**COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE SYCAMORE TREE PUBLIC HOUSE COLWINSTON ON TUESDAY JUNE 11TH 2013 AT 7.30PM

1. **ATTENDANCE**

Councillors: G.W. Bates Chairman

E.H. Lewis Deputy Chairman

A.J. Austin Treasurer

B.Kennard

Mrs H. Maclehose

W.Bellin

Clerk: Jane Corwin

Apologies: Councillor Mrs J Horton

County Councillor R Thomas

The meeting commenced with a presentation from three representatives of G2 about their forthcoming planning application to erect a wind turbine at MB Jones Farm. There was then an opportunity for Councillors to ask questions about the proposals. G2 agreed to take more photographs and produce additional ‘mock ups’ of the turbine and the visual impact it would potentially have on the village, as this was of concern to all Councillors. G2 indicated that they intended to submit the planning application to the Vale in the third quarter of the year. They also stated that there may be funds available for the benefit of the village as ‘compensation’ for the potential reduction in visual amenity. The Chairman thanked the representatives of G2 for attending the meeting.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the ordinary May meeting, both of which which took place on Tuesday May 14th 2013 had been previously circulated by the Clerk and were accepted unanimously as a true and accurate record. It was proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor Austin that they be accepted. The Minutes were 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

Little Hill: the Clerk reported that all wild birds, including crows, are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The tree work required on Little Hill is being progressed.

Blessed Village Signs: The Clerk reported that she had written to Jane Hutt, Andrew RT Davies and David Melding, the AMs for the Vale of Glamorgan, about the status of Colwinston as a Blessed village and had received positive expressions of interest about this. One Voice Wales will have information about funding opportunities for Commemorative activities in due course. The Clerk will pursue Mike Toozer in Highways about the wording and cost of new signs and the possibility of the village commissioning its own signs, if agreement cannot be reached.

The Stile adjoining Village Farnhouse: Councillor Lewis had heard nothing further from the County Treasures department as yet.

MUGA: this plan is progressing satisfactorily via the Village Hall Committee and the Vale Council.

Footpath to the School: with the continued existence of Creative Rural Communities, it may be that this plan can be resurrected. Peter Graham Woolard will be asked to approach CRC to see if funding may still be available.

Hospital Services Review: The Chairman proposed that a note, a form and a leaflet should go to each house in the village. The note, which would be from the Community Council, should make clear what the proposals are and how they affect the hospital in Bridgend and should stress the need to support the plan to ensure that A and E facilities are retained at the Princess of Wales as proposed. Clearly, supporters of the hospital in Llantrisant will lobby to reverse that plan, so it is vital that people respond in support of Option 3. The Clerk had obtained 800 copies of the explanatory leaflet, which contains the response form, and 1 will be given to each adult in Colwinston. The accompanying note will give details of the dates of the Public meetings that are taking place in the area. Councillor Lewis will draft the letter and he and other Councillors will deliver the letters etc around the village and offer to collect them at a later date, for return to the review body.

Grass Cutting: the Chairman agreed to meet with a representative from the Vale at the site so that the exact area that needs to be added to the cutting programme can be determined. The Clerk will pass on the contact details to him.

Litter Picking: Councillor Lewis reported that the Vale Council will not provide HiVis jackets for the litter picking volunteers unless a form is completed to register the group formally. It was agreed unanimously that the Community Council should purchase the jackets itself from its own resources.

Strimmimg etc: The Chairman had spoken to Grant Smith about the various areas around the village that need cutting/strimming through the summer. An initial fee of £120 was proposed followed by £50 per month for subsequent cuts. In addition, he will weed and spray the Little Hill area for a one off fee of £120.00. This was agreed unanimously and the expenditure ratified.

Councillor Mrs Maclehose declared a personal interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions.

Planning Application for Land Adjoining Hen Cartref: The Chairman reported that he, together with Councillors Lewis, Bellin and Kennard, had met James Prichard as agreed and an exchange of views had taken place. The Clerk reported that the Tree Officer at the Vale is progressing the application for a Tree Protection Order on the sycamore tree as she feels it is an outstanding specimen with significant visual appeal.

Best Kept Village Competition: The Clerk reported that she had sent off the application forms to enter the competition. The Green will need mowing once the judging dates are known. Councillor Lewis will ask the resident of the property adjoining the Green to replace the missing fence as soon as possible. It was agreed that planters would be a good addition to the green but that the cost and lack of time are issues that cannot be resolved in time for this year’s competition.

Standing Orders: The Chairman had circulated the final amended version of the Standing Orders and these were accepted unanimously. They can now be placed on the website. Some additional Policies are also now needed to complete this exercise and ensure that the Community Council complies with best practice guidelines.

Signs for The Sycamore Tree Inn: The Clerk read out the letter she had received from the Vale in reply to the letter asking them to reconsider their refusal to allow the Sycamore Tree Inn to have a brown sign on the A48. Councillor Kennard said he felt that the Vale was quoting selectively from the legislation to suit its own purposes. He had drafted another letter to Andrew Loosemore, Operational Manager, Highways and Engineering, copied to Rob Curtis, Miles Punter and Ray Thomas.

1. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk reported that she had received and circulated the following applications:

-2013/00423/LBC re internal reordering at Pwllywrach, for which Listed Building consent is required

-2013/00380/FUL re a single storey extension to Ridgeway, Colwinston.

There had been no issues raised concerning either application and this had been passed to the Vale.

1. CLERK’S REPORT: The following emails had been received and circulated to Councillors:

* an invitation to a seminar on Wind Energy on June 20th in Carno
* a copy of presentation slides on a Voluntary Sector Recycling Scheme.
* an email from One Voice Wales re discounts available to Councils from a supplier of Christmas Lights in Llanelli
* details of a seminar taking place on June 5th in Barry as part of World Environment Day.
* Details of the One Voice Wales AGM in Builth Wells on Saturday October 5th 3013
* Information re Consultations on Private Water Supply Pipes.
* Email from Steve Thomas PCSO for the area, reporting that there have been no crimes in the period up to May 23rd.
* Information from OVW re publication of the Select Committee report on Road and Rail Links between England and Wales.
* Details of a Planning training Session in Barry on July 10th. Councillor Mrs Maclehose will attend this.
* Notification from One Voice Wales re the Welsh Affairs Committee evidence session on the Work Programme in Wales taking place on June 4th.
* Details re events in the Vale of Glamorgan during June and July. A copy of which she had placed on display in the entrance to the Sycamore Tree.
* A link from OVW to the Consultation on Guidance, including Statutory Guidance re the Local Government Wales Measure 2011, covering Communities and Community Councils.
* OVW notice re training on Chairing Skills to be held in Barry on June 20th.
* A notice re the next meeting of the Community Liaison Meeting being held on July 9th in Barry. There will be a presentation on Town and Community By Elections/ Casual Vacancies, which is open to Clerks if they wish to attend. The Clerk will forward the details to Councillor Bellin
* Letters from Jane Hutt AM, Andrew RT Davies AM and Alun Cairns MP, encouraging participation in the Hospital Services Review consultation meetings and process.
* A notice from OVW re a funding Fair re environmental projects taking place in Swansea on July 1st. Councillor Bellin agreed to attend as this might be useful re the Wetland Area.

1. TREASURER’S REPORT

Councillor Austin reported that the bank balances as at June 10th were as follows:

Current Account: £2071.48

Deposit Account: £8177.27

The Clerk reported that she had completed the Bank Mandate amendment form and will deliver it to HSBC shortly.

The Council’s Internal Auditor is currently away. Councillor Austin will arrange a meeting with him and the Clerk on his return.

1. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that Clive Hawkins had called him about black rubbish bags being left outside the Village Hall, causing potential public health problems and attracting rats. The Chairman had referred the matter to the Village Hall Committee as it is their responsibility to check it and handle disposal and collection.

Councillor Lewis asked where the litter collected by the volunteers should be placed? There was no easy answer to this in view of the Vale’s refusal to supply a skip for general village use.

A letter had been received from Alun Cairns MP, asking if Community Councils had experienced any problems with Gift Aid registration. Colwinston is not registered and has not therefore experienced difficulties.

The Church had requested a reader for the Church Service on July 7th. Councillor Lewis will do this and select a reading.

1. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will take place on Tuesday July 9th at 7.30pm

SIGNED……………………………………………………………………CHAIRMAN COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DATE………………………………………………………………………

SIGNED……………………………………………………………………

CLERK COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DATE………………………………………………………………………