

**Trefeglwys Community Council  
Minutes of Meeting  
7:30pm, Thursday 29th May 2014  
at Trefeglwys Village Hall Meeting Room**

**Present:** Councillors: Endaf Meddins  
Rhiannon Jones  
Beryl Crone  
Nick Bennett  
Derrick Pugh  
Arthur Williams  
Janet Rowlands  
County Cllr Graham Jones

**In Attendance:** Alex Wilson-Mills

**Members of the Community:** 12

**Apologies:** William Davies, Janet Rowlands and David Jerman.

**Approval of Minutes** from Community Council Meeting 24 April 2014 proposed by Cllr Crone and seconded by Cllr Pugh. Minutes of Community Council closed sessions of 5 November and 25 November 2013 proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Jones.

**Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Nick Bennett and Cllr Arthur Williams declared an interest regarding SPEN but remained in the room as there was not much to update.

**Matters Arising:**

**Vacancy of Councillor**

To consider co-option of a new councillor: As there was one applicant for the Councillor for Trefeglwys area the Cllr was co-opted onto the Community Council without the need for votes.

Replacement Cllr for Cllr Williams' resignation – Ms Myra Jones

The new councillor read and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and then joined the Community Council members at the Meeting table.

**SPEN** – The Chair confirmed that there had been no response from the council letter of 31 March 2014 sent to SPEN. It was agreed that the council would send a letter for an update.

**One Voice Wales Report**

The Chair confirmed that there had been no feedback from the Monitoring Officer at present. The Chair had spoken to Clive Pinney, the monitoring officer for an update and he was advised that hopefully the council should receive his response by the end of next week.

The Chair informed the council that after the last council meeting he had contacted the previous Chair (Mr Michael Breese-Davies (MBD)) as he felt that he had wanted to speak to him at the council meeting of 24 April 2014 but did not have the opportunity. He continued by saying that he telephoned MBD the following day and MBD confirmed that he did wish to speak with the Chair and would like the opportunity to meet with Russell and Fran Williams to apologise and clear the air and thought that Cllr Pugh “had it in for him” and would like to meet and discuss matters. A meeting was organised and after discussing and clearing a few issues which MBD was not aware of

all involved shook hands and agreed to move on. The Chair thanked Russell and Fran Williams for their hospitality and for agreeing to a meeting. MBD was very thankful for the opportunity to meet and for all the work done by the council over the last 12 months.

Cllr Pugh addressed the chair regarding the statement from MBD of Cllr Pugh "having it in for him" he continued by saying that someone has been trying to discredit Cllr Pugh and he had been in touch with MBD on a personal level to ask if there were any problems between them and MBD had emailed Cllr Pugh back stating "I have no problem with you". Cllr Pugh stated that since he had been appointed by the council to represent OVW that they had also been discredited and there had been an attempt to also discredit OVW. Cllr Pugh said that he may need a statement from the Chair and the new clerk to regarding being discredited as the person in question had attempted to do so.

Cllr Pugh asked for an email from MBD to be read out in its entirety in the council meeting and for it to be minuted word from word and he had the authority of MBD to do so.

*E-Mail from MBD to Endaf Meddins and Derrick Pugh on 3 May 2014.*

*Dear Endaf and Derrick*

*Just dropping you an email to thank you both for your help in resolving the issues re Russell and Fran Williams, Redhouse.*

*I really appreciate your help, as if you both don't already have enough work to do for our community. You spend a considerable amount of time on CC business and must be credited accordingly. Derrick I was amazed by your report, it's detail, the back up and support to your arguments must have been so time consuming. I know you are aware of criticisms but as always the people who do the most are open to judgement. I have to say personally your representation of our community is very valued and I appreciate the huge amount of work you do on our behalf.*

*Endaf, coming to the end of your first year as Chairman, it has been such a difficult year, you have handled it with such transparency, enthusiasm and in a professional manner, under such difficult conditions, it's a credit to you.*

*So once again, I want you to know I really genuinely appreciate all what you have done in supporting myself and my problems and your work in the community. Hopefully next year will be a better one for us all.*

*I am optimistic after Thursday's long meeting, it will be a start to harmony and respect by all to all in the Trefegwyls valley.*

*Kindest Regards and sincerer gratitude.*

*Michael*

Cllr Pugh then asked for the following statement from him to be read out in full and minuted in full.

*We are most grateful to the Williams family of Red house for allowing us to meet at their home to discuss issues of concern. The meeting proved to be most constructive. The former Chairman was able to explain his position in this affair and his apology to the Williams family was well received and I think this is a big step forward in resolving the civil unrest in the community. My personal view is that the Independent Supporting role to any Chairman and Council is crucial. Lessons have been learnt.*

*At the meeting, the e-mail of the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and all the e-mails recorded on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were discussed with the former Chairman for clarification. This was relayed from the report I produced which has been adopted by the Council. Clarification was also sought in relation to documentation that had been altered which has been referred to in previous Minutes and correspondence. The rest of the report was not discussed.*

*Under the circumstances, the e-mail we received from the former Chairman following the meeting at Red house was much appreciated.*

Cllr Pugh stated that he was concerned about MBD at the meeting at Red House as he appeared very concerned and emotional, however it was a long meeting that commenced at 8.00pm and finished at 2.00 am

The Chair commented that he appreciates that Cllr Pugh is upset and concerned and he hopes that TCC have complied and followed procedures and that it is now with PCC Monitoring Officer to advise in the future on how to proceed matters.

Cllr Pugh continued by saying that if the Code of Conduct had been adhered to then the costs to the council would not have been incurred and the ongoing costs for foi requests.

The council handed a letter to Mr & Mrs. Thomas regarding the ico and thanked them for their patience on this matter.

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation** –Cllr Bennett had been consulting with Dave Preston for the new Noticeboard for Llawryglyn and had a quote for £718 plus vat which also included delivery. The council all agreed to proceed and order the noticeboard.

**Trefeglwys Community Council Website** – the clerk confirmed that the new website will be up and running in July. Roger from UpperBridge will be away for most of June and upon his return will look to finalise the new website and provide training for the clerk. The final payment for the website is due along with the annual subscription and upon receipt of the invoice the council agreed to pay in full.

#### **Highways:**

**Bridge Barrier – Llwyn y Gog, Staylittle** – the clerk read out a letter received from PCC of 25 April 2014 stating that repairs have been addressed and will be undertaken in due course.

**Footpath by Maestrannon** – Cllr Crone referred to the explanation provided from Adrian Jervis of PCC that there would be a delay in reviewing the position for a footpath as bulbs have been planted and that PCC did not want to remove the bulbs and advised that the council seek permission of who planted the bulbs to be able to remove them. Cllr Jones said that the matter should be put to the Shires Committee at next month's meeting and advised the Council to wait to see the outcome from the meeting before proceeding further. The clerk confirmed that she had received a response from PS Andy Allen regarding the councils request for statistics on the stretch of road and that we will to hear from him in due course.

**Clywedog Reservoir** – the clerk read out a letter received from PCC of 19 May 2014. The council discussed the response and agreed to reply by requesting that the earth bunds are continued up the road.

The clerk read out an email received from Cllr Rowlands in her absence regarding the road serving Argoed. The road has become unroadworthy for cars due to the potholes and sink holes. It was agreed by the council to write to PCC to report the issues.

Cty Cllr Jones mentioned that he had received a phone call from a local resident regarding the road by the Waen up past Victor Coates. The road needs addressing as it is deterioration badly. Cty Cllr Jones also stated that the road down the hill leading to the Cwm from the Waen is also in need of repair. The council agreed to write to PCC to raise awareness of the concerns of the state of the roads in question.

## **Reports - None**

### **Finance:**

All monies in and out agreed by the council

#### Monies Out

Clerk's Wages May 2014 (gross)	£160.38
Clerk's Expenses May 2014	£ 86.37
Insurance Renewal	£250.03
Trefeglwys Eisteddfod Committee	£150.00

Monies In	Beaufort Wind	£1,274.48
	PCC – Precept	£1,980.80

The clerk confirmed that the insurance company have a standard cover and were not able to increase the Liable and Slander from £250,000 cover to £500,000 and £1,000,000 and subsequently the insurance renewal was like for like to previous years.

The clerk explained that her expenses were slightly higher this month as extra ink was required for the foi request received. The council all agreed to pay and went on to discuss future foi requests.

Cllr Pugh proposed that from now on the Council charge for all foi requests at 10p per sheet of A4 paper. This was seconded by Cllr Crone and the resolution was passed.

All councillors agreed for the fees to be charged as the council had incurred extra costs for foi requests as reflected in the accounts to 31 March 2014 and that from now on the council will be charging to reduce the outgoings of the community money being spent on foi requests.

Cllr Pugh also raised the matter of extra time incurred by the clerk on foi requests and put it to the council that overtime should be allowable for the extra time undertaken by the clerk on such matters. The council all agreed that the clerk is to be paid for any overtime incurred.

**End of Year Accounts** – the clerk confirmed that Jackie Pugh had agreed to do the internal audit of the accounts and that the accounts had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Pugh stated that he was not happy with the payment made to the previous clerk for reimbursement of a £100 penalty from HMRC for late filing. Cllr Pugh said that he could not recall this payment being passed by the council and did not expect the tax payers of the community to be paying for this due to the previous clerk's error. The Chair commented that he could not recall the discussion and that he had signed a cheque and therefore the council are not in a position to ask for it back. However the Chair did state that at a subsequent meeting he had raised the issue of the previous clerk's higher wages invoice for June, July and August 2013 of £703.23 and at that time had also queried the cheque to HMRC of £100 to which the previous clerk responded by saying that she would pay this back and that to date this has not been received. The Chair confirmed that he too was not happy with this payment.

The accounts were agreed by the council as being recorded accurately and correctly for the year ended 31 March 2014.

### **Correspondence:**

#### ***Post***

- April 2014 – Montgomeryshire and the Marches National Eisteddfod – Proclamation Ceremony 5 July 2014. The council discussed the invitation and Cllr Meddins and Cllr Bennett agreed to represent Trefeglwys Community Council.
- 30.04.14 – Wales Air Ambulance re donation. Noted.
- 14.04.14 – Severn Hospice re donation. Noted.
- 21.04.14 – CAB re donation. Noted.

### **Planning:**

- Planning Application Ref: P/2014/0106, Grid Ref: 296457.41/290667.21 for full erection of an agricultural storage building at Birchen house, Trefeglwys, Caersws, Powys. This had been previously circulated by email to all councillors and discussed in the meeting and there were no objections.
- Planning Application Ref: P/2014/0476, Grid Ref: 296106.09/292154.49 for full erection of a general purpose storage building at Land at Penrorin, Trefeglwys, Caersws, Powys. The councillors discussed the application and there were no objections.

### **Chairman / Councillors Comments:**

Cllr Pugh confirmed that the foi request by the former clerk had been rejected by the council and a letter had been sent to the previous clerk confirming this. The reply from the previous clerk was read out in council. It is the councils understanding that the former clerk now has to submit a new foi request narrowing down the scope of the request.

The council discussed the foi request and councillors were not happy as their position is voluntary and they are not prepared for the extra time required to fulfil the request and were not prepared to do so. The clerk confirmed that approximately 14 hours had been spent on the foi to date and that a lot more work is required under the Data protection Act to ensure all correspondence is correctly recorded.

Cllr Crone enquired as to whether anyone monitors the refuse site in Trefeglwys. It was understood that previously Mr David Mantle (a former councillor) did voluntarily check on the Refuse site and tidied up the area accordingly but at present there isn't anyone doing so. It was agreed to find out if the council are responsible.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 10.05pm.