

**Minutes of a Meeting of Dissert & Trecoed Community Council on 14<sup>th</sup> January  
2014 commencing at 7.00pm in the Iron Room, Cwmbach**

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

**Apologies:** None

**Absent:** None

**DT 01/14 Sgt Kelvin Briggs, Dyfed Powys Police**

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Briggs to the meeting.

Sgt Briggs began by outlining his role, which is to look after all the community officers, mainly PCSO's and the community Police officers. He works with partner agencies on anything the community feels is an issue for them whether it's a Police matter or not. He will act as a conduit to enable them to solve problems.

He thanked members for inviting him along to discuss the issue regarding parking within Cwmbach. The matter came to him via PCC Highways Department. About 2 years ago the Government changed the legislation around who was responsible for maintaining the roads and for actually directing traffic on the roads, the reason why they did it was they wanted people to be able to marshal their own events on the highway. They put in place a mechanism whereby anyone can make a request to regulate the traffic on the roadway. Prior to this it was only the Police who could do this. As a part of that different responsibilities between police and local authorities were brought in. In a nutshell the police lost the ability to prosecute for parking offences, which went over to PCC.

The original complaint came to him via PCC Highways who said it was a matter which they could not progress because they didn't have the legislation to do it. They can only prosecute when there are double yellow lines present. There are no double yellow lines present at the area concerned.

There is an offence for parking opposite a solid white line and that is why it was passed to the Police because the parking mentioned is opposite a solid white line. In his reply to the Council he stated they would be unlikely to prosecute, even if they did a prosecution would be unlikely to succeed because of the change of road status and because the original reason for the white lines was for safety. That no longer exists. The Police view is that a little bit of parking on that road is better as it acts as a traffic calming measure and it will slow the speed down.

Cllr Richardson took issue with that statement; she felt that it would slow speed down as someone is likely to crash into another car very shortly. She has experienced several incidences of this and feels it is an accident waiting to happen. Drivers need very quick reactions to pull in, she also pointed out the blind bend in the area.

Cllr Hartley felt that a speed limit should be placed within that area, as it is not only used by residents. Cllr Briggs stated that the speed limit is 40mph. Speed and accidents are something that PCC Highways look at and there has only been one recorded accident in that area when it was an 'A' road.

He felt there are 2 issues, the blind bend, and speed limit which would be looked at on accident statistics.

Cllr Morgan stated that there are many cars parked in the area, on occasion 8 – 10 and it is impossible to get by these. The main issue is with the cars that are parked on the end of the blind bend.

Sgt Briggs confirmed that before Christmas he went and spoke to all the residents of the row who are parking outside their houses. He needs to balance one person's rights against another person's rights. One house is trying to get off road parking but are getting little co-operation from PCC. Sgt Briggs will do his best to put pressure on PCC regarding this. In return, they have agreed not to park the trailer there and limit the number of vehicles parked, this would prevent a solid line of cars.

Prosecution is the last thing he wishes to do, he would need to show that he has done a lot of other things before this action is taken. Without consultation he cannot justify a prosecution.

Cllr Morgan had realised that the Police had spoken to some residents as the bottom cars have returned to parking where they used to park prior to the new A470 being constructed. Cars just need to park a little further up. Her concern is also for the little children who are coming out of the cars and their safety.

The Chairman pointed that he would normally restrict public speaking until the end of the meeting but in this case he would allow this.

Mrs Mills, a local resident, confirmed she has tried to contact PCC for almost 2 years with little response regarding purchasing a piece of land to park on. Cllr Williams will meet with Mrs Mills and push this matter forward with PCC with the assistance of Sgt Briggs.

The road in question is now a 'C' road and when PCC decide to do the road; if speed and safety are an issue Sgt Briggs will take forward the issues to PCC. However, he cannot prosecute people. Members confirmed that prosecution was never the intention.

Cllr Morris has concerns about tractors travelling this road, as they do not have the speed to be able to move out of the way. He feels that the 40mph speed limit is misleading. Sgt Briggs confirmed that all the road markings and signage exist from when this was an 'A' road. These may not now be applicable. These are matters for the Highways Department.

The definition of a traffic accident is:

"owing to the presence of a vehicle on the road damage is caused or injury is caused ..... This would be the statement used by an insurance company when accessing a claim.

Sgt Briggs does not want to minimise this issue but to resolve this.

Cllr Hartley would ask for assurance from the people parking in this area that there will be an area long enough to allow traffic to pull back in if needed. Sgt Briggs will give them a period of time to do that.

Cllr Morgan feels it's crucial that the cars parking are urged to move up the road away from the blind bend, this would assist greatly. Also to leave a gap along the row of parked cars to allow other cars to pull in to avoid oncoming traffic.

Sgt Briggs undertook to liaise with local residents, Powys County Council and Cty Cllr Williams to obtain an acceptable solution.

Sgt Briggs feels that everyone has been very reasonable and with negotiation he feels this issue could be resolved.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Briggs for attending the meeting and looked forward to obtaining a successful solution to the problem.

**DT 02/14 Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 were approved subject to an amendment.

**DT 03/14 Information from Minutes**

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

**DT 04/14 Planning Applications:**

None Received.

**DT 05/14 Correspondence:**

**a) Llanelwedd Community Council – A470 Entry Road to Cwmbach**

Email from Megan Cox as follows:

"Maureen M forwarded your e-mail to the Llanelwedd Community Council with your concerns regarding the Cwmbach turn off the new section of the A470.

The Community Council did have a site meeting with the an officer of the Trunk Road Agency and they are following up issues raised at that meeting - one of which was the visibility of that turn.

I am asking for an update on those concerns and when I have feedback I will let you know.”

This was noted, members to await update.

**b) One Voice Wales – Buckingham Palace Garden Parties**

Invitation for the outgoing Chair to attend a Garden party on either Weds 21<sup>st</sup> May, Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> June or Tues 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Nominations are requested to be sent to One Voice Wales by 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

The Chairman did not wish to attend.

**c) Powys County Council – Overgrown Hedge 36 Goylands Close**

Email from Ian Harries, PCC LE as follows:

Two letters have been issued requesting that the hedge be cut back as per policy, so I will say to the owner now that we will move in and cut the hedge and re-charge our costs to them.

This had still not been cut back, members to monitor this.

**d) One Voice Wales – Brecon Area Committee Meeting – Appoint Representative**

Former Cllr Geraint Evans was the Community Council representative on One Voice Wales.

**Resolved:** to appoint Cllr Vic Norris at Council representative to attend the meetings whenever possible.

**e) Edwina Hart AM – A470 Slippage**

Email as follows:

“Thank you for your email of 11 December regarding land slippage on the A470 Cwmbach to Newbridge on Wye. The initial investigative work has been carried out and the report will be completed in the new year. Once the report is available I will contact you to provide an update.”

This was noted, members to await response.

**DT 06/14**

**Finance**

- a) ICO (Information Commissioner - £35.00 – approved.

**DT 07/14**

**County Councillor’s Report**

**a) PCC Cabinet**

Cty Cllr Williams reported concerning recent issues within PCC and the Cabinet. He confirmed that a vote of no confidence had been proposed against the Cabinet Leader, this had been successful.

Cty Cllr Barry Thomas is now Cabinet Leader and has appointed his new Cabinet. There will be some changes initially which it is hoped will improve the situation for the Council.

**b) PCC Welsh Government Settlement**

The settlement figure had now been confirmed at £182m which is 231,000 less than this year. This equates to 4.5% less than last year; the reduction for Unitary authorities in Wales is 2.5%. The budget for 2014/15 needs to be complete by mid March. If the Council cannot agree on a budget, the Welsh Government will move in to the Council to work on this.

**DT 08/14 Cwmbach Churchyard**

The Clerk had emailed Rev Ben Griffith on 3 occasions but to date has had little response. Cllr Morgan had spoken to him and established he had received the emails but had delayed in responding. Cllr Morgan circulated photos of the church yard and the grave stones concerned and it was evident that significant movement had taken place. There is also damage to the guttering.

She informed the Council that Rev Griffith had met with Neil Mackintosh of Atkins, who had confirmed verbally that he felt this was a result of the work carried out on the A470, he also confirmed to undertake the works. Unfortunately Rev Griffith did not obtain this in writing. To date no work has been carried out.

Cllr Morris proposed that a letter be sent to Kirsty Williams AM and Roger Williams MP asking them to call a site meeting at the Church, to include members of the Church, the Community Council and Atkins to discuss this issue. This was agreed.

**Resolved:** to email Kirsty Williams and Roger Williams to explain the situation and ask them to call a site meeting, photographs to also be sent.

**DT 09/14 Community Action Plan**

The Chairman explained that he felt the website could be utilised to obtain suggestions from the Community. Cllr Griffiths suggested 'Meet Your Councillor' events. It was agreed to place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Resolved:** Meet Your Councillor to be placed on agenda for next meeting.

**DT 10/14 Youth Representative**

The Chairman had established the following figures upon request from the last meeting. Figures had been obtained from 2011 Census.

18 -25 year olds within community	82
16 – 25 year olds within community	111

The Chairman proposed that the Community Council appoint a Youth Representative to serve on the Council to represent the views of the younger community. No seconder was received. No further action on this would take place.

**DT 113/13 Public Question Time**

There were none.

**DT 114/13 Information**

**a) Howey School Bell**

Cllr Jones asked who had paid for the relocation of the School Bell, the Clerk confirmed that the Community Council had funded this following agreement approximately 18 months previous. Cllr Price confirmed that the residents had been consulted and the consensus was to place it in St David's Church. It has since been sited and takes pride of place outside the Sunday School Room.

**b) Red House**

Cllr Morris reported at the last meeting that things had moved on and he has subsequently been authorised to carry out the works required on receipt of an order number. To date he has not received this. He will keep members informed.

**c) Horses on Old A470**

Cllr Morris asked if this item could be placed on the agenda for February's meeting. This was agreed.

**d) Website**

The Clerk confirmed that the website had now been launched – [www.disserthandtrecoed.co.uk](http://www.disserthandtrecoed.co.uk). The Chairman felt there was a missing element. Cllr Morgan congratulated her on this. It was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for the February meeting to discuss advertising and other issues.

**e) Cllr D Morgan**

Cllr Derwyn Morgan informed members that her Brother, Cty Cllr John Powell had now been appointed as Portfolio Holder for Highways so she would be unable to take part in any discussions relating to this. The Clerk had suggested she look at applying for a dispensation. The Clerk will look into this.

**Chairman .....**      **Date .....**