

Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council
Serving the community of Dolau Radnorshire

There was an ordinary meeting of the Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council held on **Thursday 16th November** at 7.45pm in Dolau Community Hall.

Minutes

Present - Cllrs R. Stuart-Lyon (Chairman), R. Thomas, R. Watkins, E Newman, R Shelton, C. Watkins, D Lewis & County Councillor Deborah Edwards

1. Apologies for absence;

None

2. Declarations of interest;

Cllr R Thomas declare an interest in Agenda item 11, planning application.

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2023 were read and agreed. Proposed by E Newman and seconded by R Thomas. These were signed by the chair.

4. Matters arising from the minutes - None.

5. Correspondence

1. Email from Urdd Gobaith Cymru Breconshire and Radnorshire requesting support: request noted
2. Emails from Powys Planning with monthly Planning Decisions
3. Email from The Pageantmaster D-Day 80 inviting communities to take part in the Beacon Lighting to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day: all agreed this should be supported, D Lewis to collaborate with DRA
4. Email advising 22 November as date for meeting Bute Energy – venue Media Resource Centre, Oxford Road, Llandrindod Wells 7pm
5. Email from Wales Government offering grants for Community Orchards
6. Emails from Powys Highways giving notice of road closure in Dolau on 9 and 24 November
7. Email from the Older Peoples Commissioner for Wales seeking information from older people on their GP experiences.
8. Email from Llandrindod and Area Twinning Association seeking grant support in 2024/25
9. Email from Powys County Council giving details of the Powys Green Guide
10. Email from Powys Biodiversity Officer offering grants
11. Email from Audit Wales suggesting they have not received the annual return for audit for Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Council for the following financial years. 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22: R Shelton has, on a number of occasions emailed Audit Wales pointing out that the Audit Certificates were on our website and had been completed. The Council were upset that no response had been received from Audit Wales.

12. Email from One Voice Wales giving notice of the Brecon and Radnor Area Committee on 9 January 2024
13. Email from Powys County Council giving details of Business Grants available
14. Emails from Dyfed Powys Police Commissioner giving details of open door events and other information
15. Email from Dolau Recreational Association seeking further financial support. This was discussed at length in relation to the budget and precept.
16. Email from Welsh Local Government Association 13th Nov seeking feedback on the Road Safety Strategy
17. Email from Nigel Dodman 13th November regarding Bute Energy and the code of conduct, clarification email from Alun Harris 15th November: The Council were confident that they were following the code of conduct
18. Email from One Voice Wales 14th Nov seeking comment on the Well Being of Future Generations Act
19. Email from One Voice Wales 14th Nov regarding Asbestos management and guidance
20. Email from Ieuan Lewis (Powys CC) 15th Nov regarding the precept

6. Clerks Appointment

It was agreed that the Clerks expenses be £50 for the remainder of 23/24 and increase the following financial year. A new cheque in the sum of £50 for clerk's expenses was approved.

It was also agreed that a quote for a new laptop be acquired, set up with Microsoft office type software and a suitable anti spyware, from Itsdun, a computer shop in Llandrindod Wells. Once obtained the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will review and approve if acceptable

7. Highways

The Clerk will contact the Highways department regarding 2 new salt bins and the repair/replacement on one mid way up Church Lane

The problems with blocked drains and poor road surfaces was discussed. It was agreed that the Chairman will provide the Clerk with 'What three word' locations in order that she can arrange a site visit with the Highways department

Thanks to Cllr D Edwards who liaised with Highways and Planning to progress the replacement of the light at Tan House Chapel. It is hoped that an 'old' style bracket can be found, meaning no Planning Application will be required

8. Reports from representatives:

DRA - Cllr E Newman reported DRA has organised a number of social and fund-raising events and there was a full programme of activities leading up to Christmas.

The engineer advised that the situation regarding the boiler was not as serious as had been thought and provided guidance to using it more effectively.

The 5 years fixed testing survey identified that works needed to be carried out to bring the electrical system up to current standards. A quote of £2,500 had been received for the works required for the safety certificate

9. Community Council Finances

1. Bank Balances – as of 3 November 2023

- Current account - £4,179.02
- Money manager - £1,233.14

2. Recent Transactions

Current account-

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|---|-------|
| Expend: | Bank charges | £ | 11.20 |
| Income : | | £ | 0 |

Money manager payment in - £2.03 interest

The Clerk will seek guidance from HSBC regarding two signatures for cheques and Internet banking.

The draft risk assessment was discussed, R Shelton proposed and D Lewis seconded that it be accepted, all agreed

DRA grant - The DRA audited accounts for last year have been provided. It was agreed that the £2,000 grant budgeted for 2023/24 be paid to DRA. Regarding the 2024/25 financial year a request has been made that this grant be increased due to the loss of £3,000 grant from the Local Authority and the difficulties being faced by the closure of the school. The running costs for the hall are approximately £7,000 per annum. The Councillors were mindful that this would mean an increase in the precept and was more fully discussed later in the meeting. Cllr R Watkins proposed the increase, Cllr D Lewis seconded and all agreed.

Other charity grants - it was noted the grants paid out in 2021/22 were

East Radnor Day Centre £50

Welsh Air Ambulance £50

Llandrindod Wells Twinning £50

DPJ Foundation £25

It was agreed by all that these grants be paid in the same sum, with the exception that East Radnor Day Centre grant be increased to £100

10. Budget and Precept for 2024/35 financial year. The list below was outlined as the budget for the precept;

| | Budget | |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| <u>Grant to DRA</u> | 2000 | 2500 |
| <u>Other grants and subscriptions</u> | 850 | 850 |
| <u>Clerks salary</u> | 1100 | 1100 |
| <u>Councillors expenses@£150 per cllr</u> | NIL | 1050 |
| <u>Audit fee</u> | 400 | 500 |
| <u>Office expenses</u> | 50 | 100 |
| <u>Unexpected payments</u> | 100 | 100 |
| <u>Transfer to savings</u> | Nil | NIL |
| <u>Insurance</u> | 250 | 250 |
| | <u>£4750</u> | <u>£6450 *</u> |

* Contingency budget to be taken from balance carried forward from 2022/23 account

There was considerable discussion regarding increasing the precept, ours being one of the lowest in Powys. It was felt that the grant to DRA should be increased, it was felt that we should budget for Councillor salaries. Cllr R Shelton moved that the precept be increased to £6450 and seconded by Cllr D Lewis. All agreed subject to review next year.

11. Planning Application

23/1505/FUL Erection of General Purpose Steel Portal Framed Building, together with all other associated works Tan House Farm Dolau Llandrindod Wells LD1 5TL
Cllr D Edwards and Cllr R Thomas declared an interest and left the room.

The proposal was discussed and it was agreed that the Council had no comment.

12. Any other business.

Cllr Newman requested we acquire large poppies for next years Armistice Day. The Clerk to diary the action and contact the Royal British Legion

Date of next meeting:

18th January 2024

Meeting closed 9.20pm

Signed

Chairman

Date :