**Ponthir Community Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Held on 10th January 2022**

Held via Zoom, @ 7pm

1. **Present:**  Cllr Ian Danaher (Chair), Cllr Lorraine Morgan, Cllr P Matthews, Cllr Ryan-Scales, Cllr S Bailey, Cllr M. Barrell

Clerk: Karen Kerslake

**Members of the public present**

* 1. J. Parfitt, PSCC

1. **Apologies:** M. Leighton
2. **Declarations of Interest**
   1. None

1. **Matters Raised by Members of the Public**
   1. None
2. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting** – 13th December 2021
   1. Proposed Cllr L. Morgan
   2. Seconded Cllr L. Ryan-Scales
3. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting**
   1. Speeding in Ponthir – No progress with Torfaen County Borough Council or Gwent Police at present. – Clerk to remind Torfaen Police Inspector of the need for a response relating to traffic calming measures deployed in Monmouthshire. Other complaints will be addressed by Stephen Vickers, Chief Executive of Torfaen County Borough Council at the meeting on 14th March 2022. These will include concerns relating to,
      1. Drainage in the village
      2. Trees – regular pruning and overhanging branches
      3. IT and communication problems with TCBC
      4. Response to Ponthir Community Council’s formal complaint on items listed above.
   2. Wildlife Ponds and general work – J. Parfitt updated the meeting on ongoing works. A schedule of works for the coming months is to be supplied and advertised on Council website/social media etc. – JE to send to Clerk.
   3. Memorial Stone in Ponthir Church for remembrance. – Plans have been submitted by Ponthir Church. Plans submitted to stonemason, awaiting costings
   4. Queen’s platinum Jubilee – Clerk to send email offering potential support for any events and bring those interested together.
      1. Lighting of Beacons to commemorate event – information received from One Voice Wales
      2. PSCC already has plans in place for an event over the Jubilee weekend – Clerk to contact businesses in the area to discuss further.
   5. Survey for future Christmas Lights – Clerk has contacted SSE, installation contractor, to commission a survey of available lamp posts in both Ponthir and Llanfrechfa. Full proposal to be submitted to council at a later date.
   6. Report from TCBC – requested repairs to playground. – Clerk to discuss with TCBC and circulate to Council.
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. Deferral of Quarterly Statement of Accounts deferred to February due to late arrival of bank statements - Agreed
9. Accounts to Wales Audit Office – running behind with certificates of audit. Council noted that the Certificate of Audit is taking an exceptionally long time to be produced and this is mainly due to a backlog of 2019/20 audits which still have not concluded, 2020/21 audits being conducted by Wales Audit Office rather than sub-contracting audit firms. Council is therefore disappointed that the Certificate of Audit has not been received within the timescales set by Wales Audit Office.
10. **Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021**
    1. Consultation and impact for Community Councils – Clerk gave a brief overview of new legislation which is being introduced in Wales during 2022 and how it is proposed to impact community councils. Clerk to circulate consultation link to all councillors.
11. **Precept Setting for 2022/23 – Budget Discussions**
    1. Budgets were noted and scrutinised by those present and agreed for the next financial year. Cllr Bailey was asked by Clerk to determine if there are any amendments needed for the next meeting.
    2. Due to financial hardship likely to be experienced in coming months with rising prices, it was decided to keep any rise in the precept to a minimum. Therefore a 1% annual increase was agreed for the year 2022/23 and Clerk will inform Torfaen County Borough Council.
12. **Planning Applications**
    1. None
13. **Any other business**
    1. Clerk has been contacted by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in relation to Wellbeing in the community – meeting arranged for 31st January 2022 with Cllr L. Morgan and Clerk. - information will be brought to February 2022 meeting.
    2. Clerk requested that any items for the next Newsletter be submitted by end of February 2022.
    3. Benches are on order and will be delivered on 26th January 2022. Plaque on each will be engraved ‘Ponthir Community Council’.
    4. Membership of the hall committee was discussed. Council decided that Cllr P. Matthews take up the membership on behalf of the Council. One objection was made to the appointment made by Cllr L. Morgan and a request made that this be noted for the minutes. Clerk to write to the Chair of Hall Committee to inform her of the decision.
14. **Correspondence** 
    1. Noted

**The date of the next Monthly Meeting – 14th February 2022**

Meeting Closed at 8:50pm

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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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