**Ponthir Community Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Held on 13th December 2021**

Held via Zoom, @ 7pm

1. **Present:**  Cllr Ian Danaher (Chair), Cllr Lorraine Morgan, Cllr P Matthews (part of the meeting), Cllr Ryan-Scales, Cllr S Bailey, Cllr M. Leighton

Clerk: Karen Kerslake

**Members of the public present**

* 1. J. Parfitt, PSCC

1. **Apologies:** M. Barrell
2. **Declarations of Interest**
   1. Cllr Ryan-Scales declared an interest in agenda item 7a.

1. **Matters Raised by Members of the Public**
   1. Speeding – Letter received from Resident (action covered in agenda item 6)
   2. Crime – Letter received from resident relating to burglary and use of Smartwater marking. – Clerk updated those present in relation to the letter and has updated the resident around the intention of the council to concentrate on speeding through the village at present. Crime is generally low in Lower Llanfrechfa/Ponthir and is associated with seasonal activity by criminals. Levels of crime in the Council area remains the lowest in Torfaen by a considerable margin.
2. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting** – 11th October 2021
   1. Proposed Cllr M. Leighton
   2. Seconded Cllr P. Matthews
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.

No update received from TCBC in relation to the complaints made via S. Vickers, Chief Executive in November meeting Clerk to forward dates to meet with S. Vickers..

* 1. Speeding in Ponthir – No progress with Torfaen County Borough Council. Clerk will contact Cllr Huw Bevan to determine if he has any updates.
  2. Benches in Ponthir – Ordered – waiting on delivery dates prior to payment.
  3. Wildlife Ponds and general work – PSCC Update
     1. Burying of cables – meeting arranged for following day within PSCC management team
     2. Land drainage to progress when cables have been buried
     3. Timescales end of January/beginning of February 2022 for completion of this phase
     4. Request from PSCC to underwrite the shortfall of £11,000 in the interim.- Council decided that at this time underwriting of a large debt would not be possible but every assistance would be offered to the PSCC to complete their plans. There are other projects currently proposed for the Community Council to complete within the financial year, and these must be considered prior to any other requests. There further discussions around future funding of PSCC cannot take place before April, 2022.
  4. Christmas event – Clerk and J Parfitt gave an overview of the event which was considered a success in light of the short notice given. Over 75 people attended and Santa did visit for the younger children with gifts funded by the Community Café.
  5. Cleaning of bus stops and bin.- to be deferred until March on the advice of the contractor. £500 per clean or twice per year. Decision to be taken in March 2022.
  6. Memorial Stone in Ponthir Church for remembrance. – Plans have been submitted by Ponthir Church. To be costed.
  7. A survey of suggested improvements around the area for disabled persons will be undertaken – Clerk has spoken to resident who will feed back areas for improvement.
  8. Queen’s platinum Jubilee – clerk to send email offering potential support for any events and bring those interested together.

1. **Grant Applications**
   1. Brownies, Guides and Rainbow – Council decided to donate £100 each
   2. Community Café – Decision to donate £150 each
2. **Finance and Accounts**
3. Balance of Direct Plus Account – Noted
4. Cheques/Online payments made - Noted
5. To Note Standing Order/Direct Debit Payments – Noted
6. 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.
7. **Precept for 2022/23**
   1. Precept will be determined in January meeting after detailed scrutiny of budgets and planned expenditure for 2022/23
8. **Planning Applications**
   1. None
9. **Any other business**
   1. Street lighting has been very well received by the majority of residents and there has been social media interest in the displays from residents and beyond. However, it was proposed by Cllr Ryan-Scales that we build on the success of this year’s plan and if possible, increase the number of lights throughout the Council area of responsibility. As the number of lights that can be put up depends of the number of suitable lampposts, SSE will be contacted to undertake a survey. Clerk to action in New Year.
   2. Report received in relation to repairs of main village playground – Clerk to determine what are priorities for TCBC who commissioned the report and agenda item with Council.
10. **Correspondence** 
    1. Noted

**The date of the next Monthly Meeting – 10th January 2022**

Meeting Closed at 8:35pm

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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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