**COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE SYCAMORE TREE PUBLIC HOUSE COLWINSTON ON TUESDAY MAY 14TH 2013 AT 8.15PM

1. **ATTENDANCE**

 Councillors: G.W.Bates Chairman

 E.H. Lewis Deputy Chairman

 A.J. Austin Treasurer

 Mrs J. Horton

 B.Kennard

 Mrs H. Maclehose

 Clerk: Jane Corwin

 County Councillor: R Thomas

 One member of the public was present

 Apologies: Councillor W. Bellin

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Meeting which took place on Tuesday April 9th 2013 and the special additional meeting on April 24th had been circulated previously to Councillors. Subject to the change of name in item 5.11, it was proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor Austin that they be accepted. This was carried unanimously and the Minutes signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman and the Clerk. These will be placed on the website in due course. A hard copy will be available if requested.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

See later item.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

5.1 The Clerk is progressing the issue of the trees on Little Hill. Councillor Lewis has had complaints from members of the public re the crow population on Little Hill and in the Churchyard. The footpath is dangerous and dead birds are a potential hazard. He wondered if the numbers of crows could be controlled in any way? The Clerk will make enquiries.

5.7 Signs: The Clerk has not heard back from Mike Toozer concerning the proposed new signs for the village, recognising our Blessed Village status. The member of the public present said that there had been a programme on Radio Cymru recently about Blessed Villages. Councillor Lewis enquired if the Community Council should be making plans for a formal unveiling of the signs, perhaps with a dignified church service. All were in agreement with this suggestion, which could be coordinated with the fete next year. It was then suggested that if the Vale continue to be obstructive about the wording on the signs, the Community Council could seek planning permission to erect new signs, funded entirely privately i.e. they would not be official road signs. This would help to promote the village as a tourist attraction. Councillor R Thomas will speak to Miles Punter in Visible Services again about this (and the issue regarding signs for the Sycamore Tree –see later item) and will also contact Rob Curtis the Cabinet member with responsibilities for such matters.

The Clerk reported that this was mention in the latest One Voice Wales magazine about funding for World War One commemorations.

5.9 Councillor Lewis has spoken to Peter Thomas in the County Treasures department about the stile in to the field adjoining Hen Cartref and also drew the footbridge to his attention. He will look at both items as soon as possible.

Councillor Mrs Maclehose declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the question of the stile and took no part in the discussions. The Farmer has said that the Estate believe the stile is a farmyard stile, not a coffin stile and will be writing to the Council accordingly. Councillor Thomas said that both the farmer and the landowner felt that there should have been a discussion with them about the footpath and stile issues.

6.0 The Audit is now complete. The Clerk will arrange to meet Councillor Austin to take over the financial responsibilities shortly.

8.2 See the Minutes of the meeting held on April 24th.

9.5 MUGA: The Vale is acting on behalf of the Village Hall and have been granted £30000 towards this. The Vale have to say formally that they will act as bankers for the project and once this has been done, the plans are expected to continue.

Councillor Bates had spoken to Peter Graham Woolard who said that the Vale appear to have ‘lost’ the application for funding for the footpath near the school, which was to have been supported financially by the Community Council and also by Creative Rural Communities, Councillor Thomas will make enquiries of the Highways department.

9.0 Hospital Services: the meeting held on April 24th was felt by all concerned to have been very worthwhile. The notes taken by the Clerk have been circulated to all the Community Councils who were represented at the meeting and to Maria Battle, the Assembly Members and the Community Health Council members. The Clerk has received the list of proposed sites for Consultation meetings, which includes Colwinston, but the dates of the meetings have not yet been announced. Councillor Lewis will draft a note that can be distributed to residents of the village to try to ensure that the meeting –when it takes place- is well attended.

10.2 Police Consultative Committee: Councillor Kennard attended the recent meeting of the PCC. Crime in the region is down generally. Potholes were raised as a serious safety issue by many present at the meeting. People were reminded that if the Council can show that a pothole was inspected within 3 months of a reported accident, then no claim can be made against them. Councillor Thomas suggested that people should be reminded to take photographs of potholes and that the date should show on the photo.

10.3? The Vale Highways department have cut the bank/hedge on the wrong side of the road i.e. next to Cornerways, rather than next to No 2. The Clerk will contact Phil Beamon again.

10.5 Councillor Lewis has set up a Litter Picking team for the Village and will approach Cliff Parrish for equipment for the team.

10.6 The street light has been fitted with a baffle, which has much improved the problem

10.7 Tree planting on the bank – the Clerk will ask Phil Beamon about this again when talking to him about the bank cutting.

The Chair said that this was now time to start strimming various areas around the village and that he would speak to Grant Smith about this and ask him for a quote for the work over the summer. Councillor Mrs Maclehose was anxious that the spring wild flowers should not be cut down until the seeds had been set and distributed. It was agreed that the strimming should not start until June to address this issue.

1. **MATTERS ARISING FORM THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 24TH.**

Councillor Mrs Maclehose declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter and took no part in the discussions. Councillor Kennard had drafted notes as agreed at the meeting and after circulating them to other members of the Community Council, had sent them to the Planning Department at the Vale. The Planners had incorporated the notes into their final comments to the Planning Inspector. The final decision is expected by June 24th.

The applicant has asked for an informal meeting with the Chairman. He has accessed the Minutes of the recent Community Council meetings and after reading these has sent a long email to the Chairman raising various points, including an issue over declarations of interest. The Chairman had guided councillors on this issue at both meetings. Councillor Mrs Maclehose had declared an interest as she has access via the stile and the field in question to her garden. Other Councillors live nearby but this applies to many planning issues in small villages. The Chairman believes he was correct to let Councillors express their views, particularly as notices about the proposals only went to 10 houses either side of the development site, which means that it is bound to be neighbours who have objections.

There is clearly a difference of opinion between the Community Council and the landowner about the existence or otherwise of the footpath across the field to the Baptismal Pool. The Chairman does not feel that the Community Council was being unduly aggressive in pursuing registration of the path as a Public Right of Way. The landowner intends to ask people to make sure they stick to the designated paths in future.

The Chairman will contact Mr Pritchard to arrange an informal discussion in a spirit of cooperation. Councillors Lewis and Kennard will accompany him.

1. **CLERKS’ REPORT**

The Clerk has received the following information which has been circulated to Councillors by email:

* Consultation document seeking views on the Welsh Assembly Government’s draft Social and Environmental Guidance to OFWAT. Any comments should be made by July 15th.
* Minutes of the meeting of the Community liaison Committee meeting on March 20th 2013
* List of proposed venues for Consultation meetings re the Review of Hospital Services from Desmond Kitto at Cardiff and The Vale Community Health Council.
* Email from Alun Cairns dated April 30th, inviting the Chair or Clerk to attend a meeting with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales at St Athan on May 2nd. Issues to be discussed included the future of Cardiff Airport, St Athan Enterprise Zone and the MoD base expansion. The invitation was received too late for attendance to be possible. County Councillor Thomas had attended and felt it was a useful meeting, especially regarding the airport issues.
* A copy of the latest casebook report from the office of the Ombudsman for Wales
* Notice received May 1st of a meeting on the subject of City farms and Allotments in Barry on May 2nd.
* Information from creative Rural Communities re the Community Foodie Initiative
* Information re a day conference in Cardiff on May 22nd on Fair trade and Sustainable Procurement
* Information re the forthcoming Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival taking place from May 31st to June 2nd.
* Notification of the Vale of Glamorgan Council Meeting taking place on May 8th, together with Minutes of the meeting held on March 6th.
* Email from Catrin Howkins- PA to Alun Cairns MP- asking to be kept in the loop re any further developments from our end in the Hospital Review.
* Email from the Vale of Glamorgan re the supply of Recycling items to Voluntary, Charity and other Community organisations. A presentation about his is being held in Barry on May 16th. The Clerk had forwarded a copy of the email to the Village Hall Committee.
* A reminder that entries for the Best Kept Village Competition need to be received by May 31st. Small grants are available from the Vale and there will be a special prize for a Diamond Jubilee feature. Councillor Lewis has now received feedback on last year’s competition and has circulated this to Councillors.
* Planning Application 2013/00380/FUL re a single story extension to Ridgeway. There were no objections to this from the Council.
* Notice of the Vale of Glamorgan Council AGM on May 15th, together with the Agenda.
* The monthly report from Steven Thomas PCSO for the area, confirming that there had been no crimes in the previous month.
* Acknowledgement from One Voice Wales re the renewal of membership. They have also asked for confirmation of the names of the Representatives to OVW for the next year, who will be Councillor Mrs Maclehose and the Clerk.
* A letter from G2 Energy re proposals for a wind turbine at MB Jones farm, which lies within the Colwinston area. County Councillor Thomas said that Cardiff Airport are likely to object to the application as the turbines can cause radar flicker. NATS always object to applications within a certain distance of an airport. The main concern at this early stage was how visible the turbine would be from the village itself. The Clerk will contact G2, firstly to ask for more copies of the leaflet and secondly to ask them to attend the next Council meeting to talk through the plans before the application is submitted.
* The Spring newsletter from the Clerks and Councils Direct organisations.
* The Spring edition of The Voice for OVW.
1. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Balances as at 13/5/2013 were as follows:

Current Account: £ 2121.48

Deposit Account: £ 8177.27

As reported previously, Councillor Austin has obtained new mandate forms so that the Clerk can become a signatory to the accounts in her role as Responsible Financial Officer for the Community Council.

The Audit has been completed by Councillor Austin and the Internal Auditor and was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

1. **STANDING ORDERS**

The Chair discussed his alterations to the draft Standing Orders, which relate mainly to the written notice of motions, which he had removed. Councillor Kennard raised questions about this but was happy with the principle as it does not actually preclude written motions. The Chairman will do a final tidy up of the document, circulate this to Councillors and then they can be formally adopted at the next meeting, after which they can be placed on the website.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Best Kept Village Competition- Councillor Lewis suggested the Council should enter the Telephone Box on the Green in the special Jubilee category, rather than entering the whole village, which he did not feel was in a good enough condition to make entry worthwhile. The Clerk will send off the entry form on that basis.

Creative Rural Communities has a Tidy Towns Voucher scheme which the Community Council cannot apply for but which may be open to the church or the WI to apply for funds for new planters.

Councillor Kennard raised the question of signs directing travellers to the Sycamore Tree Inn. The landlord has been told to remove the signs he had placed on the A48 and has been refused permission for official brown signs directing people to the pub. He circulated a copy of the letter have had received in response to his enquiries from the Vale Highways department. His view was that the existing directional signs to Colwinston do not indicate that it is a tourist destination and that the Council’s interpretation of their new policy does not make sense. He has drafted a reply to Wendy Smith at the Vale, explaining this and asking them to reconsider their decision. Councillor Austin reminded everyone of the adverse effect on village life during the period when the pub was closed and that the Council should do everything possible to help the landlords to maintain and develop their business, which is a lifeline for the village. The Clerk will send off the letter and will also contact the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Rob Curtis, to see if he can help.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be June 11th at 7.30pm.