

Trefeglwys Community Council
Minutes of Meeting
7:30pm, Thursday 28th November 2013
at Trefeglwys Village Hall Meeting Room

Present: Councillors: William Davies
Endaf Meddins
Derrick Pugh
Arthur Williams
John Williams
Beryl Crone
Janet Williams
Nick Bennett
County Cllr Graham Jones

In Attendance: Alex Wilson-Mills

Visitor: Mr Roger Malvern

Members of the Community: 7

Apologies: Rhiannon Jones

Approval of Minutes from Community Council Extraordinary Meeting re SPEN Stage III Consultation on 11 October 2013 proposed by Cllr Crone and seconded by Cllr Davies. Community Council meeting of 24 October 2013 proposed by Cllr Pugh and seconded by Cllr Rowlands.

Declarations of Interest: Cllrs Nick Bennett and Arthur Williams declared their interest relating to SPEN and left the room when the matter arose.

Presentation:

Mr Roger Malvern of Upperbridge gave a presentation of the options available for the PCC Grant of £500 to be spent on the Trefeglwys Community Council Website. Two options were presented; the first is to stay with the existing webpage layout and improve certain areas and the second is to have a new layout and make it more user friendly. Mr Malvern was thanked by the council for his attendance and it was agreed that the council would consider both options and discuss it further and confirm in due course the decision made.

Matters Arising:

SPEN – The Chair read out a letter received from SPEN in response to the request by the council to extend the deadline of 6 December 2013. SPEN had agreed to receive any correspondence from the council up to 6 January 2013 and that this will be included in the consultation process. The council agreed that they would forward any information on behalf of a member of the community without any connection/prejudice.

Cllr Rowlands reported that 200 letters of objection had been posted/hand delivered to members of the community and a further 20 had been handed out. 206 letters had been returned in support and 7 had been sent directly to SPEN by members of the community and they were still coming in. In total there were over 400 signatures on the letters and they had received an overwhelming response by the community. Cllr Rowlands confirmed that all the letters will be sent by recorded delivery to SPEN before the deadline of 6 December 2013 along with a covering letter from the Council.

One Voice Wales Report – The Chair clarified that there was still issues to address with the report before it can be finalised. The former clerk had requested that her name was not to be included and that the council were currently in discussion with the ico regarding data protection for advice on moving the report on in line with the data protection act.

Cllr Pugh stated that in a previous discussion with Anne Jones of ico she said that the reference to clerk was acceptable but to air on the side of caution and remove the name of the previous clerk.

It was agreed by the council that any reference the previous clerks name was to be blanked out but 'clerk' was to remain in the report.

Cllr Pugh continued regarding the responses from the previous clerk and chairman and stated that there were several inaccuracies which were discussed in the closed session held on Monday 25 November 2013, and said that he was disappointed that the reports were aimed in particularly at two councillors. Cllr Pugh asked if the council would agree for him to respond to the report due to the serious inaccuracies and that his response be forwarded to the monitoring officer at Powys County Council along with all documentation regarding the Report from One Voice Wales.

Cllr Pugh said that he had been put in a difficult position when the council asked him to liaise with One Voice Wales and that he was aware that things were being discussed by members of the community that were not true and that this had been brought to his attention. Cllr Pugh continued by stating "that if any councillor wishes to question anything in the response by the previous clerk then this should be done in council and nowhere else". He went on by saying that he felt that the former Chairman Mr. Michael Breese-Davies had done a lot of good work in the community and it should not be overlooked. He was always enthusiastic and felt that if the email of the 25th November 2012 had been brought to the Council's attention as it should have been, the former Chair would still be on the Council today as the Council could have dealt with the problems.

A recent statement received from Michael Breese-Davies, the former Chair, sent to the new Chairman was read out "Re 25th November, I totally agree with you, this should have been discussed between Councillors and resolved and none of the recent events would have been necessary. Yes I would have been happy and privileged in continuing representing the Community as a Councillor serving under you as Chairman, a situation of course I very much regret."

Cllr Pugh then read out the following statement which was prepared by the clerk in the presence of councillors at the extraordinary meeting of 25 November 2013:

Both County Councillor Graham Jones and Cllr Williams Davies agreed that Cllr Pugh had aired his concerns regarding the email of 25 November 2012 at an early stage and that Cllr Pugh had told them both he could not get hold of information from the clerk (MS) and under the circumstances could not pursue any further as he had no evidence. Cllr Pugh also spoke to a member of the public regarding his concerns and they managed to get hold of the email themselves but unfortunately as it was obtained through confidentiality he was unable to get a copy, however he was told of need be if the situation arose they would support Cllr Pugh in what he was saying was true. Cllr Pugh stated he did not receive a copy of the 25th November 2012 email from MS until Councillors received a copy following a Fol request.

Both County Councillor Graham Jones and Cllr Williams Davies signed the statement.

After discussion it was agreed by all council members that Cllr Pugh was to be given time to respond to the response from the former clerk (MS) and that the response from Cllr Pugh would

be included with all information regarding the One Voice Wales Report to be forwarded to Powys County Council.

The Chair added that there are also two letters that need to be included with the report and report. He explained that whilst the report was being generated it was discovered there was a discrepancy with a letter of 25 October 2012. There were two copies of the letter – one which had been approved by the council and one not approved by the council. The chair read out the highlighted notes in the unapproved letter to show the discrepancies from the letter approved originally. These letters are significant to the report and highlight that they had been tampered with and not approved by the council.

As the unapproved letter had been forwarded to SPEN and had been included in the phase II Consolation it was extremely important that the council write to SPEN and advise them of the position as the consolation includes an unlawful letter.

Cllr Pugh referred to an email of 2 April 2013 which was sent from the previous clerk to the former Chairman. Cllr Davies commented that this was another example of hidden information which had not been circulated to councillors.

Vacancy of Councillor

The clerk stated that she has been in touch with Powys County Council for the correct procedures and notices will be put up in due course. The council discussed the matter and nobody had been approached by anyone showing an interest for the councillor vacancy for the Llawr y Glyn area.

60th Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation – Cllr Bennett provided details of the notice board to be ordered for Llawr Y Glyn. The clerk to proceed with the ordering.

Hywel Dda Health Board – Cllr Crone confirmed that there was nothing to report at present and they were refusing to answer any questions.

Welsh language Community Alliance – The Chair confirm there was no progression at present.

Highways:

Blocked culvert between 'Fron-Derw' and 'Penffynnon' – Cllr John Williams confirmed that nothing had been done. County Cllr Graham Jones said that he had reported it a couple of times and had still not received any feedback and will chase again. With the bad weather impending it needs to be addressed at it will be dangerous. Clerk to send a letter raising concerns.

Road serving Bryn Clywedog, Tremafon, Dolgwyddel Isaf and Dolgwyddel Uchaf – the clerk confirmed that there had been no response to the letter sent by TCC sent in September 2013. Council agreed to follow up and find out the response procedures in place by PCC for them to reply.

Waen Road – Cllr Pugh advised that the road was being repaired at present.

Speed Camera Positioning – Clerk to send a letter and councillors advised that there had been pictures taken from a member of the community which could be included as proof of the positioning.

FootPath in Village – letter drafted by the clerk was approved by the council and agreed to be hand delivered to the council depot in Llanidloes the following morning as advised by County Cllr Graham Jones.

Finance:

All monies in and out agreed by the council

Monies Out	OVW Report	£1,050
	Mary Shergold Wages October	£177.67
	Mary Shergold Expenses October	£26.74
	Derrick Pugh Travel Expenses Reimbursed	£55.60
	Poppy Wreath	£17
	Clerk's Wages Sept, Oct & Nov	384.91
	Clerk's Expenses Sept, Oct & Nov	£78.24
	HMRC PAYE both clerks	£140.61
Monies In		
	Vat Repayment	£234.03
	Beaufort – Windfarm Money	£1,238.72
	Expenses Reimbursed – M Shergold	£139.80

Reports:

Cllr Crone and Cllr Rowlands reported on the course attended by both of 'Understanding The Law'.

Correspondence:

Letter re **National Eisteddfod** returning to Montgomeryshire in 2015. Discussed by councillors and the possibility of fundraising by community groups e.g. Young Farmers etc could be an option.

Letter re **Citizens Advice Bureau** regarding funding request 2014.15. Discussed and clerk to look at what amount was donated last year and to follow the same procedure.

Planning: No planning matters.

Chairman / Councillors Comments:

Cllr Crone raised the issue of the footpath from the village shop to Maestrannon and requested that a letter be sent to Powys County Council to review the matter. Agreed by the council for the clerk to send a letter.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th December 2013.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.41pm