**TALYBONT ON USK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Cyngor Cymuned Talybont ar Wysg**

**MEETING HELD ON 16th January 2023**

**at Henderson Hall and via Zoom commencing at 7.15pm**

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| **ITEM NO** | **NOTES** | **ACTION** |
| **1** | **In Attendance**  Cllrs C Burdon ( Acting Chair), R. Jones, E.Moorman, J Short , G Thomas, and C Parry.  Also, in attendance County Councillor A. Cartwright and Mrs. K Bender (Clerk) |  |
| **1a** | **Apologies for absence**  Cllr. S Baldwin ( Chair) |  |
| **2** | **Declarations of Interest**  None |  |
| **3** | **Approve minutes of the 21st November 2022**  The minutes of the 21st November 2022 were accepted as a true record. |  |
| **4** | **Matters Arising**  It was agreed the minutes of the 17th November from the meeting with the Welsh Government were a true record.  Cllrs Thomas and Short had dealt with the issue of the flood lighting remaining on at all times.  There were no other matters arising that were not on the agenda |  |
| **5** | **Correspondence**  Kelsie Duffill- permission to use the playing field 10th June 2023, between 7am and 10am. The charity supported is the Brain Tumor Trust. It was agreed to give permission with a £50 refundable deposit, Clerk to inquire how many participants would be involved, along with transport arrangements.  Letter sent to Minister of Climate Change on the 1st December 2022 concerning the complaint made to BBNP regarding the BBNP decision to uphold its own decision to award a Certificate of Lawfulness to the Outdoor Pursuits Centre. The letter asks the Welsh Government to investigate this outcome as the BBNP Board comprises three Welsh Government appointees and is heavily funded by the Welsh Government. The letter has been acknowledged ; however, no response has been received. Clerk to follow up. | Clerk  Clerk |
| **6** | **Gilestone Farm – Matters arising from the validation of the UVCG survey by Cllr Burdon, Advice from OVW and the notice agreed by all Councillors which was posted on the Community Councils Facebook page and website**  The Clerk was asked by the chair to explain the item.  Cllr. Burdon confirmed that the community poll organised by UVCG was verified by himself.  Following this verification, the clerk received inquiries regarding the independence of the Community Council in relation to this matter.  These inquiries were being made due to the fact the UVCG had stated on their website that the poll had been verified by the Acting Chair of the Community Council, Cllr Burdon.  Cllr. Burdon has explained that the verification was carried out in a personal capacity only and not in his capacity as a member of the council. The Community Council at no time had given Cllr. Burdon the authority to undertake this action on behalf of the Community Council.  Following his explanation, advice was sought from OVW, who advised that a retraction needed to be issued confirming that Cllr Burdon had carried out this verification, not as a member of the council, but in his own personal capacity as a private individual.  After this discussion had taken place, Councillor Moorman asked what the council could do to address the fact that the UVCG had also previously tried to indicate that they were working with the Community Council.  In order to clarify the fact that Council is not and has never been working with the UVCG against the Green Man at any point , either in the past or at present, a proposal was put forward seconded and unanimously agreed, to issue a public statement that “the Usk Valley Conservation Group keeps making statements that are not true, regarding the Community Council. The Clerk said that the Community Council had not yet taken a decision concerning its position relating to the Green Man, as it is still waiting for the business plan to be published and circulated.  Only following the publication and review of this document by the Council will they then make an informed decision on their position.  In addition, it was suggested that the statement should indicate that any persons or any organisations currently trying to suggest that they are working with the Council against the Green Man are in fact incorrect.  The draft statement to be circulated to all Councillors for agreement prior to it being published on the Community Council Website and Facebook page.  The Community Council awaits a date to meet with Welsh Government to discuss the business plan. |  |
| **7** | **National Parks Authority Matters**  The Clerk read out the letter sent on the 1st December 2022 to the BBNP Complaint process concerning the fact BBNP have upheld its own decision to award the Certificate of Lawfulness at the Outdoor Pursuit Centre at Station Road. The letter also asked that the compliant is considered by the Board. No Acknowledgement has been received. Clerk to follow up.  Awaiting a reply for a date for a place planning session. Clerk to follow up. | Clerk    Clerk |
|  | **Questions from the public**  A resident asked if stop signs at the junction of the drawbridge could be considered. There are concerns around vehicles parking between the pubs in the village and concerns around cars and motor homes parking on both sides of the road opposite each other.  The Chair assured the resident his concerns would be taken on board when the meeting with the Highways Department takes place.  Another resident raised concerns around the growing number of events taking place in the village especially between March and August and the effect on wildlife, and asked if this issue could be raised when the place based planning exercise with BBNP takes place.  The Chair thanked the residents for their contributions. |  |
| **8** | **Canal Matters**    The Canal and River Trust have not responded to the Community Councils repeated requests for the decision from its Loss Adjusters concerning the Flooding of the Tennis Courts in December 2020. Clerk to contact Hannah Booth and Mark Evans to pursue as a matter of urgency.  Clerk to contact Jane Dodds with the Communiity Council’s grave concerns at the lack of response regarding its repeated requests for information on the Loss Adjusters decision.  The next meeting with the C&RT will be scheduled for the end of March 2023. .  It was welcomed that Howard Noble, the new CRT Volunteer Ranger, will be covering the canal from just south of Talybont (bridge 142) to just short of Pencelli (152).  It was noted that the works behind the bungalows had been pulled despite a further £350,000 being awarded for works between Llangynidr and Govilon.  The Chair has contacted Hannah Booth with concerns that there is a leak downstream of bridge 143. opposite the garage. | Clerk    Clerk |
| **9** | **Highway Matters**  The Community Council to request the existing plan of its area of responsibility from the Highways department to aid it with the plan for traffic calming. This will be shared with neighbouring Community Councils to look into a joint application.  Councillors stated the Mobile Speed Units had been successful and agreed to move the one sited at the entrance of the village to Station Road.  A culvert at Bryn Lane is blocked, Cllr Parry to follow-up.  The Chair reported a large pothole at the junction to station, a temporary repair has been carried out.  Cllr Jones raised concerns over the potholes and breaking up of the road surface after the river bridge over the Usk and on the approach to the A40 junction. The surface had become worse in recent weeks. | Clerk  Cllrs Short and Burdon  Cllr. Parry |
| **10** | **County Councillor Report**  County Councillor Anita Cartwright forwarded her report and spoke of the salient points.  Cabinet to make a decision on rural school closures of Llanbedr on the 17th January, Cllr Cartwright has been working to prevent the closure.  The Councillor is investigating issues surrounding time changes to school transport to Brecon High and Crickhowell and will report back to a future meeting.  Draft budget has been released with a proposed 5% increase to council tax.  County Councillor Anita Cartwright announced her appointment to the Housing Committee at Powys County Council.  Cllr Cartwright outlined past proposals she had been made aware of, around the potential building of 57 houses on a field at Maesmawr Farm.  Cllr Thomas and Cllr Burdon highlighted problems with developing the site, including the water main to Newport and archaeological interests.  Further matters in respect of potential flooding and traffic management were also raised.  Councillor Cartwright was asked to follow up the issues concerning two bungalows at Canol Pentre which she agreed to do. |  |
| **11** | **Applications for Planning Consent**  None Received. |  |
| **12** | **Community Council Training Plans**  The Clerk presented a training matrix to the meeting, highlighting mandatory individual training along with skills needed across the board to show competence as an effective Community Council. The Clerk to populate the matrix showing courses attended by Community Councillors and present back to a future meeting. | Clerk |
| **13** | **One Voice Wales Quarterly Meeting**  Cllr Moorman outlined the topics covered at the January 2023 quarterly meeting which included presentations from Simon Evans, CEO Wye and Usk Foundation. Powys County Council, Cllr Jake Berriman in relation to planning services, issues and communications.  Cllr Moorman was elected to the National Executive Committee of One Voice Wales.  Copies of the OVW report can be found on the Community Councils Website. |  |
| **14** | **Talybont Matters -**  The January edition of Talybont-Matters is the final issue to be edited by Richard Abram, the Community Council wanted its thanks for his work and commitment over many years recorded and wished him well for the future.  The Community Council welcomes David MacDonald as its new editor, and hopes he enjoys working with contributors and readers alike. |  |
| **15** | **Talybont-on-Usk Community Facebook Page**  Talybont Community Councillors have reviewed the administration of the Talybont-on-Usk Community Facebook Page which was set up in November 2017 by the Community Council. There are at present 980 members to the page.  It was agreed to restructure the page and reduce the number of administrators to four to include the Community Council and Tourism Group.  Clerk to thank the sitting administrators for their contributions since 2017.  It was also agreed to update the policies for the page. | **Clerk, Cllrs Jones & Moorman** |
|  | **STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED AT 9.10**  To complete council business Standing Orders 3.w was suspended as the meeting would have exceeded its 2hour meeting time duration. |  |
| **16** | **Aberclydach Fach Farm- Gurkha Nepali Village, Museum and Visitor Centre.**  Councillors Parry ,Burdon and Short attended a meeting with Major Khusiman Gurung and others, who set out its plans for a 24 acres development at Aberclydach Fach Farm- to create a Gurkha Nepali Village, Museum and Visitor Centre.  It was explained the company comprised of 15 directors  with 227 shareholders.  Talybont was chosen for its tourist links and its access to the Beacons and trails.  The 9-year project, to include a campsite, renovation of the house as a holiday let, toilets and shower block , café and visitors center along with tree planting on the upper ground. The final phase to include a hotel.  All subject to planning permissions.  An engagement event at Henderson Hall is planned for the 26th March 2023. |  |
| **17** | **Community Council Assets**   1. **Play equipment** –Councillors and the Caretaker have carried out their scheduled inspections and forwarded their reports. No issues to address. 2. **Tennis Courts–** Folly Contractors have not carried out the repairs, the Clerk has sent numerous emails and left messages on their phone, all to no avail. Cllr Thomas to try one final time to establish contact, failing that an alternative contractor will be sought. | Cllr Thomas |
| **18** | **Finance**  **a.** **Current Financial Position**  Financial position was reported to the meeting  **b.** **Precept Setting**  The finance committee had met to prepare the budget and inform the Precept for 2023. Cllr Thomas presented the proposed budget line by line for full council to discuss.  An increase of £1630 to the precept was explained by an increase in the budget line of clerks’ salary of £1100 to bring the salary in line with the clerks’ salary incremental grade and to reflect an increase in hours worked and the attainment of the ILCA Clerks Qualification.  There were increases in budget lines for caretaking, payroll services, clerk and office expenses and Councillor expenses / training. There was a decrease of £200 for election costs. Following an in-depth discussion Councillors unanimously agreed to a precept request of £188770.  Clerk to forward to Powys County Council.  **c. Invoices and Payments for Approval**  Powys County Council- Election Costs - £1836.53  PAVO – Payroll Services - £35  Henderson Hall Grant - £1416.67  OVW- Training- £140  All invoices were approved for payment. | Clerk |
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**Date of next Ordinary Meeting 20th February 2023**

**Held at Henderson Hall commencing at 7.15pm as a hybrid meeting**