**TALYBONT-ON-USK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Clerk: Clare Preece email talybontcc@gmail.com

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 2024, HENDERSON HALL, TALYBONT-ON-USK**

**Present:**

Cllr Phil Darbyshire (Acting Chairman)

Cllr Nina Krauzewicz

Cllr Glyn Thomas

Cllr Craig Burdon

Cllr Chris Jones

Cllr Seamus Hamill-Keays

Cllr John Jones (Chaiman) - attending via Zoom

**Apologies:**

Cllr Geraint James (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Harry Chapman

C Cllr Raiff Devilin

**In attendance:**

Clare Preece - Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Minute Ref | Minute | Action |
| 19012024/01 | **1.Apologies for absence:**The Vice Chairman had sent apologies. The Chairman attended via Zoom from abroad. Cllr Phil Darbyshire was elected as Chair. Apologies received from Cllr Geraint James and Cllr Harry Chapman. County Cllr Raiff Devlin is unable to attend due to work commitments. |  |
| 19012024/02 | **2.To disclose personal and pecuniary business in items of business listed below:**Cllr Krauzewicz disclosed membership of the UVCG and Cllr Darbyshire disclosed trusteeship of the UVCG. |  |
| 19012024/03 | **3.Public session:**A member of the public asked why their correspondence to the council sent in September following the September Council meeting where the matter had been initially raised, had not been listed on the agenda for discussion. The Chariman and the Clerk (in line with the Council’s complaints procedure) had attempted to deal with the matter informally but without success. The member of the public said they did not make a complaint but required an answer to their questions. The acting Chairman said that he will address the matter and that the correspondence will be listed on the February Agenda and a formal response formulated by the Council and sent to the member of the public and will be presented at the next meeting.  |  |
| 19012024/04 | **4.To resolve to approve any necessary amendments to Standing Orders – Local Government Act 1972 sch 12 para 4: NONE REQUIRED.** |  |
| 19012023/05 | **5.To approve as correct the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2023:** The minutes were **APPROVED.** |  |
| 19012024/06 | **6.To receive a written report from County Councillor Raiff Devlin who cannot attend due to work commitments:** The Acting Chaiman gave a brief overview of the report submitted by County Councillor Devlin (see appendix 1). It was suggested that as the Clerk is on annual leave on March 18th that the meeting be rescheduled for Tuesday 26th March to enable the County Councillor to attend. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk find out the Councillors availability and the availability of the hall. It was also **AGREED** that every third meeting would be rearranged to enable Cllr Devlin to attend. It was also noted that the time of the meetings going forward would go back to 7pm. |  |
| 19012024/07 | **7.Finance:****a)To note the bank balances: Reserve account: £6647.17 Current Account: £26195.47****b)To consider the following payments:** All payments were **APPROVED.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee** | **Details** | **Amount** |
| Highground Maintenance | To supply and install one set of rugby posts and one bag of iron sulphate for moss control FOC (funds earmarked in reserves from grant funding) | £1400.02 including £233.34 VAT |
| HMRC | Employee tax – Oct, Nov, Dec and Q2 | £138.00 |
| David McDonald | Talybont Matters | £195.00 |
| One Voice Wales | Council training Inv 7625 | £383.00 |
| Clare Preece | Travel expenses x 4 | £133.20 |

 | Clerk |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **c)To approve the Precept for the coming financial year 2024-2025, compiled by the Finance Committee and to sign the Precept claim for submission by 2nd February 2024:** On behalf of the finance committee Cllr Thomas spoke to say that times are hard for the residents of the community and therefore the Community Council is beholden to keep the precept demand as low as possible but to still fulfil it’s functions. The Finance committee produced a budget upon which the precept demand is based (see Appendix 2). It was unanimously **AGREED** to submit a precept demand of £18,437 to Powys County Council which is a 7% rise on last year. (Powys County Council estimated council tax rise = 7.5%). The Clerk will submit the claim form by the cut off date of 2/2/2024.**d)To consider payment of the £1200 grant to Henderson Hall requested by the hall treasurer on 24/12/2023 for the period 2023-2024:** It was **AGREED** that the Community Council increase the financial support to the running of Henderson Hall. £1200 will be transferred across and Cllr Thomas will explain to the treasurer the grant process to apply for additional funding for specific projects.**e)To consider the purchase of a replacement Community Council laptop:** The Chairman explained how the current laptop has been corrupted and is not secure. The Clerk uses her own laptop currently for council business. It was **AGREED** a basic laptop be purchased along with a basic mobile phone which will be used for council business. Cllr Thomas will source one. It was also **AGREED** have the Apple Mac laptop wiped and to see how much it can be sold on for to recoup some of the loss.**f)To consider the grant application from St Tetti Church towards their lych gate refurbishment:** Cllr Hamill-Keays offered his congratulations to the group for the work they have achieved at St Tetti Church. The Clerk had spoken to the vicar and had been told that the church premises is owned by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales. It was **AGREED** that the council cannot give a grant in this instance as the applicant is not the owner of the premises. | GT/ClerkGTClerk |
| 15012024/08 | **8.To receive an update on the place plan meeting from those Councillors who attended on 28th November 2023:** The Chairman and the Chief Executive of the BBNP PA were present and it was felt that a good open discussion was had. It was agreed that a place plan would need to look at “Place” in a wider context involving neighbouring communities and the major stakeholders in the community; The Canal and River Trust, Welsh Water and National Resources Wales would be required to be involved if it went ahead. A further discussion will be needed as it was pointed out that the associated costs; Independent Planning Consultant expertise etc would have to come from the Community Council budget as there are no obvious grants available.  |  |
| 15012024/09 | **9.To receive an update on the Hinterland Group meeting from those Councillors who attended on 19th December 2023:**It was noted that the item above dovetails into this one; Llangors, Llangynidr, Bwlch, Cwmdu and Talybont-on-Usk have all shared similar experiences whereby communication with the planning authority has been a struggle. They also share the same concerns about access to Healthcare and Healthcare provision in the local area. It was **AGREED** to extend the invitation to the next meeting to Jane Dodds MS for Brecon and Radnorshire and County Councillor Raiff Devlin. The Clerk will speak to the Clerk at Cwmdu to find out the date of the next meeting. | Clerk |
| 15122024/10 | **10.To consider matters arising from the previous meeting:****a)To receive an update on the defibrillators following a site meeting with Save a Life Cymru and agree a way forward in respect of guardianship and maintenance and the updating of the circuit:** The Chairman, Cllr Krauzewicz and the Clerk met with Sian from Save a Life Cymru. The defibrillators at the Post Office and Royal Oak Pencelli were inspected and the pads and batteries replaced. The defibrillator at Scethrog could not be found and it has since been disclosed that this was mistakenly taken away by the deceased guardian’s estate and given to the NHS. It was been **AGREED** with the Chairman that Save a Life Cymru will provide a replacement that will be installed in the phone box at Scethrog. Cllr Thomas and Cllr Darbyshire **AGREED** to contact the guardians of the units to find out if they wish to continue with guardianship.**b)An update on the paving slab installation at the entrance to the play equipment:** The Clerk has instructed Darren to do the work.**c)To receive an update on the insurance claim from Cllr Thomas:** The entire matter is having to be dealt with from scratch and progress is slow. The costs were paid out of reserves and the repairs should have been covered by the insurance as the flooding and consequent damage was not the fault of the community council. Cllr Thomas requires the Clerk to find the deeds to the land and the insurance schedule showing the MUGA was insured last year. Cllr Burdon said he has details of the boundary line which he will forward to the Clerk.**d)To receive an update on the Tram road concerns following the Clerks email to Eifion Jones at the National Parks authority:** Cllr Burdon **AGREED** to meet with the Warden, Sam Harpur from the parks at 12.30pm on the 19th January.**e)To confirm the next phase of the playground inspection rota:**29/1 – Phil5/2 – Nina12/2 – Seamus19/2 – Glyn26/2 – John4/3 – Mike Smith11/3 – Craig18/3 – Phil25/3 – Nina**f)To receive an update on the Pump track from Cllr Chris Jones**: This item was discussed after item 6 on the agenda as Cllr Chris Jones had to leave early: Cllr Chris Jones has a meeting with the planning officer Ryan Thomas on Thursday 18th January in Brecon at 9am. Cllr Darbyshire and Cllr Thomas both said they would try to attend. Cllr Jones said he will send out a Zoom link to the meeting for those who cannot attend in person. It was suggested that Neil from the Bike Shop attend also and Cllr Jones said he would contact him.**g)To receive an update on contact with Major Gurung at the Nepali Village:** The Chairman has been invited to attend a tree planting ceremony but he is away until the end of the month. It was **AGREED** to contact Major Gurung and ask for a written update on progress of the planning application for the Nepali Village. The council are unable to officially comment until the planning application has been registered.**h)To allocate the composition of a letter to WG concerning potential mismanagement of farmland and river pollution at Gilestone Farm:** It was **AGREED** that this subject could be covered when the Council meets with WG on Friday.**i)To receive an update on hedge cutting from Cllr Burdon:** Cerri has now completed the work and the Clerk will ask him for his invoice.**j)To receive an update on tree management concerns/ash dieback.** The Clerk has contacted the Canal and River Trust and the trees at the bus stop have now been logged under reference number 1188698. The trees at Gilestone Cottages have been taken down. The trees on the embankment on Station Road are the responsibility of the landowner – Cllr Thomas will make contact. Cllr Burdon highlighted the trees above the skateboard ramp which pose a danger. These will be reported to Highways.**k)To receive an update on the dog waste bins and arrangements for emptying:** Cllr James had sent an email to say that Cllr Chapman had taken over the emptying of the bins and thanked Cllr Krauzewicz for finding someone else to do the job. | JJClerkGT/CB/ClerkCBCJClerkClerkGT/CB |
| 15012024/11 | **11.To consider correspondence received requiring action or noting and other matters for consideration raised:****a)To gage interest in the Community Speed Watch campaign run by Go Safe – Zoom session to be held on Wednesday 8th February to learn more about the programme – register of interest by 31st January:** It was **AGREED** that the Council has enough commitments at the moment and cannot afford the time.**b)To organise the handover of a key to the noticeboard in Aber to Colin Parry:** Cllr Krauzewicz will take a key over to Cllr James to pass on to him.**c)To receive an email from Colin Parry concerning blocked culverts in Aber:** Both culverts have been logged with their respective authorities; The Parks and Powys. The Clerk will monitor the progress of the works.**d)To note the date of the next issue of Talybont Matters:** Wednesday 24th January.**e)To discuss a complaint regarding a loose dog on the field and a broken gate:** It was agreed that the dog was most likely to belong to a visitor to the area as local people were aware that no dogs are allowed on the field. A reminder of this is to be put into the Talybont matters. The Clerk will bring Mike Smith’s attention to the broken gate. | NKClerkClerkClerk |
| 15012024/12 | **12.To consider the D Day Celebrations: 6th June 2024:** It was **AGREED** to support a village event to be held on the Saturday. Cllr Hamill-Keays left the meeting for an engagement. |  |
| 15012024/13 | **13.To consider the Annual Show:** It was **AGREED** that the dog show can be held on the field again this year. It proved very popular last year. |  |
| 15012024/14 | **14.To consider matters relating to planning and to record comments made between meetings by the Clerk under Delegated Authority Section 101 of the LGA Act 1972:**23/22523/FUL – **No Objection – Clerk to log comments.**23/22400/CON – Original objection resent.23/22512/REM – No objection – condition in respect of an integrated green energy provision for each home requested.23/22394/FUL – decision notice noted – approved. | Clerk |
| 15012024/15 | **15.To consider Canal Matters:** Cllr Burdon highlighted the danger to pedestrians at Ashford Tunnel. He said that a site meeting with Powys County Council is needed. Contact will be made with County Councillor Devlin regarding the matter. The matter of the Canal relining was emailed to County Councillor Devlin at his request on 8/1/2024.  | CB/Clerk |
| 15012024/16 | **16.To consider matters relating to Highways and Rural roads:** Cllr Thomas has been approached by a number of residents who have complained about the dangerous state of the pavements in Station Road. When wet they will not walk on them for fear of an accident. Cllr Krauzewicz said that culverts are blocked at Tor y Foel and this was echoed by Cllr Burdon. The Clerk to email County Councillor Devlin to ask for assistance. Matters emailed to the County Councillor following their meeting – Persistent drain problems at Canol Pentre 8/1/2024, Flooding at Cross Oak 9/1/2024, danger posed to horses and riders at Pencelli – 10/1/2024 | CB/Clerk |
| 15012024/17 | **17.To consider matters relating to Gilestone Farm – to note the meeting called by Gerwyn Evans inviting the council to receive information following the receipt of the Osprey report by Welsh Government:19th January 10.30am. NOTED**  |  |
| 15012024/18 | **18.Meeting closes – date of next meeting 19th February at 7pm** |  |
| 15012024/19 | **19. Confidential session: None** |  |
|  |  |  |