**TALYBONT-ON-USK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Clerk: Clare Preece email talybontcc@gmail.com

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH MARCH 2024, HENDERSON HALL, TALYBONT-ON-USK**

**Present:**

Cllr John Jones – Chairman (via Zoom)

Cllr Geraint James – Vice Chairman (Acting Chairman for this meeting)

Cllr Glyn Thomas

Cllr Phil Darbyshire

Cllr Craig Burdon

Cllr Chris Jones

Cllr Harry Chapman

Cllr Seamus Hamill-Keays

C Cllr Raiff Devlin

**Apologies:**

Cllr Nina Krauzewicz

**In attendance:**

Clare Preece – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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| Minute ref | Minute | Action |
| 26032024/01 | **1.Apologies for absence:** Cllr Nina Krauzewicz |  |
| 26032024/02 | **2.To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items of business listed below:** No new items |  |
| 26032024/03 | **3.Public session:** None |  |
| 26032024/04 | **4.To approve as correct the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2024: APPROVED** |  |
| 26032024/05 | **5. To receive a report from County Councillor Raiff Devlin:** C Councillor Devlin delivered his report (a copy of which can be found in the Appendices. Appendix 1. Questions were posed in respect of the percentage target for sourcing locally produced food for school meals and for the target in building new council housing in the area. C Cllr Devlin said he would look into both these matters and report back to the Community Council. |  |
| 26032024/06 | **6.Finance:****a)To note the bank balances:** Current Account: £20,205.14 Reserves: £7299.10**b) To confirm the following payments:**

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| Payee | Description | Amount |
| One Voice Wales | Membership 2024-25 | £143.00 |
| Clare Preece | Travel expenses | £33.30 |
| David Macdonald | Talybont Matters x 2 | £147.00 + £25.00 |
| Powys C C | 2 uncontested elections | £310.00 |

 | Clerk/GT |
|  | All payments were **APPROVED**.**c)To consider the insurance renewal:** Cllr Thomas had scrutinized the insurance renewal and it had been found to bear very little resemblance to the needs of the Community Council. It was **AGREED** the Clerk source an alternative provider and arrange a site meeting discuss the Council’s needs.**d)To consider the Llandetty Childrens fund:** It was **AGREED** to write to the Vicar, Kelvin Richards to ask what is in the fund and if it can be freed up for Community use.  |  |
| 26032024/07 | **7.To receive a report from Cllr Krauzewicz on the latest news from the Usk Valley Ospreys an to receive an update on the Osprey information event held on 8th March:** Cllr Krauzewicz had circulated both reports prior to the meeting. The reports can be found in the Appendices, Appendix 2 and 3.  |  |
| 26032024/08 | **8.To consider a page on the website to provide information on the Osprey:**It was **AGREED** to signpost to other websites that will provide information updated in real time. It was **AGREED** that the Community Council communication policy needs an overhall and a Task and Finish Group will be set up to manage this. |  |
| 26032024/09 | **9.To consider matters relating to the planning of a Community Engagement forum:** Cllr Darbyshire has been away on holiday and now he is back, would like help in promoting and designing the event. Suggested dates are needed. He will put down ideas on the types of discussions to be held and suggestions of the names of some suitable moderators. It was **AGREED** to set up a Task and Finish Group and it is hoped the event can be staged in the next 6 weeks or so. Cllrs G James and G Thomas volunteered to be part of the group supported by Cllr J Jones. Welsh Government have already asked the council to obtain the opinion of the community and have agreed to support the event. Ideas about Gilestone Farm going forward and what the community would like their council to focus on in the future are some suggested topics. It is hoped the event will raise the profile of Henderson Hall and generate more support in the form of volunteers to help manage it.  | PD/GJ/GTJJ |
| 26032024/10 | **10.To receive an update on the “Working with Henderson Hall” sub-committee meeting held on 14th March:** Cllrs J Jones, P Darbyshire and G Thomas met with Kirsten and Gail. They discussed what support the Hall wanted from the Community Council. The hall is 50 years old and running costs have increased significantly as a result. The hall plays less of a role in the community as it did 20 or 30 years ago. Income from the hall has declined and tourism has increased and it is evident that income will come, in the main from visitors rather than the community in the future. The toilets cost in the region of £10K to run the majority of income to finance this comes from donations. It is hoped that solar energy grants can be accessed to fund a battery for the solar energy system along with more formal ways of raising money such as a pay and display carpark/parking eye. It has been suggested the hall could be used as a hub for wildlife tourism and could benefit from a member of staff who could focus on social media marketing which would eventually pay for itself. The Community Council has offered its support in sourcing and gaining grant funding and it has been **AGREED** to meet again after the Henderson Hall AGM. The Chaiman said the meeting had been very useful and has gone towards building a closer relationship with the Hall management team. The Hall are struggling to recruit volunteers and is in need of willing help as the Chair is soon to be standing down from her role. The car charging points need to be replaced and it is uncertain whether solar panels work properly and whether they need to be replaced. Strong representation needs to be put forward to Powys County Council especially with regards to the toilets. It is understood that there had been an agreement to fund the toilets at Henderson Hall when it had been agreed the County Council could demolish the old public toilets but following the first year of this agreement funding had not been forthcoming. The toilets at Henderson Hall are in danger of closing. C Cllr Devlin asked if the council had a written agreement in respect of the funding arrangements. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will look back through the minutes to get an idea of the dates involved and get back to C Cllr Devlin any relevant information and Cllr Thomas will speak to Kirsten. | JJ/Clerk |
| 26032024/11 | **11.To receive an update following the meeting of the Hinterland Group on 27th February 2024:** The Chairman reported that the meeting had been well attended with representatives from Llangorse, Cwmdu and Talybont. The meeting with the BBNP had been successful where is had been generally accepted that there had been a lack of respect and interest in comments made and opinions expressed by Community Councils on matters relating to planning and that the problem needs to be addressed. The representatives were satisfied by the commitment made to improve communication and respect the opinion of stakeholders such as Community Councils. The group will focus on matters that are common to all such as roads and the provision of Healthcare, travel times and survival rates, rubbish and recycling and fears surrounding the 3 to 4 weekly proposed rubbish collection, trade waste and the Brecon recycling centre. The Chairman said that going forward output from the meeting will be minuted and circulated with partners and a constitution will be drawn up. It is evident that collective action that has resulted in the formation of the group has been more impactful.  | JJ |
| 26032024/12 | **12.To receive a verbal report on the “Together we can shape the future of Powys” workshop held on 26th March:** Cllrs Burdon and Thomas attended on behalf of the Community Council where the possible effects of the £24million cutbacks in public expenditure were examined. The discussion focused on matters such as travel and funding of buses, frailty and the problems of getting to hospital appointments and the impacts on family. The recycling service. Digital displays at bus stops providing welfare and social provision information. There were positive effects from the restructuring which will mean that people will be able to access help at an earlier stage. C Cllr Devlin outlined the plans for 4 community healthcare hubs the savings from which will provide money to finance transport for people traveling to the hubs. This is a bold plan and there are many questions and there will no doubt be a big public consultation on any proposed changes.  |  |
| 26032024/13 | **13.To consider matters arising from the previous meeting:****a)To receive an update on the defibrillator installation at Scethrog:**The defibrillator is fully installed and is on the circuit with 2 guardians in place. Signage is required and the purchase of this was **APPROVED**. The cost will be approx. £80. The Community Council wish to thank Jonathan Short and Andrew Skirm for all their help. BT will be covering the electricity to run the installation. **b)To receive an update on the two community defibrillators at the Post Office and Pencelli – guardianship and ongoing maintenance**: Cllr James will speak to Simon Baldwin about the guardianship of the other two defibrillators.**c)To receive an update on the Pump Track:** The Clerk had spoken to James whose responsibility it is to draw up the plan needed to apply for permitted development but the plan has not been forthcoming to date. The Clerk will continue to chase. Keith from the bike shop is leaving and there are concerns over who will oversee the project. It was suggested another company be found to complete the plan.**d)To receive an update on the insurance claim:** Cllr Thomas had investigated this long overdue claim for the flooding of the sports field. He had ascertained that a letter of complaint had not gone in early enough to the Canals and Rivers Trust and that there had been no flood cover on the old insurance policy. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Thomas and the Clerk complain to the CRT as it was surprising that they had not paid out compensation with it being a nominal amount of £1500.**e)To receive an update on the Nepali village/planning** **application:** To date there has not been a formal submission of a planning application to the BBNPPA, therefore, the Community Council are not able to comment on their position suffice to say a delegation from Aber Village had been present at a previous meeting asking the council for representation over their concerns about the development and not having been consulted. An invitation to the Nepali village Second Anniversary celebrations in May had been received addressed to the Chaiman who cannot attend due to the Council’s aforementioned stance. It was **AGREED** the Clerk attend to find out facts.**f)To receive an update on the tree management concerns/ash die back:** No update available take forward to the next meeting.g**)To receive an update on any works to the Tram Road:** No update to give.**h)To confirm the playground rota:** The rota was confirmed. | Clerk/GTGJ |
| 26032024/14 | **14.To note correspondence received requiring action or noting and other matters for consideration raised since the last meeting:****a)To NOTE that electricity MUST be switched off in the hall after use following a large electricity bill.****b)To note the IRW annual report February 2024: NOTED****c)To note the Public Account and Public Administration Committee evidence session on 25th April and consider a response as stakeholder**: Itwas **AGREED** a Task and Finish Group be set up and will meet on 4th Apriltoagree a response. It was **AGREED** the Chaiman be present at the inquiry.**d)To note the Powys County Council Town and Community Council meeting on 22nd May 5-6.30pm Microsoft Teams link available. NOTED.****e)To note the intensive Summer Course – Learn Welsh – Aberystwyth 8th July to 2nd August - £45. NOTED.** | Clerk |

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| 26032024/15 | **15.To consider matters relating to planning: (in addition to record comments made between meetings by the Clerk under Delegated Authority section 101 of the LGA Act 1972):****a) To receive a verbal report from the Clerk’s attendance at the OVW and Planning Aid Wales event on 7th March**: Slides from the event had been circulated to Councillors. The theme of the event was “Planning for Future Generations”. Wellbeing was emphasized over growth. The Clerk had raised a number of concerns in the chat and had been directed towards a consultation where concerns could be raised. Not enough time was available for the Council to complete the consultation but the Clerk had retained some email addresses for useful contacts going forward.**b) To note planning notices received:****i)23/22453/FUL Danywenallt, Talybont LD3 7YS – Withdrawn****ii)22/21434/FUL Tower Cottage, Llanhamalach, LD3 7YE – Decision notice – Refused.****iii)23/21713/CON Buckland Hall, Bwlch, Brecon LD3 7JJ – Approved with conditions.****iv)23/22523/FUL 1-2 Graiglas Cottages, Talybont-on-Usk LD3 7YP – Approved with conditions.** |  |
| 26032024/16 | **16.To consider Canal matters:** C Cllr Devlin has written to the Canal and Rivers Trust and is awaiting a response. He will update the council when he has had a response. | RD |
| 26032024/17 | **17.To consider matters relating to Highways/footpaths/rural roads/drainage/and flooding concerns including matters raised with C Cllr Raiff Devlin:****i)Flooding at Cross Oak:** Gullies in the area have been unblocked by the gully team. More will be done in the future and it is hoped to improve the drainage this year.**ii)Bungalow drain issues:** C Cllr Devlin has written to the Head of Housing as there is still an issue with the drains. It was suggested the tenants write to Welsh Water themselves but this has not been considered a satisfactory way forward as some of the residents are classed as elderly and vulnerable. The matter impacts other residents in the village too and C Cllr Devlin has a meeting with the Head of Housing and will update the council in due course.**iii)A 40 toilets:** C Cllr Devlin had been in contact with Welsh Government and was told that the toilets had been closed down as a result of frequent vandalism and there appears to be no intention to reinstate the toilets and to continue with the provision of the portaloo. This was not considered as satisfactory and C Cllr Devlin will continue to progress the matter.**iv)Building Control issues**: Building control is currently not operating effectively and C Cllr Devlin and Cllr Burdon discussed the short-comings. It is proposed that the Building Control will become centralized and managed by Welsh Government.**v)Ashford Tunnel:** A meeting to discuss the area is currently being arranged.**vi)Station Road pavements:** The Highways inspector has visited and reported that the pavements do not present a hazard. Cllr Thomas has received many complaints from local residents. C Cllr Devlin will push the matter again.**vii)Blocked culverts at Tor- y- Foel –** It was not clear where these are. The Clerk is to update C Cllr Devlin with more information.**viii)Tree lying on cables** – this matter has been sorted out.**ix)Footpath at Fisherman’s carpark:** This matter has been taken up by Welsh Water and it is hoped the area will be cleared when maintenance next takes place in the area.**x)Roads at Scethrog**: C Cllr Devlin has not seen the capital programme for the coming year. The condition of the road surface is unacceptable and C Cllr Devlin is making it one of his priorities. **xi) Speed sign solar panels:** The matter is currently being dealt with.**xii)Street lighting at Canol Pentre:** Cllr James asked on behalf of residents if the lights could be set to be as bright as possible. C Cllr Devlin suggested the installation of an additional light to further illuminate the area and he will take the matter up with Highways. | RD/Clerk |
| 26032024/18 | **18.Meeting closes – date of next meeting**: 15th April 2024 at 7pm |  |
| 26032024/19 | **19.Confidential session (if required the Council will resolve to enter a closed session): Not required** |  |
|  | **Meeting closed at 10pm** |  |