

Minutes of the Council meeting of the Manafon Community Council held on Wednesday 2nd August 2017

Present – Cllrs. J. Davies, Chairman, R. Benyon, J. Hall, T. Jerman, C. Davies, I. Prentice & E. A. Lewis, & Clerk L. Stanton

Welcome – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and welcomed PCSO Liann Richards and welcomed our new Councillor Isabel Prentice to her first meeting.

Discussion with PCSO 8126 Liann Richards, no members of the community attended.

See separate notes attached to minutes.

Apologies – C. Cllr. H. Hulme

Declarations of interest – None apparent from initial agenda, if any arise they would be dealt with under specific item.

Minutes of the last meeting

Acceptance of minutes for accuracy, proposed by Cllr R Benyon, seconded by Cllr. J. Hall, unanimously agreed by all to accept as an accurate record of meeting.

Matters arising from minutes

194 - 30 MPH Llanfair Road/ New Mills, Llanfair Road approaching Pen y Bryn, New Mills. Reply received from Powys CC: - "The PCC Traffic Engineer confirms that the 30 mph speed limit commences at the appropriate location on the B4389 downhill approach into New Mills from Llanfair Caereinion, and moving the speed limit signs further away from the village would have no positive effect. In addition the Authority can't move the speed limit signs without modifying the traffic regulation order, and this is currently not an option because of the ongoing moratorium on speed limit traffic orders unless the community council are able to pay cost of £3000 plus. This would be the cost to relocate the signs and to modify the traffic regulation order. May I suggest that if drivers are travelling through these bends at a reckless or inconsiderate speed, the concerned residents raise the matter directly with the police".

198 – Clerk was requested to escalate to Environmental department.

All other points arising covered in main agenda items.

Cae Post (carried forward)

After full consideration it was decided not to pursue as issues with location, control and generally how to manage the facility would be problematical.

Royal Mail post box @ New Mills

Thanks to the intervention of Cllr. Prentice the post box in New Mills has received the necessary repair and maintenance and so is in much better shape.

Commemoration of the end of World War one

Clerk still pursuing the possibilities of any funding to support any events marking this important occasion, project leader due to make a presentation at next meeting of SLCC Powys in September Clerk will attend if necessary.

STW and sewerage

Clerk had received confirmation that Stuart Page Senior Programme Engineer, Asset Creation Waste Non Infra - West 1 will attend September meeting to discuss future plans. Clerk to invite AM Russell George to next meeting.

Reserves Policy (carried forward)

Detailed discussion on finalisation of reserve policy, reserve amounts and type of reserve, at this point Cllrs. J. Davies & C. Davies declared an interest (donations Village Hall) and took no further part in the meeting. After much deliberation on the reserve specifics, particularly in respect of concerns on the future funding and associated running costs of the hall, the policy and amounts of reserves was proposed by Cllr. J. Hall and seconded by Cllr. I. Prentice and was unanimously agreed to approve the policy and the reserve funds indicated, proviso that these to be reviewed annually at budget meeting. Vice Chair handed meeting back to the Chair, reserves signed off by Vice Chair, Clerk to upload to website.

Data Protection Policy (carried forward)

Held in abeyance, given the size and scope of a community council, Clerk has solicited input from OVW (as our association representative with Welsh government) for clarity as to what exactly must be included in such a policy. Clerk had undertaken the self-assessment with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to establish if we needed to be registered (cost of £35 PA) and it would seem we are exempt.

Correspondence Updates / General updates from Clerk

AON have informed Councils that from renewals for 2018/2019 they will not provide cover, alternatives will need to be sought nearer the time.

Clerk informed Council of the final motions being put forward at OVW annual conference in September, all from Town Councils (5) rather than Community Councils, of note the motion to raise membership fees by 3% for 2018/19.

Broadband/Mobile updates

Broadband summit in Newtown 17th July, Clerk attended and had taken notes, circulated to Councillors, these will now be uploaded to website. In essence we cannot hope to be connected much before October, could even be later as issues had been identified with wrong cable being installed somewhere in the infrastructure for Manafon.

No real progress to report on mobile coverage, we are still pursuing several avenues to achieve some signal in the valley, planning in for mast at Tregynon but will not service Manafon; we seem to be at the bottom of the pile as far as network operators are concerned.

Planning Applications / Updates

No new plans received no updates.

Highways matters

Cllr. Jerman reported issues around Llanwyddelan Bridge and bottom of Cefn Bach Lane; a request to go

to highways department to undertake a review of the configuration of the junction, there appears to be some confusion with motorists about the “stop” position and give ways, a number of near misses have been noticed and for the size/location of the junction it carries a high volume of traffic at certain times. Road condition Cefn Bach Lane, Cllr. Jerman reported that there are serious issues with the condition of the lane both on the edges and with a number of large pot holes.

Related indirectly to the 30 MPH Llanfair Road/ New Mills, Llanfair Road approaching Bryn Teg, a concern is about the width of the road on the bend especially with the high numbers of large commercial vehicles and farm traffic, there have been a number of issues with vehicles not being able to pass safely and for one to have to reverse back and onto the B4390, Clerk to report to highways on issues.

Ragwort has been seen in some spots, if evident again Councillors to report exact location to Clerk as it is a reportable weed.

Reports from meetings / training attended

See separate notes issued and on web site for broadband summit 17th July.

Financial update from Clerk

Payments to be made: - £8.00 to Clerk for mileage claim Broadband summit, £9.25 (incl. VAT) to Clerk for stationary, £100 donation under section 137 to village hall approved at last meeting minute ref 187. Payments proposed by Cllr. J. Hall, seconded by Cllr. I. Prentice, all in favour and payments duly authorised. Clerk confirmed external audit documents received back, accounts clean 2 small observations made, 1) Internal auditor had not dated the form, not spotted by Clerk, apologies, 2) as a community council we should not depreciate assets apparently, this will be corrected for next audit, copy of audit conclusions on notice board and web site. To coincide with reserves agreed, Clerk gave Council an overview of accounts and discussed bank accounts, whilst reserves do not have to be in a separate account it was unanimously agreed to transfer £527 from the current account to the high interest account essentially to ring fence the reserves, Clerk to raise cheque and bank accordingly ASAP.

Agenda items next meeting

Welcome

STW and sewerage (1900 hours)

Apologies for absence

Declarations of interest

Minutes of the last meeting, Matters arising from minutes

Correspondence Updates / General updates from Clerk

Highways matters

Reports from meetings / training attended

Training

Financial update from Clerk – accounts, payroll updates & payments to be authorised,

Updates from County Councillor

Agenda items next meeting

Date of next meeting/s

Dates of external meetings and attendees

Date of next meetings - next meeting Wednesday 6th September Oct 4th and Nov 1st

Chairman thanked everyone for attending, meeting closed at 2135 hours.

Discussion with PCSO Richards 1900 hours to 2000 hours 2nd August 2017

Intro - PCSO's deal more with public disorder and community matters rather than crime related matters. She is happy for members of the community to contact her, Tel 101 and give badge number 8126 with a message for her to call back or email, liann.richards@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk or NewtownNPT@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk. PCSO is happy for anyone to contact her with any concerns, so people are aware there is a table of response times relevant to the issue, a 999 call is an immediate responses and within 25 minutes maximum, 999 or 101 if the issue is regarded as a priority then 1 hour is the maximum response, calls to 101 if regarded as a scheduled response has no time limit. Anything that is a specific crime has to be dealt with and reported by the Police within 24 hours of the event.

A gate tag (uniquely identifiable tag) scheme is being offered to land owners whereby of accidents or incidents occur police will know who to contact, more detail on the scheme will be made available shortly and Clerk will publish.

A number of issues related to traffic were raised, C. Cllr. Hulme – had been made aware of a number of near misses with cars and the bypass haulage lorries travelling between Bettws and Aberbechan and New Mills and Cefn Coch. The lorries are hauling stone from Bowen's Quarry in Cefn Coch down to the bypass in Newtown and they are reported to be travelling at excessive speed on the road areas identified and in particular where the road is narrow and no white line in the middle. New Mills to Cefn Coch is exceptionally bad and again by Aberbechan chapel. Bowens Quarry drivers are under strict instruction from the owners not to speed and the company are taking a very strong approach to any incidents reported to them by members of the public. It suggested it might be external contractors to Griffiths' who are causing most concern, this was apparently not the case but in the event, the Roads Policing Sergeant is going to address the issues with Griffith's so hopefully things should calm down. Bowens have notices in the weighbridge area informing ALL drivers to take extra care and watch their speed.

Community speed watch schemes can be formed; this requires teams of a minimum of 3 people with free training by the Police and all kit provided free of charge. Given there are concerns on the speeds on approach to Manafon from Berriew Road and New Mills from Tregynon side it was felt this was worth pursuing, PCSO will arrange for the risk assessments by Go Safe, in the meantime we may see a police presence to monitor the situation from time to time. Schemes are very effective (Tregynon operate one and Berriew are about to start). Cars are monitored for speed using equipment provided by the Police and all reporting is coordinated in a specific department in North Wales, vehicles seen exceeding speed limit will be reported and will receive a warning letter, if caught a second time in any speed watch scheme it is a harsher warning, if caught 3 times then there is an intelligence log and the vehicle will be targeted by traffic police as persistent offenders and a prosecution will ensue.

30 MPH Llanfair Road/ New Mills, Llanfair Road approaching Pen y Bryn, New Mills, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8BP, the following was reply received when Manafon CC reported it: - *"The PCC Traffic Engineer confirms that the 30 mph speed limit commences at the appropriate location on the B4389 downhill approach into New Mills from Llanfair Caereinion, and moving the speed limit signs further away from the village would have no positive effect. In addition the Authority can't move the speed limit signs without modifying the traffic regulation order, and this is currently not an option because of the ongoing moratorium on speed limit traffic orders unless the community council are able to pay cost of £3000 plus. This would be the cost to relocate the signs and to modify the traffic regulation order.*

May I suggest that if drivers are travelling through these bends at a reckless or inconsiderate speed, the concerned residents raise the matter directly with the police". PCSO stated that police unable to do anything about this issue it is purely a Powys CC matter.

Related to the 30 MPH Llanfair Road/ New Mills, Llanfair Road approaching Bryn Teg, a concern is about the width of the road on the bend especially with the high numbers of large commercial vehicles and farm traffic, there have been a number of issues with vehicles not being able to pass safely and for one to have to reverse back and onto the B4390. **

A regular hindrance to traffic was a car parked in Berriew at the old post office, right in 2 bends and this is causing issues. **

The outside light on premises at the stable / ménage area of Pen Y Gros on the Berriew road, it is in a position that causes exceptionally bad glare to oncoming motorists. **

Tregynon speed limiters, a number of people from the farming and haulage community find the limiters too narrow to navigate and it is possibly causing damage to highways, street hardware and some have reported damage to vehicles, while traffic calming measures have been effective it was requested that the current system be looked at or may be an alternative could be considered. **

Chair thanked PCSO Richards for attending and restated our interest in the community speed watch schemes.

**** Clerk to report these to highways as appropriate.**