

## NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

At 7.30 p.m.

Meeting held via video conferencing by virtue of the  
(coronavirus)(meetings)(Wales) Regulations 2020

**21/38. Present:** Cllrs. R. Harris (Chairman), J. Hodge (Vice-Chairman), E. Blackman, E. Giordano, N. Dodman, K. Williams.

**In Attendance:** Mrs T. Price, Clerk. County Councillor M. Jones. Reece Simmons, Community Broadband Officer.

**21/39. Apologies:** None.

#### **21/40. Declarations of Interest:**

*Personal Only:*

*Cllr. Dodman - Agenda Item Byway LM1268 - part of route forms access to Councillor's property.*

*Cllr. R. Harris re. agenda Item Byway LM1268 - uses route for access to farmland.*

*Personal and Prejudicial: None.*

Prior to the start of the meeting Members received a short update on the possibilities for a community broadband project for the New Radnor area from Reece Simmons, Community Broadband Officer. Unfortunately Broadway Partners had been unable to attend but would do so in October. Mr. Simmons also answered questions on the possibilities for a broadband connection to the Village Hall to enable the Council to hold hybrid meetings (face to face and video conferencing).

**21/41. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 were approved as circulated and duly signed by the Chairman.

#### **21/42. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

21/42.1 Radnor Ranges: Cllr. Harris reported that he had spoken to the owner and was expecting a date to meet very soon. There had been no reply from the County Council on the planning concerns raised. The Clerk would chase this up.

21/42.2 Defibrillator: The Clerk reported that the pads and batteries in the defibrillator at the Kiosk had both needed changing and that the ambulance service had sent replacements very quickly and she had installed these.

#### **21/43. Finance:**

21/43.1 Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price (salary 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter)	£715.20
HM Revenue & Customs	£178.80
One Voice Wales	£77.00 (annual membership)
Mrs T.A. Price (expenses)	£75.17

21/43.2 Budget Update to end of September: Members noted the budget information received. The Clerk pointed out two amounts allocated for donations that had not yet been paid – for the Carnival (£150) and for the Snooker Club (£100). Cllr. Williams reported that the Carnival was considering holding a small event shortly and so it was agreed that the money be kept in place and available for the time being. Cllr. Blackman thought the Snooker Club was having only minimal expenses at present and had benefitted from a covid related payment in 2020. It was agreed to consider re-allocating that £100 in October.

21/43.3 Clerk's attendance at SLCC Conference and associated bursary application: Agreed at a full cost of £45.

21/43.4 Email of thanks from St. Michael's Church: Noted.

**21/44. Correspondence/General:**

21/ 44.1 PACE Update: Cllr. Dodman reported on recent activity in the group and the need to get more Town and Community Councils involved. He also felt that there was a need to consider how best to involve the New Radnor community in the various Group initiatives. The full Minutes had been circulated to all.

21/44.2 Dental Provision in Powys: Members noted the replies from James Evans MS and Jane Dodds MS (as previously circulated), both of whom were pressing for action on the matter. The Clerk reported that there was an article on the issue in the local newspaper on dentistry in Llandrindod Wells. No further action at present.

21/44.3 Review of the Remuneration Framework for Community and Town Councils: The Clerk summarised the consultation and the proposed changes. Resolved no comment be made.

21/44.4 Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill: Members considered the request for support and agreed that Cllr. Dodman seek further information before they took any decision. Item deferred to the October meeting.

21/44.5 Review of County Council Wards, Decision of Welsh Government: Members noted the decision of Welsh Government with New Radnor remaining with Old Radnor and remaining as one County Ward.

21/44.6 Draft local elections (principal areas) (Wales) rules 2021 and draft local elections (communities) (Wales) rules 2021: Consultation: The Clerk summarised the proposed changes including online nomination papers/process, changes to the regulations on descriptions within the nomination paper, self-nomination with just a seconder and an obligation to declare membership of a political party. Resolved no comment be made.

21/44.7 Welsh Government Consultation on local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation: Members discussed this at length and the Clerk summarised the paper for information. Members shared the concerns of Welsh Government over the number of empty or second homes and agreed to support the proposals suggesting a maximum Council Tax premium of 200% and agreeing with the suggested tightening of rules regarding self-catering 'business' properties registering for business rates and thus often small business rate relief.

21/44.8 Update Guidance from Ombudsman for Wales (Code of Conduct). Previously circulated via email): Noted.

**21/45. Village Matters:**

21/45.1 Minor Village Matters: The following matters were raised –

- Small Tree Saplings growing out of Cornewall Lewis Memorial: Cllrs. Harris and Williams to deal with these.
- Wall, High Street: Again damaged. The Clerk was asked to discuss possible protection of the wall in the form of bollards etc.

21/45.2 Dark Skies Update: The Clerk reported that she had had no further contact from the other Councils. Cllr. Dodman would see if he could contact the Councils and progress the project.

21/45.3 Broadband Project Update: Deferred to October due to the absence of Broadway Partners.

21/45.4 Old Station Caravan Park: Members formally noted the reply from the Planning Officer indicating that matters were being rectified.

21/45.5 Football Field etc: Cllr. Dodman had contacted the landowner and understood that the Club was aware of the need to seek planning advice re. change of use/access changes. Agreed no further action at present.

21/45.6 Welsh Water Issues: Cllr. Dodman reported on concerns raised over the Summer regarding the capacity of the sewerage system in the village. The Clerk had checked this with Welsh Water and the company had confirmed that there was adequate capacity in the village. The resident who had raised the issue had not made any further contact with Cllr. Dodman so the matter was considered closed.

21/45.7 Queen's Platinum Jubilee: It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Carnival Committee to ask if it was considering organising anything for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. If so Members would consider allocating funds towards the event.

21/45.8 Potholes/Road Surface, Track to Water Break its Neck Car Park: Cllr. Dodman reported that work was due to commence shortly. The track should remain accessible albeit with some short delays.

21/45.9 Speeding Motorbikes on A44: Members considered the problems caused by this, particularly at weekends. Previous reports to GoSafe had not resulted in adequate action and it was agreed that the Clerk write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask that urgent action be taken. The Clerk was also asked to find out if traffic cars needed to be visible to motorists.

21/45.10 Traffic Management, Village Entrance (from Kinnerton): Members noted the new signs and road markings that had been ordered.

21/45.11 Fly Tipping, School Lane: Members reported grass cuttings being dumped by the edge near to the play park. The Clerk was asked to report this to the County Council.

Cllr. M. Jones left the meeting at this point due to his position on the County Council Planning Committee.

#### **21/46. Planning:**

21/46.1 Planning Application Decisions: No decisions this month.

21/46.2 Planning Applications: The following applications were considered –

21/1061/FUL Grid Reference: E:321601 N: 260804 Proposal: Moving gateway and alteration of line of footpath Site Address: New Gateway At School Lane, School Lane, New Radnor. Confirmed no objections raised.

21/1564/DIS Grid Ref: E: 315620 N: 260079 Proposal: Discharge of condition 38A (Bat Protection Plan) attached to planning approval P/2014/0672 (APP/T6850/A/17/3176128) Location: Hendy Wind Farm: Resolved no comment be made. The Clerk was asked to check on the progress on the footpath works suggested for inclusion under the money made available by the developer.

21/46.3 Local Development Plan Update: Cllr. Dodman reported on recent documents updated as supplementary planning guidance – the Newtown Place Plan, Archaeology and the Historic Environment. These were all available online for Members to read.

#### **21/47. Resignation of Cllr. Cooper**

Members noted with regret the resignation of Cllr. Cooper and it was agreed to send a letter of thanks. Members would also arrange a bouquet of flowers. The Clerk would now start the formal process to fill the vacancy.

**21/48. Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 via video conferencing.

Members also considered the options for hybrid meetings and would consider this further in due course with some Members indicating they had no issues with meeting via video conferencing. With a reliable broadband connection be essential there was presently no way that a hybrid meeting could be held and so meetings would need to continue via video conference.

The meeting closed at 9.06 p.m.