

# Cyngor Cymuned Manafon Community Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Manafon Community Council held at New Mills Village Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.30 PM

**Present** – Cllr. J. Hall ( Chair), Cllr. I. Prentice, Cllr. B. Benyon, Cllr. A. Lewis, Cllr. T. Jerman, Cllr. J. Davies, Cllr. H. Hulme and Mrs C Pritchard (Clerk)

**Apologies (001)** – Cllr. C. Davies

**Declaration of Interest (002)** - Nil

**Minutes of the last meeting (003)**- It was proposed and seconded that the chair to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, as a correct record. All in favour.

**Matters Arising (004)** –

Internal Auditor – The Clerk had found an internal auditor and had received a letter of engagement, which the Council gratefully accepted.

**Correspondence Received (005)** – Nil

**Finance and Quarterly Review (006)** –

Mrs. C. Pritchard - £234.20

New Mills Village Hall - £50.00 (WW1 exhibition)

All invoices present were accepted and the relevant payments issued.

The Clerk presented the end of year accounts to the Council, who accepted these as a true record.

**Highways (007)** – Fly tipping at the top of Belan had been cleared. Cllr. Hulme to look into whether a no fly tipping sign could be put up.

The Clerk was asked to re-report the pot holes from the previous meeting and also report pot holes below Cefn Bach Lane.

The Clerk was asked to e-mail NRW regarding a dead ewe that had come down the river and also asked to contact Danny Jarman from PCC regarding blocked drains throughout the parish.

**Planning (008)** - Nil

**Representative Reports (009)** –

OVW – The next meeting is to be held in Kerry on April 17<sup>th</sup>, Cllr. Hall would not be able to attend.

Manafon Messenger – The Committee wondered if it would be a good idea to include a ‘Who is on the Community Council’ piece. All agreed, Clerk to work on this and submit.

**County Councillor’s Report (010)** -

COUNCIL TAX INCREASE - Voting for the 9.5% increase in council tax was exceptionally difficult and the most difficult decision since becoming a county councillor. But it was the only decision I could make. As an Independent councillor and member of the governing Independent and Conservative coalition group there was a legal obligation to set a balanced budget – an obligation laid down in law. Failure to set a balanced budget would have resulted in the Welsh Government running the Authority

Not one of the 73 councillors on Powys County Council wanted to vote for a 9.5% increase on council tax but the only other option put forward by opposition was deemed to be unbalanced by the council’s legal advisors and therefore not a legal option.

Last year the Senedd received a massive funding increase from Westminster but chose to spend the majority of the extra cash on health provision and less on local government funding – particularly in Powys. We are the largest county in Wales and for the 9<sup>th</sup> year running have received the lowest settlement based on a formula set by WG which does not make provision for rural counties. Other authorities have also raised their council taxes by similar amounts and more.

Before becoming a county councillor I had little if any idea of the cost of providing the statutory services such as adult and child social care, along with education, in this vast county of Powys. Those services have to be right at the top of the authority’s priority list. Then there is the front line services, highways, recycling, housing,

An essential transformation of the way the council will be run going forward is now underway. The cuts have started at

the top with several heads of service positions vanishing in a slimmed-down management team, a stream-lining of middle management and complete review of all staffing arrangements to follow. This will include 5 County Councillors at the next election.

Many of those decisions will prove very unpopular but in the long term will benefit the people of Powys as a whole. I will continue to fight for what's best for the people of Rhiwycynon Ward.

#### POWYS RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

More than 300 residential beds at 13 care homes across mid Wales will now be operated with effect from 1 June by a Welsh company, Shaw Healthcare following a joint agreement with Powys County Council. This is the first Welsh contract Shaw Healthcare have an agreement for.

Shaw healthcare will operate 12 local authority-owned care homes across the region – including in Newtown – from June 2019 until June 2022 with the option to extend until 2024. Shaw healthcare was appointed after a competitive tender process, following the conclusion of a contract between the council and Bupa, which has run the homes for the last 20 years. Going forward staff and patients will be consulted and it is envisaged that than 400 employees transfer over to the firm to ensure a smooth transition.

#### POWYS COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL (PCHC)

I have requested PCHC to include on the 2019/20 agenda – Adults Social Care. This is a very broad subject but as we know we are living longer and the need for care in later years is increasing. How this is provided has got to change due to the difficulty in recruiting carers. Therefore PCHC need to open dialogue with Powys County Council (PCC) and housing associations to explore the development of more assisted living accommodation in the county.

#### NEW HOUSING ALLOCATION REGISTER

Powys County Council and seven housing associations are working together to make it easier for people to find a home in Powys. They are members of the Powys Housing Register partnership 'Homes in Powys'. All members of the partnership believe that communities can thrive and prosper if individuals, families and groups are treated fairly, with respect, and given access to rights and services. That is why 'Homes in Powys' offers people advice and help to find the right home for them. And that is why all the social housing in Powys is offered to people through one Housing Register (HR) and an easy-to-understand Allocations Scheme (AS) which is used to agree the allocation of both council and housing association homes.

If you are looking for social housing in Powys, please use the website [www.homesinpowys.org.uk](http://www.homesinpowys.org.uk) or ring 01597 827464.

#### LOCAL HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT 2019 FOR MID AND SOUTH WEST WALES.

PCC in partnership with all other local authorities across the Mid and South West Wales region\* has commenced work on the preparation of a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA). Consultants have been commissioned to undertake this work which will provide key evidence on housing needs across the region. LHMA will be undertaken in accordance with Welsh Government's Planning Guidance. The findings will provide a strategy and development plan through to the type and tenure of affordable housing that should be provided in the future. The draft report will be available mid – late May. However if you have any local concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

#### POWYS CAREERS FESTIVAL

A careers festival held at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells during the first week of March had a large attendance from the area and over 3000 students from Powys attended it. It is now the largest careers festival in Europe.

HOUSING SPRINGBOARD - PCC Housing Department is to make available to Children's Services three, three-bedroom properties for managed accommodation for 16-21 year olds who would otherwise be homeless or inadequately housed. The houses will be located in Brecon, Newtown and the third in Welshpool. The purpose of the managed accommodation is to help the young people transition to independent living, in preparation for moving into homes of their own. Up to three people will have a home in each of the three houses.

GARDEN WASTE BINS - The new system for garden waste recycling will come into effect in April 2019. There will be 2 different bin sizes, 240 litre at £35 or at 120 litre bin at £30. The service will be fortnightly from April to November. To request a bin please email: [Powys.gov.uk/gardenwaste](mailto:Powys.gov.uk/gardenwaste) or telephone 01597 827465.

#### ADULT SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION SERVICES

On March 25, Adult Social Care will have a new telephone number for all social care enquiries. The new single point of contact has been named CYMORTH/ASSIST and residents over the age of 18 will be able to access a wide range of information and advice on local care and support services, including safeguarding issues. Tel: 0345 602 7050

#### POWYS GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

Six Powys-based contractors and one on the Powys / Shropshire border have been awarded a three-year contract to carry out grass cutting on behalf of the county council.

From April 1, the contractors will be responsible for grass cutting at the council's 15 cemeteries as well as seven urban grass verge areas across the county. The contract is in place for three years with an option to extend for another 12 months. The authority was keen to keep the Powys pound in Powys and this contract does exactly that, with over £200,000 a year going to local contractors to carry out grass cutting duties. The number of cuts to be confirmed in due course.

Mobile Phone Mast (011) – The landowners hadn't heard anymore at the time of the meeting, but the mast hadn't been erected. Cllr Hulme would discuss the matter with Russell George.

**Broadband within the Community (012)** – No further ahead with this matter.

**Plastics within the Community (013)** – The Clerk was asked to e-mail regarding road signs that had been left in place after work completed and broken bollards.

**Defibrillator (014)** – The Clerk had printed and completed the application form for funding from The Windfarm Trust, and would also get the ball rolling with purchasing one defibrillation. Clerk to speak to Ianto Guy to decide the best way to go about this.

**Hill View (015)** – The Council were advised that the new occupants had now moved into the property. The Clerk was asked to e-mail the planning department at Powys County Council to ensure that they were not living in breach of the original agricultural tie as per the Clerk's previous e-mail from Sara Robinson at PCC planning.

**Agenda Items next meeting (016)** –

Hill View

Broadband

Mobile Phone Mast

Defibrillator

To confirm the next meeting of Manafon Community Council will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 at 7.30 p.m. which will include the AGM.

Signed.....

Date.....