

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
Thursday 13th January, 2022
At 7.30 p.m.
Meeting held via Video Conferencing**

21/83. Present: Cllrs. R. Harris (Chairman), J. Hodge (Vice-Chairman), E. Giordano, N. Dodman, K. Williams, C. Newnham.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Clerk. Members of the public.

21/84. Apologies: Cllr. E. Blackman. County Councillor M. Jones.

21/85. Declarations of Interest:

Personal Only: None.

Personal and Prejudicial: None.

Cllr. Harris welcomed Cllr. Newnham to the Council.

Cllr. Newnham duly signed her declaration of acceptance of office on screen and witnessed by all.

21/86. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, 2021 were approved as circulated and duly signed by the Chairman.

21/87. Planning:

21/87.1 Planning Application Decisions: No decisions this month.

21/87.2 Planning Applications: The following application was considered -

21/1997/FUL Grid Reference: E:322181 N: 260488 Proposal: Retrospective change of use of land to playing field for Radnor Valley Football Club (non-profit), siting of temporary structures and engineering works to improve existing access. Resolved to support the application. The Clerk to comment that the Council feels permission will secure the future for a valued facility and resource and is pleased that this valued community group has found a site that enables it to remain local.

21/1861/LBC Grid Reference: E: 323074 N: 260605 Proposal: Listed building consent for internal and external alterations, refurbishment, removal of 20th century store, replacement of modern garage block and back porch infill extension Site Address: Downton House, Walton, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2RD AMENDED PROPOSALS. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/1793/FUL Grid Reference: E: 323074 N: 260605 Proposal: Internal and external alterations, refurbishment, removal of 20th century store, replacement of modern garage block and back porch infill extension Site Address: Downton House, Walton, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2RD. AMENDED PROPOSALS. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/2350/LBC Grid Reference: E:321428 N: 260684 Proposal: Installation of a water source heat pump in an existing outbuilding Site Address: The Grove, Broad Street, New Radnor. Resolved to support the application.

21/87.3 Powys Local Development Plan - Draft Delivery Agreement Consultation: Cllr. Dodman had reviewed the document which dealt with the timetabling of the plan. There were no major concerns but the Clerk was asked to respond reminding the County Council that many small Community Councils did not meet in August and that they also needed to give sufficient time for smaller Councils to consider the large documents.

21/88. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

None to report this month.

21/89. Finance:

21/89.1 Payments: The following payments were approved –
N. Dodman (annual allowance)
J. Hodge (annual allowance)
HM Revenue and Customs
Three Cheques - Total Paid £300.00
HSBC Bank Charges £7.80

21/89.2 Receipts: Powys County Council (final precept instalment) £2543.00
Old Radnor Community Council (cont. twds zoom cost) £38.68

21/89.3 Bank Balance at 31st December, 2021: Noted as £8032.80.

21/89.4 Allocation of the £250 budget for miscellaneous donations: Members considered the applications received over the year for larger organisations which had a local benefit. Cllr. Newnham queried whether the money would be better spent on local charities. The Clerk advised that applications from local organisations should be encouraged by Members so that they could be considered for future budgets. Members noted that donations had been given to a number of local groups both in the current and previous years. Having considered in full the organisations on the agenda it was agreed to increase the allocation to £300 to allow £100 to be given to each of the following -

Hope House Children's Hospice	£100.00
Tenovus Cancer Care	£100.00
Macmillan Cymru	£100.00

21/89.5 Setting of precept 2022-23 and Review of Free and Allocated Reserves:

The Clerk explained the major changes in the draft budget to the current year with amounts being added to cover the full elections in May 2022, the cost of a video conferencing licence, the introduction of bank charges, the allocation of funds towards the Dark Skies Project and the proposed purchase of a Council laptop and associated software.

Members discussed and agreed the proposed additions/changes with a note to be added that an additional £250 be made available from free reserves for the laptop purchase should it be needed. The Clerk would provide more information on software options.

A total budget for 2022-23 was agreed at £10,813.00 with £1500 being met from reserves. This resulted in a precept demand of £9313.00, a Band D equivalent of £39.61.

21/89.6 Change of Bank Update: The Clerk reported that the bank account was now finally open and the HSBC balance would be transferred to it on 17th January. The signatories on the existing account had received their letters to register to authorise payments and the Clerk stressed the need to register urgently so that payments could be made. The Clerk suggested that the remaining Members – Cllrs. Giordano, Williams and Newnham be added as additional signatories and this was agreed. The Clerk would arrange.

21/90. Correspondence/General:

21/90.1 PACE Update: Cllr. Dodman reported on the recent meeting which had been held on 12th January. In particular he drew Member's attention to the home energy audit for which the group had obtained funding. Volunteer Councils/areas were needed to carry out the scheme and at least three volunteers would be needed from each area selected. Those homes having the audit would be asked to pay a nominal charge for the audit. It was agreed not to put forward the New Radnor area.

Cllr. Dodman added that the PACE group had now been recognised by the County Council and would be consulted on climate matters. The Council's Climate Change Officer was however no longer able to attend PACE meetings.

21/91.2 Welsh Tax Acts (Power to Modify) Bill Consultation: Resolved no comment be made.

21/92.3 Boundary Commission Publication of Representations on changes to Parliamentary Constituencies: Noted.

21/93.4 Bullying of Clerks - MP to raise question in Parliament: The Clerk explained the background to the email from Llandrindod Wells Town Council and Members were concerned to hear of the problems experienced by some Clerks and agreed that the Clerk write to Fay Jones MP asking her to support the motion in parliament.

21/91. Village Matters:

21/91.1 Minor Village Matters: The following matters were discussed –

- Rubbish along the A44, particularly in the layby near to Fron Farm: The Clerk would report.
- Need for extra signs to encourage people to pick up after their dogs on Castle Mound: It was thought that there was a sign on the Mutton Dingle entrance but Members were not sure about the other two entrances. Cllr. Williams would check. Cllr. Harris had two spare signs and would place these on the other two entrances if needed.
- Fly-tipping of Grass, School Lane: Cllr. Williams reported that these had not been cleared but had rotted down. The Clerk would report again.
- Discarded Dog Bags, School Lane: Cllr. Williams reported that there were a number dumped under the hedges. Members considered the options and it was agreed that the Clerk purchase signs warning of cctv surveillance to place by the dispensers. A budget of £30 was agreed.
- Refill Wales Water Station: Cllr. Hodge reported that the Town Hall was willing for a tap to be installed there and that there would be no charge for the water supply. Cllr. Hodge would check the details with Refill Wales and attempt to get a quote for the installation of the tap (with internal stop tap to allow to be turned off in Winter).

21/91.2 Dark Skies Update: The Clerk confirmed that Penybont Community Council had allocated £200 from its free reserves towards any costs for the project. Cllr. Dodman confirmed that a brief meeting was to be held before the end of the month with two of the interested Councils. He asked about non Councillors being added to the working group and the Clerk confirmed that this was permissible subject to each Council approving the appointment of those being added.

21/91.3 Broadband Project Update: The Clerk reported that the total number of registrations was now 54. The village shop had helped by handing out leaflets and promoting the scheme and was willing to continue to help as much as possible. Cllr. Hodge agreed to approach the Chair of the Governors to see if the school would re-consider its earlier refusal to be involved with the project and perhaps include details of the scheme in a newsletter. There were a number of options to promote further registrations including emailing current registered persons asking them to try to sign up one further person, house to house delivery of further letters and Members encouraging one or two people each to register. The Clerk had also sent a further press release to the papers and continued to promote the project facebook page. Broadway was able to produce a list of the properties not registered which would help with a targeted approach. The Clerk would also produce a frequently asked questions leaflet for the shop and to place by the town hall broadband banner to try to answer some of the questions being asked by residents.

21/91.4 Speeding on A44: The Clerk reported that as the length of the A44 in question was under the management of the County Council and not a trunk road a decision on the installation of average speed cameras was a County decision and she had emailed the relevant officer at Powys CC to ask. The response was a refusal citing low accident figures and the existence of speed limits along the route meant that the installation of cameras was not possible. Members agreed that the Clerk respond suggesting that the cameras therefore be installed after Walton and before Llanfihangel so avoiding the speed limits. It was also noted that there had on 12th January been a further accident on the route.

Cllr. Williams advised that the removal of the road policing unit in Llandrindod Wells with the nearest units being in Newtown and Brecon meant that visible police patrols were greatly reduced and it was agreed that this point be raised.

Cllr. Harris felt that if there was an accident following the refusal to act then that organisation was at the very least morally responsible and that this should be pointed out.

She was also asked to follow up the previous contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner and with Fay Jones MP and James Evans MS and ask for their further assistance.

21/92. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10th February 2022 via video conferencing.

The meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.

DRAFT