**Ponthir Community Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Held on 8th July 2024**

Ponthir Village Hall

@ 7pm

**Present:**  Cllr I Danaher (Chair), Cllr A Lang, Cllr L Ryan-Scales and Cllr R Morgan.

**Also present: Clerk to the Council -** Mrs C Danaher, D Leech TCBC and Resident Mr G Powell.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr P Matthews, Cllr P Buffery and Cllr M Leighton. Apologies accepted, proposed Cllr Morgan, seconded Cllr Lang.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**  None.
3. **To consider matters raised by members of the public:** Mr G Powell, Oaklands resident attended to express his concern about the new drainage at the PSCC. Mr Powell, along with other residents have approached the Council with the same concerns. Are pipes and their position in line with planning consent? When does the Club propose to clear their gullies which is within their boundary? Mr Powell, who has been a long-standing resident of 60 years, also expressed concern about the state of the road in Oaklands, which has not been resurfaced during this period. Last year it was dug up and patched for both electricity and telecoms work and has also seen a significant increase in outsider parking. **Action: -** Clerk to contact TCBC, Cllr Gauden and the PSCC regarding these concerns.
4. **Presentation Blaenavon Town Council:** Due to non-availability, this item has been postponed to September.
5. **TCBC Dave Leech:** Chair asked questions of DL concerning the Charter between TCBC and the Town and Community Councils of Torfaen. These covered consultation, delegation and responsiveness. Additional training around such issues as planning will not be mandatory for Ponthir CC members. Members will be encouraged to take a more active role in TCBC decision making. Key decision reports will be shared with the Clerk. Discussion took place regarding a possible Youth Councillor; this will be on the agenda for our meeting in September. TCBC would aid with Code of Conduct and Ethics matters, along with Council Tax principles. DL also congratulated Council on the publication of their recent community newsletter. **Action: -** Clerk to email DL with questions raised, and agenda final sign off for the Charter at our September meeting.
6. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting:** 10th June 2024.

Proposed – Cllr Ryan-Scales

Seconded – Cllr Lang

Minutes were signed and dated by Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

1. **Matters arising:**
   1. **Email:** Cllr Lang to provide a new email address within the next week.
   2. **Newsletter:** Chair circulated copies of the latest newsletter and Clerk confirmed delivery had started. Cllr Lang kindly offered to deliver newsletters in Lower Llanfrechfa.
   3. **Audit / Finance:** Quarterly Bank reconciliation signed by Cllr Ryan-Scales. Cllr Lang offered to raise a template to ease analysis of expenses against budget for the Clerk. The Clerk outlined the need for an additional signatory for our bank account. **Action: -** Clerk to contact Cllr Leighton (Vice Chair) to complete forms.
   4. **Councillor Expenses:** Clerk has received all Councillors intentions regarding this.

* 1. **Flashing speed signs update:** Clerk has chased TCBC again and will continue to do so in this regard. Signs they were promised to be in place by the beginning of June.
  2. **Marquees:** In Cllr Leightons absence, Clerk to check on progress with Cllr Leighton and the PSCC Chair.

1. **To consider and discuss items:**
   1. **PSCC:** Still on track to open fully in September. Council have again been asked about parking provision, with

one Oaklands resident looking into “residents only” parking with TCBC. Clerk confirmed that PSCC envisage

their new car park will be functional in August, with hope that this will alleviate some of the parking problems.

Drainage concerns covered in point 3 above.

* 1. **Star Villas Woodland:** Anti-social behaviour continuing, and Clerk has been assisting residents of Star Villas with

this matter. Councilwas also made aware of dangerous behaviour at the Ponthir railway crossing by youths

c. **Village Hall sign for Council:** Members were receptive to the idea of a small sign on the outside wall of the hall,

advertising our meeting place. **Action: -** Clerk to contact Hall Chair and obtain a quote for the cost.

1. **Finance and Accounts:** Balance and all transactions noted.
2. **Planning:** None
3. **Correspondence received:** Noted.
4. **Committee Reports:**

**Ponthir CIW Primary School:** Cllr Ryan-Scales confirmed that the interviews for the new Deputy Headteacher did not

result in an appointment and the position would be re advertised in March. Chair and Clerk to attend leavers assembly on

July 16th to present the Stuart Bailey Cup. Cllr Bailey’s brother sadly can’t attend. School has now obtained funding from

TCBC for their new fence.

**Torfaen County Association of Local Councils:** No meeting.

**Gwent Valleys Partnership:** No meeting.

**Ponthir Village Hall: T**heHall has now obtained further grant funding of £40k to replace the kitchen and complete other

internal work such as decorating and replacing furniture. It is hopeful that solar panels can be installed by December.

**PSCC**: See item 8a.

**Mick Morris Memorial Sporting Trust:** No report.

**The date of the next Meeting is Monday 9th September 2024 at Ponthir Village Hall at 7pm.**

Meeting Closed at 20:15

**This document is available on our website**.

**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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