**Ponthir Community Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**13th January 2020**

**Held at Ponthir Baptist Church**

1. **Present:** Cllr Iain Glover (Chair), Cllr Stuart Bailey, Cllr Louise Ryan-Scales, Cllr Paul Davies, Cllr Ian Danaher, Cllr Peter Matthews
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Morgan Barrell
3. **Clerk**: Karen Kerslake
4. **Declarations of Interest**
   1. None
5. **Matters raised by members of the public present at the meeting**
   1. None
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. **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 – drain survey not sent by TCBC as at date of meeting.
   2. Precept 2020/2021 – uplift of 1.5% - TCBC notified.
   3. Neighbourhood Watch Update – Clerk to meet with a member of New Inn Neighbourhood Watch and update at next meeting.
   4. Newsletter by February meeting – Clerk
   5. Confirmation of internal auditor – Previous internal auditor has declined to take on the role for 2019/20 audit. New auditor to be found. Clerk to contact other councils. Cllr Glover to contact a local resident who may be qualified.
   6. SWALEC – new rate to be negotiated in the spring when better offers may be available.
   7. Play scheme – Support for introduction of the summer play scheme run by Torfaen Play Service was agreed by all present. Clerk to confirm dates/costs and commission. Cllr Huw Bevan to contribute.
   8. Cllr Bailey updated the meeting around progress on the Community Garden – Presentation at February meeting from TCBC officers.
   9. Cllr Ian Danaher who attended the Bath Christmas trip advised that as the venture was so successful, it may be appropriate to look at a summer trip as well as an annual Christmas trip.—to be discussed at next meeting.
   10. Cllr Ryan-Scales noted that there was a small shortfall at the bank versus the expenditure incurred by the council. This may be correct but Cllr Ryan-Scales will investigate.
3. **Finance and Accounts**
   1. Balance at bank – Noted
   2. To note standing orders/direct debits – Noted
   3. Cheques paid – Noted
   4. Quarterly accounts – Agreed and 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.
4. **PDSC Drainage**
   1. Investigation into the possibility of match funding with the sports association, to enable repairs and replacement drainage at the club house.
5. **Proposed Changes to Caerleon School Catchment Area (extra to agenda)**
   1. Cllrs Ryan-Scales and Danaher made the meeting aware of proposals to change the comprehensive school catchment area.
   2. Current proposals for discussion prior to any amendments being made are that children from Ponthir and other outlying areas will no longer be eligible to attend Caerleon Comprehensive.
   3. The proposals were discussed by the council taking into account the impact on young people and families in Ponthir if the decision to exclude outlying areas is progressed by Newport City Council.
   4. Any changes will affect children from 2021.
   5. Council unanimously decided that they would contribute to the consultation which is open until the end of February by letter and would also correspond with David Davies MP, Cllr Huw Bevan, TCBC and other parties who may support residents in averting any negative impact the proposed changes may have. Clerk to draft letter and send as above.
6. **To Note Correspondence Received** – Noted

**The date of the next Monthly Meeting of the Council will be Monday 10 th February 2020 at 7.00 pm at Ponthir Baptist Church.**

Meeting Closed at 7:45 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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