

**Trefeglwys Community Council
Minutes of Meeting
7:30pm, Thursday 24th April 2014
at Trefeglwys Village Hall Meeting Room**

Present: Councillors: Endaf Meddins
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 and Rhiannon Jones

Approval of Minutes from Community Council Meeting 27 March 2014 proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Bennett.

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Nick Bennett and Cllr Arthur Williams declared an interest regarding SPEN and left the room when matters were discussed.

Matters Arising:

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking Cllr Jones (not present at meeting) for stepping in as Chair whilst he was off and welcomed back Cllr Rowlands after recovering from her illness.

Vacancy of Councillor

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

Replacement Cllr for Cllr Preston's resignation – Mr David Jerman

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

The Chair had spoken to Cllr John Williams and it was confirmed that he would not be returning to the council and his resignation was accepted. The clerk confirmed that a notice of vacancy of Councillor for the Trefeglwys area upon the resignation of Cllr John Williams had been put up on 19 April 2014 and the council will wait to hear from Powys County Council for future action.

SPEN – The Chair read out an email received from SPEN acknowledging receipt of the letter sent to them of 31 March 2014 from TCC along with the clerk's response to the email.

The council discussed an email which had been circulated prior to the meeting from Cllr Pugh and the council all agreed that it should be forwarded to Clive Pinney, the Monitoring Officer at PCC.

One Voice Wales Report

The clerk confirmed that there had been no feedback from the Monitoring Officer at present.

The council advised Mr & Mrs. Thomas to put in writing an internal review request regarding the OVW report and the ico. The council will then act upon the request and write to the ico. Cllr Pugh noted that there is a link on the TCC website to Anne Jones from the ico on procedures for the public to view.

60th Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation –No developments at present.

Trefeglwys Community Council Website – the clerk apologised for the delay in minutes and agendas on the website but as the site is currently under construction for the new webpage there is a slight delay as the clerk is currently forwarding the information directly to Upperbridge.

Dog Fouling – Cllr Crone confirmed that signs had been put up along the footpath to prevent dog fouling and also in the village. The council were thankful to PCC for acting on this matter.

Highways:

Footpath by Maestrannon – Cllr Crone referred to the last meeting with Adrian Jervis of PCC and said that two months had now passed and nothing has been done. Cllr Crone asked when the next Shires meeting would be and if the council could write to them with statistics regarding the volume of traffic in the passing area, the number of speeding incidents recorded etc. Cty Cllr Jones confirmed that the Shires Committee meets every month and that he would also speak to Adrian Jervis again. It was agreed that the clerk was to contact the police commissioner Christopher Salmon to find out about statistics.

Road serving Bodauwch to Red House Lane - Cty Cllr Graham Jones confirmed that repairs had been made to the lane to make it wider.

Reports

Cllr Pugh provided the following details:

Reforming the planning system in Wales

The Development Officer presented members with a written copy of the final response submitted by One Voice Wales to the Welsh Government in relation to the above consultation. It was also reported that the Chief Executive Officer would be attending various hearings at the National Assembly in relation to this consultation. Members fully endorsed the submission as presented.

Connecting properties to the public sewerage system

The Development Officer reported that he had circulated members with details of the above Welsh Government consultation, but that there had not been any responses received from members. It had therefore been concluded that One Voice Wales would not make a submission in respect of this consultation.

Local government audit and inspection fee scales 2014-15

The Development Officer reported that he had written to all member councils in relation to the above fee proposals by the Wales Audit Office, which would result in increased audit fees for smaller local councils and reduced fees for larger local councils. The Development Officer presented members with a written copy of the final response submitted by One Voice Wales in relation to these proposals, and warned members that there was an additional suggestion that further fee increases could be introduced in the next year or so. Members fully endorsed the submission as presented.

Commission on Public Services Governance and Delivery

The Development Officer presented members with a written draft response to the report published by the Williams Commission relating to public services in Wales. It was also reported that the Chief Executive Officer would be extending this draft prior to submitting it to the Welsh Government; this extension will include references to the 2003 Aberystwyth report on the local council sector and the progress or otherwise relating to this report since that time. Members fully endorsed the submission as presented, other than the section relating to electoral reform, which may give rise to differences of opinion amongst members.

Rural Development Programme 2014 to 2020

The Development Officer presented members with a written copy of the final response submitted by One Voice Wales to the Welsh Government in relation to the above consultation. Members fully endorsed the submission as presented.

Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) Regulations

The Development Officer presented members with a written copy of the final response submitted by One Voice Wales to the Welsh Government in relation to the above consultation. Members fully endorsed the submission as presented.

Governance in small public bodies

The Chief Executive Officer presented members with a written copy of the report published by the National Assembly for Wales in relation to the inspection of the Caldicot and Wentloog Levels Internal Drainage Board. This was a particularly scathing report in respect of the Drainage Board, but there were sweeping generalisations in the report relating to all small public sector bodies including community councils. Members took exception to these references and to the conclusion that community councils would need closer scrutiny as a result of this one report, and it was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer should write to the National Assembly for Wales to express concern over the matter.

Diversifying Democracy in Local Government in Wales

The Development Officer presented members with a written copy of the 24 final recommendations contained in the report of the expert group on diversity in local government. Members noted the report, but wished to make known their rejection of the notion that the sector is an “entry point” for participation in public life.

Montgomeryshire Area Committee Meeting, Wednesday 16th April 2014 at Carreghofa

Various topics were discussed which related to Communication System improvements in Powys. Also some of the issues relating to the above were discussed. Training for Councillors and Clerks was also discussed. Code of Conduct Training is now becoming compulsory for County Councillors and all Councillors are also encouraged to take up this training which would be beneficial to them in their role as a Councillor.

It was reported that the One Voice Wales website is well under development and that Clerks should now contact OVW to obtain a user name and password for the Council and Councillors to access certain areas of the site.

Cllr. Pugh informed the committee that Trefeglwys Community Council were also having a new website whereupon films and information relevant to Council business, Minutes, Accounts etc. would be made available for public access. The current TCC website is now receiving approximately 2,600 Google hits per month. This has increased recently from 50 Google hits per day to around 83 hits per day. Members were very surprised by this. Cllr. Pugh enquired whether it was possible for the OVW website to be

linked to Community Council websites and vice versa. The Development Officer stated that this was indeed their planned intention.

There is a vacancy for a second representative to replace the former Chairman Michael Breese Davies on the Trefeglwys Committee. Needs to be addressed.

The next date and venue of the Montgomeryshire Area Committee Meeting will be 11th June 2014 at Castle Caereinion.

OVW Representative Vacancy – the council discussed the vacancy and it was agreed that Cllr Crone would be the second representative for TCC and the clerk was to inform OVW.

Finance:

All monies in and out agreed by the council

Monies Out

Clerk's Wages April 2014 (gross)	£160.38
Clerk's Expenses April 2014	£ 20.00
MJ Rees	£834.72
Insurance Renewal	to review

Monies In None

The council discussed the invoice received from MJ Rees regarding work done to the recycling area. It was agreed that in future three quotes for any work undertaken would be required as council policy. The council agreed that the invoice is to be paid from the wind farm money as it is a one off improvement for the benefit of the community.

The insurance renewal due by 1 June 2014 was discussed and it was confirmed by the clerk that it was the same amount as last year and it was confirmed that the insurance had been reviewed last year for a competitive figure. The only matter raised was to enquire about increasing the Liable and Slander from £250,000 cover to £500, 000 and £1,000,000. The clerk to contact the insurance company for quotes.

Correspondence:

Post

- 01.04.14 – PCC Adopt a site agreements. Noted.

Planning:

- Planning Application Ref: VAR/2014/0020, Grid Ref: 297427.99/290938 for application to discharge obligation 2.2 in Section 106 Agreement attached to planning permission M23817 (occupancy restriction) at The Willows, 2 Cae Carreg, Trefeglwys. Previously forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting and no objections.
- Planning Application Ref: P/2014/0159, Grid Ref: 295737.71/290762.56 erection of porch at Rhyd y Carw – permission granted.

Chairman / Councillors Comments:

Cllr Pugh stated that he had made enquiries regarding a recent request for minutes of closed sessions. It was confirmed that the minutes taken are very brief and that is all that is required. The clerk confirmed that she had also spoken to Wynne Richards at PCC and he confirmed the same. Therefore the minutes are required from closed sessions to be approved and signed by the council before being forwarded to any foi requests.

The Chair read out a foi request letter in its entirety of 24 April 2014 received from the former clerk.

The clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to PCC and to Llanidloes without council regarding the request for safety barriers at Bwlch y Gle but no response at present. Cty Cllr Jones continued by saying that Llanidloes without have been informed that the left hand side of the Bwlch y Gle area as in question is actually under TCC and not Llanidloes without and all future correspondence should be under TCC.

The clerk confirmed that a letter to PCC regarding the bridge by Staylittle had been sent to PCC and no update at present.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 29th May 2014.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.05pm.