COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE SYCAMORE TREE INN PUBLIC HOUSE ON

TUESDAY OCTOBER 9TH 2012

1. ATTENDANCE

COUNCILLORS: G.W.BATES – CHAIRMAN

E.H.LEWIS– DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

A.J.AUSTIN – TREASURER

MRS. H MACLEHOSE

MRS. J HORTON

W.BELLIN

R.THOMAS

APOLOGIES: B.KENNARD

CLERK: JANE CORWIN

There were no members of the public present

1. Declarations of Interest: none
2. Minutes of the meeting held on September 11th had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor Austin and seconded by Councillor Mrs Horton that they be accepted as a true record. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
3. Matters arising:

The Treasurer reported that the Annual Accounts had been returned by Mazars following the audit. The Notes of Conclusion need to be completed and the Notices of Public Right to View exhibited in the notice board. It was proposed and seconded that the £60 fee to Mazars be paid by the Treasurer.

Councillor Austin reported that Mr Peter Graham Woolard is meeting with officers from the Vale shortly concerning the footpath from the Village Hall to the school.

The Clerk reported that Cowbridge Rotary Club have declined the request for more planting boxes for the village. Councillor A Austin will explore the possibility and costs of having 4 more made locally.

Wetland Area: County Councillor R Thomas reported that the current view is that the wetland area and the well are not owned by the Vale of Glamorgan. Records from the 1970s when the area was part of South Glamorgan are in the county Archives and Councillor E Lewis will pursue enquiries further in case there are earlier records that might shed light on the matter of ownership.

Church Entrance: The Chair reported that he had been in touch with a local welder about the lantern holder and the gate. Refurbishment of the area and the basket would cost in the region of £300. He has asked the Vicar if he could gather a working party to dig a small trench to enable an electrician to install wiring from the porch to the gate. The Vicar is in favour of the plan. The Chair will obtain quotes from electricians for the wiring,

Reserves Policy: The November meeting of the Council will consider the budget for 2013 and will discuss a Reserves Policy at that stage. The December Meeting will determine the Precept for the next year.

Little Hill: The Clerk had circulated the report from the Tree Officer at The Vale about the removal of the dangerous Ash Tree. She has made recommendations about the type of tree to be replanted in the area. The tree has now been removed by Mr Anstee. The Clerk will ask Mr Anstee to survey the rest of the trees on Little Hill, paying particular attention to the smaller Ash at the bottom of the path to determine if that needs to be remove as well or whether surgery to the leaning side might enable it to be preserved, rather than remove. The Clerk will also ask for a quote for the grinding out of the stump of the Ash by the bench as this work would be necessary to enable a replacement tree to be planted.

One Voice Wales: The Clerk and Councillor Mrs Maclehose have now both signed the Declaration of Office following their appointments as Representatives to One Voice Wales.

Footpaths: Councillor R Thomas has spoken to Phil Beamon at The Vale who has confirmed that the path from Church Lane to Spinney Bank is part owned by the Vale and partly owned privately by Kirkbrae House. The path is still overgrown and the Vale has the authority to carry out the necessary work and bill the householder for it if they do not do the work themselves. The Clerk will contact Phil Beamon about this.

Councillor E Lewis has obtained a copy of the plan re St Michael’s Close and the car park area is not owned by the Housing Association but was adopted by The Vale. Again, this has been reported to Phil Beamon who will arrange for the path to be cleared. Councillor Lewis had spent £20 obtaining the plan, Councillor Bellin proposed and the Chair seconded that this sum should be refunded to him by the Treasurer.

Fly Tipping: the Clerk reported that she had reported the recent case of fly tipping to The Vale. Removal of the rubbish is only the responsibility of The Vale if it has been dumped on the verge, not if it is within a field or other area of private property.

Parking: the recent cases of obstructive parking in the village had been reported to The Vale and it was also suggested that the Clerk should bring the issue to the notice of the PCSO who is responsible for the area.

1. Clerk’s Report:

The Clerk reported that she had received the following correspondence:

* A report from the PCSO that there had been no crimes in the village in the previous month
* Minutes of the Vale of Glamorgan Council meeting held on September 26th 2012. These will be kept on file.
* Details of the revised timetable for the Delivery Agreement re the Bridgend Local Development Plan. NOTED
* Details of Community Engagement training from One Voice Wales on October 16th in Bridgend. None of the Councillors were available to attend on this occasion.
* A letter from The Vale conforming the change of name of Sully Community Council to Sully with Lavernock Community Council. NOTED
* The autumn newsletter from Creative Rural Communities which had been circulated to members.
* Information from the Electoral Commission about the forthcoming elections for Police Commissioners
* Safer Vale Open Day- details of this event in Barry were received too late to enable it to be publicised effectively
* One Voice Wales: notice of the AGM on Saturday October 13th had been received. Neither the Clerk nor Councillor Mrs Maclehose are available to attend on this occasion.
* A letter from the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board re the public engagement in how best to deliver specialist hospital services across South Wales. This was circulated to members for consideration and views will be reported at the next meeting.
* Information had been received from Age Concern Wales. Councillor Mrs Horton agreed to pass this on to the Seniors Club.
* The Valeways Walking Programme for the autumn had been received and will be placed in the notice board.

1. Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer reported that balances at the bank were as follows:

Current Account: £1592.79

Deposit Account: £9196.63

The precept payment was received in September.

The Chair passed invoices for grass cutting and strimming work in the village to the Treasurer for payment. Agreement to this was proposed by Councillor Mrs Horton and seconded by Councillor E Austin.

The Treasurer and the Chair will meet shortly to prepare a budget for the next financial year.

1. Any Other Business:

Councillor Bellin reported a conversation with Creative Rural Communities who see opportunities for Lottery aided bids for sports related projects to build on the Olympic legacy. It is likely that bids would have to be in the form of packages from say, Llantwit and the Western Vale rather than lots of small bids from individual villages. It was felt that the Council should see what next year’s budget looks like before considering any further projects.

Wetlands Area: In addition to the comments earlier in the Minutes, the Chair reported that he has spoken to the owner of the land adjacent to the wetlands area and the bridge. Although riparian landowners are responsible for cutting hedges etc on their own land , the land next to the bridge does not appear to be owned by anyone at present. Councillor E Austin will continue to investigate whether the area may be common land or communally owned land.

Councillor Lewis also reported that the Environment Agency have recently cleared the stream and either side of it recently, exposing part of the bridge itself. This has revealed that there are a number of dead trees etc. The Chair will obtain a quote for clearing the area but there are concerns that this might establish a precedent, so will be considered again in the light of the results of Councillor Lewis’s enquiries into the ownership of the land. It was agreed that the likely fee for the enquiries of £60 should be paid, It was also agreed that Councillor Lewis would be reimbursed £20 for the plan already obtained.

Councillor Thomas reported that the Vale has lost a planning appeal lodged by the owner of land in Bonvilston which can now be developed as a site for travellers. A Judicial Review cannot be afforded. There are fears that this will open the floodgates for further such developments, despite public opinion. The previous Local Development Plan is now not being scrapped, despite promises made in the last local elections.

The application to establish a footpath at Hen Cartref is to be pursued, as the existing path is very steep and dogs have to be kept on a lead on it. Councillor Lewis will start to get papers together to support the application. The Coffin Stile into the field is not on the County Treasures List. Councillor Thomas will find out how to get it placed on the list as a further protection against planning applications to build in the field.

Councillor Lewis reported that large lorries on their way to Llandow have been getting stuck at the top of Church Lane. He wondered if it might be possible to have an ‘Unsuitable for HGV lorries’ sign erected on the road. Councillor Thomas will follow this up with Highways.

Councillor E Lewis reported that the website is now up and running. A notice to this effect will be placed in the notice board by the Clerk.

The Chair asked the Clerk to contact the new Vicar, Alan Kettle, who has asked for site of the Electoral Register.

The Clerk will investigate the costs of the purchase of a new laptop.

The Chair has been in contact with One Voice Wales and has received a draft standard contract for the employment of the Clerk. He will circulate this to members for consideration before sending it to the Clerk.

A timesheet for hours worked by the Clerk since June was passed to the Treasurer and it was proposed by Councillor Horton and seconded by Councillor Lewis that this be accepted and payment made by the Treasurer.

1. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday November 13th 2012.

The meeting concluded at 9.00pm

Signed............................................................................................................................

Chairman Colwinston Community Council

Date: ........................................................

Signed............................................................................................................................

Clerk Colwinston Community Council

Date: ......................................................

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