**Ponthir Community Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Held on 9th May 2022**

PSCC, Ponthir

@ 7.30pm

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

Clerk: Karen Kerslake

**Members of the public present**

* 1. Karl Gauden, newly elected Torfaen Councillor covering Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa
  2. Alison Duke, resident
  3. John Parfitt, PSCC

1. **Apologies:** P Matthews
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** – 11th April 2022
   1. Proposed Cllr S Bailey
   2. Seconded Cllr L. Ryan-Scales
3. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting**
   1. Speeding in Ponthir – No further update on equipment upgrade but designs for replacement speed monitoring and alert equipment has been sent to Torfaen Highways Department.
   2. Update on work with David Leach, Head of Communities, TCBC – Meeting is to be arranged with the Chief Officer, Neighbourhood Services at Torfaen and residents of Oaklands in relation to oak trees and their management. Date to be publicised once finalized.

Schedule of works for drains to be considered over the next few months with a view to determining what needs to be done and how this can be progressed.

* 1. Update on work with PSCC – Work continues on schedule at the sports ground and completion is expected in the next few months. For other items of discussion around future events and provision for wet weather events, see item 7. More information on plans and timescales will be sent out in the near future.
  2. Memorial Stone in Ponthir Church for remembrance. – Unanimous decision to purchase the memorial stone. Price is in excess of £3500.
  3. Benches – Awaiting permission from Torfaen to place benches on grassed land.
  4. Survey for future Christmas Lights – Survey of lampposts in Ponthir/Lower Llanfrechfa is complete. Awaiting costings.
  5. Hall Committee update – none received
  6. General Contractor – Cllr Ryan-Scales has approached the contractor and will remind him that we are awaiting contact.
  7. Newsletter – To be distributed end of May. Clerk to circulate routes.
  8. Playground fencing – Playground and it’s fencing is not the responsibility of Ponthir Community Council. Any fencing in need of repair has now been agreed with Torfaen County Borough Council and they will follow through with works in the coming weeks.

1. **Provision for Future Community Events**
   1. Marquees – Unanimous agreement by those present to purchase two marquees which can be used for outdoor events and zipped together to form more flexible wet weather provision.
   2. Inflatable outdoor screens – Further information is needed on cost and choice available.
   3. Support for children’s event on 4th June – Jubilee

Preparation for the Jubilee celebrations has been expanded and Alison Duke, Ponthir resident, explained to the Council plans for a children’s event on 4th June as part of the celebration. Although the council cannot give support in relation to physical assistance, an offer of financial support to the value was agreed by all present in the sum of £200. To be advertised via Council social media channels

* 1. Future joint working with PSCC around events – Preparations will start in the near future around provision of Christmas events in the village. All suggestions from members of the public welcome.

1. **Finance and Accounts**
2. Balance of Direct Plus Account – Noted
3. Cheques/Online payments made - Noted
4. To Note Standing Order/Direct Debit Payments – Noted
5. **Planning Applications**

None

1. **Any other business**
   1. Cllr Karl Gauden attended the meeting to set out how he intends to work over the next five years. Cllr Gauden will be attending Ponthir Community Council meetings on a quarterly basis and will be receiving copies of the Council’s minutes. He will be in the community as much as possible and is planning to attend local group events and regular social gatherings but is contactable on 07739049610 should any resident need to contact him.
   2. Jubilee commemorative coins for pupils of Ponthir school.

Council collectively took the decision to allow commemorative coins to be purchased for each pupil at the school up to the value of £5. Cllr Ryan-Scales is to source the coins.

* 1. Ponthir school parking

There is congestion at the school each morning caused by the amount of vehicles either parking or dropping off children, exacerbated by the amount of cars already parked in the area. This presents a risk for children and school governors have acknowledged this. Council have been asked to look at this with a view to encouraging Torfaen to restrict parking and dropping off in the area to preserve the safety of pupils. Alternative parking will be sourced as part of the discussion.

* 1. Following on from the application some months ago to install a 5G mast, some residents have highlighted to councillors the problems with signal in the area. The Council acknowledges there is a need for more connectivity in the area and has already suggested six alternative sites. The matter is now with Welsh Government for appeal.
  2. Lease of the storage facility used by the Council is due to expire at end of August. Price has increased by £20 per annum. Council agreed to keep the facility regardless of the price increase.

1. **Correspondence** 
   1. Noted

**The date of the next Monthly Meeting 13th June 2022 at PSCC**

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm

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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