**Peterston-super-Ely Community Council**

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

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm, on 8th September 2014 at the Church & Community Hall, Peterston-super-Ely**

**Present:** Councillors:Jan Parry (Chairman), Cllr David Moody-Jones, Pat Cadwalladr, Ian Pearson, Bill Budd, David Jaques, Ray Petre & Michael Morgan.

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

Cllr Rhodri Traherne

**Apologies** PCSO Steven Thomas,

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

**230 Police Matters**

The Chair expressed her disappointment that PCSO Thomas was not able to attend as the council were very concerned about the increasing number of thefts in the village during the summer. She explained that in the previous week there had been another theft from a contractors van. She felt that the villagers needed to be more vigilant and make sure they report anything suspicious to the police.

*AP Clerk to contact PCSO Thomas to ensure he or another colleague could attend the September market.*

*AP Clerk to repeat call for villagers to be extra vigilant at this time, in magazine, website etc.*

**231 County Council Matters**

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

*Five Mile Lane* – Cllr Traherne stated that the plans in place for works to straighten out and make this road safer were probably going to be more expensive than the Welsh Government first envisaged. Therefore the VoG were awaiting confirmation that the Welsh Government had the funding in place for this before continuing with the planning. The changes will be quite significant and stretch all the way along the road to Barry. Cllr Traherne will keep the council informed on any updates.

*New Road from Junction 34* – Cllr Traherne continues to hear rumours that there is to be a new road from Junction 34 of the M4 to the airport. He does not believe that the demand or finance for this will occur in the long term.

*Wind Turbine* – Lots of people have contacted Cllr Traherne regarding the proposed new Wind Turbine. He wants to remind everyone that the Welsh Government are very keen on renewable energy and that the VoG planning officers will have to apply the Welsh Government guidance on this regardless of their personal views. He just wanted to warn people that it the proposal fits the criteria it is likely to be approved. However a number of similar applications have been refused recently due to Cardiff Airport indicating that there is a health & Safety issue as they were close enough to interfere with their equipment.

*VoG Finance* – The latest financial report shows that the council have made savings of £21.4m between 2010/11 and 2013/14. However during the next three years the council need to save additional £14.2m.

Cllr Traherne went on to explain that Grant Thornton consultants had recently delivered a presentation on ways to make additional savings e.g. Create local authority trading company, form joint ventures with other bodies / private companies, form trusts, outsource services, shared services.

The administration in Barry is now looking at what they can do with the first tranche of proposals being released in approx. 3 months. Cllr Traherne acknowledges that there would be difficulties in getting people to change say from working for a council to a private company. He does state that this can be done already e.g. the leisure centre being run in partnership with a private company.

The potential changes will be discussed in a special Community Liaison Committee meeting on 18th September. The Chair confirmed she was attending this meeting.

*Playing Fields Ownership*– Cllr Traherne was pleased that the community council and the VoG Council had a meeting arranged regarding this and asked whether the chair would like him to attend as well. The Chair thanked Cllr Traherne for his offer and stated the playing fields subcommittee would discuss this and get back to him.

The Chair asked if any of the council had questions for Cllr Traherne.

Cllr Jaques explained to Cllr Traherne that he had yet to have a response from Steve Arthur regarding the council paying for new signs/road markings. Cllr Traherne requested that the Cllr Jaques send on the latest correspondence.

*AP Cllr Jaques to pass on emails to Cllr Traherne*

Cllr Traherne also mentioned that there had been a theft from one of the outbuildings on his farm.

As there were no further questions Cllr Parry thanked Cllr Traherne for his time.

**232 Public Session and matters arising**

The Chair asked the members of the public attending if any of them had any questions.

The first question was “*Has there been an update on the kissing gate in the playing fields*”.

The Chair explained that there had been an update however this would be discussed in closed session later in the meeting.

At this point Cllr Moody Jones wished to thank Marilyn Thomson for her work in cutting back the brambles on the footpath opposite the Sportsman’s. Mrs Thomson went on to state that she couldn’t be at the consultation on the 13th but was happy to volunteer to clear the brambles from the green grit bin over the railway bridge on the south side. The council thanked Mrs Thomson for her help.

At this point the Chair asked Mrs Vanessa Adams if she would provide a PlayStation update. Mrs Adams stated that the questionnaire to the community had been well received with over 75 replies, from a well-balanced representation of the community. Mrs Adams went on to say that only one of the replies stated they wanted the facility to remain as a tennis court only. The rest of the replies were positive for change with the vast majority being supportive of a multisport facility but there were three concerns:-

* Overdeveloping the facility without guaranteed money for maintenance
* Overdeveloping the land whilst remembering the village is in a conservation area
* Problems that may occur from a skateboard facility

The committee are now at the subcommittee stage with these looking at legal issues, design & planning and fundraising.

Mrs Adams went on to quickly sum up the tennis club status. They now have a key safe so that the area can be accessed at any times by members; they have also reduced the membership fees. This year the expenditure of the tennis club was just under £2k for e.g. insurance, maintenance etc. Whilst the revenue was only £950 so there was obviously a significant loss this year. If going ahead with the multiuse facility the committee would look at reducing costs e.g. combing insurance with the hall.

Mrs Adams went on to explain that they will obviously need to consider who runs any new facilities. The Chair explained that the playing fields subcommittee had a meeting with the VoG re ownership of the playing fields, and would Mrs Adams pass on any documents she had regarding the leasing of the tennis courts. Mrs Adams agreed.

Regarding potential finance, Cllr Pearson stated that there would be no monies from CRC for grants. Mrs Adams confirmed that there were limited grants for tennis facilities but more monies available if they can incorporate different sports usage.

Mrs Adams explained that there were also tree roots affecting the surface of the tennis courts and tree stumps on the outside, so they would have to consult tree surgeons before any new surfaces were laid. Mrs Alec Davies who was present explained that Creigau recreational ground had facilities for a number of sports, with each sporting association paying for use through a governing body of the facility.

The Chair thanked Mrs Adams for her update.

*Mrs Marilyn Thomson also asked if the council knew when the hedge in the churchyard would be cut yet as it had been getting quite overgrown.* The Clerk explained that the hedge would be cut on Thursday.

*Mr Alec Davies asked the council if the clerk could arrange transport for the upcoming Westminster trip.* This was briefly discussed and the clerk confirmed she would contact the council separately regarding this once she had confirmed numbers.

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

**233 Review of motions for One Voice Wales 2014 AGM (previously circulated)**

The Chair asked if anyone had any objections/comments on the motions. The Chair suggested that as there were none we contact OVW to confirm we had no comments. All Agreed.

***AP*** *Clerk to contact OVW.*

**234 To review the Peterston Connect riverbank management plan (previously circulated)**

Cllr Moody-Jones confirmed that the outcome of the management plan would be to preserve the areas around the protected monkshood, to identify areas that would be suitable for wild flower planting and to preserve the views from the benches by cutting back the vegetation that blocked these. Cllr Moody Jones asked the Clerk if she could ask the VoG for a more detailed map of the area so that he could put together a more detailed plan.

*AP – Clerk to contact VoG for plan and put on agenda for next meeting*

Cllr Cadwalladr confirmed that the permission had now been obtained from Natural Resources Wales to treat the Japanese Knotweed on the riverbank. The Clerk commented that the contractor stated that the other side of the riverbank needed to be treated as well and so she had sent a letter to the land owner asking her to consider this.

**235 Update on Playing Fields ownership**

The Chair confirmed that the playing fields subcommittee would be meeting with the VoG representatives on 18th September 2014

**236 Update on phone box**

Cllr Pearson stated that he had now confirmed that the phone box was on highway land and that land couldn’t be transferred over to the community council. Cllr Morgan confirmed he was happy with the contract from BT. So Cllr Pearson needed confirmation from the council on whether it was going to be purchased, what would be done with it and how they would meet obligations for continued maintenance.

Cllr Budd queried whether the council should go ahead with the purchase due to the ongoing maintenance liability and how expensive that could be. Cllr Jaques asked what the alternative was if the council didn’t purchase it, and Cllr Pearson confirmed it was unlikely to be further maintained by BT and so would deteriorate in condition.

After a short discussion Cllr Jaques proposed that the council look into how much it would cost to bring the phone box to the required standard and then to maintain it going forward. This was agreed by all and Cllr Cadwalladr confirmed she would ask Mr John Wallace who had a phone box and used to work for BT, and Cllr Pearson would investigate costings online.

*AP Clerk to put on next meeting agenda*

*AP Cllrs Pearson and Cadwalladr to investigate costings*

**237 Update on Public Consultation at the September market**

The Chair explained that most councillors were able to attend. Cllr Pearson was going to put up presentation boards, Cllr Moody-Jones was to display photos with captions and the clerk would produce the consultation sheets.

Cllr Moody-Jones also stated he would produce a sign up list for a possible Greenlinks service and the clerk agreed to publicise this in the normal ways.

*AP All to prepare for the consultation meeting as above*

**238 To receive the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th June 2014**

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

**239 Matters Arising from these minutes**

Paragraph 215

*AP Clerk to continue to chase PCSO Thomas re what can be done in the village to reduce crime*

Paragraph 222

*AP The playing field fees draft would be recirculated by Cllr Pearson and provided no changes, clerk would publicise*

Paragraph 224.2 (Para 198)

***AP*** *Allotments subcommittee waiting to hear from landowner for meeting*

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

Paragraph 224.6 (Para 208.1)

Cllr Parry explained that a very nice service had been held in Church to commemorate the start of WW1.

Paragraph 224.8 (Para 208.6)

Cllr Parry confirmed that she had spoken to her contact and the playground mound work would be completed ASAP.

**240 Clerk’s Report**

The clerk’s report was reviewed.

Signing of Post Annual Report

The clerk explained that the audit by Mazars had been completed and there were no issues. The council were now required to formally approve the annual return, this was proposed by Cllr Parry, seconded by Cllr Petre and agreed by all. The clerk as RFO and Chair duly signed and dated the return.

Heart Defibrillator purchase

The Clerk explained that they would hear back in October on the most likely grant for the defibrillator. Cllr Moody-Jones proposed they wait till then to purchase in case there are restrictions imposed on the type of defibrillator.

The Chair proposed that once we had heard about the grant, the Clerk should get a decision from the council on email as to purchase as this should be done as soon as possible, all agreed.

Horse riding on the playing fields

The clerk explained that a local resident had requested that horses could be ridden on the playing fields as used to happen.

After a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr Budd that horse riding should not be allowed due to health & safety aspects for those using the fields and also the effect it would have on the ground. This was seconded by Cllr Jaques who confirmed the football club would be nervous of this given they were marking out a full sized pitch. This proposal was agreed by all. It was RESOLVED that there would be no horse riding allowed on the field.

*AP Clerk to respond to request*

Authority for expenditure

All expenditure was agreed and cheques were signed by two councillors. The Clerk explained that £2k in carried forward budget would need to be allocated to Churchyard gardening services due to the extra work involved in clearing the rubbish, laurel bush etc. She went on to explain that the budgeted reserves carried forward would still be approx. £5k.   
This was agreed by all.   
  
*AP Clerk to updated budgeted figures.*

Letter re Kissing Gate in Playing fields

The clerk referred the council to the previously circulated letter from Brinson’s re the playing field fence adjacent to Mrs Ward’s land and also to the suggested response drafted by Cllr Morgan.

Cllr Morgan discussed his draft response and emphasised the importance of remaining reasonable on this matter and obtaining a practical solution that was satisfactory for Mrs Ward and the council.

After a short discussion Cllr Budd proposed that the Clerk send the drafted response this was seconded by Cllr Jaques and agreed by all. It was RESOLVED that the drafted response previously circulated be sent by the clerk.

*AP Clerk to send on response and keep the council updated on the matter.*

**241 Planning Matters**

No additional comments on planning.

**242 Correspondence**

These were reviewed and acknowledged.

Cllr Parry provided the Clerk with a copy of an email from Mrs Sue Johnson regarding some damaged metal fencing at the turning to Groes Faen road.

*AP Clerk to contact landowners*

**243 Councillors Reports**

Cllrs Budd & Pearson stated that they had been trying to put new markings down at the playing field gates as people were continuing to park there.

Cllr Parry confirmed that the memorial benches were now in place and very well secured.

Cllr Parry went on to state that she had had two complaints from elderly parishioners about the state of the yew bushes in the churchyard and how they were becoming dangerous to walk past. She believed that alongside the letter received earlier in the year from Father Martyn complaining on this matter, the matter be reviewed again.

Cllr Morgan felt that they had already listening to those in the community who wanted to preserve the bushes and given this a chance; however they were now becoming an issue again. The clerk drew the council’s attention to the minutes that a management plan be allowed to go ahead and then reviewed after two years, provided that the bushes did not become a health & safety hazard.

Cllr Jaques did not agree that the bushes are a health & safety risk and wanted to point out that the council had previously given a commitment to set in place a maintenance plan and that we would allow that plan sufficient time to give regrowth a chance. There is now obvious regrowth on the yew and we should allow more time. He also pointed out that he has never caught himself on the yew and he felt that the bush by the gate causes more of a risk.

Cllr Budd proposed that the yew bushes be removed. The Chair asked for a vote on the matter, 4 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstained.

It was RESOLVED that the churchyard yew bushes be removed.

AP Clerk to contact Countrywide to ask them to do the removal and to contact Mr Stephen Roberts & Mr Huw Potter regarding this.

**244 Health & Safety matters**

Cllr Pearson felt that the picnic benches in the playground did not have much life in them and could become a safety issue next year.

*AP Cllr Pearson to investigate metal framed ones or recycled plastic option suggested by Cllr Jaques.*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

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

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