

Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council in the Community Hall on Thursday 8th February 2018

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

1 Apologies for absence: Cllrs K Bufton, R Shelton, R Stuart-Lyon

2 Declarations of interest: None

3 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2017: These Minutes, which had been previously circulated to all councillors, were approved and signed by the Chairman

4 Matters arising from the above Minutes

- The clerk sent an email to Mrs Ann Owen asking if the Precept Request had been received. In reply, she acknowledged receipt but stated that acknowledgements are not sent as a matter of course because there are so many Precept Requests to be dealt with!

5 Correspondence

- Citizens Advice Bureau - request for financial assistance: Councillors decided against giving a grant
- News in brief – News from Powys County Council: Copies were circulated to all councillors
- Letter from DRA regarding the Dolau Community Hall's 20th birthday event: In response to the letter, the Chairman stated that he would supply a hamper as a Raffle prize; Councillors will provide food items for a breakfast; Cllr Newman will try to find items of interest for the memorabilia display.
- Major Trauma Network for South Powys questionnaire: Not discussed since the closing date for the return of questionnaires had passed
- British Ironwork Centre questionnaire: Since none of the councillors had ever visited this tourist attraction, they did not feel able to offer any meaningful comments.

6 Reports from Representatives:

- **Cllr K Bufton – Governing Body for Dolau Primary School:** In the absence of Cllr Bufton, Cllr Lewis reported that the school has 35 children on the roll. Cllr Thomas expressed concern that not enough was being done to encourage parents of Under 5s to consider sending their children to the school when they become 5-Year olds.
- **Cllr D Lewis - Dolau Recreation Association Committee:** At the AGM of the DRA, nobody offered to be the Chair or Treasurer. At a well-attended emergency meeting held a week later, Jessica Bufton agreed to stand as Vice Chair with the proviso that the current Chair, Helen McCarthy, remained in office for one more year to provide training! In the absence of a volunteer for the post of Treasurer, Robert Shelton agreed to fill the vacancy on an interim basis. The Committee has agreed to

use a grant from Powys CC to cover half the cost of replacing three Fire Doors in the Hall which leak badly.

7 Traffic problems:

- During a discussion regarding traffic problems in the community, County Cllr H Lewis stated that he had been told that the area through which the A488 passes was not built up enough to warrant a 40mph speed limit. Double white lines might be possible one day, but probably not until the road is resurfaced. Councillors welcomed the fact that new signage has been erected around the bends near the church and thanked C Cllr Lewis for his efforts to improve safety along the A488.

8 Finance

- The clerk has been in contact with Robert Owen Community Banking and has received the following email: *We are currently giving between 1.3% and 2.00% on investments. A key benefit of investing with us is knowing that your monies are being reinvested locally. This means that small businesses, social enterprises and sole traders in our communities are benefitting from being able to access affordable credit, instead of borrowing outside of the region and having to pay interest and fees that leave our local economy. As discussed it is helpful for us to know that we have investments for as long a period as possible and so we reward higher interest on these. Presently on £10,000 to £25,000 we are offering 1.1% invested for 12 months, and 1.3% if invested for 24 months. As your council reinvests its interest back into the community, we would be willing to offer 1.5% on funds invested for 5 years. It may be helpful to know that in practice we retain a very healthy cash position which means we are usually able to return investments early should a client make a strong request, subject to the Boards approval. As much as possible we would look to reinvest the councils funds back into the local community again. This past year we have made a couple of loans to clients in Llanfihangel. Our finance tends to significantly reduce the costs of their borrowing. On average this is in the order of 5%. As a result, your investment will have the double benefit of retaining this equivalent sum back within the local economy again, as well as generating an annual interest return.* Councillors agreed that the clerk should meet the CEO to obtain further details and to report back at the next meeting.
- Bank balances: Community a/c £2857.34; Money Manager a/c £14,208 Expected payments before year end: clerk's salary £705.33, DRA grant £1320.00, office expenses no more than £100. Expected final balance on Community a/c £732. All being well, at least £12,000 from the Money Manager a/c will be reinvested very soon.
- Grant to DRA will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The clerk has posted notices inviting groups in the Community to apply for financial assistance towards the cost of special projects. Such applications must reach the Clerk by Wednesday 14th March. Cllr Newman suggested that the notice should be placed in The Trumpet.

9 Any Other Business (at Chairman's discretion)

- Clerk requested that another meeting of the Council be held soon to consider a Planning Application he had received that day. The Chairman proposed either the 21st or 22nd February and stated that he would consult the Hall Booking clerk.
- Cllr Newman attended a One Voice Wales meeting recently, a body which has a membership of more than 600 Community and Town councils out of a total of 735.

An Independent Review Panel has been set up to consider the future role of Community and Town Councils. The past few months saw the Panel hearing from members of the Community and Town Councils themselves. The Panel would now like to hear from the people who live within these communities. They want thoughts on the following questions:

What should Community and Town Councils be responsible for?

How should they operate?

What is standing in their way to deliver for the local community?

How do councils ensure they best represent their local communities?

Email views to: Adolygiad.CTC.Review@gov.wales

10 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21st February