

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th March, 2018 At 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre, New Radnor

1. Present: Cllrs. R. Harris (Chairman), J. Hodge (Vice-Chairman), E. Blackman, M. Cooper, N. Dodman, K. Williams, E. Giordano.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Clerk; County Cllr. M. Jones.

2. Apologies: None.

3. Declarations of Interest:

Personal Only: None.

Personal and Prejudicial: None.

4. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February, 2018 were approved as circulated and duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Harris.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

5.1 Review of Town and Community Council Sector: Engagement event postponed until 19th March. Members encouraged to attend.

5.2 Home Support Project, East Radnor: Members were provided with a copy of the scheme leaflet and asked to publicise the scheme as much as possible.

5.3 Track to Water Break Its Neck Car Park: Natural Resources Wales and the County Council had agreed to discuss arrangements for repairs.

6. Finance:

6.1 Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price (salary final quarter)	£632.36
HM Revenue & Customs (tax on above)	£158.00
Mrs T. A. Price (expenses)	£21.60
Upper Bridge Enterprises (website hosting)	£175.20
XMA Ltd (ink toner)	£151.74

A letter had been received from Wales Air Ambulance requesting a donation towards a children's air ambulance appeal. This was agreed to be a very worthwhile cause and it was agreed to donate £500 as a one-off contribution.

Wales Air Ambulance (Children's Air Ambulance Appeal) £500.00

6.2 Budget Update/Review of Reserves: The Clerk outlined the items that had come in under budget for the year – election costs £380, (balance to allocated elections reserve) and Member training £320, (balance to allocated future training/travel costs for Members. A new allocated reserve was added - £900 towards future replacement of village benches.

Allocated reserves presently held were therefore –

Possible Election (due to Cllr resignations)		500
Future Main Election Costs to set aside		380
Christmas Lights etc		179
Donations		143
	for touch	
Radnor Valley Rainbows	screen	500
New Bench Fund		900
Councillor Travel/Training		320
Contingency/Cash Flow/Emergencies		500

Projected end of year balance approximately £5600. After allocated reserves this was approximately £400 over the minimum three months expenditure (£1758) recommended by the Good Governance guide. Over 2018-19 opportunities for further projects would be considered for this amount and if not utilised it would be considered for use towards the following year's budget when setting the precept for 2019-20.

6.3 Risk Assessment: Annual review and approval of risk assessment: Approved as circulated and duly signed by the Chairman.

6.4 Review of Asset Register: Approved as circulated. Members to check ownership and condition of the various village benches.

6.5 Bank Balance: The bank balance of £7225.73 at 1st March was noted.

7. Correspondence/General:

7.1 Consultation on Changes to mobile post office opening hours: The reduced hours were discussed and it was agreed that no comment be made.

7.2 Review of Town & Community Council Sector February Newsletter: Noted.

7.3 Kidney Wales Foundation Walk for Life Information: Noted.

7.4 Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine Information: Noted.

7.5 Review of County Electoral Arrangements for the County of Powys - Draft Proposals: Members were concerned to learn the proposed arrangements for the Old Radnor County Ward with New Radnor being joined with Llanbadarn Fawr and Penybont. Old Radnor would be joined with Gladestry and Painscastle. It was agreed that the present Ward was the best arrangement given the strong community ties, links to the villages via A44 and the present area being served by the same Primary School. It was also noted that the change resulted in very little difference in the electorate to be represented therefore there was no real justification for the change. Both the Old Radnor and New Radnor communities look to towns on the English/Welsh border for services and amenities. Penybont, Glaschw and Llanbadarn Fawr look into Mid Wales, to Llandrindod Wells, Builth Wells and Newtown. It was therefore considered more sensible that the Ward Councillor covers the area group linked by their main amenities and facilities i.e. New Radnor and Old Radnor Community Council areas to remain as one Ward.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation.

7.6 Radnor Valley Resource and Amenity Centre: County Councillor Jones explained that due to the closing of the Little Dragons the Centre income had dropped considerably and the building was now only used by the football club for fortnightly matches. Reserves could be used for a year to cover costs while additional uses were sought. The next meeting was on 23rd April and Cllrs. Dodman and Giordano would attend.

County Councillor Jones left the meeting at this point.

7.7 Creating a Parliament for Wales: Consultation: - Members were concerned at the increased costs for the proposed additional Members and felt that this money could be better spent on maintaining local services. It was agreed that the Clerk respond stating this and also stating that it felt that job sharing was likely to be problematic with the electorate being unsure who to contact.

8. Planning:

8.1 Planning Application Decisions: No decisions this month.

8.2 Planning Applications: The following applications were considered –

P/2018/0212, Grid Ref: 319549.76/259766.06 for LBC: Internal alterations to include changes to wall structures and plastering; External alterations to include replacement of timber doors, re-leading of chimney and re-painting of windows and all associated works at Vron Farmhouse, New Radnor: Resolved no comment be made.

8.3 Draft comments for presentation to the Planning Appeal for Hendy Wind Farm: Cllr. Dodman was confirmed as the representative for the Council and it was noted that he would also be representing Penybont Community Council. He summarised the main points of his speech to the Appeal Hearing including lack of consultation with graziers, land owners not being consulted on areas included within the planning permission and the reinforcement of the lack of communication with the community generally. The original comments from the Community Council would have been supplied to the Inspector from the County Council. The hearing was due to commence on 13th March.

9. Village Matters

9.1 Radnor Ranges: Cllrs. Hodge and Harris had met with the Ranges. The issue of the non-flying of warning flags had been discussed and this had been confirmed as an oversight due to the Manager being absent. The flag had been put up on the second day as soon as this had been realised. New directional signs were now up on the bridleway.

9.2 Road Closed Signs, Fforest Inn during recent snow: Cllr. Giordano reported issues with the road closure not being signposted early enough leading to large lorries having to reverse long distances along a road that was only single track due to the snow. This had led to potentially very dangerous situations. The Clerk was asked to request that signs be placed much earlier and Crossgates and New Radnor were suggested as locations.

9.3 Community Help: The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. W. Lloyd, Ms S. Simcock and Mr. D. Ray to thank them for all their efforts during the recent severe weather, clearing snow, obtaining supplies and delivering groceries. A letter also to be sent to the Fforest Inn for accommodating stranded drivers.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th April, 2018, 2018.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm.