479. Clerk is owed £8.81 in expenses but is being carried over until necessary to raise cheque; Chairman signed off the cumulative payment sheet accordingly.

Chairman signed off the forms for Clerks additional hours worked so far this year - 18/4, 25/4 and 3/5.

The VAT refund was paid into the account on 8th July, £120.68

Bank balances as at 15th July, current account £3165.06, high interest £1898.24, total £5063.30.

Clerk confirmed that we had received verbal confirmation of a clean audit when chasing for return of documentation, seemingly there are delays in returning the signed off audit documents Clerk will chase.

62. Agenda items next meeting

Welcome

Apologies for absence (absence forms to be signed off)

Declaration of interest

Minutes of the last meeting

Matters arising from minutes / Action Points update

Water Pressure issues, update from STW

Correspondence Updates / General updates from Clerk

Planning Applications/Updates

Highways matters

Superfast Broadband

Installation of churchyard toilet (Per letter to Cllr. Benyon from Toby Jones)

Reports from meetings / training attended

Financial update from Clerk including budget comparison and payments to be made

Agenda items next meeting

Confirmation of date of next meeting/s

63. Confirmation of date of next meeting/s

Next meeting will take place **Wednesday 7th September 1930** hours

Meeting closed at 2140 and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Summary Action Points includes some carried forward

Clerk

Absence forms to be signed off

Clerk was requested to inform Severn Trent Water and ask what is being proposed to resolve leak and pipe between Manafon & New Mills

Transfer of data to new host servers, Clerk to organise with Glenn Roberts

Clerk to report matters per agenda item 59 to Highways department

Clerk to invite Martin Jones from BT to our October meeting

Clerk to chase return of Audit documentation

Clerk to update web site with all relevant information/correspondence.

Clerk to update highways spread sheet with current status on issues raised.

Carried forward:-

Development of logo

Councillors