

Minutes of a Meeting of Disserth & Trecoed Community Council on 11th March 2014 commencing at 7.00pm in the Iron Room, Cwmbach

Present: Cllr V Norris, J Griffiths, G Price, C Myhill, J Hamer, S Richardson, C Hartley, P Deakin, D Morgan

Apologies: Cllr J Jones, G Morris

Absent: None

Members held a minutes silence in memory of the late Mr David Smout, a former members of the Community Council

DT 21/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 11th February 2014 were approved subject to an amendment.

DT 22/14 Information from Minutes

The Clerk confirmed that all actions had been undertaken from the last minutes.

DT 23/14 Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications.

The Chairman quoted from the Good Councillor Guide which referred to Town & Community Councils spending a considerable amount of time on individual planning applications, where they should be seeking to influence planning policy. Members were not sure how this could be done.

The Clerk informed members that to change planning policy Councils should lobby their County Councillor who will then take it back to his political group and/or Shire Committee for consideration. This may then be taken forward to Full Council and Cabinet. Cty Cllr Williams confirmed this.

DT 24/14 Correspondence:

a) One Voice Wales – Subscription Renewal - £176

Increase of £5.00 on current year.

Resolved: To renew subscription.

b) Powys County Council – Signage, Cwmbach

Several emails had been received concerning this matter requesting specific details of how many horses are using the individual routes daily. The final asks if members can confirm what section of the C1210 the horses are using?

From Newbridge-on-Wye to the Sawmills

From the Sawmills to Builth Road

Or even just a part of either / both of the above.

Members discussed this and felt Cllr Morris would be the best members to meet with the officer to discuss the issue. Clerk to ask Cllr Morris to organise meeting.

c) Powys County Council – Footpath Diversion Order

This was noted.

d) Builth Wells Regeneration Project – Letter to Welsh Government (for info)

Resolved: to write a letter to Mr Jones following up this letter and pointing out the concerns of members regarding the lack of junction markings along the whole of the new stretch of A470.

e) Powys County Council – P/2013/0971 Ty Gwyn Farm

Following an email to the Planning Officer expressing concern at the positioning of this turbine. The following reply was received from Gemma Bufton:

“I can confirm that an enforcement case has been opened to investigate the concerns raised from Disserseth and Trecoed Community Council regarding the siting and positioning of the above turbine.

Whilst unfortunately at this moment in time I am unable to provide you with any further information I would like to confirm that I am currently in discussions with the land owner to arrange an appropriate day for a site meeting to be arranged. I will of course update you of the outcome “

Members welcomed this action. Cllr Myhill has recently visited the area and felt that the turbine is in the position indicated on the applications. Members questioned the validity of the ZVI reports in this case.

Resolved: to await response from Planning Officer.

The Chairman left the Chair and handed over to Cllr G Price.

DT 25/14

Finance

- a) Clerk’s Out of Pocket Expenses - £97.96 - approved
- b) Member’s Allowance – Form attached – Members were asked to complete and return the form before the meeting.
- c) Cllr V Norris – Travel to Meeting (11.02.14)- £12 - approved

DT 26/14

County Councillors Report

a) Budget

PCC has set its budget which will mean an increase of 4.5% on Council Tax. The Conservative Group had proposed an alternative budget which would have mean a 2.3% increase. Some of these suggestions were incorporated in the budget which was agreed last week.

b) ALN (Additional Learning Needs)

Following pressure on the Cabinet, they have agreed to defer any decision on doing away with ALN services within schools for 2014/15. However this will be looked at following the closure of the consultation period.

c) Home Care

Currently Powys employs 21 small care companies from within Powys to provide domiciliary care within the county. Some small areas have not been provided with cover due to the smaller packages of hours offered within the tender.

The tendering process has now been completed, which includes much larger packages of hours to cover all areas. Unfortunately none of the existing 21 companies felt able to tender and larger national companies have now been selected to carry out the work. These companies are from a far wider area.

Cty Cllr Williams is very concerned over this matter, particularly as PCC had made a policy to use small local companies for this type of work. He asked for the Community Councils support with this matter. This matter was discussed at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman returned to the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

DT 27/14

Community Action Plan

The Chairman had drafted a document for discussion, however he had not brought it with him. He asked to Clerk to circulate it to members before the next meeting.

Resolved: Clerk to circulate document.

DT 28/14

Public Questions

a) Keith Holder had been asked if any progress had been made with the issue of large lorries reversing along Chapel Road. Cllr Price will discuss this with Tracey Harley when they meet.

DT 29/14

Information

a) Home Care

Cllr Richardson expressed her concern at the changes referred to by Cty Cllr Williams. She passed the Clerk a letter from one of the existing care companies; Caring Concern, highlighting the issues they feel that the changes to domiciliary care will make.

Members all felt strongly that it is important to have continuity of service and familiarity for elderly clients. New service providers would be unsettling for clients and may well not have the time to spend on a regular basis.

Resolved: to write to the Portfolio Holder for Care, Cty Cllr Darren Mayor pointing out the Council's concern over the changes, particularly in view of the policy made in 2013 to use small companies from within Powys. Also to express concern that the effect these changes may well have on the clients.

Resolved: Clerk to draft letter and send to the Chairman for his approval.

b) **Refuse – Chapel Road**

Cllr Price informed members that rubbish bags had been dumped by PCC operatives outside a bin on Chapel Road last Friday and these had not been collected until Monday. Unfortunately some of these bags had been opened causing a mess in the area.

Resolved: Clerk to email PCC regarding this.

c) **Howey School Field**

Cllr Griffiths mentioned that the school field had now been sold and she was concerned over the Time Capsule on the site and also the tree. Some members felt the tree was subject to a Tree Preservation Order. Cty Cllr Williams will speak to a properties officer within PCC regarding the Time Capsule and report back.

Resolved: Clerk to contact the Planning Department to establish the status of the tree on this site.

Chairman **Date**