

TALYBONT-ON-USK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Cyngor Cymuned Talybont ar Wysg

Minutes of meeting held on 28th November 2011

The meeting started with a discussion regarding local bus services with Mr John Forsey of Powys County Council. A number of members of the public asked questions and made comments about local bus services. At the conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mr Forsey

- 1) Apologies for absence were received from Community Cllr E Morgan
- 2) Declarations of interest . There were no declarations of interest.
- 3) To approve the minutes of the last meeting. These were approved and signed by the Chairman
- 4) Matters arising
 - a. Canal anniversary. Cllr Jones updated members. Noted
 - b. Jubilee events. It was noted that the Saturday would be reserved for local community events. Noted
 - c. Friends of Talybont reservoir. Cllr Jones updated members. Noted
 - d. A40 junction. Vegetation management. Cllr Davies said he was unhappy at the response from Powys CC. The Clerk was asked to write again. Action: Clerk
- 5) Correspondence
 - a. letter from Powys CC re County and Community Council elections in 2012, and need to plan for potential costs. Noted
 - b. Police priorities. Clerk to action.
 - c. ToU Community Recreation Group. Constitution. Noted
 - d. Mid Wales Housing re vacancies for directors. Noted
- 6) Risk Assessment. To consider and confirm the management of risk for the Council, and internal control including financial control arrangements. The Clerk reported that the last risk assessment had been carried out in June 2011. The following areas were identified as potential risk:- finance, assets including play area, employment, legal action, and change of clerk. Members noted in addition to other issues, that the insurance policy had been reviewed and that the annual play area inspection report by RoSPA was carefully considered every year. It was also noted that the Council did not handle cash and that an authorisation and signature system was in place for all payments. The Council also complied with audit regulations including having both an internal and external auditor. Members also noted that a new clerk would 'shadow' the existing clerk and would be helped with training. It was proposed by Cllr Bugler and seconded by Cllr Davies that the systems of internal control and risk management were satisfactory. Agreed.
- 7) Talybont village traffic study update. Members noted the interim report from the consultants.
- 8) National Park Authority Matters - Local Development Plan and Affordable Housing draft policy. Members received a presentation from the clerk. It was noted that the Park Authority had decided to push ahead with the designation of Maesmawr field but had not accepted the Council's suggestion to develop the field adjacent to the Hall instead. Members also noted the inequity in housing allocations in Talybont compared with larger and significantly more sustainable settlements including Crickhowell and Hay. Members also noted that the Plan still retained inaccurate data relating to Pencelli despite corrections being sent to the Park Authority. Members also received a presentation on the draft affordable housing policy and noted that the starting point for a 'contribution' either in kind or cash would be levied at 20% on any development which added at least one housing unit. Members noted that the Council had already submitted objections to the Plan and that these will be considered by a Planning Inspector during 2012.
- 9) Community Council assets including Playing Field.
 - a. Litter bin at play area. The Community Council has been advised that under the new arrangements, the litter will now be treated as trade waste for which there is a charge: £50.63 for 26 'green' bags for a half year. The Clerk said that he was told that the principal users were Royal Navy staff, and he suggested that that the Council should consider removing the bin. Cllr Osborne strongly disagreed with this suggestion saying that the litter bin was an important training aid/message to younger people about keeping the area tidy. Following a discussion members agreed that the bin should not be removed

and it should be supplied with green trade waste bags, to be operated by Mr Thomas the site cleaner. Agreed. Action: Clerk

b. Skate board ramp. The Clerk and Cllr Davies reported that in view of the Rospa report (*Condition of plywood on sides of unit poor, Replace transition platform to one side of unit. If economic repair cannot be effected, recommend removal*), the ramp has been removed. Subsequent to this a letter has been received from local young persons seeking a replacement. Members acknowledged the impossibility of the Council funding a new ramp from its own funds but expressed hope that the recently formed Recreation Group may be able to help in due course. Members commented upon the excellent letter from young people which the clerk will reply to. Action: Clerk.

10) Visit Our Beacons website. The Clerk said that the site was now up-to-date with all subscriptions collected in and a meeting with the webmaster to update the pages. He then proposed that local tourism operators are encouraged to assume responsibility for this site or any replacement. For the first time there was now a cohesive group of local tourism operators and if members agreed he would suggest this to them at the Talybont Sustainable Tourism meeting on 29th November. Members agreed to this course of action.

11) Highway Matters. There were no significant matters to discuss.

12) Applications for Planning Consent. garage to boiler store (revised) at Aberclydach House (11/07083/FUL) and extension to loco shed at Ponsticill railway station (11/07295). No objection to either. Action: Clerk

13) Results from National Park of applications for Planning Consent and other matters.

a. Gilestone Farm. The Clerk reported that the last remaining unauthorised development (on area 2 next to canal) had been removed. He also reported that permission had finally been granted for the conversion of the old shower block to an agricultural building. He added that with those 2 matters resolved, there were no longer any outstanding unauthorised planning issues at the farm. This was warmly welcomed by the meeting.

b. Land at the Boathouse. Appeal against enforcement notice. Noted

c. Extensions at Brynoyre. 11/07244/FUL. Granted

d. Complaint regarding lack of action to clear unsightly mess and unauthorised development at car park opposite The Boat House. The Clerk reported on an email received from a resident. It was agreed that once again a letter should be sent to the Chief Executive of the Park Authority to chase up the complaint made by the Community Council in 2006 and which was now subject of enforcement proceedings. It was also agreed to ask the Park Authority about the use of its powers under Section 215 of the Town & Country Planning Act, which enables a planning authority to compel the owner of land to remedy its untidiness. Action: Clerk

14) Powys CC Education/school review. County Cllr Fitzpatrick summarised the recent decisions of Powys CC. Noted

15) Finance.

a. Current financial situation £4111.54 Noted

b. To consider a grant to the Henderson Hall in the sum of £1200.00 (this was previously approved in 'outline' at the January 2011 meeting of the Council. Proposed by Cllr Gray and seconded by Cllr Osborne. Agreed

c. Annual audit. Members To note the completion of the annual audit and the recommendations/comments of the external auditor. Acceptance proposed by Cllr Gray and seconded by Cllr Davies. Agreed

d. To approve payment for annual maintenance of Henry Vaughan Garden (£200.00), for removal and disposal of skateboard ramp (£70.00), for editing newsletter (£100.00 plus VAT) and printing newsletter and traffic survey form (£115.20), 2 x new cradle swing seats (£223.51 plus VAT), B&R Clerk's post advert (£105.50 plus VAT), wreath (£17.00), audit fee (£135.00 plus VAT). Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Darbyshire. Agreed. Action: Clerk

16) Suggested dates of 2012 meeting. All Mondays starting at 7.15pm:

23rd January, 20th February, 19th March, 23rd April, 21st May (annual), 18th June, 16th July, 10th September, 22nd October, and 26th November. Agreed