COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12TH 2013

1. ATTENDANCE

COUNCILLORS: G.W.BATES – CHAIRMAN

A. AUSTIN

B.KENNARD

MRS. H MACLEHOSE

W.BELLIN

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR R. THOMAS

CLERK: JANE CORWIN

APOLOGIES: COUNCILLOR LEWIS

COUNCILLOR MRS HORTON

There was one member of the public present

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Lewis and Councillor Mrs Horton
2. Declarations of Interest: none
3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on January 8th 2012 had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor Kennard and seconded by Councillor Bellin that they be accepted. This was carried unanimously and the records signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman and Clerk.
4. Matters arising:

5.1 Little Hill: It was agreed to pay the invoice for £102.00 to Colin Anstee for the work carried out in the autumn. The Clerk will get some further quotes for dealing with the trees from the list of approved arboriculturalists provided by the Tree Officer at the Vale. She will also complete the form seeking permission to take down the hollow tree in case this work is needed urgently.

5.2 Hospital Services reorganisation: the Clerk has received two further acknowledgements of receipt of the letter sent on behalf of the Community Council concerning the possible closure of the A and E Department at Bridgend. The acknowledgements were from Maria Battle, Chair of Cardiff and The Vale Hospital Trust and David Melding, A.M.

5.3 One Voice Wales have confirmed that although thre is no outright bar to Community Councillors standing for appointments to Health Boards, preference is strongly in favour of Town/District Councillors.

5.4 Councillor Bellin reported a dangerous raised manhole cover on the pavement on the A48, marked to indicate it is the responsibility of BT. He will report this to the Vale Highways Dept via the 700111 number and leave them to contact BT to repair it.

5.5 The Clerk will contact Llandow CC to ask whether they do or do not wish to take up the vacant post for a school Governor at Colwinston School.

5.6 The Chairman said he would not approach the Church about a working party to dig a trench for the installation of wiring to the restored lantern over the Church gate at this time in view of the illness of Alan Kettle.

5.7 The Clerk has been in contact with the Vale about the possibility of new signs for the village reflecting its status as a Blessed or Thankful Village and they are obtaining quotes for the costs of new signs.

5.8 The Treasurer reported that HSBC had corrected the transfers that had been made incorrectly and that there had been no charges levied as a result of the error.

5.9 The bridge in the wetland area has been tidied up. Councillor Lewis is in the process of having it added to the County Treasures List. Councillor Mrs Maclehose suggested the planting of willows in the area but as the ownership of the area is not yet known, this will not be pursued at this stage.

5.10 Councillor Austin will follow up the question of a plaque for the telephone box and there will also be an electrical connection which will allow the wording on the top of the box to be illuminated.

5.11 Councillor Thomas reported that there is a definitive footpath plan on display in Barry. The Chairman asked if it might be possible to obtain a copy of the plan. The Clerk will let Councillor Lewis know about this and have the details contained in the letter about the availability of the plans for viewing.

5.12 The Chair stated that the Contract of Employment for the Clerk has been drawn up as agreed and both parties signed copies of it to complete the process.

5.13 The recent flood at Heol Faen will be improved by the removal of a trough that was blocking the drainage in that area.

1. Clerk’s Report

6.1 The Clerk reported that she had received the following correspondence:

* The agenda for the Vale of Glamorgan Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 23rd January, together with the minutes from the meeting held on December 5th. She will contact Democratic services to ask that they amend the address they have for the Clerk to Colwinston CC as these items are still being sent to Ben Graham Woolard and consequently arrive late.
* Notification of various training courses being run by One Voice Wales on New Councillor Induction/Community Engagement and the Council as Employer. Details had been circulated to Councillors.
* Information from One Voice Wales on World War 1 Commemoration Planning, which had been circulated to members. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to speak to the vicar about a possible Church Service in due course.
* Information from One Voice Wales re Consultation Events on the Sustainable Wales Development White Paper, one of which was held in Cardiff on February 5/6th.
* A newsletter from the Older People Strategy Coordinator which had been circulated. A new group has been formed in Ewenny which may be of interest to the Seniors Club. The Clerk will pass this on to Philip Jones.
* An email and various documents from Vicky Morgan in the Vale of Glamorgan Library and Information Service re the provision of Mobile Library Services to villages. A commitment to the service is stressed but there will be a charge for any village that wishes to take it up.. This would be of the order of a minimum of £3523 per annum for a fortnightly half day visit, which would be the minimum permitted. The cost is beyond the means of the Community Council and it was suggested that there could be a shelf of books in the Village Hall for book swops. This would need someone to champion the idea and see it through.
* Information from One Voice Wales on their response to the Local Government (Democracy) Wales Bill. Councillor Lewis (requested by email)would like to see a copy of the bill.
* Notification of appointments to public bodies in Wales, including the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.
* An application pack for CASH grants for 2013/14, which may be of relevance to the later discussion on the MUGA. It may also be a source of potential funding for the new village signs referred to earlier.
* A play sufficiency assessment questionnaire from the Vale of Glamorgan. Again this may have relevance to the MUGA discussions.
* Confirmation that the Planning Application for a Games Room at the Old Vicarage has been approved.
* An email from Sam Taylor, a member of the Colwinston Village Hall Committee concerning their plans for a MUGA on the recreation field.
* A report by email from the PCSO for the area, who stated that there had been no crimes in the Village during January. The Clerk warned of a number of break ins and thefts from garages in St Donats in the last few days.

1. Clerk’s Time Sheet

The Treasurer confirmed that he would send the Clerk a cheque for £335.00 in settlement of her timesheet and expenses claim for the last quarter.

1. Treasurer’s Report

Balances at the bank as at 10/1/2013 were:

Current account: £1941.61 credit

Deposit account: £8176.12 credit

The Current account balance reflects receipt of the Christmas Grant and the precept payment from the Vale.

1. MUGA Project

9.1 An email had been received by the Clerk from the Village Hall Committee, outlining their plans for a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on the old tennis court on the playing field. The tennis court is in a poor state of repair, the Village Hall Committee having maintained the fencing but not the surface of the court or the netting or posts. Considerable damage was caused to the court when the abandoned ponies were corralled in there in the autumn.

9.2 There have been plans for a MUGA for a number of years and outline drawings are on display in the Hall and The Sycamore Tree. There would be rigid fencing and the area would provide a tennis court, goals at the back of the netting for football, basketball hoops and a practice cricket strip. The approximate cost would be £60,000 and the Village Hall Committee has said they have a good chance of obtaining a grant of up to £30000 from the Rural Communities Initiative. They would need to raise approx. another £20 -30K towards the cost themselves and it has been suggested that they should apply for a CASH Grant towards this.

9.3 There would be a number of hurdles to overcome if the project is to go ahead. The Chairman reported that he had written to Miles Punter at the Vale, who had passed this on to Phil Beaman, as the Vale are the owners of the actual playing field area. There are concerns about who would ultimately own the MUGA, particularly if the Village Hall Committee were to fold for whatever reason in the future.

9.4 Although the Community Council are in support of the MUGA plans in principle, it would not want to take on any legal responsibility for the maintenance of the facility in the future, as available funds would not permit this. The Chairman expressed the view that the Community Council should support the initiative as long as no liability accrued to the Council.

9.5 It might be possible for the Village Hall to pass the grant funds and their own financial contribution to the scheme to the Community Council, together with a CASH grant –if obtained- as this would enable the Council to reclaim the VAT, which would then help the overall funding. The Community Council could then gift the MUGA back to the Village Hall, thus not becoming liable for future maintenance, insurance etc.

9.6 Plans have gone out to tender and bids are being examined now. There is a possibility that the project may founder before it starts as amounts of grants available may be insufficient to cover the total cost. This may be the last year for the Creative Rural Communities Fund, so approaches need to be made quickly.

9.7 It was agreed that, in principle, Colwinston Community Council would support the project on condition that it would not accept a long term responsibility for the MUGA. The Council is happy to support and facilitate the proposal. The Clerk will communicate this in a formal response to the email from the Village Hall Committee.

1. Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Mrs Maclehose reported that she had attended the recent meeting of One Voice Wales, held in Cowbridge. There was discussion about the renting of a skip on an occasional basis for use by communities. Councillor Thomas will ask Cliff Parrish to see if the Vale might do this as it would help to meet their recycling targets.

10.2 Councillor Mrs Maclehose asked if the Vale has a policy on fracking. Councillor Thomas said that permission has been given for a trial bore but that this hasn’t actually taken place yet. No planning permission has yet been granted for anything beyond that and it would have to be applied for in the usual way. The Welsh Assembly Government has not committed itself as to whether or not they would support the development of the fracking industry.

10.3 Councillor Mrs Maclehose said that the questionnaires on footpath usage were being circulated within the village and will be collated by Councillor Lewis.

10.4 The Chairman said that the set of standing orders governing the work of the Community Council now need to be revised and agreed and then placed on the website in due course.

10.5 The member of the public present at the meeting drew attention to the fact that the recently completed renovations to the Church already appear to failing as the lime wash render is cracking at the top of the tower. This has been reported to Pam Haynes.

1. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday March 12th at 7.30pm

SIGNED…………………………………………………………………..

Chairman Colwinston Community Council

Date……………………………………………………………………….

SIGNED…………………………………………………………………..

Clerk Colwinston Community Council

Date……………………………………………………………………….