**Ponthir Community Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**9th December 2019**

**Held at Ponthir Baptist Church**

1. **Present:** Cllr Iain Glover (Chair), Cllr Stuart Bailey, Cllr Louise Ryan-Scales
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Morgan Barrell, Cllr Paul Davies, Cllr Ian Danaher
3. **Clerk**: Karen Kerslake
4. **Declarations of Interest**
   1. None
5. **Matters raised by members of the public present at the meeting**
   1. Four members of the public attended the meeting to advise of problems with the bus services through Ponthir and from Newport central bus station to Ponthir. Clerk to contact Newport Transport with details and advise those who attended accordingly
6. **To Receive a Police Report**

Clerk advised the meeting that Ponthir still has a very low crime rate with some spikes in crime/anti-social behaviour occasionally. Ponthir is the lowest area in Torfaen for crime and anti-social behaviour.

1. **Approve the minutes of the last meeting**
   1. Proposed, Cllr Bailey
   2. Seconded, Cllr Ryan-Scales
2. **Approve the purchase of a new laptop for the Council.**
   1. Software on the current laptop will not be supported from 2020. Limit of £400 for a new laptop was approved
   2. Android phone to be purchased. Limit of £300 approved
   3. Virement to be change budget heads to reflect the purchases.
3. **Matters arising from last meeting**.
   1. Drains/Flooding – Lamb Cottage owner has been contacted by TCBC. Drain survey should have been carried out by time of meeting. Clerk to request a full update from Torfaen County Borough Council.
   2. Precept 2020/2021 – uplift of 1.5% to be applied to current precept. Agreed by all present.
   3. Neighbourhood Watch Update – Clerk to meet with a member of New Inn Neighbourhood Watch and update at next meeting.
   4. Newletter to be circulated prior to next meeting for comments – Clerk
   5. Confirmation of internal auditor – Clerk to confirm by next meeting
   6. SWALEC – new rate to be negotiated. Clerk will circulate deals on offer to Council to approve new rate. It was noted that rates are not always available for prolonged periods and a quick response is required by councillors.
   7. Playscheme – meeting with Julian Davenne was to be rearranged. Clerk to update at next meeting.
   8. Cllr Bailey update the meeting around progress on the Community Garden – Awaiting drawings from TCBC. Invite to future Council meeting to present the project and expand on any further funding that may be available. Clerk to action.
   9. Cllr Ryan-Scales gave an update on the Bath trip. Enjoyed by all who attended and was cost neutral to Ponthir Community Council. Clerk to email Keepings Coaches for Invoice relating to the balance.
4. **Statutory Requirement** – Reporting on Biodiversity
   1. Clerk to circulate reporting which is not due to be returned until end of March 2020
5. **Grant Applications** 
   1. Friends of Llanfrechfa Way Walled Garden. – Requested £330
      1. Council agreed to match the contribution made by Croesyceiliog and Llanyravon Community Council - £250
   2. Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre – Requested £250
      1. Council did not agree to fund this request
6. **Finance and Accounts**
   1. Balance at bank – Noted
   2. To Approve Cheques Already Paid. Reimbursement to Cllr Ryan-Scales for Bath Trip £425 - Approved
   3. To Approve Cheques to be Paid. Renewal of Web Hosting fee for HCI Ltd, £72 – Approved
   4. To note standing orders/direct debits – Noted
   5. Barclaycard – Current account to be cancelled as Cllr Bailey/Clerk have not been able to transfer signatories, due to security checks. Council agreed that Clerk should prepare a letter for Cllr Bailey to sign cancelling the account. A new account can then be opened.
   6. Discretionary expenses limit – Clerk explained that these have changed in line with current inflation rates.
7. **To Note current Planning Applications** – Noted, however Clerk to circulate more information on proposals
8. **To Note Correspondence Received** – Noted

**The date of the next Monthly Meeting of the Council will be Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.00 pm at Ponthir Baptist Church.**

Meeting Closed at 8.05 pm

This document is available on our website [www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://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.

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Cysylltwch a ni ar y rhif ffôn neu drwy e-bost isod.

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