**Ponthir Community Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**11th October 2021**

Held at PSCC, Ponthir at 7pm

1. **Present:**  Cllr Ian Danaher (Chair), Cllr Ryan-Scales, Cllr S Bailey, Cllr M. Leighton

Clerk: Karen Kerslake

**Members of the public present**

* 1. J. Parfitt, PSCC (for part of the meeting)

1. **Apologies:** L. Morgan
2. **Declarations of Interest**
   1. None but Cllr Ryan-Scales did confirm that she was to continue as a school governor at Ponthir CIW.

1. **Matters Raised by Members of the Public**
   1. Parking on Hafod Road – Raised by a member of the public and the Community Council were copied in. With Cllr Huw Bevan. No outcome as yet but it is liable to be confirmed that unless there are signs prohibiting parking and double yellow lines restricting it, enforcement action will not take place.
2. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting** – 13th September 2021
   1. Proposed Cllr Bailey
   2. Seconded Cllr Ryan-Scales
3. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting**
   1. Complaint to Torfaen County Borough Council in relation to,
      1. Tree maintenance
      2. Drainage
      3. Communication on proposed Local Development Plan and the suggestion of 1200 houses at Llanfrechfa Grange. – Chief Executive of Torfaen to attend the next meeting, item to be discussed.
   2. Speeding in Ponthir/Crime & ASB – Deferred until Gwent Police LPU inspector attends a meeting. Camera equipment to be re-circulated by Clerk to all councillors to replace the signage coming into the village from Lower Llanfrechfa.
   3. SWALEC – Clerk has received a quote for the work and will progress disconnection of supply to the telephone box in Lower Llanfrechfa by the next meeting.
   4. Community Garden – to be deferred due to cost/contractor difficulties.
   5. Magazine articles – sent to print, delivery before end of October, Clerk to arrange routes for delivery.
   6. Communications – Pop up banner to be commissioned and purchased.
   7. Christmas Lights – Installation confirmed 2nd/3rd December.
   8. PSCC Proposal – Agreed contribution not yet paid.
   9. Christmas Tree and winter fayre – arrangements underway with PSCC/school and nursery. Service providers contacted, update at November meeting. Secretary of PSCC to send details of service providers to Clerk.
   10. Benches in Ponthir – To be discussed in detail as an agenda item.
   11. Wildlife Pond – Progress is being made with grant funding providers. More updates as funding decisions are made.
   12. Plaque to commemorate the visit of HRH to Ponthir House – Clerk to arrange
   13. Cleaning of bus stops and bin.- business owner has been out of the country. Cllr Danaher to contact again by next meeting.
   14. Memorial Stone in Ponthir Church for remembrance. – Clerk will contact Church to discuss.
   15. Emails are still problematic from Torfaen CBC – Torfaen SRS are looking into the problem.
   16. Ponthir Hall – discussion on opportunities for more joint working in the next year took place.
4. **Finance and Accounts**
5. Balance of Direct Plus Account – Noted
6. Cheques/Online payments made - Noted
7. To Note Standing Order/Direct Debit Payments – Noted
8. Quarterly Accounts – discussed and noted
9. Budgets – Clerk presented the current budget v expenditure position and projected spend to Council. It should be noted that although there is an underspend projected for the year, this is prudent to retain an increasing amount of money year on year to cover the costs of replacement of any play equipment which may need to be incurred at a future date. Play equipment is extremely expensive and generally cannot be repaired for health and safety reasons, so must be replaced.
10. Accounts to Wales Audit Office – running behind with certificates of audit, hopefully, this will be received by the next meeting to conclude the 2020/21 accounting period.
11. **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

Councillors were asked to consider what we could arrange to celebrate what will be a three-day weekend in June 2022.

1. **Benches**
   1. Short briefing paper was tabled outlining types of benches – to be predominantly wooden and placed in the following locations.
      1. Just inside entrance to Candwr Park
      2. Outside of Barnfield near the planter
      3. Barnfield play area
      4. School Close at the rear of Oaklands
      5. Possibly at the railway line near where people walk along the riverbank
      6. Main play area (only one bench available)

Permissions to be sought from landowners prior to ordering of any new benches.

Possibly a small plaque on each bench and date of commissioning.

1. **Planning Applications**
   1. Nothing received from Torfaen Planning in respect of the 5G Mast application relating to School Close/Caerleon Road. Clerk has submitted a list of alternative locations in the area where the mast could be sited.
2. **Any other business**
   1. Wreaths have been ordered and received for Remembrance Services.
   2. Winter planting to be undertaken by contractor – Clerk to arrange
   3. Representative from PSCC confirmed that a Community Café would be run from the PSCC building each Thursday for a trial period of ten weeks. Bonfire night activities confirmed at the PSCC. For more information on the café and Bonfire Night contact ***07 873 668 863***
   4. Councillor Barrell submitted photographs of some areas for improvement around Ponthir.
      1. Weeds – Torfaen CBC provide treatment services along paths and main roads and have been contacted.
      2. Repairs to pavements and roads – Outside of the responsibility of the Community Council and must be referred to Torfaen Highways Department, this includes any road signage or any item placed on a public highway, including pavements.
      3. Private land – Outside of the responsibility of the Community Council and the Local Authority unless there is a clear danger to health and safety of members of the public.
3. **Correspondence** 
   1. Noted

**The date of the next Monthly Meeting - 8th November 2021 at PSCC**

Meeting Closed at 9:05pm

**PLEASE NOTE THE TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE 6PM**

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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