**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, Cllr L Ryan-Scales

Clerk: Karen Kerslake

**Members of the public present**

* 1. J. Parfitt, PSCC
  2. Stephen Vickers TCBC
  3. David Leech TCBC
  4. Members of the public representing Oaklands

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

1. **Matters Raised by Members of the Public**
   1. To be covered under the address from Stephen Vickers, CEO, Torfaen County Borough Council
2. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting** – 14th February 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. Deferred until April Meeting – noted by those present
   2. Stephen Vickers CEO Torfaen County Borough Council addressed the meeting at the suggestion of the chair on the following points,
      1. Other drainage problems long-term approach to sustaining the recent drain cleaning activity in the area – Key to continuing the progress made will be introducing a pro-active approach by Torfaen
      2. Road and pavements in Ponthir – This was part of the discussion in (i) above and all agreed that a pro-active approach which will maintain standards for residents is key to making sure that problems do not occur in future.
      3. Trees and pruning – Members of the community present expressed their disappointment at the approach taken by Torfaen County Borough Council in relation to maintaining the trees in the Oaklands. They felt that work needs to continue to reduce the height of the trees. At the moment, the next tree inspection will be due in 2024. Stephen Vickers/David Leech will look at proposals for an intervention before the date, however, it should be noted that this will most likely require compromise on most sides of the table to achieve a workable solution. Torfaen CBC has to decide what the priorities are to spend residents’ money on as they have finite resources and must prioritise, such is the way local government works. However, there will be room for compromise and the community council will work with David Leech in order to better understand and promote the work to be undertaken.

Stephen Vickers thanked the council for their appreciation of TCBC efforts to date in putting in place a more sustainable, pro-active approach to problems presenting in the community. David Leech was introduced as the key contact to work with community councils in the future.

Both Stephen Vickers and David Leech will attend future Community Council meetings – Clerk to arrange.

The issue of IT will be taken up separately by the Chair directly with David Leach.

* 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. – Clerk informed the meeting that sourcing a memorial stone for the church has now been expanded as far a field as suppliers in Caerphilly and Cardiff.
  3. Queen’s platinum Jubilee –

Confirmed events so far are,

**PSCC**

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.

**Ponthir Baptiste Church**

Event being planned for Sunday, 5th June at 4pm. Service followed by afternoon tea.

**All Saints Church**

Service at 10.30am on Sunday, 5th June

Proposed events,

**Ponthir House**

Bottomless Proseco event – more details to follow

**WI**

To be confirmed – Cllr Morgan to confirm

**Brownies, guides and Rainbow**

To be confirmed

* 1. Benches – Cllr Danaher has spoken to C. Mellen about placing and staining. Clerk to send list of locations to contractor in April. Cllr Morgan will check on permissions to site one bench on Welsh Water land near the Afon Llwyd river.
  2. Survey for future Christmas Lights – Clerk has contacted SSE, awaiting survey.
  3. Letter sent to Chair of Hall Committee requesting addition of Cllr Matthews as the representative of the Council. – Correspondence has not been received from the hall secretary. Cllr Matthews to contact S. Bubela to determine why.

1. **Contact with Contractor for Various Work in Village**
   1. Clerk has made contact, but contractor has not come back via email to Cllr Danaher/Bailey. Cllr Morgan will see the contractor in the next few days and remind him.
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. Final Audit Certificate for accounts 2020/21 - No contact from Wales Audit Office at the time of meeting and final statement still not received.
7. **Local Government Elections**
   1. Arrangements for local government elections are progressing and all current Community Councilors will meet on Monday, 21st March, 7pm at PSCC to complete their nomination forms.
   2. Forms will then be submitted by Cllr Danaher in person, to be checked by the Electoral Officer, Torfaen County Borough Council on 22nd March.
   3. Nomination period opened on 18th March and will close on 4th April. If anyone would like a form to nominate themselves outside of the current membership of the community council, please email [clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk) and arrangements can be made to send an elections pack by return.
8. **Planning Applications**

None

1. **Any other business**
   1. An application for grant funding to support a member of the community at the over 60’s Cricket World Cup was agreed in the amount of £150. Mike Holcombe has played cricket for Wales at this age group and has been selected for the GB team that will participate in September 2022 in Australia.
2. **Correspondence** 
   1. Noted

**The date of the next Monthly Meeting – 11th April 2022**

Meeting Closed at 8:40pm

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.

Mae dogfen yma yn ar gael mewn gwefan ni [www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk) Mae copi or ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.

Cysylltwch a ni ar y rhif ffôn neu drwy e-bost isod.

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