**Peterston-super-Ely Community Council**

***Cyngor Cymuned a Llanbedr-y-Fro***

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm, on 30th June 2014 at the Church & Community Hall, Peterston-super-Ely**

**Present:** Councillors:Jan Parry (Chairman), Pat Cadwalladr, Ian Pearson, Bill Budd

 David Jaques, Ray Petre & Michael Morgan.

**Also Present:** Joanna Howell (Clerk to the Council)

 Cllr Rhodri Traherne

**Apologies** Cllr David Moody-Jones

PCSO Steven Thomas,

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and agendas were circulated to the public present.

**215 Police Matters**

PCSO Thomas was not able to attend, however the Clerk read out a report from him that other than the second theft of the playground picnic table, no other crimes or attempted crimes had been reported. PCSO Thomas had conducted a speed survey during the school drop off period, the highest speed recorded as 31mph.

**216 County Council Matters**

The Chair welcomed Cllr Traherne and invited him for his comments.

*LDP Alternative Sites process* – Cllr Traherne explained that the VoG Council officers are currently examining all the alternative sites. He does not believe that there will be any changes to the LDP as a result of this process, particularly in the PsE ward. The plan for formal adoption of the plan is in autumn 2016.

*Creative Rural Communities* – Cllr Traherne explained that after recent meetings he now understands that CRC are some way away from the point where applications can be made for grants from CRC. He did however provide literature to the clerk on a business bursary scheme for those under 30 living in the Vale who wishes to set up their own business.

*Challenges for VoG Council going forward*- Cllr Traherne explained that the VoG Council has a number of major challenges facing them going forward :-

* The Inspection regime for schools is now more robust and it will be quite a challenge for VoG Schools to improve in the way that the Welsh Government wishes.
* The Social Services department have major budgetary difficulties. With huge demand and cost implications in regards to dealing with the elderly community care packages and with the care of young people.
* Major highway infrastructure investment is needed e.g. in bridges and there is little money to do this.

He went on to explain that if you set these challenges against the report on budget cuts necessary delivered to the cabinet today, then some services may see some very large reductions in their budgets. In the previous year the VoG Council went into the reserves and this year it has some even more difficult decisions to make.

In terms of the effect of the cuts specifically on PsE, the main issue will be a lack of money for any highway works to try and improve road safety, where it is clear the council believe the village is a low priority.

*Car Parking Charges* – The council is looking at introducing car parking charges in both local car parks and for on road parking. Cllr Traherne is opposed to these as believes that they will leave traders struggling. Consultants have been appointed to look into this matter but as of yet no reports have been issued.

*Library Services-* Cllr Traherne explained thatit is likely that the council will be looking at reducing hours in the main libraries and reducing smaller libraries into volunteer libraries.

*Playing Fields Ownership*– Cllr Traherne emphasised that Cllr Gwyn John was totally behind this application and is embarrassed that the cabinet report has not yet been received. Cllr Traherne recommends that at the moment the council remain patient in this matter in order to maintain this goodwill. Cllr Traherne will continue to follow up on this. The council agreed that at this stage no further communication was necessary.

The Chair asked if any of the council had questions for Cllr Traherne. As there were no questions Cllr Parry thanked Cllr Traherne for his time.

**217 Public Session and matters arising**

The Chair informed those members of the public present that there were time restrictions on how long any matters could be discussed, she then asked for a show of hands from those who did have questions/ issues to raise.

 The first question was “There has been lots of talk in the media regarding the need for a reduction in the number of councils in Wales and what thoughts the VoG council had on this”.

 *Cllr Traherne explained that he had explained his thoughts on this at the last community council meeting in May. He did however go on to explain that a merger of councils will be a very expensive thing to do e.g. redundancies, and as savings are not seen immediately, this kind of scheme normally takes place in strong economic times. The clerk provided the member of the public with a copy of the relevant minutes from the last meeting.*

 At this point the Chair pointed the members of the public present towards the display of the plans for a wind turbine in the village. She explained that anyone was able to review these. There was a question from a member of the public regarding the noise levels from the turbine.

*Cllr Parry indicated that she had asked about this at the consultation meeting and was informed noise had been drastically reduced over the years as technology developed, she went on to point out the poster showing noise levels.*

*Cllr Traherne explained that the Welsh Government was very keen on renewable energy and so it was likely that the VoG Council would approve any reasonable scheme.*

There was a complaint from the public about the lack of accessibility at the playing field stile.

*Cllr Parry explained that a grant had been applied for to put in a kissing gate.*

There was a question on whether the council could request that farmer’s fields were cut earlier if they were making the public rights of access difficult.

*It was suggested that this was a matter for the rights of way department and complaints should be directed to them.*

There was a complaint re the grass cutting in the churchyard and why the cut grass could not be picked up and not left on graves, this related to the letter previously circulated to the council.

*Cllr Parry wished to state that in her personal opinion the new grass cutters were doing a good job, certainly a lot better than the contractors previously used. She acknowledged the point that when the cut grass was wet it did fly up onto grave stones. However she did object to the accusation of ‘mistreatment’ of graves made in the letter. She believes that this council tries to keep the Churchyard in as good a condition as possible and that it is in a much better condition than many.*

*Cllr Petre added that it is not in the contractors agreement to remove the grass, and that is because of the additional significant expensive that would add. The amount of monies is unfortunately always going to be limited whilst there are no maintenance fees for graves.
Cllr Parry added that as well as being not cost effective the large volumes of grass make picking it up not viable.*

*Cllr Pearson added that the council very strongly felt their duty of care regarding the Churchyard.*

It was then questioned whether the member of the public could do his own strimming around his families’ graves in order to keep them tidier.

*The council had no objections to this.*

*Cllr Budd wished to add that he fully appreciated the issues raised in the letter.*

***AP*** *Clerk to send a formal response to the letter received.*

The Chair closed the public session and thanked people for their attendance.

**218 Review of letter from Mrs Ward re kissing gates**

Cllr Morgan explained that he did not feel the council should spend a long time discussing this matter as it had already been decided upon, it is the council’s responsibility to maintain the border and a kissing gate will be erected.

***AP*** *Clerk to respond to Mrs Ward’s letter.*

**219 To review the letter re complaints regarding the Churchyard grass cutting**

It was agreed this had been dealt with in the public session.

**220 Complaint re riverbank cutting from Cllr Moody Jones**

The Chair believes it would be a good idea that when the riverbank is due for a cut that Peterston Connect come and indicate the areas which should be left.

Cllr Pearson commented that he believed it was a very good cut and that many villagers agreed, he pointed out that the opposite side of the riverbank is left fully natural.

Cllr Jaques believes that putting a management plan in place seemed the obvious solution.

Cllr Parry did worry that if there was not enough maintenance of the riverbank then there would be little view of the river.

Cllr Budd believes that this issue is very subjective and that not everyone agrees with the points raised by Peterston Connect.

It was agreed that Peterston Connect prepare a draft management plan and bring it along to the next meeting in September to be discussed. This was agreed by a member of Peterston Connect present.

**AP** Clerk to add to September’s meeting agenda.

**221 Trip to the Houses of Parliament**

*AP – Clerk to send on information regarding this trip to those who wished to come.*

The chair explained to the public present that the council had been invited by Alun Cairns MP to tour the Houses of Parliament and that obviously this was being done at the councillors own expense.

**222 Review and approval of the playing field regulations and fees**

Cllr Pearson referred to the previously circulated draft document and ran through the main points; he explained that these were based on the regulations and fees of other councils he had investigated.

He explained that a risk assessment would need to be completed by the applicant.

*AP Cllr Pearson to send on proforma risk assessment to clerk*

There was a short discussion regarding the exact wording needed re alcohol supply.

Cllr Parry disagreed that there should be a fee charged across the board, instead clubs should pay but no fee should be charged for community events.

Cllrs Budd and Pearson believe that everyone should pay. Cllr Petre felt that this council had a requirement to ensure everything runs safetly and that the fees reflect this.

Cllr Jaques raised the issue of BBQ’s. After a short discussion it was agreed that BBQ’s should be allowed only with the consent of the council.

The acceptance of the regulations was put to the vote and a majority of the council agreed to accept the regulations and fees with the few noted amendments.

It was **resolved** that the draft regulations and fees be accepted once the noted changes were made.

***AP*** *Cllr Pearson to make required changes and then to pass on to clerk to display and circulate.*

The chair went on to thank Cllr Pearson for his work on these and all agreed what a good job he had done.

**223 To receive the minutes of the Council Meeting held on May 12th 2014**

The minutes were reviewed, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**224 Matters Arising from these minutes**

Paragraph 197

The chair asked for volunteers that would be responsible for putting together the presentation for the September market.

Cllr Pearson confirmed that he would check again with CRC re attending, but they had initially seemed keen. The clerk confirmed that Mrs Vanessa Adams would like to come to present on the Tennis Club project.

It was agreed Cllr Cadwalladr would take overall responsibility with help from Cllr Pearson, Cllr Jaques and the clerk.

***AP*** *Cllr Jaques to work on his ideas report that he had previously circulated in order that this could be used.*

***AP*** *Clerk to publicise the event and help pull together the presentation*

Paragraph 198

***AP*** *Allotments subcommittee need to meet*

***AP*** *Cllr Jaques to put requirements for allotments in writing to land owner*

***AP*** *Churchyard subcommittee to meet and confirm burial fees*

Paragraph 201

The clerk confirmed that the Zurich insurance quote was much cheaper and had been accepted on a 3 year period, with the renewal fixed for the 3 years.

Paragraph 205.7

***AP*** *– Cllr Jaques to forward on information to Cllr Traherne re permission for signage*

Cllr Jaques confirmed that he was still awaiting permission from the VoG Council to erect road signage that the community council self-funded; he also needed advice from the highways department on where best to erect any additional signage.

***AP*** *Cllr Budd to investigate costs for signage*

***AP*** *Cllr Jaques to continue to push with the VoG on this matter*

Paragraph 206

Cllr Jaques had an update from the Tennis Club project committee which indicated that there had been lots of positive input from the village and that Mrs Vanessa Adams would be putting in a report to council.

Paragraph 208.1

Cllr Parry confirmed that the PCC would just be doing a memorial event on Remembrance Sunday

Paragraph 208.3

**AP** – Clerk to place thanks in the parish magazine re watering by Sam Viney

Cllr Pearson confirmed that his wife Sue was happy to carry on her work with the planters in the village. However he felt the grass verges near the planters and by the village signs were very hard to keep trimmed. As this was a small job that did not require a tender he suggested that we asked the local contractor Huw Moody-Jones to quote for the work.

**AP** Cllr Pearson to put in writing to the clerk what work required

**AP** Clerk to request quote from contractor

Cllr Parry wished to tell the council that she had entered some of the Churchyard roses’ into the flower show on behalf of the council and was delighted to say that one of the entries received a third place.

Paragraph 208.6

Cllr Parry explained that she had been in touch with her contact re the mound in the playground. He had been appalled by the state of the mound and couldn’t understand why the Monmouth contractors had completed it in this way. He is prepared to build up the bound and put on new turf but believes that this is a waste of time and that it would quickly end up in the current state again.

His plan would be to leave the mound as it is until September and then get it reinforced, this would cost between £300-£400. He would then be happy to turf it for free. If this work is done in September he then recommends fencing off the mount until March. After that there would be no further problems.

Cllr Pearson confirmed that the PlayStation account had the money for this work.

***AP*** *Cllrs Jaques or Pearson to email the PlayStation subcommittee to inform them of the situation*

Paragraph 208.7

Cllr Parry did not think that there would be any available monies from Barry Rotary Club for the defibrillator.

***AP*** *Cllr Moody-Jones to provide details of further grants and go ahead and try and get this sorted.*

**225 Clerk’s Report**

The clerk’s report was reviewed.

CASH Grant

The clerk explained that there had still not been a decision on this grant by the VoG.

She had however heard from NP Landscaping who would complete the work on the water pump in August.

Cllr Morgan felt that the contractors should not yet start on the kissing gate until the situation had been communicated to Mrs Ward and that designs had been confirmed.

Churchyard Shed Maintenance

The clerk confirmed that the work on the shed roof had been completed and asked if the council were in agreement to approve the work on the door, this was approved by all.

***AP*** *Clerk to contact the contractor*

Authority for expenditure

All expenditure was agreed and cheques were signed by two councillors

***AP*** *Clerk to talk to Countrywide about ensuring that when they removed the laurel bush they also removed the brambles which are overhanging the wall.*

**226 Planning Matters**

The Chair explained that the planning for the proposed wind turbine was to be put forward to the Vale in July; Cllr Jaques believed that the community council should review the plans and comment as appropriate at this formal planning stage. Agreed by all.

The other planning applications were reviewed.

Cllr Cadwalladr believed that the planning application for stables near Gwern y Steeple had access that could be dangerous given the problems with increased traffic on logwood hill.

There were no objections to this planning itself but it was felt that the council should comment on these access problems to ensure that the highways department were involved to make this as safe as possible.

Cllr Budd made the council aware on the building work on the back of his house. He wished to explain that after checking the Welsh Government rules this level of work did not require planning permission.

**227 Correspondence**

These were reviewed and acknowledged.

**228 Councillors Reports**

The main report from Cllr Moody-Jones re the riverbank had already been discussed.

**229 Health & Safety matters**

The clerk reported that as per her latest inspection of the playground the picnic bench near the swings was broken and dangerous to sit on.

***AP*** *Cllr Pearson to check it and arrange mending or replacement.*

Cllr Cadwalladr reported that the old benches on the edge of the playing fields were tipped over and she felt should be removed. It was agreed that this would be looked at as part of the review of assets.

Cllr Parry felt that instead of the usual informal meeting in August, it would be useful to have a walk around the village to inspect and review all council assets and proposals for work.

AP Please could all councillors let the clerk know if they are available.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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