

# Minutes of the Council meeting of the Manafon Community Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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

**Welcome** – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and welcomed Stuart Page from STW.

Prior to Council meeting there was a discussion with Stuart Page of STW in relation to development of sewerage system in Manafon. See separate notes attached to minutes, meeting closed at 1940 hours.

**220. Apologies** – Cllr. J. Davies

**221. Declarations of interest** –

Clerk advised that under correspondence there was a reference to a planning application, previous declarations of interest applied in respect of Cllrs. J. Hall & T. Jerman.

**222. Minutes of the last meeting**

Acceptance of minutes for accuracy, proposed by Cllr. Benyon, seconded by Cllr. Lewis, unanimously agreed by all to accept as a true record of meeting.

**223. Matters arising from minutes**

**PCSO meeting-** gate tags, Cllr. Hall advised that the system works well and they had received tags very quickly.

**PCSO meeting-** GoSafe had risk assess villages for community speed watch scheme and decision was that area was unsafe and lacked mobile signal, speed perception day, PCSO had arranged and date was 1600 hours Wed 20<sup>th</sup> September and a couple of Councillors were required to attend, Clerk asked for volunteers to attend, only Cllr. Prentice offered to attend so the Clerk volunteered, location TBC.

**216** – Cllr. Jerman was dissatisfied with the response from Powys CC. Clerk advised that she had done all she could and was for Cllr. Jerman to pursue if unhappy with outcome, all details on highways log on web site.

**198** – Vermin infestation, Cllr. Benyon had arranged for Environmental officer from Powys CC to attend site, insufficient evidence of nesting rats so no further action by Council, Cllr. Benyon was concerned for the health and well-being of residents who were being affected by this infestation and stated some residents had set traps but he would monitor situation going forward as when weeds die back it may be easier to deal with.

**209** – War memorial, Clerk advised no funding for events, see below under correspondence.

**224. Correspondence Updates / General updates from Clerk**

**Powys CC standards sub-committee** - Clerk advised that the committee was established, Hugh Patrick, Joy Shearer & Margaret Morris make up the committee, appointments valid until next elections 2022.

**Data Protection Policy** – Clerk advised that OVW will be arranging some seminars covering subject but reminded Council that we cannot sit on the fence with this, suggest tabled as an agenda item next meeting as May 2018 was not that far away and we need to consider things such as probably appointing a Data Protection Office. NALC had produced a document for English Councils; Clerk was to look at this in more details prior to next meeting.

**Tree Charter**, Launch of a tree charter on 6 Nov 2017, 800 legacy trees are available to be planted across the UK, Councils can apply for a tree free, deadline 13<sup>th</sup> October, rationale being that trees can benefit the community's and add to their general well-being. Church had been considering planting an apple tree to benefit the community, unsure of what trees are going to be available but Clerk to apply.

**War memorial** – funding available for repairs to WW1 memorials, for repairs, restoration or maintenance there is a fund available for up to 90% of cost of approved works remaining 10% paid by council, to improve or enhance the setting a grant of £200 to a maximum of 70% of the approved costs can be applied for remaining 30% paid by council. Cllr. Hall to inspect memorial to see if any work needs to be undertaken.

**Clustering** – Application for received for securing funds to support Town and Community Councils, decided to have as agenda item October. In the meantime as Manafon would not be “driving” any clustering, Clerk to speak to Newtown to see if any new discussions are imminent.

**Future Generations Well-Being Act** - Clerk advised that we are being inundated with material, surveys etc. related to this new Act. Whilst Council has already taken on board a number of factors that come under this umbrella, such as additional donations to Village Hall, pursuing operators and Welsh Assembly for mobile coverage, pursuing BT for improved broadband, all to support the needs and future well-being of the community, such as to ensure elderly residents are catered for, that emergency services can access properties quickly, so STW can install water meters for benefit of residents and the environment but more input was still needed. Clerk had already sent relevant documents to Councillors for participating in surveys etc. and will make same available via web site so the community are kept informed and can participate.

**Training** – Confirmation received for course bookings, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2 places Model code of Conduct, Clerk asked Council to approve further course for a ‘New Councillors’ induction course at Newtown 27<sup>th</sup> September, places available and with Bursary should be max £20 per place, unanimously agreed to take 1 or 2 places as required.

**SP Energy networks** – Clerk had received communication that SP energy want to work closely with local communities promoting more support for information particularly in respect of power cuts etc., they will provide information suitable for web site and notice boards, Clerk had confirmed our wish to participate as it contributes to the well-being of the community of people know how to deal with things during a power cut, this agreed by Council as a good idea.

**Powys CC linking business and communities** – as part of the Vision for Powys programme, all local councils has received a request to advise Powys CC of all local businesses including sole proprietors was discussed to ensure all captured and Clerk to respond to request ASAP.

**Mobiles** – Efforts to secure mobile coverage for the valley continues, Cllr. Benyon has identified ownership of Tetra mast and continues to pursue if can be used for public access, the proposed mast for Tregynon is unlikely to serve Manafon, CC. Hulme advised that 2 other sites are being considered for the erection of a mast in Tregynon.

**Grants** – Cymraeg 2050 Grant scheme – which invites organisations to make an application for funding for new and innovative projects to increase the use of the Welsh language. Digital inclusion schemes would qualify with a maximum single grant application being available of £20,000, passed to Cllr. Benyon as may be useful to Ysgol Bechan.

**Planning** (not an agenda item so dealt with under correspondence) - Communication received from Powys CC planning dept. in respect of application P/2017/0245, at this juncture Cllrs. Jerman and Hall declared an interest and took no further part in the meeting, Cllr. Benyon took over as Chair. This application is scheduled to go before Planning Committee 14/9, opportunity for public to speak; as Manafon CC did not raise any objections to the application it was agreed by all that it wasn't necessary to be represented, C.C. Hulme was not aware of why escalated to full planning committee she would advise Council when further info was available.

Cllr. Hall returned to the meeting and resumed as Chair.

## **225. Highways matters**

Several reports from Councillors on state of roads at 2 specific points; Cllr. Benyon reported a near miss because of the concave nature of the road at Bronheulog B4390, previously reported as "Bwngns (Devils) hole" 2015, seemingly a tractor with empty trailer was travelling in opposite direction and the trailer was bounced to the other side of the road. Second is a similar scenario outside Tyn Y Pant on B4390, concave nature of the road does cause vehicles to bounce across it. Clerk to report both to Highways Department.

## **226. Reports from meetings / training attended - None**

## **227. Financial update from Clerk**

Clerk confirmed the £527 transfer to high interest account from current account. As it is almost the half-way point in our financial year, Clerk provided Council with an overview of expenditure versus budget, YTD expenditure excluding VAT is £525.05, the majority of our expenditure occurs in last quarter, Clerk unable to confirm if precept for August received into account as date is normally after our 15th of the month statement date. Balance in current acc. £3005.32, high interest act. £2425.24 total funds £5430.56. Payments to be made: £3.00 (incl. VAT) to Clerk for stationary. Payments proposed by Cllr. Hall, seconded by Cllr. Prentice, all in favour and payments duly authorised.

## **228. Update from C.C. Hulme – Shire meeting**

Hospitals, plans to have A & E and women and children services at Shrewsbury; critical and trauma services at Telford.

Powys HR report problems on recruiting social workers.

Grenfell disaster, Powys review results in a low risk of similar issues in Powys.

Powys CC will be represented at the winter fair in Builth Wells

Powys has been successful in promoting income generating services to other authorities such as fraud and translation services.

Highways department have recruited 10 new apprentices.

Discussions taking place to take grass cutting back in house as current contractor not satisfactory.

Parking meters will probably be installed in Llanfair, discussions taking place to unify parking hours to 1 hour standard across Powys.

Education, all schools back and fully operational, build of new school in Welshpool is likely to be utilising local businesses during construction.

CAB Powys had reported that they had 1800 clients through the door between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Recycling permits for householders can be applied for online.

Active Travel Wales Act, consultation taking place on designated routes.

Powys CC focussed in regenerating the County, and for adult services linked to the Well-being Act, working towards a more community based structure.

## **229. Agenda items next meeting**

Welcome

Apologies for absence

Declarations of interest

Minutes of the last meeting

Matters arising from minutes

Correspondence Updates / General updates from Clerk

Highways

Planning

Broadband/Mobile updates

Promoting Village Hall amenities in relation to Well-Being future Generations

Reports from meetings and/or training attended

Clustering

Data Protection Act 2018

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

Updates from County Councillor

Agenda items next meeting

Date of Council meetings - next meeting Wednesday Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and Nov 1<sup>st</sup> (budget discussion) no December meeting scheduled.

Dates of external meetings and attendees: - OVW Tuesday 3rd October 2017, Tuesday 23rd January 2018, Wednesday 18th April 2018 and Wednesday 13th June 2018, Clerk @ SLCC Powys branch meeting Llandrindod Wells 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Chairman thanked everyone for attending, meeting closed at 2125 hours.

**Discussion with Stuart Page (SP) Engineering department STW:** - Discussion with Stuart Page (SP) Engineering department STW: - SP advised that previous site meeting vis a vis location of new plant was disappointing, the basis of contracts were fixed price and often resulted in decisions based on Total costs and sometimes the cheapest solution, for example situating next to existing works. The plans for Manafon were rejected by Powys CC planners based on objections raised by NRW, STW are experiencing similar issues with other projects which are near rivers.

Intention now was to regroup and revisit the Manafon project based on river modelling, it had been decided not to submit new plans as yet as the costs could be in the region of £30-40,000 and could be subject to further objections. SP stated emphatically that STW were conscious of community views and objections in respect of the siting of works. As it transpires, the caravan park has submitted a request to be connected so the last plans would be inadequate anyhow. One of the issues faced by STW was peaks and troughs in usage, particularly when you introduce the caravan park into the equation, could be 180 +/- premises in winter and 300 +/- in busy periods.

The intention now was to design and locate a system to cope with current and future demands including any potential new housing developments and plus 10%. The previous plans had been designed to cover 220 units, this has now risen to over 300, apart from deciding what needs to be built consideration has to be given by STW as to how they will operate it and avoid pollution. One decision could be to operate extra tankers during busy periods to remove excess sewage slurry. Current facility has permission to discharge to the river at 2.5 times its capacity it could mean 4/5 tankers every 3/4 months to empty. If a unit is built too large for regular usage then it has an adverse effect on how the bacteria and enzymes work and the system won't work correctly cannot cope, Additional bacteria cannot introduce them to the system to cover peak periods as it is a natural process. STW have had meeting with highways re access to any proposed sites along the B4390, as yet no discussions with any land owners. Currently the site considered most suitable was along the B4390 between the village and The Green.

At this point Cllr. Benyon raised the matter of residents at The Green, likewise Cllr. Jerman for New Mills and the potential for them to be connected to mains sewerage under any new scheme. SP advised that under the Water Act section 101A, residents had to apply to be connected and this was done in conjunction with the Department of the Environment and generally would only be eligible if there had been environmental issues with effluent. SP suggested that an application was made ASAP for both The Green and New Mills.

Cllr. Prentice stated that NRW seem only to take sampling upstream of the discharge point and not downstream so how sure can residents be of the nature of the discharge and impact on the river quality.

SP thought that New Mills and the Green may be implicated by the flood plain area and could have some restrictions but could be overcome potentially with pump stations.

Clerk asked of Fisher German were still going to be the architects for this project, SP confirmed that to be the case, Clerk stated that previous dealings with Fisher German had been totally unsatisfactory, no proper public/community consultation as an example, SP replied that previous issues had been encountered in Manafon and other areas as well. it was not just Manafon CC that were dissatisfied with them.

SP outlined steps to be taken going forward and what is needed to regenerate the programme; Fisher German to conduct searches to identify land owners; STW to start discussions/negotiations with land owners re purchase of land; SP stated that the structure would be similar to the original plans but bigger; and would probably incorporate a feed tank to feed from existing site to cover peaks. Timescales, probably 2 years before any construction starts, STW normally say land purchase can take

12-18 months; they have the ability to undertake compulsory purchase of land but prefer to avoid that. Intention would be to run pipes across fields, to install pipes under roads is 3 times higher in costs than by running across fields, the site will be designed to increase the capacity in the future, with regard to planning applications for dwellings adjacent to Trem Hirnant, SP confirmed that STW had a legal obligation to connect any applications and it is then down to them to manage, developers have the right to connect and STW have to manage the impact regardless, even if temporary solutions are found (i.e. extra tanker collections) while the longer term solution is sorted.

Chairman Cllr. J. Hall thanked Stuart for attending.