

**PONTHIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTHIR**

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting
9th September 2015**

1. **Present:** Cllr. S. Bailey (Chair), Cllr. Mrs J. Bold and PC Jo Skinner.

Members of Public Attending: None

Clerk: Karen Price

2. **Apologies:** Cllr. D. Green, Cllr. P. Matthews, Cllr. T. Roberts and Cllr. Huw Bevan (TCBC).

As only two Councillors were in attendance it was noted that this meeting was inquorate and as such no decisions could be made. Reports and updates were provided for information purposes. All other items are to be deferred until the next meeting due to be held on 14th October 2015.

3. **Declarations of Interest:** None

4. **Matters raised by the members of the public present** – None

5. **Police Report**

a. PC Skinner reported that there had been no crime or anti-social incidents reported for Ponthir or Lower Llanfrechfa during July and August.

b. Cllr. Bailey updated PC Skinner to the concerns of the Llanfrechfa Village Association (LVA) involving the speed of vehicles travelling through Lower Llanfrechfa. As a follow up to the correspondence previously sent by the LVA to TCBC, the clerk has written to David Davies MP and Ian Johnstone, Police Commissioner, and received responses from both.

There are two issues of concern:

- i. The LVA wish to see the current speed limit of 40mph reduced to 30mph. For the last 18 months TCBC has been undertaking a speed limit review of all roads in Torfaen and this issue is within the remit of this review. (**Action: Awaiting details of when this review is due to be concluded**)
- ii. Vehicles are not adhering to the current 40mph limit. (**Action: Clerk is arranging a meeting between representatives of the Community Council, the LVA and Gwent Police**)

7.10pm – PC Skinner left the meeting.

6. To approve the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 8th July 2015 – **Item Deferred**

7. **Updates received relating to matters arising from the Minutes held on the 8th July 2015**

- a. **Resignation of Cllr. Rob Davies** – Written confirmation has been received. (**Action: Clerk to inform TCBC**)
- b. **Christmas Tree Lighting Event 2015** – Clerk confirmed that, following the assistance of One Voice Wales, Commercial Christmas have returned the Community Council's Christmas tree lights.
- c. **Works to alleviate flooding along the footpath running from All Saints Church, Llanfrechfa** – Work has been completed.
- d. **Inspection of Assets** – Inspection completed. No further action required this year.

e. **Play Area Project** –

- i. Chair and Clerk have attended site meetings with two of the three contractors and are awaiting quotes to be received before the October meeting.
- ii. Clerk has reserved the set of swings currently that TCBC currently have in storage.

(Action: Clerk to clarify specifications of equipment with both contractors. Item to be included in October's Agenda)

f. **Community Newsletter** – The next edition of the newsletter has been produced and will be delivered to residents during the next few days.

g. **Installation of the Community Library in the Telephone Kiosk, Tram Lane** – The contractor contacted is no longer able to undertake this work. **(Action: Cllr. Bold to make further enquiries)**

8. **Planning Application - 15/P/00420** Proposed: Two storey extension to front and rear of existing dwelling at Catoni, Candwr Road, Ponthir, NP18 1HR – No Observations
Item to be noted on October's Agenda

9. **Finance and Accounts**

a. Balance of Direct Plus Account as at 31st August 2015 = £26,553.52

b. **To Approve Cheques Already Paid**

- i. ThatMedia Group (September 2015 Newsletter) = £268.00
- ii. Mazars LLP (External Audit) = £246.00

Item Deferred

c. **To Note Standing Order/Direct Debit Payments**

- i. Barclaycard July 2015 (Stationery £3.00, Stamps £7.56, Plants for Village Planters £7.00) = £17.56
- ii. Barclaycard August 2015 (Additional Plants for Village Planters) = £6.57
- iii. TCBC (Clerk's Salary) on 20th July
- iv. TCBC (Clerk's Salary) on 20th August
- v. Information Commission (Annual Registration Fee) = £35.00

Item Deferred

d. To approve a change of bank signatories and for the necessary bank mandate to be completed. – **Item Deferred**

e. To note that the Audit for the year ending 31st March 2015 has been completed – **Item Deferred**

f. To discuss budget proposals including a three year forecast – **Item Deferred**

10. To approve an update to the Councils Standing Orders to reference the Public Contracts Regulations 2015/102 – **Item Deferred**

11. To note the retirement of Mr. Holmes, Internal Auditor and to discuss the procedure to appoint a new internal auditor. **(Action: Clerk is currently investigating available options to appoint a new internal auditor. Item Deferred.)**

12. Reports and Updates

- a. Llanfrechfa Village Association – **See Item 5b**
- b. Afon Lwyd Working Group – It was noted that the working group is in the process of applying for a grant from the Welsh Government for the first stage of this proposed cycle route. (**Action: Clerk to contact John Plamer and ask whether the new housing development opposite The Roman Lodge, Caerleon will affect the proposed route and whether there is any funding available from the developer for this project.**)

13. Annual review of Retention and Disposal of Records – Clerk has undertaken this review and is currently liaising with Gwent Archives (**Action: Update to be included in October's Agenda**)

14. To review Community Council's diary procedures for September/October 2014. – **Item Deferred**

15. Consultations

- a. Tax Collection and Management (Wales) Bill – No Observations
- b. BBC Charter Review Consultation – No Observations
- c. Welsh Government's Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) – No Observations

Item to be noted on October's Agenda

16. To Consider the Following Grant Application:

- a. Ponthir Football Club

Item Deferred

17. Correspondence Received

- a. How does climate change affect your organisation? – OVW
- b. One Voice Wales Conference Saturday 3rd October 2015
- c. Bovine TB Dashboard - Royal Welsh Show – OVW
- d. Tax Collection and Management (Wales) Bill – OVW
- e. Welsh Church Fund – TCBC
- f. Aneurin Bevan CHC News Bulletin
- g. Briefing from NALC
- h. Response from EE concerning poor mobile phone coverage in Ponthir
- i. Response from Vodafone concerning poor mobile phone coverage in Ponthir
- j. How does climate change affect you? – OVW
- k. Support Your High Street – OVW
- l. One Voice Wales 2015 Conference and AGM - Saturday 3rd October 2015
- m. 2016 Natural Resources Wales Competitive Grant – OVW
- n. Independent Remuneration Panel Survey – OVW
- o. Recruitment of a Chair of Natural Resources Wales – OVW
- p. The Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Regulations 2015
- q. Consumer Council for Water and Wales Committee Meeting 22nd September in Cardiff
- r. Training Materials & Standards Conference on 20th October 2015 – TCBC
- s. Contacting community groups – TCBC
- t. Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper - Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People

- u. The Ombudsman's Casebook - Issue 21
 - v. Workplace Pension – The Pensions Regulator
 - w. Procedure for Reporting Giant Hogweed to TCBC – TCBC
 - x. Donation Request – Shelter Cymru
 - y. PCC Event for Gwent Community Councils 2015
 - z. All Saints Church Open Afternoon – Saturday 19th September 2015
 - aa. The future of parks and their positive impact on wellbeing – OVW
 - bb. Care Home Review Statement – OVW
 - cc. 2016 Natural Resources Wales Competitive Grant – OVW
 - dd. TOGS Newsletter
 - ee. Invitation for Chair to Pontypool CC's Annual Grants Presentation Evening
 - ff. Resident's complaint concerning a mobile home – E-mail
 - gg. Motions for this year's One Voice Wales Annual Meeting
 - hh. Public Appointments Opportunity – Commissioner - Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales – OVW
 - ii. Proposed Solar Farms at Park Farm, Caerleon
 - jj. Invitation for Chair to attend Civic Service – Blaenavon Town Council
 - kk. Wales Audit Office Newslette - OVW
 - ll. Caerphilly CBC Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development – Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study – OVW
 - mm. Torfaen Community Links Discovery Ride – TCBC
 - nn. Metro Event Congress Theatre Cwmbran Wednesday 16th September 10.00am
 - oo. Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Annual Report 2014/15
 - pp. New September Training dates for your region Inc. New Modules – OVW
 - qq. Minutes of the June Local Council Partnership Committee meeting & AGM
- Correspondence noted.

18. The next meeting of the Council will be held on **Wednesday 14th October 2015 at 7.00pm at Ponthir District Sports Club.**

Meeting Closed at 8.05pm

This document is available on our website www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk
 A copy of this document could be made available in Welsh. Please contact us on the telephone number or e-mail below/Mae dogfen yma yn ar gael mewn gwefan ni www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk
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