COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

TUESDAY DECEMBER 11TH 2012

1. ATTENDANCE

COUNCILLORS: G.W.BATES – CHAIRMAN

E.H.LEWIS– DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

A.J.AUSTIN – TREASURER

B.KENNARD

MRS. H MACLEHOSE

MRS. J HORTON

W.BELLIN

APOLOGIES: R.THOMAS

CLERK: JANE CORWIN

There was one member of the public present

1. Declarations of Interest: none
2. Minutes of the meeting held on November 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 AND SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD BY THE CHAIRMAN AND THE CLERK
3. Matters arising:

4.1: School Governor Post: the Clerk reported that she had contacted the Clerk of Llangan Community Council re the vacancy and that they may have someone who is interested. The Chairman has been asked to provide information on the work involved, time commitment etc and will contact Llangan himself to discuss this.

4.2: Councillor Kennard has agreed to be the representative on the Police Liaison committee.

4.3: Councillor Lewis has not yet been to the County Records Office to pursue the matter of the ownership of the land surrounding the bridge but will do so shortly.

4.4: Little Hill: it was agreed to commission the stump grinding and replanting in the Spring. Councillor Maclehose questioned the cost quoted for the replanting of a new tree and it was agreed that this would be looked into again when the planting season had arrived and that the possibility of the planting itself being done by a working party should be pursued at that time.

Mr Anstee has submitted an additional report on the other Ash trees on Little Hill, plus estimates for the work he has recommended. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Anstee and ask for the quotation to be broken down further into the specific jobs and also to contact the Tree Officer at The Vale to seek her advice. The possibility of Ash Die Back Disease is a particular concern as the Council would not want to carry out work that then became rendered pointless if the disease spread to this area. Consent would be needed for any further works, so the Clerk will ask the tress Officer if she would be able to visit Little Hill and assess the situation before any further decisions are taken.

4.5: Councillor Lewis has written to Mr P Thomas about placing the stile at Hen Cartref on the County Treasures list.

4.6: Councillor Lewis is progressing the completion of the necessary forms about footpath usage which will need to be submitted as evidence with the application to have a public footpath registered across Hen Cartref field.

4.8. Councillor Lewis reported that two new signs are now in place warning HGV lorries about access to the village. The Clerk was asked to let Councillor Thomas know about this and to ask him to pass the Council’s thanks on to Paul Gay for his very prompt response to the original request.

4.9: A copy of the draft contract for the Clerk has been circulated to Councillors.

4.10: Cardiff and Vale Health Board: the Chair has informed all concerned that she has written to the MP and has also had a meeting with the new Chief Executive about the reorganisation of specialist hospital services across Soth Wales. Alun Cairns will also be contacting the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Board as well

Councillor Maclehose went to the public exhibition/ consultation meeting in Cowbridge about the proposals. She felt that the questionnaire given to people attending was loaded in favour of the preferred outcome, including the building of a new Critical Care Centre in Cwmbran. Councillors felt that there was already excess capacity at other locations in South Wales, so questioned the need to build a new facility from scratch.

The suggested closure of A and E facilities in Bridgend would have a detrimental impact on Vale residents and would worsen outcomes because initial treatment times would be delayed by journey times to either Cardiff or Swansea. Concern was also expressed about the Ambulance services in The Vale which are already under pressure.

Comments on the proposals are due by December 19th. The Clerk was asked to draft a response in consultation with Councillor Lewis and to circulate it to Alun Cairns, Jane Hutt, Andrew RT Davies and David Melding as well as to the Chair of the Cardiff and Vale Health Board and the consultation organisers themselves.

4.11: The Clerk reported that she had received a survey on Climate Change Adaptation but had not yet completed this.

4.12: The Big Fill: some work has already been done in and around the village but there are still two big potholes on Twmpath Lane and on the road into the village via Crack Hill – on the left hand side by the 30MPH sign. The Clerk will report these.

4.13: Fly Grazing: the Clerk will place the notice about the meeting in Cowbridge on this subject in the Notice Board and will attend the meeting herself on December 18th.

4.14: The Church Gate: this has now been repaired, rehung and repainted. The arch above has been repaired and the lantern is now in place. The power supply has not yet been connected and this will be done in the New Year. The Chairman passed an invoice for £300 for the welding etc to the Treasurer for payment.

4.15: Thankful/Blessed Village: The Vicar is interested in recognising this in some way and Councillor Lewis has raised the matter with Councillor Thomas and asked him to approach The Vale about this, especially in view of the anniversary of the First World War in 2014. An additional plate on the village sigs might be possible. Research is also need as to whether the correct term is actually Thankful or Blessed. It was confirmed that there is already a Roll of Honour of those men who served in WW1 in the Church Porch.

1. Clerk’s Report:

The Clerk reported that she had received the following correspondence:

* The Agenda for the meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Council to be held on December 5th and the Minutes form the meeting held on September 26th.
* A request for financial support from the All Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline towards the recruitment of volunteers for the new Telephone Helpline. Regretfully, it was agree to let this request lie.
* Letter from Colin Anstee, tree surgeon, as previously discussed
* Notice of a Climate Change Adaptation Survey
* Notice of Consultation on the Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan 2013-17
* Notice of a meeting called by Alun Cairns MP re fly grazing as previously noted
* Notice of the Christmas Cash grant from The Vale – although this was received late, the administrator at The Vale agreed to make the £450 grant available regardless. The grant should be paid to us shortly.
* A report from the PCSO for the area that there had been no crimes reported in the previous month.
* A report on the Severn Barrage consultations
* The following documents have been circulated to Councillors by email:

an update on Marine Conservation Zones

a bulletin on the Sustainable Bill

a copy of the Press Release from the Welsh Affairs Committee on evidence submitted to the Silk Commission

the November Newsletter from the Boundary Commission for Wales

the Annual Review from Keep Wales Tidy

1. Treasurer’s Report:

Balances at the Bank as at 11/12/2 were as follows;

Current Account: £ 895.11 credit

Deposit Account: £ 8174.63 credit

The Treasurer reported that HSBC had carried out a requested transfer of funds from the deposit account to the current account the wrong way round, resulting in a temporary overdraft on the current account. This has now been rectified.

1. Budget for 2013:

7.1: A paper on this subject had been circulated and discussed at the Council’s November meeting. It is now necessary to decide on the precept for 2013-14 and to determine a Reserves policy.

7.2: The Council’s internal auditor had suggested that the Council should hold reserves of 50% of the annual spend and it was agreed that this was a sensible level to aim for, alongside the achievement of a balanced budget. The likely additional expenditure on the trees on Little Hill will significantly reduce the existing balances and there is already a commitment to a maximum of £4000 toward the path from the car park to the school.

7.4: If the precept was set at 14p, it would further reduce the reserve by £650 to around £2000, which was felt to be unacceptably low. A 15p precept would reduce the reserve to £2500, in line with the principle adopted above.

7.5: It was agreed unanimously that the precept for 2013-14 should be set at 15p.

1. Any Other Business:

8.1: Councillor Lewis will seek the views from a contact at the Royal Commission for Ancient Monuments in Wales as to the age of the well and footbridge. Some work has been done recently to clear the bridge, probably by the Vale, and this has revealed that some repair work appears to be necessary. Councillor Lewis believed that the bridge may be older than previously thought.

8.2: Councillor Austin asked The Chairman if the village has a crest? It was agreed that a note about this should be put in the Village newsletter to ask if anyone is aware of one. It was suggested that the pupils at the school might be asked to design one if it does not already exist.

8.3: Mr Richard Edwards had asked who had carried out the work on the Green Lane. Councillor Lewis reported that the Council had supported the work to upgrade the Green Lane to a formal bridleway/footpath and that the work had been carried out by The Vale

8.4: The Merry Christmas sign and lights for the telephone box are on order. It was suggested that a brass plaque for the telephone box should be ordered to replace the current temporary notice.

8.5: The Chair passed the invoice for the purchase of Christmas trees (£200) to the Treasurer for payment.

8.6: Councillor Mrs Horton volunteered to read one of the lessons at the Christmas service in the parish Church.

1. Date of next meeting will be January 8th 2013 at 7.30pm. The Clerk will circulate a list of the meeting dates for 2013.

SIGNED………………………………………………………………………………..

Chairman Colwinston Community Council

Date……………………………………………

SIGNED………………………………………………………………………………..

Clerk Colwinston Community Council

Date……………………………………………