

Minutes of a Meeting of the Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council held in the Community Hall on Thursday 16th November 2017.

Present: Cllr D Lewis (Chairman), K Bufton, E Newman, R Shelton, R Thomas, R Watkins, County Cllr H Lewis

1 Apologies for absence: Cllr R Stuart-Lyon

2 Declarations of interest: None

3 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2017:

These Minutes, together with those of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st September, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters arising from the above Minutes:

It was suggested that some mention should have been made of the threat to biosecurity if all footpaths were open to use by a wider public than just walkers.

5 Correspondence

- **Citizens Advice Bureau - request for financial assistance:** Concern was expressed that there are no notices on the community noticeboards explaining the ethos of CAB nor how to contact the organisation. Therefore, the Council will not give financial assistance until this situation is remedied.
- **Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution – request for financial assistance:** The Councillors agreed to give a small donation of £20 to this charity.
- **Cae Post Newsletter No: 48 – Community film recycling takes off:** There was strong support for Cae Post's aim to recycle such plastics, but councillors considered that bins should be placed in such areas as the car parks of local supermarkets.
- **Powys CC – changes to routes for waste and recycling collections:** The County Council intends to make changes in order to improve efficiency, but details are not yet available.
- **Copy of email sent by County Cllr Hywel Lewis to County Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick concerning traffic through Dolau:** Council approved the wording of the letter. Cllr Newman suggested that if Cllr Lewis did not receive a suitable reply and action from C Cllr Fitzpatrick by Christmas, the matter should be brought before the whole County Council.

6 Reports from Representatives:

Cllr K Bufton – Governing Body for Dolau Primary School:

Cllr Bufton reported that there are now 35 children in the school. The school is going from strength to strength – they entered the recent school Eisteddfod at Llandrindod and won several competitions from singing as a choir to solos, even against competition from larger schools. A full report was published in local newspapers. The school has recently been given a grant from the Welsh Assembly Government thanks to Kirsty Williams' Directive to help Rural and Small Schools. This has enabled the Governors to solidify the staff structure by appointing Miss Walker as Assistant Head, to be in control when Mr Shearman is not present. Similarly, Llanelwedd School has been able to do the same thing, creating a good solid staff system which will help both schools to develop together. The Friends of Dolau School have been running the Community Shop in Llandrindod this week to raise funds for all sorts of extra equipment and educational visits.

Cllr Newman proposed that a congratulatory letter should be sent to the school.

Cllr D Lewis - Dolau Recreation Association Committee:

The DRA has been notified that grants of up to £100,000 are available for improvements to Village Halls. The Hall Committee is considering a possible extension, another meeting room, a larger kitchen where a cooker, dishwasher and refrigerator could be installed, etc.

A number of events will be going ahead soon:

Carols around the Tree on 22nd December

FODS Murder/Mystery event;

Flicks in the Sticks will continue;

On 3rd March 2018, a Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Opening of the Hall

7 Finance: The clerk reported that he had paid to the Welsh Audit Office the sum of £141.75 in payment for the audit of the 2016/17 Accounts. He requested reimbursement of £5 he had paid Its Dun to sort out a small software problem in the laptop: his request was granted.

8 Any Other Business (at Chairman's discretion)

County Cllr Lewis gave a brief report of an informal Planning meeting he had attended.

- 1217 Planning Applications had been completed on time. Only 18 had gone to appeal, which suggested that the Planning Officers' decisions were mostly correct,
- Enforcement needs improvement but the department is short-staffed – 4 members are on maternity leave and 2 have left to further their careers, without replacements being sought.
- Very strong reasons will be needed if applicants wish to go against Officers' decisions.

Cllr Newman spoke briefly about a well-attended One Voice Wales meeting she had attended. Points of interest:

There is an 80% membership of OVW

One third of all Councils fail to comply with audit requirements, e.g. website, and therefore fail audit and are charged extra fees.

Review of relationship with Community Councils - going on at present, - an increase in contribution to local life in Wales in future and have more powers duties and responsibilities. PAVO have set up a group to assist with community asset transfer projects.

Governors Wales: 21,000 governors for schools across Wales, there is a governors helpline, but funding reduced, request to ask AM for support to get this reinstated. Also a blanket dispensation for school governors is new.

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has DETERMINED that all Councillors shall be entitled to £150 each plus costs and expenses, and committee chairs can have £500 per annum plus their £150 Councillors can opt out of receiving these payments, but they need to be offered. (I note that this has not come out from OVW by email yet). OVW had been assisting individual councils with problems with PCC and WAG, and a number of follow-up reports were of interest. Also some councils had adopted their phone boxes recently for a variety of uses.

The speaker, Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner had sent his apologies, for the second time, and had promised he would definitely attend the next meeting which is in HOWEY on February 2nd 2018.

Cllr Newman requested the removal of the Council bench from the churchyard for repair and refurbishment. The Chairman stated that he would speak to Philip Hardwick about it.

9 Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th January 2018