

**Minutes of the Council meeting of the Cyngor Cymuned Manafon Community Council
Wednesday 3rd January 2018**

Present – Cllrs J Davies (Chair), J. Hall, E. A. Lewis, C. Davies, I. Prentice, T. Jerman, Clerk L. Stanton & CC H. Hulme
Welcome – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies – Cllr. R. Benyon

261 Declarations of interest – None applicable to meeting agenda. Declarations of interest forms handed in by Cllrs Prentice and Lewis, Cllr. Jerman did not wish to complete the forms, Clerk restated that it was not obligatory but best practice and in the event of any claim of breach of the model code of conduct or any complaint that an interest was disputed any councillor not complying would have to take the consequences individually. The policy of having declaration of interest forms available on the web site was proposed by Cllr. C. Davies and seconded by Cllr. J. Davies. For the benefit of the minutes CC H. Hulme stated that some other community councils were also taking this on board.

262 Minutes of the last meeting – item 252 - Cllrs, C. Davies & T Jerman stated that they disagreed with the response from highways department that damage had been caused by agricultural vehicles but damage was caused by a 3rd party vehicle. Clerk stated that it was a verbatim response from highways Chair suggested all they could do was take it up with highways as they attended the meeting. Acceptance of minutes for accuracy, proposed by Cllr. C. Davies, seconded by Cllr. J. Hall, unanimously agreed by all to accept as a true record of meeting.

263 Matters arising from minutes – Highways per above reference

264 IRP Proposals to be resolved and determinations specified adopted where applicable

Lengthy discussion ensued on pros and cons of the IRP proposals within the draft report. Clerk had received verification from IRP office that if the proposals are mandated, Manafon CC could be liable for payments under determination 50 which relates to provision of care costs and size of council, number of electorate and level of precept is irrelevant.

Payments if mandated apply to FY 2018/2019 and would be made at the end of May after AGM.

After considerable discussion it was resolved and agreed by all Councillors with the exception of Councillor T. Jerman that because of the constraints of budget and precept submission being before the outcome of the draft report being known and the view of potentially new councillors in the future, the Council would adopt these potential costs and accept the principle of payments as a policy on the following basis:-

- A) If the IRP draft report is mandated then it would be up to individual Councillors to decide what if any payments they were entitled to they would or would not take and this had to be in writing to the Clerk. B) Clerk would budget and precept the amounts of £1050 Councillor payments per determination 44, £1,000 additional payments per determination 45, £1,000 provision of care costs as per determination 50, Mileage allowance per determination 47 to be increased per HMRC and IRP guidelines.
- B) Clerk to amend claim form to take account of determination 50 and update mileage claim forms
- C) Clerk to incorporate into precept request and to be ring-fenced as an ear-marked reserve specifically for these costs, in the event the draft report is not mandated or the allowable amounts are not claimed or not claimed in full then the surplus will be taken into account in future precept requests.

Clerk to seek advice if Standing Orders would need to be amended to take account of this.

Clerk informed Councillor's that any additional payments made would be the sole responsibility of Councillor's in respect of HMRC and taxation. It is not permissible to have Councillors registered as employees of the Council because they are not employees so tax element is a personal responsibility to declare and pay.

For the benefit of the minutes CC H. Hulme stated that some other community councils were also taking this on board and having to address. The full IRP draft report is available on the website.

265 Review of Community and Town Council Sector (Consultation)

Questions for consultation discussed, Clerk asked to send following response to Welsh Assembly and One Voice Wales, the WAG also wanted a summary of how we handled the co-opted vacancy, replied thus, Co-option process was to advertise vacancy on web site, notice boards and to solicit possible candidates from within the community. We used the material we had been supplied with that outlined about becoming a councillor and so on and this was published at various places locally as well as web site. We also used the local newsletter. As it turned out only 1 applicant, was discussed by Council and applicant duly appointed.

What should Community and Town Councils be responsible for?

Community needs and their concerns and the wellbeing of the community.

How should they operate?

Be sincere, professional, approachable, transparent, non-biased, operate cost effectively and be representative of the community it serves

What's standing in their way to deliver for the local community?

Having larger organisations we have to communicate with and don't always get the support and responses because of the bureaucracy, sometimes difficult to recognise the differences between England and Wales with some of the legislation, not always clearly differentiated. Community councils do not have any power and so lacks the ability sometimes to make decisions and get things done for the local community, the community does not always engage sufficiently with the community council. Ageing population, poor communications locally, lack of adequate broadband service and no mobile communications available.

How do councils ensure they best represent their local community?

Engender community, by being very transparent and open, try to engage the community and get them involved by running public meetings on aspects and issues that affect the larger community, by being accessible for the community and trying to communicate to them to encourage as many as possible to engage with the council Chair Mr John Davies stated that in the past the Powys liaison meetings were very useful to cut through some of the communications issues and bureaucracy with the larger bodies, these have not been running for some time now.

Same responses have been sent to OVW too

266 Updates from County Councillor

Building New Homes in Wales – Autumn Conference.

Sustainability, new building techniques, designs, materials. Renewable energy. Retrofitting
Sustainability is a crucial factor within the modern construction process and the creation of new homes and communities as well as the infrastructure that serves them. This reflects a wider cultural prioritisation of low carbon, environmentally responsible credentials. Given the size and scale of construction activity within the housing and social housing sectors over the coming years, improvements in this area can have a dramatic impact on social and environmental objectives. This has also driven the demand for the new communities and the thousands of new homes, including the Welsh Government's plans for 20,000 new homes in the social housing sector, which are to be produced to be done so to a higher standard with contractors expected to add social, economic and environmental value and sustainability.

Powys Community Health Council - I have been appointed to this board as a council representative for Montgomeryshire. I am looking forward to learning more about this role and the challenges it will bring. CHCs represent the independent voice of patients and the public in the design and delivery of NHS services. As a new member I will shortly be visiting Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal in Telford to have a better understanding of the support and care patients from this area will receive. My work will also include local hospital visits to carry out cleanliness audits. I will also be looking at 'bed blocking' and working with other health partners. The local ambulance service has recently recruited 5 paramedics, 1 technician and 3 urgent care assistants. One of them starts on Christmas Day. The local response times are also very favourable in comparison to other Welsh authorities.

I am due to attend a meeting in January for a further update on the Shropdoc out of hours service which will cease on 31.03.2018.

PCHC is in discussion with Powys Teaching Health Board to fully understand what services they are planning to

put in place from Spring 2018 and I shall report a further update when available.

Childrens Services Report - A report was released to the media on 17 October.

The recommendations of an inspection of Powys County Council's Children's Services have been accepted by the county council.

The council is totally committed to safe-guarding children in our county, and I will be leading the council's response to the recommendations of the inspection from the front as a top priority and that ensuring that the resources are in place to underpin this work. A recovery and improvement plan was submitted to Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) on time in November and a further improvement plan is due to be submitted again in January. A report on the progress of the improvements is due to be submitted to Welsh Assembly at the end of January.

Foster Carers are urgently required. If this is of interest please do get in touch with me.

Adult Services - An inspection by Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) has been welcomed by PCC. Inspections provide us with the opportunity to test the effectiveness of our services and provide us with valuable information about areas we need to strengthen. The inspection will commence in January 2018.

Highways - Winter Service Plan 2017/2018 - The plan went before cabinet on 23 October to approve the service levels for the maintenance of the roads in Powys over the forthcoming months. The service plan is from October to April but this can be extended depending on the weather conditions. The council have a clearly pre-defined routes that must be treated initially and then secondary routes are treated followed by footpaths and cycle paths. Salt bins and heaps will be carried out in pre-determined locations however if you identify a location, please contact me.

Pot Holes/Repairs - PCC have purchased a Jet Patcher which will systematically work through the area to carry out pot hole repairs and small surface dressing jobs. The vehicle will blast out the debris in the hole, fill with chippings and cover with tar.

Re-surfacing site - There is no work schedule in the Rhiwcynon Ward in this current financial year ending March 2018.

Council Procurement - This is to encourage the local authority to buy within the county and to encourage regeneration/up skilling/business growth within the county.

We are already moving forward on this and we are currently spending 27p in the £ in the county with a view to increasing this up to 81p in the £.

The council is also working towards making it easier for local business to get onto the tendering process.

Planning - There is currently two applications in the Planning Department P/2017/1186 Up to 3 dwellings and associated works at Glyndwr, Pantyffridd. (this has been brought to the attention of the Manafon Community Council because it is on the boundary line).
AGRI/2017/0085 Erection of an agricultural building at Hawthorn View.

National Trading Standards – Estate Agency - Powys County Council has the national contract to investigate complaints against Estates Agents. This has been in place for some time. Its purpose is to ensure estate agents act in the best interests of their clients. Estate Agents should treat both buyers and sellers honestly, fairly and promptly. If you require more information please do contact me.

Library Service - Please do remember we have this wonderful service at our disposal. It is in the Manafon area on the 1st Friday of the month. If you want to use this service please ring Newtown Library on 01686 626934

267 Budget finalisation 2018/2019 FY

Clerk presented Council with revised draft budget taking account of IRP proposal, discussed in full all expenditure anticipated. Obvious changes to 2017/2018 were IRP costs, Section 137 additional expenditure for social evenings & addition village hall costs to contribute to the future wellbeing of the community.

Main variances IRP plus £3,050, village hall plus £350, Social evenings plus £350, Clerk office expenses by £56,

election cost accrual £400, one main reduction expected, insurance costs reduced by £60, some IT costs taken out as prepaid for longer years for cost savings approx. £65, all other expenditure on a par with current year. To summarise, (a copy of the approved budget will be on website) total anticipated expenditure for 2018/2019 £8,571.32; surplus from 2017/2018 expected of £1,070.57 (due to less election costs than budget) therefore a precept request of £7,500 is required; Clerk to apply for precept before deadline. The budget was proposed by Cllr. C. Davies, seconded by Cllr. E. A. Lewis and unanimously agreed by all to approve.

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

Clerk requested Council to consider and appoint the Internal Auditor for the 2017/2018 internal Audit, providing Council were happy to proceed as before. It was proposed by Cllr. C. Davies and seconded by Cllr. J. Davies to appoint Mrs A Richardson as internal auditor as in previous year.

Clerk gave overview of expenditure, YTD expenditure excluding VAT is £1,453.81, balance in current acc. £4,505.06, high interest act. £2,426.71 total funds £6,931.77, expenditure versus budget is minus £4,820.51, majority of expenditure being March 2018, expenditure forecast £6,119.20, compared to budget minus £1,115.01 spread sheets provided to Councillors. Bank statements made available for inspection.

Payments to be authorised:-

Summary of payments due discussed with council summary below. Payments were proposed by Cllr. E. A. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. I. Prentice and all in favour to make payments per schedule below.

Clerk also requested permission from Council to renew Membership to SLCC; clerk was asked about the validity/necessity for this membership and confirmed that it was essential as a source of information and legislative matters. Proposed by Cllr. J. Hall and seconded by Cllr. T. Jerman and unanimously agreed by all.

Payments to be authorised @ meeting 3rd Jan 2018						
Date Trans	Date app	Expenditure	Cheque No.	Nett £	VAT £	Actual Gross £
20/11/17	03/01/18	L Stanton Bullguard antivirus renewal 3 year subscription		£34.98	£7.00	£41.98
03/11/17	03/01/18	L Stanton postage		£6.72	£0.00	£6.72
16/11/17	03/01/18	L Stanton soil for tree planting woodland trust		£3.33	£0.67	£3.99
20/11/17	03/01/18	L Stanton Stationery / cartridges		£37.47	£0.00	£37.47
21/11/17	03/01/18	L Stanton Stationery copier paper x 2		£5.42	£1.08	£6.50
18/11/17	03/01/18	L Stanton storage boxes for foodstuffs/docs		£8.33	£1.67	£10.00
20/11/17	03/01/18	L Stanton Village Hall Social events refreshments (Sec 137)		£17.57	£0.00	£17.57
07/12/17	03/01/18	L Stanton travel to/from Llandrindod Wells SLCC meeting		£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
		Cheque total L Stanton		£143.82	£10.41	£154.23
23/11/17	03/01/18	SLCC Subscription renewal		£72.00	£0.00	£72.00

269 Correspondence received and any general updates from Clerk

Clerk had already distributed any essential correspondence that was for information, there was none for action. Only reminder was we still have to find a home for the oak tree received from the Woodland Trust. Clerk informed Council that she was unavailable for the January social evening at the village hall, others would need to ensure presence and someone to put the kettles on about 6:45 PM, should be sufficient refreshments in store cupboard in large plastic container.

270 Highways

Pot holes, several new severe pot holes have been evidenced and reported, Clerk to report to highways ASAP:- Deep one in middle of the road at B4390 Manafon between Laxford and Glas Cwm properties, Deep one in middle of the road on Llanfair Road between Cefnbach Lane/Belandeg, near the layby on the brow Deep one B4390 Manafon, almost opposite the church photo attached to highways email courtesy Cllr. Prentice

General highways issues, Clerk to report to highways ASAP:-

There is still some flooding occurring between Manafon and the Green during periods of rain. Between Bronheulog B4390 to corner of Cross lane, been reported several times in the past but has been

exceedingly dangerous during freezing weather and ice forming on road, the water is running fast down the road until it freezes, considered dangerous given the bend and junction location, this one has been in hand with highways since Jan 2017 and reported several other times.

B4390 from Tyn y Pant to Pantyfydd, again in rain flooding has been bad, culverts and drains blocked, never seems to get solved properly.

Some issues falling outside of our boundary:-

The area around the Manse @ Velindre on B4390, has been flooding and some edges of the road in poor condition.

During recent heavy rain the flooding near the caravan park on the Berriew Road was very severe, this is just below the previous repair work carried out March 2017, and it is deep, at night it is simply not visible, a number of people have complained and if you don't know it's there then there is a risk of a serious accident, was reported previously 1st March 2017 to highways Welshpool.

The culvert just below the property called the Bushes in Pantyfydd is badly blocked.

From Berriew towards A483 a large pothole in middle of road just after the canal bridge,

Clerk to report to Welshpool highways cc Berriew Clerk

271 Planning

It was suggested Clerk tries to obtain a map of the parish to make it easier to follow where some planning applications were situated, useful for highways matters too.

Clerk advised no new applications had been received however, CC. Hulme reported a new application

AGRI/2017/0085 for Hawthorn View being submitted, Clerk advised that this had not been received, Clerk to chase Powys CC as to why excluded.

272 Broadband/Mobile updates

Due to time constraints not discussed in depth, carried forward to next meeting, in essence Clerk has updated web site and has more info to upload as we were given different stories about superfast broadband.

273 Reports from meetings and/or training attended –

Clerk had circulated a summary of SLCC branch meeting attended 7/12 as majority related to IRP, given time constraints of this meeting there was nothing else to add.

274 One Voice Wales membership/benefits review, School governor's representative – due to time constraints these were carried forward to next meeting

275 Agenda items next meeting

Welcome

Apologies for absence

Declarations of interest

Minutes of the last meeting

Matters arising from minutes

Carried forward from January meeting

One Voice Wales membership/benefits review

School governor's representative

Broadband/Mobile updates including Broadband Village Hall

Subcommittee social evenings

Correspondence received and any general updates from Clerk

Highways

Planning

Reports from meetings and/or training attended

Financial update from Clerk – accounts YTD, including expenditure/pension/payroll/payments to be authorised

Updates from County Councillor

Agenda items next meeting

Date of Council meetings – Wednesday 7th February, list of dates for 2018 can be found on website and

noticeboards.

Dates of external meetings: - OVW- Tuesday 23rd January 2018, Wednesday 18th April 2018 and Wednesday 13th June 2018

Community Social evenings: Friday 26th January 2018 & Friday 23rd February

Chairman thanked everyone for attending, meeting closed at 2155 hours.