**Ponthir Community Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Held on 14th February 2022**

Hybrid meeting held on Zoom and at PSCC, Ponthir

@ 7pm

1. **Present:**  Cllr Ian Danaher (Chair), Cllr Lorraine Morgan, Cllr P Matthews, Cllr S Bailey

Clerk: Karen Kerslake

**Members of the public present**

* 1. J. Parfitt, PSCC

1. **Apologies:** M. Barrell, L. Ryan-Scales, 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** – 10th January 2022
   1. Proposed Cllr S. Bailey
   2. Seconded Cllr P. Matthews
3. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting**
   1. Speeding in Ponthir – take forward to next meeting. No response at present from Torfaen Highways around replacing the speed signage to the north-west of the village. The Torfaen Inpector for Gwent Police has changed and a new appointment is imminent. Clerk will contact the new Inspector when in place which is expected to be April 2022 and will continue to chase Torfaen for a price on speed alert cameras.
   2. Drains to the north of Ponthir village have been thoroughly cleaned and appreciation of the work is to be sent to the Chief Executive of Torfaen County Borough Council. Also a reminder is to be sent around outstanding items
      1. Other drainage problems long-term approach to sustaining the recent drain cleaning activity in the area
      2. Road and pavements in Ponthir
      3. Trees and pruning
      4. IT issues being experienced by Ponthir Community Council with Torfaen County Borough Council.

All of the above were covered in a complaint to Torfaen. However, the response was not satisfactory. Clerk to organise reminder and agenda for Council meeting 14th March 2022 where the Chief Executive of Torfaen County Borough Council will be in attendance.

* 1. Wildlife Ponds and general work – John Parfitt, PSCC updated the meeting on work ongoing in the PSCC grounds. The Community Council has utilised its communication channels to publicise the work being done via social media and the council website and will continue to work with PSCC to ensure that residents are kept fully up to date with planned work. Work to secure funding for wildlife ponds and rewilding is ongoing.
  2. Memorial Stone in Ponthir Church for remembrance. – EJ Herbert have yet to respond and several other suppliers have been contacted but have not replied. Clerk will endeavour to obtain a quote as soon as possible. Cllr Morgan will call in whilst in the area – Clerk to email details of contact to Cllr Morgan
  3. Queen’s platinum Jubilee – Clerk will start a calendar of events. Confirmed events so far are,

Starlight Garden Party hosted by PSCC on 2nd of June – Ben Jenkins to perform – more details to follow.

PSCC is also considering a childrens’ party over the bank holiday weekend – more details to follow.

Cllr Morgan will speak to WI to determine if they are to be involved in the community. Ponthir school/Brownies/Guides and Rainbow also to be approached. Clerk to publicise financial support for wellbeing for any street parties being planned.

* 1. Survey for future Christmas Lights – Clerk has contacted SSE, awaiting survey.
  2. Report from TCBC – requested repairs to playground. – No further action required.
  3. Incoming Legislation – awaiting statutory guidance - to be deferred until this is received.
  4. Precept – no further action
  5. Benches – speak to contractor to determine placement. Clerk
  6. Letter sent to Chair of Hall Committee requesting addition of Cllr Matthews as the representative of the Council. This has not been accepted and will be readdressed to the Secretary, Village Hall – Clerk

A complaint has been received from the Village Hall in relation to possible Council instigation of an inspection which was undertaken by Torfaen County Borough Council at the hall prior to Christmas. A letter is to be sent to the Secretary of the Village Hall stating that Ponthir Community Council has no knowledge of any activity relating to this matter.

Clerk to action.

* 1. Newsletter – suggestions as follows,
     1. Cllr Danaher to provide a piece on Farm Shop and units
     2. Information around Queen’s Jubilee to be included
     3. Offer of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board wellbeing grants to be included

Any further suggestions to be sent to Clerk by end of 3rd week of March 2022.

1. **Meeting with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board**
   1. Clerk and Cllr Morgan gave an overview of the discussions that took place relating to wellbeing with a representative of the Health Board.
   2. Grants are available for small and larger community organisations between £250 and £2500. These are specifically to promote wellbeing within the community.
   3. Opportunities exist within the Torfaen Voluntary Alliance structure to promote work of organisations and promote wellbeing activity which Ponthir Community Council will make use of for the Queen’s Jubilee and future events. This will take the coverage of people who receive information around what’s on in Ponthir into the thousands.
   4. Further information about how to apply for grants under this stream, please contact Clerk. [Clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk)
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. Quarterly statement of accounts – Noted
7. Final Audit Certificate for accounts 2020/21 - No contact from Wales Audit Office at the time of meeting and final statement still not received.
8. **Local Government Elections**
   1. Information received from Torfaen around the forthcoming May 2022 elections is being communicated by Democratic Services in Torfaen CBC.
   2. Timeline for receipt of nomination forms is not yet set.
   3. Deadlines for receipt of completed nomination forms for ballot inclusion by Torfaen CBC is 4th April 2022.
   4. More information on elections to follow. Clerk to progress with Torfaen.
9. **Planning Applications**
   1. Byways – Granny flat extension – objections to be raised by the council relating to,
      1. Expansion of the original dwelling footprint – out of compliance with recommended planning allowance for the expansion of a house.
      2. Parking issues for residents around the site, during construction and ongoing if more cars are to be parked in the grounds. Limited access to the site which may cause problems for neighbours.
10. **Any other business**
    1. Grant funding for the current financial year was discussed and Council have decided that no further funding will be considered until the new financial year for organisations in the area.
11. **Correspondence** 
    1. Noted

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

Meeting Closed at 8:50pm

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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