**TALYBONT-ON-USK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Clerk: Clare Preece, email talybontcc@gmail.com

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2023**

**HENDERSON HALL, TALYBONT-ON-USK**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr John Jones – Chairman

Cllr Nina Krauzewicz

Cllr Phil Darbyshire

Cllr Chris Jones

Cllr Harry Chapman

Cllr Glyn Thomas – via Zoom

Cllr Craig Burdon

Cllr Seamus Hamill-Keays

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr Geraint James

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms Clare Preece – Clerk

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| MINUTE REF | MINUTE | ACTION |
| 20112023/01 | **1.Apologies for absence:** Cllr Geraint James. The Council wishes to express it’s thanks to County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe who has supported the Council and provided invaluable advice during the absence of a County Councillor for the ward.  |  |
| 20112023/02 | **2.Cllr Seamus Hamill-Keays to sign the Declaration of Office and Register of Interests:** Cllr Hamill-Keays was given a warm welcome back to the Community Council. He last served the community from 1999-2007. |  |
| 20112023/03 | **3.To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items of business listed below:** Cllr Nina Krauzewicz declared membership of the UVCG and Cllr Phil Darbyshire declared trusteeship of the UVCG. |  |
| 20112023/04 | **4.Public session: (the meeting was suspended to permit the public forum – 15 minutes only).** Four residents from Aber expressed concerns about the development of the Nepali Village in their area without any apparent planning consent having been granted. (See under item **8 x)** below.**Road Safety item with representatives of the Dyfed and Powys police brought forward at the discretion of the Chaiman (item 8 xi) as per Standing Orders:** An email from a concerned resident over their safety and that of their horses when using the roads was read out. This along with items in the discussion that took place will be taken forward by the Council.The concerns raised with the Traffic Officer at Brecon included the following:* Danger to pedestrians walking in the middle of the road due to cars parked on both sides of the street and there being no pavement between Ashford Tunnel where the tow path ends.
* The B4558 often being advertised as a route for events which causes an increase in traffic through the village.
* Verges and hedges impeding visibility.
* Drivers not sticking the speed limits as they come of the bridge. The new 20mph limit having made no difference.
* Parked cars as drivers exit the bridge not being seen until it is too late.
* Children exiting the road from the Hall cannot see the road as their vision is obscured by parked cars.

It was suggested that some physical barrier or traffic calming will be the only thing that will stop this.The Traffic policeman said that it had been noted that generally people are driving more slowly in the 20mph zones in the area following the implementation of the new laws and in fact speeds had been reduced to below 20mph as people focus on sticking to the new law. He agreed that parking is an issue but said that he did not think that double yellow lines were the answer as it was mainly residents parking outside their houses as there is no other option. Extensive speed monitoring had taken place in local areas with very few people receiving speeding fines. It was mainly local people who exceed the speed limits. Community speed watch programmes on are hold at the moment as there are a lot of TRO’s that need to be checked and processed with the implementation of the new law. Cllr Burdon said the SID’s are in the process of being changed to the Smily and Angry face option as this was seen to be more effective.Cllr Darbyshire asked what criteria would be needed to qualify for a physical speed barrier. The Officer said that a study of the area would be required and that in his view, parking in the village naturally slowed down traffic by narrowing the road. Legislation was in the process of being passed to prevent parking on pavements. It was suggested that a chicane may help the situation. The Officer said that he will be happy to look at an issue if the Community Council would like to formally raise one.  |  |
| 20112023/05 | **5.To resolve to approve amendments to Standing Orders – Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12 para4:** None required at this time. |  |
| 20112023/06 | **6.To approve as correct the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2023:** The Minutes were **APPROVED.** |  |
| 20112023/07 | **7.Finance:****a) To note the bank balances:** Reserves £6647.17 Current £22687.82**b) To consider the following payments:**

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| **PAYEE** | **DETAILS** | **AMOUNT** |
| Royal British Legion  | Poppy wreath | £20.00 |
| SBW Ground Maintenance  | Grass Cutting Inv 203 | £660.00 |
| PAVO | Payroll services | £42.00 |
| One Voice Wales | Inv 7549 Councillor training | £38.00 |
| Clare Preece | McAfee subs | £74.99 |
| Clare Preece | Amazon Ink x 2 | £59.94 |
| Clare Preece | Travel | £33.30 |

 | CLERK/GT/GT/GJ |
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| Mr and Mrs McDonald | Expenses Talybont Matters | £25.00 |

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|  | All payments were **APPROVED.****c)To receive an update on the bank mandate:** Lloyds bank have not yet supplied everything required to enable the two new signatories to gain access. The Clerk is actively chasing.**d)To agree a date for the meeting of the Finance Committee to draw up a budget for the financial year 2023-2024:** Cllr Thomas and Cllr Burdon and the Clerk will liaise to set up a Zoom meeting to discuss this. The Clerk attended the Budgeting basics course run by the SLCC to brush up on the latest procedures recommended by the sector. Cllr Thomas said that the Welsh Government did not have a suitable funding pot that would fit the current funding categories for the council at present but he will continue to pursue this with them.**e)To consider a donation to the Welsh Air Ambulance Appeal:** A donation of £100 was **AGREED** to this very worthy charity.**f)To approve policies for uploading to the website in respect of Information management:** The GDPR and Publication scheme policies were **APPROVED.** | Clerk/NK |
| 20112023/08 | **8.To consider matters arising from the previous meeting:****i)Update on defibrillators:** The Clerk is progressing the defibrillator issue and is liaising with Save a Life Cymru to arrange an inspection of the three defibrillators in the village to ensure they are in working order. Cllr Burdon will provide the Clerk with the email address for the guardian of the machine in Skethrog. **ii)Paving slabs at the entrance to the play equipment:** Three quotes had been requested and it was **AGREED** to proceed with the quote provided by Darren James.**iii)Update on the insurance claim:** Cllr Thomas has identified the key people involved and will continue to progress this.**iv)Update on the rugby post installation:** These have now been installed.**v)Update on the Tram Road concerns:** The Clerk has contacted Powys to find out who is responsible for this right of way. An ordnance survey map of the area has been sent to them along with details of the concerns.**vi)A reminder of the Place Plan meeting on Tuesday 28th November 2023 between 3 and 5pm:** The Clerk will ensure the meeting is taking place as planned. There is no legal requirement to have a place plan but it may inform future planning decisions. It was **AGREED** that the item should be put to the Hinterland Group to see if they would consider a joint plan for the valley.**vii)To receive a statement from Cllr Krauzewicz on the importance of creating biodiverse spaces, in particular, in relation to creating a Place Plan:** Cllr Krauzewicz wishes to impress upon the National Parks the importance of the Talybont-on-Usk area as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest in Wales. The area’s wildlife and eco system is its biggest asset and it is vitally important that carbon footprint is reduced and the environment enhanced to generate eco-tourism, something the area is a already well known for. Cllr Burdon said that it would be desirable for the main stakeholders in the community; Welsh Water, The Canal and Rivers Trust and Natural Resources Wales to have input into this plan and it was **AGREED** to reach out to them for input and support. The Chaiman suggested a dedicated day is arranged to generate support and as Crickhowell have successfully completed their place plan that the council approach them for their advice. **viii) To confirm the next phase of the playground inspection rota:** The rota was confirmed as follows: 27/11 – Harry04/12 – Craig11/12 – Chris18/12 – Phil25/12 – Harry01/01 – Craig08/01 – Seamus15/01 – Nina22/01 – Geraint**ix) To receive an update on the Pump Track from Cllr Chris Jones:** Sport Wales the awarding body have contacted the Clerk for an update. Circa £49K has been awarded but it was agreed that costs will have risen significantly since the award was made. It was **AGREED** that a new scaled back pump track plan must be drawn up keeping within the £49K budget and that no further funding is available from the Community Council to make up for any shortfall with the existing proposed plans. Cllr Chris Jones asked Cllr Krauzewicz for her help in obtaining new drawings for the track. It is hoped that any new plan will fall within permitted development. The Clerk will update Sport Wales. **x)To receive an update on the Nepali Village and a proposed presentation:** Major Gurung has written to the Clerk to say that he is happy to make a presentation at the Council meeting. He is not available this month as he is celebrating the Festival of Lights. It is hoped that something can be arranged with him for the January meeting. It was **AGREED** that the Council would represent the Aber residents concerns over the development going forward **xi) To receive an update on road safety concerns including speed signs and a proposed meeting with Dyfed and Powys police Road Safety:** See public session**.****xi)To receive an update on the meeting of the Hinterland Group:** the Council is happy to host this as requested however the hall has already been booked for the proposed date of 29th November. The Clerk to email Sue Dale and suggest rearrangement or a different venue.**xiii) To receive an update on the OVW Information management training and related issues:** A complaint has been received from the ICO regarding the non- fulfilment of an FOI dating back to the beginning of June. The Clerk has responded to the ICO stating that this request had indeed been overlooked due to the number of requests received from the same individual whose identity cannot be confirmed. The information is in the process of being collated and is a length process. The Chairman reported that the course had proved very useful and that One Voice Wales will be happy to assist in the future with responses made to FOI requests. There are currently a number of outstanding requests which the council are working through.  | Clerk/CBCBGTClerkClerkJJ/ClerkClerkClerkJJ/ClerkJJ/Clerk |
| 20112023/09 | **9. To consider correspondence received requiring action and other matters for consideration raised:****i) To note the guidance received from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales:** This was **NOTED.****ii)To note the Race the Sun Bannau Brycheiniog event on 13th June:** The event was **NOTED.****iii) To note the receipt of the #loveourrivers campaign stakeholder toolkit:** The campaign was noted and the Clerk will forward the toolkit to Councillors. It was also noted that there had been a number of reports of what was seen to be “thoroughly irresponsible land management” by the current tenant at Gilestone who had ploughed all fields including those running adjacent to the River Usk. It was stated that this was not common practice at this time of year and following heavy rains the topsoil and any chemicals/fertiliser had all run off and had been washed into the river causing pollution. It was **AGREED** the Council write to Welsh Government to highlight the perceived mismanagement of farm land on their property. **iv) To consider the request to use the field by the Dell Technology Management Challenge on the weekend of 7th June.** It is still unclear what the event involves. A deposit had been paid in February of £100 for an event that did not take place so if the go ahead for the event was approved a further deposit would not be required. The Clerk will make further contact to ascertain exactly what is intended. **v)To consider Tree management concerns:** Ash Dieback has been identified on the trees behind the bus shelter. It was **AGREED** to write to the Canal and Rivers Trust to ask them for their programme of works to remove the trees in the community. **vi) To note the date for the County Council Elections: 22nd November 2023 –** The date of the election was noted and it was **AGREED** to note the community’s disappointment that none of the candidates offered to come to hear the voices of the community.  | JJ/ClerkClerkClerk |
| 20112023/10 | **10.To consider Canal matters:** An email to Powys County Council highlighting concerns over the push back of the canal lining work has not received a reply. It was suggested that the reason for this was due to Purdah. The Clerk will resend the concerns once a new County Councillor is in post. | Clerk |
| 20112023/11 | **11.To consider matters relating to Highways and Rural Roads:**Covered in the public session |  |
| 20112023/12 | **12.To consider matters relating to planning and record comments made between meetings by the Clerk under Delegated Authority Section 101 Local Government Act 1972:**Objections to the following planning applications were made by the Council between meetings as follows:23/22394/FUL “Installation of 5 metre tower extension”23/22401/FUL “Erection of polytunnels”23/22400/CON “Removal of condition 5”(A full copy of these objections can be found by visiting [www.beacons-npa.gov.uk](http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk))Resubmissions of application numbers 23/22401/FUL and 23/22400/CON have been received and it was **RESOLVED** resubmit the original objections.Decision notice 23/22324/ADV “Installation of noticeboard in the Churchyard at St Tetta’s Church was **NOTED**.  | Clerk |
| 20112023/13 | **13.To consider matters relating to Gilestone Farm and an update on the Osprey report:** The Chairman had received correspondence from Jason Thomas at Welsh Government to say they are awaiting the ornithologist report and that this was expected in early December. He said that once this is received they will fulfil the commitment to engaging fully with the Community Council and that no discussions about the lease will take place until they know what the report says. He reaffirmed that there was an open and constructive dialogue between the community and Welsh Government. |  |
| 20112023/14 | **14. Meeting closes 21.45. Date of next meeting 15th January 2024****The Council did not require a Confidential session** |  |