

Gwernyfed Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held on 2ND January 2018
Felindre Village Hall, Felindre

Community Councillors Present Mr Andy Jones (Chair)
 Mrs Jackie Hattingh
 Mrs Margaret David
 Mr Mike Bugler
 Mr Ray Jeffries
 Mr Derek Price
 Mrs Cheryl Hyde
 Mr David Edlin

In Attendance Cllr James Evans, and Mrs Rachel Jones (Clerk). Also present were residents from Felindre who attended for the discussion on the Pound field.

1 Opening Comments

AJ welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Evans declared an interest in items 9 and 12(i) as Portfolio Holder for the County Council

3 Apologies

Mr Eric Hoole and Mr Grahame Day

4 Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2017

Accuracy

The minutes were accepted as accurate and were signed by AJ

Matters Arising

As residents were present, matters arising were taken out of order to allow them to leave following the discussion on the Pound field if they wished.

I Item 12(i) JE reported that the meeting with the Housing department to discuss possible options for housing on the Pound field, had been postponed. Questions have been passed to the officer (Simone Hodges - Project Officer Housing Development) for her to respond at the meeting. JE reported that this is a new type of project for the council and they are at early discussion stage and that the housing options are varied as are the numbers of properties; Planning have indicated they wouldn't accept more than 5 properties on the field. CH reported that the community feel they have been backed into a corner and raised the previous issue with the UDP when the inspector dismissed development on this field, and that the field isn't included in the draft LDP. JE confirmed that any planning application for the field would be treated as an exception site and isn't guaranteed approval. MD reiterated her concerns that Felindre is a hamlet with no amenities and poor road infrastructure. It had been suggested that the remainder of the field could be passed to the community on a 100-year lease with a nominal rent of £1. JE reported that there are several sites that are being considered by Housing in this part of the county and that currently the Pound field is 6th on the list, so there is a possibility that the LDP would be confirmed prior to any formal consultation on the site. CH and MD will attend the local meeting and report back so that the Community Council can produce a response at the point at which this moves to formal consultation.

The members of the public left the meeting

II Item 5I AJ reported that EH had not been able to get spare keys cut for the noticeboard as special blanks were required. AJ will contact the supplier for additional keys.

Action: AJ to arrange spare keys

III Item 5II The Clerk circulated a draft paper regarding support for educational visits. DP asked that the link to free school meals be removed, as this would disadvantage many pupils who

would qualify for free school meals but whose parents choose not to apply. It was also suggested that the section relating to the total amount available in any one year be reinforced.

Action: Clerk to update document and bring to next months meeting

IV Item 6 AJ had produced a draft Dark Skies Policy that he had circulated. DE and JH had responded and he asked that they circulate their responses to the rest of the Council. RJ reported that in the past, of the 18 houses in his road, 17 had been in favour of removing the street lighting, but following a similar discussion more recently, this had reduced to 14. It was agreed that where there were safety considerations, e.g. no pavements, that removing street lighting would not be appropriate, but MD felt that in some of the newer developments, the lighting was excessive so could possibly be reduced. JE suggested changing the title to guidance rather than policy. It was agreed to review the document again and bring back to next months meeting.

Action: DE and JH to circulate their responses
Clerk to place on agenda for next months meeting.

V Item 7(i) JH reported that it hadn't been possible to update the website as the server had crashed.

VI Item 7(iii) AJ confirmed that he had written to the local Community and Town Councils regarding the Schools Consultation. There was a concern that there wasn't much local awareness of the consultation and it was felt important that the Community Council send in a response, particularly relating to the Welsh Language stream that would be inserted in a local primary school to create demand. MD raised a concern over the decline of the Welsh language in the area, but it was accepted that there is a Welsh Medium school in Brecon, which if there was a demand for education in Welsh, the Authority could provide transport to take children to that existing facility. DP felt that using such a prescriptive method to try to create demand was inappropriate, and that provision should be led by demand. It was agreed by all that teaching of the Welsh language was important and this should be included in the response to the consultation. The response will be based on the circular that AJ had sent, in addition to a suggestion that learning through the medium of Welsh could be provided at Ysgol y Bannau in Brecon.

Action: AJ to respond to the consultation

VII Item 8 Clerk to contact Jo Lancey regarding plans for the highway in Glasbury

Action: Clerk to contact Jo Lancey

VIII Item 11(iii) The Clerk confirmed that the Precept response had been sent

IX Item 12(ii) RJ confirmed that the noisy dog was still an issue, the Clerk will follow up

Action: Clerk to contact Environmental Health

5 Planning Matters

None.

6 Literature & Information Received

(i) British Ironwork Centre

This item was received, and it was agreed that this wasn't relevant to this area.

(ii) Powys Draft Wellbeing Plan

This item was received.

7 County Councillors Report

JE reported on the ongoing discussions regarding the budget, and that the deadline for setting the Council Tax level is this month. The position on Childrens Services is looking more optimistic, with positive feedback from the Minister. A local resident had contacted JE regarding reducing the speed limit on the road from Three Cocks to Talgarth; RJ suggested that more signage could assist. The Inspector who is examining the LDP is happy with progress and it was felt that it will be possible in the near future to place it on the Council agenda for sign off. The staff awards had been held recently to recognise good work done by council staff and teams.

8 Brecon Foodbank

MB circulated some suggestions of how the Community Council and individuals could help the Foodbank. These were discussed and it was felt that educating children on financial issues was an important long-term response, but there were some things that the Community Council could do in the short term. These included using the noticeboards and website to advertise the Foodbank and its events; placing an item on the September agenda to identify any local residents who would benefit from a Christmas parcel; raising the issue at the Felindre coffee mornings and AJ undertook to speak to Gwernyfed High School regarding education of pupils on financial issues. JH also offered to hold an emergency food parcel and MB undertook to discuss this with Mrs Bugler. RJ felt that the discussions on this issue had been a positive move in itself and had raised awareness of the subject.

Action: Clerk to place on Septembers agenda

9 Plans for Powys Schools Consultation

This has been covered under Matters Arising VI

10 Local Footpaths Survey

MD reported that she had been mapping the responses received but required clarification on where the Community Councils boundary ran, to be able to identify if there were any other paths that required walking. AJ undertook to add the boundary to MDs map.

Action: AJ to add boundary to map

11 Items for the Brecon & Radnor Express

CH will contact the B&R regarding an article on the Foodbank. It was queried whether there should be articles on the Schools Consultation and the development at the garden centre in Three Cocks, but it was felt that this was not appropriate at this time.

12 Financial Matters

(i) Request for Financial Support from Urdd National Eisteddfod

DP reported that the local committee were very close to their fundraising aims, but it was felt by all that this cause should be supported. DE proposed a contribution of £100 this was seconded by CH and agreed by all

Action: Clerk to send cheque

(ii) Clerk Salary

The Clerks salary of £200 was agreed

13 Any Other Business

(i) It was identified by DE and confirmed by JE that because the UDP had expired and the LDP not yet approved it was possible for planning approvals to slip through which conformed to neither. This situation was felt to be completely undesirable and illogical. DP supported DE in this and it was agreed by all that the Council wished this view to be considered (and acted upon) by Planners and the County Council. The Chair will write to Peter Morris – Professional Lead for Planning Policy and copy in Adrian Humpage, Ken Yorston – Senior Manager Regulatory Services and Gemma Bufton – Principal Planning Officer.

Action: AJ to send letter

(ii) DE reported that the light in Twin Oaks had not been altered and asked JE to follow this up

(iii) DE had been contacted by a resident in Three Cocks who reported that there was a large tree stump in the stream running through the high school site, which could cause bank erosion and affect the recent footpath works. It was agreed that the Clerk would take this matter up with the Schools Service.

Action: Clerk to contact the Schools Service

(iv) MB queried whether, if the planning application at Tramway cottage was looking like it might be approved (there is no information on this currently) whether as planning gain, improvements could be made, via a Section 106 agreement, to the Church Hall in Glasbury. It was agreed that planning gain had not been part of the discussion up to this point, but this would be borne in mind in the future.

(v) RJ raised concern over the branch that was overhanging the highway near the Old Vicarage in Glasbury. The Clerk agreed to take the matter up with Highways as it was understood the owner was currently out of the country

Action: Clerk to contact Highways

(vi) CH reported that she was still having problems with her broadband connection dropping, but after great perseverance, it did appear that OpenReach were fully investigating the issues. However, to assist with this, if anyone else is having a similar problem, they should contact BT.

Next meeting 6th February 2018 at 7:30pm in St Peters Church Hall, Glasbury on Wye

End of Meeting

01874 624595
www.breconadvicecentre.org.uk



Brecon Advice Centre



01874 611723
info@brecon.foodbank.org.uk
www.brecon.foodbank.org.uk