Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 20 July 2017

Present: Cllrs. D Lewis (Chairman), K Bufton, E Newman, R Stuart-Lyon, R Watkins, C Cllr. H Lewis

1 Apologies: Cllr. R Shelton, Cllr. R Thomas

2 Declarations of Interest: None

3 Minutes of meeting held on 22nd June 2017:

• The Minutes, which had been circulated to all councillors, were taken as read. Cllr. Newman proposed & Cllr. Lewis seconded, that the Minutes be accepted: this proposal was approved without dissent.

4 Matters arising:

• The Clerk stated that now there are four signatories to the HSBC account; that he can move money between the current and savings accounts online; that he has registered as the Correspondent for the HSBC, Lloyds and CCLA accounts.

• With regard to Planning Application P/2017/0664, Emma Guy at Countryside services has stated that the proposed building will not affect footpath LR1016. However, she has warned the developer that any damage to the footpath during the construction phase will have to be made good at the developer's expense.

5 Correspondence:

• Household waste recycling: a letter has been received from Powys County Council stating that opening days of recycling centres will increase to five days a week and will include Saturday and Sundays, starting in September.

• Chris Davies, Member of Parliament for Brecon and Radnorshire, has invited the Community Council to visit the Palace of Westminster. *See A.O.B.*

• The Clerk has been notified that the proposed development on a plot adjacent to Bluebell House, P/2017/0266, has been given Conditional Consent.

• CCLA has announced that the Relief in Need charity's investment is expected to earn a 2% income increase per unit this year.

6 Finance:

• Nothing to add to that stated above.

7 Reports:

• Dolau Primary School: Cllr. Bufton quoted some statements contained in a letter written by Marianne Evans, Senior Manager School Transformation. The full letter is appended to these Minutes.

• Cllr. Lewis has not attended any recent meeting of the D.R.A.

8 Traffic Issues in Dolau:

• Cllr Newman submitted a paper which is appended to these Minutes.

• There was a very lively discussion at the end of which C Cllr Lewis proposed that he shouldk C Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick, the Portfolio Holder for Highways, to meet with him and the Chairman to discuss the issues on the A488 where it passes through the community, together with some problems with excessive vegetation on some minor roads. This proposal was approved.

9 A.O.B.

• None

10 Date of next meeting: Thursday 17th August 2017 Appendix 1

We have now met with all four schools - Crossgates, Rhaeadr, Trefonnen amd Llanelwedd. You will recall that the aim of these discussions was to understand whether there was appetite amongst these schools to take on another site to become a dual-sited school. The discussions have also focused on the benefits of stronger collaboration and federation as well.

Rhaeadr governors have expressed an interest in exploring the model further with regard to Llanbister School, and we have had further meetings with the governing body there. We have asked that they provide a final response to us by September.

With regard to Dolau, Llanelwedd School governors were very keen to continue with the current collaboration between both schools, with Adam as a shared headteacher.

Crossgates and Trefonnen governors have stated that their preference is to focus on their own schools, which is understandable.

You will also be aware of the Cabinet Secretary's announcement on Friday about rural schools and small schools, and that every option should be explored properly beofre the last resort of closure is put to the Cabinet. I am pleased that we have been ahead of the curve here, and that there have been, and continue to be, positive discussions about maintaining rural schools in this area. We are also awaiting feedback from the Welsh Government about the rural and small schools grant which should benefit the current collaborative work that you are undertaing.

In terms of next steps – we need to have a discussion over the summer with our new Portfolio Holder, Cllr Myfanwy Alexander, and will need to wait for a decision from Rhaeadr. Following that, we will be in a position to confirm recommendations for both schools. I'm sure that Cllr Alexander would also like to visit both schools – I will see if I can arrange something before the end of term.

Marianne Evans

Appendix 2

Cllr Newman's points for discussion:

Discover: how busy the road is; how many accidents there have been on the road in the past three years; what impact vehicle speed has on the community; any physical characteristics such as bends in the road.

Aims: to set speed limits that are evidnece led, clear and consistent and reinforce the public's assessment of a safe speed to travel. To manage speed in a way that is appropriate for the road function and local characteristics. To serve the needs of all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.

Possible Plan: Request speed checking; public meeting to discuss, gather evidence, etc; invite Police along to advise; Cabinet member for Highways to meet and look at the nproblem; Sunday biker speeds