

Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 17th October 2013

Present: Cllr M Jones (Chairman), K Bufton, D Lewis, S Powell, R Shelton, R Watkins, County Cllr H Lewis

1 Apologies for absence: None

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 19/09/2013: The Minutes were read, approved as being a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes:

- No report has been received from Mr Davies regarding the A488
- Nothing has been heard from Vanessa Garwood regarding the date for a meeting concerning the setting up of a district Community Benefits Group
- The Chairman reported that the Community Benefits Group for our Community had met last night. The Group intends to make a presentation to the Community Council at the Council's next meeting.
- Defibrillator: The Chairman has spoken to Adrian Cooper of the Welsh Ambulance Service who gave him a contact name at the British Heart Foundation. If a successful application for a defibrillator is made to BHF the Council would have to make a donation of £400. Another organisation, a charity named Welsh Hearts, would supply one free of charge but would expect donations and/or a fund-raising event. It was suggested that an article should be placed in The Trumpet explaining what the Council proposes in regard to the purchasing, siting and maintenance of a defibrillator.

4 Correspondence:

- The Clerk read a letter received from Mr Jeff Green, the Mayor of Llandrindod, in which he wrote about the challenges faced by Town and Community Councils as a result of budget cuts to be made by Powys County Council. In particular, he expressed concern that PCC has decided to close public toilets, or hand them over to local councils willing to take them on. In the ensuing discussion it was stated that the provision of public toilets is not a statutory obligation, and therefore, since the PCC faces a budget of £20 million, it was not surprising that non-statutory services will bear the brunt of the cuts. It was stated also that public toilets are subject to Business Rates, which will place a considerable financial burden on any local council taking on responsibility for toilets.

Proposed by Cllr Shelton, seconded by Cllr Watkins, that the Community Council note with interest Mr Green's letter but have no comment to make in regard to the five questions posed by him. All councillors agreed.

- The Clerk read a letter received from the Llandrindod Wells and Area Twinning

Association in which the secretary described some recent activities of the Association, that membership is open to any person named on the register of Electors in Llandrindod and adjoining communities, and that some families outside Llandrindod had enjoyed the benefits of membership. She asked that the Community Council consider giving a grant of £46 (based on 20p per head of population) to the Association in the coming 2014/15 financial year. Council decided to consider this request at the next Council meeting when the budget and precept will be on the agenda.

5 Clerk's Financial Report:

- The final tranche of the precept from the County Council, £483.33, will be received at the end of December: this, together with the current account balance of £146.78, will be more than sufficient to cover the Clerk's salary and expenses. There is nearly £500 available in the Investment account and there will be interest of approximately £360 coming in December which could be given out for community projects. Council agreed that an invitation to local groups to bid for grants to support unique projects should be issued soon..
- The Clerk reported that he is drowning under the load of paper he is obliged to keep in files and boxes relating to Council business. He asked if the Council would consider purchasing a laptop which would be the property of the Council and used solely for Council business, e.g. storage of Minutes, correspondence, planning applications etc. He was given permission to obtain estimates for a basic laptop.

6 A.O.B:

- It was stated that trees bordering on Craffryn Lane need cutting back as they are overgrown. This matter has been raised in the past but at that time the Highways department of Powys County Council had deemed that the hedgerow did not contravene statutory requirements and no further action was taken. Concern was expressed that ambulances and fire engines might have difficulty gaining access to properties along the Lane. The Chairman stated that he would try to arrange a meeting with local Highways officers to discuss the concerns.
- Cllr Bufton, reporting on a meeting of the Governors of Dolau School, stated that the follow up to the Estyn report was favourable, that the budget was OK but there was some concern over the future of the Playgroup. The latter has only a small number of children now but still requires two supervisors whose salaries must be paid, and funds are low. Councillors discussed the importance of keeping the Playgroup alive with regard to the healthy future of our primary school and the community, and how the parents are busy fundraising the whole time in order to keep it going.

7 Date of next meeting: Thursday 28th November 2013, starting at 8:00pm