

Minutes of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council Meeting held on Monday, 15th January 2024 at 7:30pm in Llangenny School Hall and remotely via the video conferencing platform Zoom.

Present: Cllr John Morris (Chairman)
Cllr Colin Alford
Cllr Roger Bridgwater
Cllr Elaine Lusted
Cllr Roger Llewelyn

Attended Remotely: Cllr Jeff Greenidge

In attendance: County Cllr Chloe Masefield, 2 Members of the Public and the Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Phill Bowker, Cllr Dean Christy and Cllr David Sharman

2. Declarations of Interest: none declared

3. Planning Matters:

3.1 Applications: to consider and resolve responses to BBNPA:

- (i) **23/22536/LBC:** "Works to Listed Barn, including new windows and barn doors, partial conversion to create an insulated home-working space, and bat mitigation work. Construction of unconnected adjacent 'Grotto Seat'." **Henbant Fach, Llanbedr, NP8 1TA**

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection

- (ii) **23/22535/FUL:** "Works to Listed Barn, including new windows and barn doors, partial conversion to create an insulated home-working space, and bat mitigation work. Construction of unconnected adjacent 'Grotto Seat'." **Henbant Fach, Llanbedr, NP8 1TA**

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection

- (iii) **23/21971/FUL: RECONSULTATION DUE TO AMENDMENT** "Proposed telecommunications installation: Proposed 25.0m Francis & Lewis T3A Lattice Tower mounted on new 7.6 x 7.6 x 1.20m deep R.C. Foundation and associated ancillary works." **Partishow Hill, Llanbedr, NP8 1TA**

The meeting was closed to enable a member of the public to address members regarding this application. Following which meeting was re-opened.

It was agreed to inform BBNPA only minor changes have been made to the LVIA and no material change to the proposal. The reassessment has been done without justification and none of the points raised in previous submissions have been addressed. The council continues to object to the application in its present form. It was suggested members of the Planning Committee are lobbied when this

Signed:.....
Chairman

application is next on the agenda. The decision on whether to appoint a member to speak at the meeting will be decided nearer the time.

As some residents are in favour of better mobile phone service one member commented the council could offer to work with the applicants to find a solution.

RESOLVED to: write to BBNPA reiterating the council's objections, copying in the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

- (iv) **23/22569/FUL:** "Retention of hay and implement store and temporary use as stables, to accommodate recent demolition of stables, prior to their replacement with building constructed in slightly modified format." **Llangenny Stables, Llangenny NP8 1ET**

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection.

- (v) **23/22544/CON:** "Variation of condition 2 pursuant to Listed Building Consent 17/14667/LBC - A number of minor changes occurred during the building process. This application is a formal collation of the relevant changes. **Moor Park, Llanbedr, NP8 1SS**

RESOLVED to: submit response of no objection.

3.2 Decisions/Other: to receive decisions and other planning correspondence (if any)

None received.

4. County Council Report to receive and discuss general Powys County Council Matters:

Cllr Masefield organised a meeting with Daniel Relf (PCC Highways Officer) which was attended by Cllrs Llewelyn and Morris. She reported:

Glangrwyney:

Iron Bridge – loose bolts are scheduled for tightening (Mr Relf will find out when).

Reduce Speed Limit from 40mph to 20mph on Road to Iron Bridge (Mr Relf has provided Cllr Masefield with details of who to contact).

Road Safety/Surfacing: this is the responsibility of the Trunk Road Agency (Cllr Masefield will make enquiries).

Parking: unlikely PCC can do anything to improve the parking issues. We may need to look at more creative solutions and work with the community to explore options.

Cllr Masefield offered to facilitate a Community Speed Watch in Glangrwyney to tackle the speeding issues. It was questioned whether one was already in existence? Members stated speeding is worse during the night and early mornings.

Grwyne Fechan:

Slip to road by Chapel will cost £60,000 to repair. We will find out in April if PCC has programmed this repair into their next year of works.

Signed:.....

Chairman

Edge of road deteriorating by Sunnybank – Mr Relf has inspected this and will report back to Cllr Masefield.

Green Cottage - blocked culvert has been inspected – Mr Relf is due to report back to Cllr Masefield).

Llangenny:

Potholes on Vicarage Pitch – these were marked, but not repaired - Mr Relf will follow this up and find out the cost of resurfacing to see if it can be scheduled into a programme of works.

Blocked culvert – this has been added to the programme of works and will be cleared annually.

Cllr Masefield asked to be informed of any blocked culverts so they can be added into the annual programme of works.

Other Highways Issues reported include:

Grwyne Fechan: Bont Lane needs clearing (Mr Relf has been informed). Cllr Morris suggested Cllr Masefield attend a site meeting.

Crickhowell: Cllr Sharman emailed to report flooding on the A40 by the football field and Rheld Farm and offered to meet Highways to show them the problem. Potholes were also reported on the A40 from The Red Indigo Restaurant into Crickhowell.

Llanbedr: Three Quarter Wood just below The Guddar – drain blocked on the bridleway – water causing a trench in the road.

Llangenny - drain blocked on road from the Crossroads to Penwylodd Farm – (this was thought to have been cleared today).

Cllr Masefield asked to be kept informed of any issues, advising issues can also be reported using PCC's online system.

Llanbedr School

Following a report that the church/community were struggling to gain access to the building because PCC held the keys Cllr Masefield spoke to PCC Officers. They informed her (prior to Christmas) keys would be handed over as soon as some electrical work had been completed. Cllr Masefield is currently awaiting a further up-date from the Officers. Members advised telling PCC if it retains responsibility for the building it needs to take action to protect it against frost/water damage.

Memorandum of Understanding between PCC and Community Councils

It was reported PCC has drafted a memorandum of understanding for organisations and community councils to sign up to in relation to drainage work/hedge trimming, etc. This will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

In response to Cllr Masefield's query as to whether to run a surgery in the Vale of Grwyney (as well as Crickhowell) Members advised a surgery in Crickhowell should suffice.

Cllr Masefield left the meeting

Signed:.....
Chairman

5. Highways: to receive and discuss highway issues

This was dealt with previously under County Council Report.

6. Minutes: to approve minutes of the 18th December 2023 meeting.

The minutes of the 18th December 2023 [Pages 1502-1506] were approved as a true record [Proposed Cllr Lusted; Seconded Cllr Alford].

7. Clerk's Report: information from the minutes/progress up-date

The next Five Councils Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th January 2024 in Llangynidr. Cllrs Morris, Bridgwater and Lusted will attend.

8. Llangenny Water Fountain: to organise opening event

The project to renovate and connect Llangenny Water Fountain to mains water is virtually complete with mains water now connected. Plaques (which are on order) remain to be attached/erected. The information plaque will be attached to an angle iron (Cllr Alford will source). An opening event will be held in March.

The Bannau Brycheiniog Sustainable Development Fund has contributed £3,891 towards the costs involved.

RESOLVED to: hold an opening event in March 2024

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee: to receive up-date on commemoration plans

Cllr Morris has worked out the majority of the grid references, but needs to check co-ordinates for the trees in Llangenny and by The Dyffryn. Cllr Bridgwater offered to produce routes for the Jubilee Walk. A fact sheet to accompany the walk (70 Facts about Queen Elizabeth II) needs compiling.

10. Meet the Councillor Event: to discuss arrangements for 23rd January 2024 meeting

The next "Meet the Councillor Event" will be held in Llangenny School Hall between 5pm and 7pm. The event is advertised on noticeboards and the web site. Councillors were also advised to inform residents. The questionnaire will be amended to include an additional question "What issues do you think the community council should be involved with?" and a line inserted to advise people to subscribe to the council's web site if they want to be notified of new posts.

11. Information from Members to be included in the next Agenda

- Memorandum of Understanding – discuss whether or not to support
- Training

Signed:.....

Chairman

12. Finance:**12.1 To set the Precept for 2024/25**

The budget report was discussed, following which it was agreed:

- to increase the Clerk's hours from 32 hours per month to 35 hours per month.
- reduce the budget for donations to £2,000
- increase the budget for contingencies to £1,500
- increase the salary budget by £500.

The current year's receipts/expenditure and projected figures for the forthcoming year were noted, following due consideration it was agreed to set the precept at £11,000 [Proposed Cllr Lusted; Seconded Cllr Llewelyn]. Unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED to: set the precept at £11,000.

12.2 The following items were approved for payment [Proposed; Cllr Lusted; Seconded Cllr Bridgwater] and duly agreed:

Staff (Salary)	£	
HMRC (Tax)	£	
G James (Reimburse Zoom £15.59)	£	15.59
G James (Serviced Office £25/Travel £6.30)	£	31.30
Glangrwyney Village Hall (Hire 18/12/23)	£	30.00
Welsh Water (Llangenny Water Fountain)	£	7.38

12.3 The December Finance Report was revised to remove a donation (to the Friends of Llangenny Playground) which was no longer needed. The December and January Finance Reports were received and noted.

12.4 The Clerk reported difficulty in sourcing an internal auditor. Two quotations have been obtained however a third was proving difficult. She will make further enquiries and report back at the next meeting.

13. To receive Reports on Meetings Attended

One Voice Wales Meeting: Cllr Morris attended reporting: Julie Jones (Cost of Living Crisis Team) gave a presentation on what councils are doing for the community and Emma Goode (Abergavenny Town Council) spoke about delivering funding for communities. Welsh Government is running a consultation on the cost of living crisis.

18. Correspondence as itemised in Appendix A was received and noted.

19. Miscellaneous/Late Correspondence as itemised in Appendix B was received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:25pm

Signed:.....
Chairman