

**Minutes of a Meeting of Disserth & Trecoed Community Council on 8th January 2013
commencing at 7.00pm in Iron Room**

Present: Cllrs G Evans, J Hamer, C Myhill, V Norris,
J Griffiths, D Morgan, G Morris, S Richardson,
G Price, J Dalley

Apologies: Cllr P Deakin

DT 01/13

Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 11th December 2012 were approved and signed subject to an amendment.

The Chairman wished to make an apology to members concerning the statement on Any Other Business made at the last meeting. He apologised to members for his enthusiastic approach as Chairman and was merely trying to act legally and follow the legislation regarding this issue. If he offended anyone he wished to apologise. Cllr Myhill did strongly object to this matter at the last meeting and accepted the Chairman's apology which was offered to all members.

DT 02/13

Information from Minutes

a) Howey Village Junction with A483 – Leaves

The Clerk reported that the culvert had now been cleared and the road had been swept. However, Cllr Price felt that the leaves from the gutters and the layby had not been cleared. **Resolved:** to ask for this work to be carried out.

b) Streetlight HY114 Goylands Close

The Clerk reported that this light had now been switched on. Cllr Dalley stated that he was not sure if this was part night of full night. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for this to be full night.

c) Streetlight – Cwmbach

The Clerk reported that PCC had repaired the light at the top of the lane by the Iron Room

DT 03/13

Planning Applications:

a) P2012 1357 – Householder: Extension to existing farm bungalow to provide accommodation for elderly parent at Rhyd Blawd Farm, Disserth for Mr AR Morris. Cllr G Morris declared an interest in this item and left the room whilst discussions took place. **No objection.**

b) P2012 1373 for Variation of Condition – Variation of condition 1 of planning approval P2008/0357 to extended time lime for commencement of development at Dingle Brook Lower Gaufron for Mrs G Rowlands. **No objection**

c) P2012 1389 for Full: Change of use of land to lorry and lorry trailer storage area at Fir Tree Garage for Mr Paul Booth. The Chairman and Cllr Myhill provided some background information on this application for the benefit of new members. A lengthy discussion took place on this matter. **Resolved:** to object to this application on the following grounds:

- The plan shows parking for 15 vehicles. Under Health & Safety regulations it is stated that lorries must be parked 2.5 metres apart. Members feel this site is not big enough for the number of vehicles stated in the application.

- The access road narrow and is only wide enough for one vehicle at any one time, which could cause issues with passing, and subsequently on the A470 with traffic backing up.
- Concern over chemical pollution generated from cleaning vehicles and water running from this site in to the Wye and then into the Ithon as this site is a SAC.
- Concern that with the construction of a new entrance this will form a staggered crossroads with C1233 and A470 causing issues for motorists and safety on an already busy road.
- Concern over noise pollution with the extended operation hours. It is noted that the neighbouring business, BSW Sawmills are time restricted in the evenings.

Also point out that some members have received representations from residents regarding the operation of the existing site at Llanwrthwl.

DT 04/13

Correspondence:

a) Welsh Government – Ash Trees

Confirmation received from Steve McAllen that all the trees were germinated and grown in Powys. Cllr Morris wished to receive clarification on this matter and requested the name of the Nursery where these trees were germinated. **Resolved:** to contact Steve McAllen for this information.

b) Rev'd Ian Rees – School Bell

Notification that the Faculty has given permission to fit the bell upstairs in the Sunday school room. This is not immediately on view for everyone although it will obviously be kept safe there and be a lasting reminder of the school. Cllr J Griffiths declared an interest in this application and left the room whilst discussions took place. It was agreed to have this bell erected upstairs in the Church. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Rev'd Rees to ask him to contact Cllr Price to arrange a meeting to discuss this.

c) Cllr J Griffiths – Howey Shop – Social Enterprise Scheme

Note from Cllr Griffiths as follows:

“There was some concern voiced at the last meeting about the closure of Howey Village Shop next spring. A solution to the loss of this local facility might be to set up a community-owned shop. There is considerable support available for a venture of this kind. The Plunkett Foundation (www.plunkett.co.uk) helps communities to take ownership of village shops. Information, advice and other support is available via www.communityshops.coop. Would any other members of the Community Council be interested in investigating the level of local support for a community-owned shop, by means of arranging a public meeting and/or distributing a questionnaire (see the printed information sheets attached)”

Members discussed this at length, Cllr Griffiths confirmed that she was looking for the Council's support initially but would envisage this being a community project. It would not be her intention to look at purchasing the existing shop premises. Members suggested that she contacted Llanbadarn Fynydd who operate a Community Shop Co-operative and have done so for some years. **Resolved:** Cllr Griffiths to contact individual residents to establish if they would use such a facility and bring back information for discussion at the next meeting.

d) Cllr J Griffiths - Gritting Howey

Note from Cllr Griffiths as follows:

“This is something of a safety issue but one that would involve a change of policy by Powys County Council, so I am not sure whether this would need to be brought up at the next Community Council meeting first.

I think that the pavements between the entrance to Llwynbrain housing estate and the village turn bus layby opposite Howey village should be gritted in icy or snowy conditions, for the following reasons:

1. The pavements leading from town to Pentrosfa housing estate (and the first part of the pavement leading up into this estate) is gritted while the pavements in Howey are not. Howey has housing estates as well (Mill View Close, Llwynbrain and Disserth View) and should be entitled to equal treatment on population grounds.
2. The pavements alongside the A483 in the Howey area are frequently used to reach bus stops and the village shop. These frequently become icy in winter conditions. Following snowfall, the frequent use of the pavement compresses the snow and causes ice formation.
3. Although it is possible to walk on side roads to and from the housing estates (when these are gritted), the A483 has narrow sections. When large vehicles need to pass each other, pedestrians have to move onto icy pavements to make room for them.”

The Clerk confirmed that this had been an issue over the last few years. The Chairman suggested that Cllr Williams might like to get involved in this issue and he agreed to forward a copy of Cllr Griffiths email to Cllr Williams.

e) Cllr V Norris – Publication of Draft Minutes & Sub Committee for Website

Cllr Norris sent in the following written propositions:

1. That draft minutes of the previous meeting be made available to the public who attend the Council meeting (in draft form) prior to them being corrected and approved. **Resolved:** Clerk to prepare draft minutes for this purpose
2. That a sub-committee be established to look at the ramifications of setting up a web site, including but not limited to the method of appointing the web master. The Chairman confirmed that he had suggested the introduction of a website and monies had been set aside in the budget for 2013/14 for this purpose. His intention would be to ask the Clerk to prepare some background information for discussion by the full Council and ask for members suggestions and information for the site. As a paid employee of the Council, the Clerk would be the Administrator for this site. This was agreed by members. **Resolved:** This item to be placed on the agenda for February’s meeting, the Clerk ask members to bring along their suggestions for the website and she would prepare some additional ideas.

f) **Powys County Council – Junction Markings**

Response from Tony Caine advising that road studs must not be used in combination with give way markings and therefore they cannot be provided as requested. I can advise that there is sufficient warning of the junction however I have copied the Trunk Road agency who should respond to any issues on the trunk road. This was noted. Cllr Morris mentioned that a meeting had been held with Cty Cllr Mackenzie and Steve McAllen to discuss this issue at the Llanelwedd side, but he was not aware of the outcome. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Cty Cllr Mackenzie to find out the outcome.

g) **Powys County Council – Signage, Henllys Farm**

Response from Tony Caine advising that signing for a private facility such as a farm cannot be provided. I assume you refer to the private access to the farm off the old A470. I note there is also an access to the farm on the new A470. The answer remains the same and additionally no warning signs can be provided for a private access.

Cllr Morris felt his reply was inaccurate as there is a Road Traffic Act sign ‘Give Way’ on the private land going onto the A470. He feels that this sign has set a precedent and there should be a concealed entrance sign on the A470 relating to the same private road. **Resolved:** To contact Tony Caine with this information.

DT 05/13

Finances

There were none.

DT 06/13

Grant/Donation Applications

There were no applications

DT 07/13

Public Question Time

a) **Bus Service to Caerwnon Park**

Margaret Forkings asked for the Community Council’s support with the recent changes to the bus service serving Caerwnon Park. She informed members that this service had recently changed and that no buses are now accessing Caerwnon Park. Previously several buses would enter the site on a daily basis which provided a valuable and much needed service to residents who wished to travel to Llandrindod Wells or Builth Wells. There was also a bus which transported residents to the local Doctors Surgery in time for opening times. This is no longer the case. There are still some buses but these stop at the top of the lane which is too far away from the site. She informed members that she had contact Cty Cllr Gwilym Williams regarding this who had written to the Portfolio Holder of PCC, Cty Cllr Barrie Thomas regarding this.

The Clerk had been in contact with Roy Brown’s Coaches prior to the meeting following an email from Cllr Richardson. They had confirmed that their instructions are for services to pick up and drop off at the top of the lane. Mrs Forkings stated that the residents would be prepared to come to some compromise on this matter and asked the Community Council for its assistance.

Resolved: To write to Cty Cllr Barry Thomas giving the Council’s strong support to the residents and suggesting that he organises a meeting with PCC officers, the residents of Caerwnon Park, the County Councillor and member of the Community Council to discuss this issue.

b) **Free Parking**

Chris Shortland commented on the recent free parking over the Christmas period and mentioned that she had spoken to shop keepers in Builth Wells who said that trade had improved because of this move. However, she stated that no notices were placed on parking machines to indicate that the parking was free. She asked if the Community Council could approach PCC to ask for one hour's free parking to be rolled out throughout the year.

The Chairman confirmed that the Council had previously asked this question and had been told this was not possible.

Resolved: To write to Cty Cllr Barrie Thomas thanking him for the introduction of this free parking and indicating that shop keepers had seen the improvement in trade because of this, also pointing out the lack of notices indicating this.

c) **Cty Cllr G Williams**

- Caerwnon Bus Service – Cty Cllr Williams confirmed that he had received a letter from the Chairman of Caerwnon Resident's Association regarding these issues and he had written to the Portfolio Holder on this matter. He requested that if a meeting is arranged, that as many Community Councillors attend as possible to show their support.
- Howey Village Shop – Cty Cllr Williams has concerns over the level of community support which would be received for such a project as the existing shop has not been well supported.
- Fallen Wall – Howey - Cty Cllr Williams reported that this issue is still on going, but it has been suggested that this wall may be the property of Wales & West Housing. Cty Cllr Williams will report further on this matter at a later date.
- Community Charge – Cty Cllr Williams reported that the Council will be setting its budget for 2013/14 very shortly and indicated a possible increase of between 2 & 3%

DT 08/13

Any Other Business

The Chairman reminded members that the only items which may be legally raised under 'Any Other Business' are where they do not require a Council resolution or vote. Items such as street lights, hedges, pavements etc would be accepted, but if they require further action, would have to be placed on the agenda for the following meeting.

The Clerk reminded members that if items such as those mentioned above arose, she is happy to be contacted between meetings to take action on these items.