

Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council

Serving the Community of Dolau Radnorshire

There was an ordinary meeting of the Council at Dolau Community Hall on

Thursday 16th September 2021 which started at 7pm.

Minutes

Present- Cllrs R S Lyon (Chair), E Newman, R Watkins, D Lewis, R Shelton also present County Cllr H Lewis and one member of the general public.

1. Apologies for absence;
Carl Watkins, Richard Thomas.
2. Declarations of interest; None
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2021; accurate as proposed by Rob Shelton and seconded by David Lewis - all agreed.
4. Matters arising from the above minutes - none
5. Correspondence;
 - Update from Radnor Forest Dark Skies Project (copy shared on website). – Summary attended by Rob and Elizabeth- Elizabeth reported increase in tourism in other areas, expert from London attended. Thoughts that the two street lights in Dolau will be upgraded. Eight steps from the meeting were agreed. Elizabeth and Rob Shelton agreed to represent us at future meetings. Grant funding has been available in other areas for schools. Cllr Shelton asked County Cllr Lewis to liaise with Llangunllo Community Council which was not represented at the meeting.
 - Response from Hazel Sisley (Welsh Government) regarding the Western Power tree felling. Response was read out by the chairman and gave information of the next step if they should wish. A copy to be shared on the notice boards and on the website.
 - Email received regarding the upcoming Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons. - Chair read the email regarding the beacons. Regarding the Jubilee celebration, Cllr E Newman discussed the idea of making and creating a wrought iron sculpture to be erected in a prominent position and be a permanent feature for future. It was agreed that the Council should look into seeking quotes and costings for a permanent work of art. Apprentices and other organisations to be asked to quote.

The date for the Beacons will be the 2nd June 2022 and it was agreed to discuss options for a beacon on Llysen Hill with the land owner - beacon similar to the Golden Jubilee beacon in 2012. Subject to agreement with the land owner it was agreed to register Llanfihangel Rhydithon (Dolau) as an official beacon

6. Highways;

County Cllr H Lewis questioned the white lines around the bend and the response was the lines meet the current guidance. After much discussion on this matter and after many previous attempts to correct the issue regarding the white lines the resultant markings have fallen short. The Council would like it to be recorded that this issue has been discussed at length and Members were disappointed at Powys Highways resolution of the matter.

7. Reports from Representatives;

- Cllr E Newman – DRA – Hall open, summer of fun as been well supported and all been grant funded. The other hall user groups are slowly returning to normal. Cllr Shelton would like to congratulate Sarah Price on seeking the funding and her work.
- Cllr D Lewis – Dolau School- Currently 35 pupils on role, 4 pupils started not 6 as thought, this was due to the on going consultation. 5 year 6 children left. No children to leave this year which was an effect of the previous consultation. 3 children wish to start and there are 6 or 7 children in the pre school.

8. Community Council Finance;

- Bank Balances
- Recent transactions
- Discuss the possibility for online banking- All agreed - proposed by Cllr E Newman, Seconded by Cllr D Lewis.

As regards to finance the accounts that have been sent will be published. The recent transactions and balances will become more transparent when online banking is available.

9. Llanfihangel Rhydithon School;

Email regarding the response to the proposed closure. – it was brought to the attention that the figures presented in the consultation report are false, giving the scrutiny panel false information to make their vote. It was thought that false information was being presented. The consultation report presented was thought to be the same as recent closure threats. Count Cllr Lewis is reading through the report. Cabinet leader Rosemary

Harris has been quoted in saying that the current curriculum is not suited for small schools. Cllr E Newman thought it was totally unacceptable that the chairman of the Scrutiny Committee is a contender for transport. It was asked that all Councillors read through the current consultation response and pick through the errors listed and challenge. County Cllr Lewis read out the question asked by James Evans MS to Mark Drakeford first minister for Wales where Mark Drakeford clearly stated *“there is presumption schools stay open and unless good reasons can be induced for schools not to be continued they will continue”*. It was agreed that as a Council we agree with all comments that the first minister of Wales made. PCC are clearly not following the guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government. Email response to the cabinet to be made. A letter/email to be made to the First Minister and the Minister of Education to highlight the inaccuracies to the consultation and to make them aware of the on going situation. The chairman thanked County Cllr H Lewis for all his efforts.

10. Any Other Business (At the Chairman’s Discretion)

- Facebook – All agreed for the clerk to proceed with this. “Trumpet” magazine report to also be done.
- Question from the member of the public – regarding the beacons, when did we receive the email regarding this matter? The chairman responded that we received the email in June.
- Question from the member of the public- The neighbouring council has been told they have to meet online is this true? The council did not think this was correct.

11. To set a date of next meeting.

Thursday 21st October (subject to business)

Dan Price

Clerk/RFO