COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 13TH 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 October 8th 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 AND SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD BY THE CHAIRMAN AND THE CLERK
3. Matters arising:

4.1: Peter Graham Woollard is progressing the issue of the footpath from the Village Hall to the School with The Vale.

4.2: Wetland Area: The Vale have done a search on our behalf and confirm that the land has never been registered and the ownership is unknown. Councillor Lewis will visit the county records office to follow this up.

The Chairman has spoken to the hedge cutter and asked for a quote to cut the area but will not pursue this until the ownership is confirmed.

4.3: Councillor Austin has spoken to John Lloyd who will make 4 more flower boxes for the Spring.

4.4: Little Hill: the Clerk reported that she had received the invoice from Colin Anstee for the removal of the dangerous tree and this was passed to the Treasurer for payment. The cost of grinding out the stump would be £170 +VAT, with a further cost of £115 to buy and plant a replacement tree as recommended by The Vale Tree Officer. A report on the condition of the other trees is awaited from Mr Anstee and it is intended to plant the tree in the spring.

4.5: Footpaths: clearance work has now been done on Spinney Bank

The Vale have also carried out work to the Twyn yr Eglwys car park but have not cut back the bushes on the church side of the car park. It was agreed to leave this for now.

4.6: Councillor Thomas passed on contact details to Councillor Lewis to start the process to put the stile at Hen Cartref on the County Treasures List.

4.7: Councillor Lewis reported that he had received an information pack from the Footpaths Officer to register a path across Hen Cartref field. Evidence forms need to be completed about where the path starts and finishes and the usage of the path. It has emerged that at one time the cricket field was just beyond the field and that it was therefore used regularly to access the Cricket Pitch and to get water from the pond for the square. Councillor Lewis will pursue this.

4.8: Councillor Thomas reported that he has spoken to Paul Gay at The Vale about the road signs and that HGV warning signs will be added.

4.9: The Clerk reported that following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. She had purchased a new laptop. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Horton and seconded by Councillor Bellin that she should be reimbursed with the purchase price of £393.98

4.10: Clerk’s Contract: this is being circulated to members.

1. Clerk’s Report

5.1: The Clerk reported that she has received the following correspondence:

 - Further information from Cardiff and The Vale University Health Board re the public consultation on the delivery of specialist hospital services across South Wales. There is a schedule of public meetings which the Clerk will display on the notice board as these have been circulated previously to Councillors. Councillor Mrs Horton reported that there were fears that the Accident and Emergency Department at Bridgend Hospital could be lost as part of the review of specialist services across South Wales. Councillor Lewis said that there was an option to retain it and that the Council should support this. He will draft and circulate a letter to this effect.

 - Boundary Commission for Wales have sent a notice of publication of proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales. These are available on line at [www.bccomm-wales.gov.uk](http://www.bccomm-wales.gov.uk)

 - Information from Play Wales, including a magazine and invitation to join the organisation. This was passed to Councillor Mrs Horton for the Village Hall Committee

 - One Voice Wales Autumn Newsletter had been received

 - Llangollen International festival had requested financial support for 2013. It was agreed to let this lie.

 - Letter from the Rural Vale Police and Community Consultative Panel, inviting the appointment of a representative to the Consultative Panel. It was suggested that Councillor Kennard might be interested in this role and the Clerk will approach him.

 - One Voice Wales letter advising that a Climate Change Adaptation Survey will be sent round shortly

 - Notice of a petition concerning Chinese Lanterns. It was not felt that the Council wished to sign up to this.

 - Letter from The Vale Highways Departmentt concerning the Big Fill project.. This is a campaign to fill potholes. Councils and members of the public are invited to send in details of areas that need attention. It was agreed to prepare a list of potholes for the next meeting as Colwinston is on the schedule for the Spring.

 - A notice from HMRC concerning Real Time Information. This was passed to the Treasurer

 - Minutes and Agenda from One Voice Wales for the meeting to be held on 19/11/12 in Cowbridge. Councillor Mrs Maclehose will attend.

 - The invoice from Mr Anstee for the tree work on Little Hill had been discussed earlier. It was proposed by Councillor Mr Lewis and seconded by Councillor Mrs Horton that the invoice be passed to the Treasurer for payment

 - Details of the Strategic Improvement Plan for 2012-13 from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service had been received and circulated.

- The Clerk reported that she had attended a One Voice Wales training course on Ethical Issues/ Code of Conduct on November 8th in Barry. Councillor Mrs Maclehose is attending the same course shortly.

- 2 Surveys had been completed on Training Needs and Fair trade Initiatives.

- A request had been received from Julie Lloyd for a £75 donation towards the cost of sending Christmas shoeboxes abroad. It was agreed that a donation of £50 would be made as in previous years

- The Clerk had visited Rev Alan Kettle concerning the Electoral Roll for Colwinston.

- Updates to the Ombudsman for Wales casebook had been received and circulated.

- There was a note form the democratic and Scrutiny Services Office concerning a recent presentation on CRB checks to the Community Liaison Committee. Councillor Mrs Horton then reported on the time schedule for a new charter as she is a Community Liaison Representative. Councillor Bellin will also attend meetings.

1. Clerk’s Timesheet

The Clerk had previously circulated information obtained from OVW re salary payments for Clerks which confirms that HMRC require Clerks to be paid through the PAYE system. The recent timesheet for the period to 30/9/12 will be paid on this basis by the treasurer.

1. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer reported that the balances in the council’s bank accounts stand at:

Current Account: £1312.79

Deposit Account: £9196.63

The Treasurer requested that £500 be transferred from the deposit to the current account to cover payments sanctioned during this meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

1. Budget for 2013

8.1: The precept for 2013 must be agreed at the Council meeting in December, as requested by The Vale. It is currently 12p which brings in an income of £3278 per annum. The Council usually also receives £450 from the Christmas Fund from the Vale. The Chairman wants Revenue Expenditure to be balanced by income in future years. Copies of the Revenue account for the 2012-13 financial year were circulated, which show a predicted shortfall at the end of March 2013 of £1508.

8.2: For next year a 14p rate would produce a budget with a shortfall of £651 while a 15p rate would reduce this to £37. To cover the shortfall completely would need a 16.5p precept which is a 40% increase over the current rate.

8.3: The Capital account for this year shows nothing on legal costs or the path to the school but includes expenditure on the Phone Box on the Green. The path to the school expenditure of £4000 is likely to be incurred in 2013-14. This expenditure plus the ordinary items of expenditure would reduce the cash held at the Bank to £4770 by the end of March 2014, minus the shortfall discussed above which would depend on the precept agreed.

8.4: At the next meeting, Councillors need to decide what the precept should be and what the Reserve figure should be – should it be the equivalent of 6 months or 12 months normal expenditure? Six months was felt to be a reasonable figure but this will be decided next month.

8.5: Councillor Lewis commented that the Council should manage the deficit and aim by 31.3.2017 to have a balanced budget where income will match expenditure but where big projects will be unaffordable.

8.6: The Clerk was asked to find out if the Precept could be set at a sum of X plus 0.5p, instead of a round figure.

1. Any Other Business

9.1: Fly Grazing; Councillor Thomas advised that the horse catcher employed by The Vale lives in Ponypridd which makes instant response to this problem difficult. All horses should be chipped and passported but the horses in question have not got either of these things which makes tracing ownership difficult as well. The Vale is now acting more swiftly and have people on duty at weekends to respond to reports of fly grazing. The car park at the Village Hall is now kept chained.

9.2 Councillor Mrs Maclehose reported that she was aware from OVW papers that funding for children’s playgrounds may dry up shortly. This is the responsibility of the Village Hall committee. Repairs to the field will be necessary after Bonfire Night.

9.3: The Chairman is currently the Minor Authorities representative on the Governing Body of St David’s School in Colwoinston. Following the closure of the school in Llandow some years ago, it was agreed that the two Councils would alternate the role every 4 years but Llandow have declined to take up their right to nominate a Governor on the last few occasions. The Chairman’s current term ended in September and the Clerk was asked to contact Llandow to ask if they wish to take up their right to make a nomination on this occasion.

9.4: The Church Gate: The Chairman recapped the history of the damage to the gate. The perimeter wall of the Churchyard was repaired and repointed recently and the question of repairs to the Gate was discussed then but nothing was done about it. Reverend Kettle is keen that this should be rectified. Although The Vale has a pot of money for Church repairs, it might be possible for this project to be undertaken without recourse to that fund, which requires match funding etc. The Chairman estimated that the total cost of repairs would be around £1000, to include the welding work necessary, the purchase of a lantern and the digging of a trench to allow an electrical supply to be installed. Reverend Kettle is confident that he can organise a working party to dig the trench and there has been a private donation of an actual lantern. The welder has quoted £300 to repair the gate and install it and an electrician will supply and fit the lantern for an additional £210 (plus VAT). The installation of a working lantern would significantly improve the lighting in that area of the Village.

9.: Councillor Lewis reported that he had been made aware of Colwinston’s status as a Blessed or Thankful Village and wondered if this could be commemorated either by additional wording on the Village signs or in some way on the Church Gate at the same time as the work proposed above is carried out. He will research this further. A Blessed or Thankful Village is one where all the men who fought in the First World War returned home safely. There are only 3 in Wales and there are 52 such villages in Great Britain and Wales.

9.6: The Chairman proposed an initial budget of £300 towards the total of £510 for this project and this was agreed.

1. The next meeting of the Community Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday December 11th 2012.

SIGNED……………………………………………………………………………….

Chairman Colwinston Community Council

Date: …………………..

SIGNED……………………………………………………………………………….

Clerk Colwinston Community Council

Date: ……………………