**Gwernyfed Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 4th March 2014**

**Velindre Village Hall, Velindre**

Present Mr Derek Price (Chair)

Mrs Margaret David

Mrs Cheryl Hyde

Mr Ray Jeffries

County Councillor Geraint Hopkins

Mr Andy Jones

Mr Graham Day

Mr David Edlin

Mr Eric Hoole

In Attendance Dr Paul Benham for item 5 and Mrs Rachel Jones (Clerk)

1. **Opening Comments**

DP welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Dr Benham who was to give an outline presentation on a proposal for the Primrose Eco Education site.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

None

**3 Apologies**

None

**4 Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2014**

AJ requested that it be noted that he left the meeting just before Item 10. The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Item 6(vi) – DP reported that he had received a telephone call from Janet Mathews of Penyrheol Chapel, requesting that he act as a reference, which he agreed to do. RJ commented that on a recent visit to the Chapel, he had noticed there was no information on the noticeboard saying what the plans were. It was suggested that the article that had appeared in the Brecon & Radnor Express could be displayed at the Chapel.

Item 7 – RJ reported that he had attended a meeting the previous week of all interested parties involved with the public conveniences. The meeting was also attended by an officer from PAVO, who provided very useful information, particularly on the nature of the body that was to be formed to manage the facility. It had been agreed, that it wouldn’t be a Trust, but a named body of people. Donations for funding the running of the facility are already coming in. The process of transferring the facility will start in November to allow everything to be in place for the official handover at the end of March 2015, although if the facility starts to fall into disrepair this may have to be reviewed earlier. GH confirmed that there is no budget in the medium term financial plan that would allow these facilities to remain with the County Council.

Item 12 – GH has informed the Boughrood depot and this item is on their list of works to undertake.

**5 Primrose Farm, Felindre**

Dr Benham gave an overview of the proposal he is going to submit to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. This is an application for the use of temporary accommodation between 1st March and 31st October each year for small residential courses. The accommodation would be one shepherd hut, two yurts and 3 bell tents, in addition to a conservatory on the teaching poly tunnel, a vegetable store, apple pressing shed and a wood shed. The infrastructure is already in place, including an existing toilet block, and it is envisaged that this development would attract around 150 people over the course of the season. DP thanked Dr Benham for his presentation and explained that once a formal application was before the Community Council, this would be dealt with by the usual process. CH explained that for previous applications Dr Benham has put on a display in the village hall for the local people to view the details and suggested that this was a good idea.

Dr Benham left the meeting.

6 **Planning Matters**

14/10455/FUL – Creation of hard standing to provide access to agricultural building and associated landscaping. Lower Cwmcadarn, Velindre

There were no observations on this application

P/2014/0192 – Erection of a garage at Treble Hill House, Glasbury

There were no observations on this application

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Path No. 38 at Dan-y-Common in the Community of Gwernyfed. Public Path Diversion Order 2001

This item was received.

**7 Literature & Information Received**

(i) Natural Resource Management Bulletin

This item was received.

(ii) Neighbourhood Management Updates, Child On-line Protection Guidance and NekNomination Guidance

These items were received.

(iii) One Voice Wales Councillor Training Programme – Mid Wales

This item was received

(iv) One Voice Wales Motions for 2014 Annual conference

This item was received

(v) NSPCC

This item was received; it was felt that this issue was more of a matter of personal donation rather than a community matter for the Community Council

(vi) Victim Support

This item was received; it was felt that this issue was more of a matter of personal donation rather than a community matter for the Community Council

**8 Financial Management of the Community Council**

DP explained that he felt that there ought to be a financial statement at each Community Council meeting, so that there was transparency over how much money the Council had allocated and spent, and how much was remaining. AJ stated that he felt that where monies had been allocated to local issues, that there be a monitoring role of how the money had been spent. CH agreed, and there was a discussion regarding potential situations in the past where monies may not have been appropriately managed by the receiving organisations. GD felt that monitoring the finances was a good proposal, but that possibly a report every quarter would suffice. At this point if any queries were raised regarding allocations, then they could be investigated further. GH explained that unless there was a pay-back clause when the money was granted, it was difficult to dictate how the money is spent.

**Action**: Clerk to produce a quarterly financial statement.

Glenn Smith arrived at the meeting to sign a bank form as a current authorised signatory; following this he left the meeting.

**9 Review of Historical Spend of the Community Council**

DE reported that he had written to Powys County Council as requested at last months meeting asking for clarification on the costs of the speed limit works, in particular the cost of the advert and the VAT element. He had just received a response, which provided a vague clarification regarding the advert and an incorrect response on the VAT element. Regarding the VAT, he had already gone back to the officer to request further clarification. The Officer in her response had also indicated that the matter would go to the Breconshire Committee on 26th March and that, if approved, the advert would be placed on 3rd April. RJ felt that as it is the Community who are funding these works, it is totally unacceptable that the County Council seem unable to provide a quotation. It was suggested that this may be because the County Council has never been in this position before; these are works which they have always funded in the past. However, as this is likely to be the situation going forward they will have to devise a procedure or process whereby they are able to provide accurate quotations to Community and Town Councils. GH provided clarification on the advertising of Traffic Regulation Orders, and where more than one advert may be required.

The meeting then looked at the historical spend of the Community Council. There was a discussion regarding the varying amounts that are given for the church and village halls and also the cutting of grass at St Peters and Penyrheol Chapel. It was agreed that the Community Council needs to review its spend and that some historical figures need to be re-evaluated. The matter of the payment to the church and village halls was considered further. Previously the Community Council has paid 75% of the insurance and water rates. It was felt that in providing an amount that was linked to these items without question, it was not encouraging the relevant parties to shop around for cheaper insurance, for example. AJ proposed that the financial support to St Peters Church Hall and Velindre Village Hall be detached from the insurance and water rates figures and that a contribution be provided based on the accounts of these facilities. It was expected that this contribution would also cover the cost of the hire for Community Council meetings. This was agreed by the meeting. It was pointed out that this wouldn’t necessarily result in a reduction in financial support. On the matter of the grass cutting at St Peters Church and Penyrheol Chapel, it was suggested that the support be given this year, but with notice that this would not be available in the future. It was noted that no request for this contribution had been received this year, even though the amount had been paid in January last year, and so it was suggested that payment be held until a request was received.

**10 County Councillors Report**

GH reported that the budget meeting last week had been adjourned without decision and was to re-convene on 5 March 2014. If, however, the budget cannot be agreed, then this will be done by the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, with possible ramifications from the Welsh Government. The budget that is being proposed also includes a rise in Council Tax, from the previously suggested 2.5% to 4.9%, which is more in line with other Authorities in Wales.

**11 Financial Matters**

New authorised signatories were assigned for the Community Council bank accounts.

The payment for membership for One Voice Wales was agreed, as was the salary of the Clerk of £100, plus £10 for the previously agreed storage boxes for the Council archives.

**12 Any Other Business**

1. DE had circulated a draft letter regarding the ownership issues of the Bont. It was agreed that this should be discussed in more detail at next months meeting.

**Action**: Clerk to place this as an agenda item for the April meeting

(ii) DE raised concern over the condition of the footpath on the roadside next to Glasbury Service Station. RJ agreed to discuss the matter with Sally Williams when an opportunity arises. DP also raised the condition of the footpath between Aberllynfi House and the junction, GH offered to take this up with Powys County Council.

**Action**: RJ to discuss the matter with Sally Williams

(iii) DP requested that the issue of the Chair be on the agenda for the next meeting. The procedure whereby a new Chair is elected needs to be clarified, and as the election will take place at the May AGM, this will need to be resolved before that date. He also informed the meeting that he wouldn’t be present at the May meeting and also would not be standing for the position of Chair.

**Action**: Clerk to place this item on the April agenda

Next Meeting 1st April 2014 at St Peters Church Hall, Glasbury.