**COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE SYCAMORE TREE PUBLIC HOUSE COLWINSTON ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 1ST 2013 AT 7.30PM

1. **ATTENDANCE**

Councillors:

G.W. Bates Chairman

E.H. Lewis Deputy Chairman

Mrs H. Maclehose

Mrs J Horton

W. Bellin

County Councillor Ray Thomas (from 20.15pm)

Jane Corwin Clerk

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Austin

Councillor Kennard

The meeting began with a presentation from Ian Giblet of Cardiff Conservation Volunteers, who outlined the type of projects that CCV can become involved in. CCV is a Registered Charity, whose members meet each Sunday and carry out a variety of tasks at locations within an hour’s travelling time of central Cardiff. The type of work they do includes creating and maintaining paths/steps/school gardens/dry stone walling/hedge laying and woodland work. The work parties consist of between 8 and 13 people and a daily fee of £140 is charged to cover their running costs, including insurance and the running of the minibus.

The Chairman then explained the issues the Community Council has with regard to particular areas within the village. The Council has aspirations to do something to improve the old well and the area around the bridge over the brook but is concerned that the cost of on-going maintenance would be a financial burden. It was also suggested that something further might be done to improve Little Hill, including planting ground cover as an alternative to the bark chippings. Enquiries are still being made about the ownership of the well and the County Treasures people have been approached with regard to adding the well and the bridge to their lists. Grants for refurbishment might be available but future maintenance is the real concern.

Ian Giblet confirmed that these are the types of projects that CCV are interested in and that they do provide on-going maintenance of projects on which they have worked. He would like to visit the village to have a look at the areas that had been mentioned and will contact the Chairman to arrange a suitable date and time. Their work programme is booked up until April 2014, so that would give some time for the ownership issues re the bridge/well to be clarified. Councillor Maclehose suggested that One Voice Wales might be able to help with advice on that issue as this sort of matter was raised at the recent meeting of OVW that she had attended.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the September meeting, which took place on Tuesday September 10th 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 Horton that they be accepted. The Minutes were then 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**

None.

The Clerk will adapt **the** Declaration of Interests form used by school governors within the Vale for use by the Community Council

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

* Defibrillator: Nothing further has been heard from Mark Allen – the Clerk will contact him.
* Little Hill: The necessary permission forms have been received from the Vale and the Clerk has asked JV Tree Services to carry out the work as soon as possible. The Vale has suggested that an oak be planted in replacement.
* Thankful Village Signs etc:

Mike Toozer is preparing the costings for the 3 new signs that have been agreed. At the Vale Cabinet Meeting on September 23rd, the issue of funding for the project was raised and the Cabinet suggested that an application should be made for a CASH grant. The Clerk now has the forms to do this, once the actual costs of the signs are known. The Clerk has also contacted Vale Young Farmers to ask if they might be prepared to help make planters to go under the new signs. She also has details of the Probation Service which has projects like that with offenders on Community Service.

War Memorial: it was agreed by Councillors that the village should have a war memorial, with the most suitable location being on the village green. This could be in the form of a large stone, similar to the one in Ewenny – which is thought to have been donated by one of the quarries for the purpose- or an obelisk. Simple wording was felt to be best, possibly something along the lines of ‘To remember those who went and returned 1914-1918 and those who went but did not return 1939-45’, followed by the names of those concerned. The plaque given to the village by the Bikers could be affixed to the memorial. The Chairman is writing an article for the village newsletter and will ask people for suggestions about the potential memorial. Phil Jones has not yet researched village involvement in World War One but would be prepared to do so if access to Ancestry was paid for. Councillor Bellin may already have some of this information concerning ages, occupations etc from research that he has done for other purposes. It might be possible to stage an exhibition in the village, including photographs, if sufficient information can be tracked down.

* Stile: Councillor Lewis has heard nothing yet on this subject
* Footpath at Hen Cartref: there has been no response as yet to our application for the registration of the Public Footpath across the field adjoining Hen Cartref.
* The Clerk has asked Phil Beamon to arrange the cutting of the car park and adjacent footpath.
* Best Kept Village: Mike Toozer at the Vale has said that the cost of the installation of the new signs will have to be paid for by the Community Council and that putting concrete aprons underneath them would add considerably to the cost.
* Website: the Clerk is awaiting invoices for the renewal of the domain name
* The Clerk has asked Democratic Services at The Vale if email addresses for Community Councillors have to be made available to the public and was informed that Councillors personal contact details do have to be available as they hold public posts.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

4.1 Waterton Lodge: Nothing further has been heard about this application. There is an indication that it may have been temporarily withdrawn pending the publication of the revised Local Development Plan on October 2nd. Welsh Water has now commented on the drainage/sewerage issues but has not been as opposed to the development as it was felt they might have been. The Clerk will write to them to remind them that they had stated some years ago that no new houses would be permitted to be connected to the sewerage system as the Colwinston Pumping Station and the pipe leading from it to Cowbridge were already overloaded. She will ask if this is still the case and raise the concerned expressed by Councillors about the discharge of untreated sewage from the pumping station tanks during periods of heavy rain into the brook.

4.2 Wind Turbine: The formal application has now been recognised and the closing date for comments is October 8th.

The Community Council will object to the application on the grounds of:

the proximity of the turbine to the nearest property

the likely noise levels, particularly at night, would cause disturbance in such a rural area

the dangerous nature of the entrance to the site adjacent to the A48

the important archaeological items found in the location of the turbine

the fact that the Vale is not an area designated for turbine developments

4.3 Other Planning Matters:

- Bridleway: a resident whose property adjoins the bridleway has objected to it. The Vale had contacted Councillor Lewis who had confirmed that the Community Council had no objections to the proposal.

* A copy of the CD version of the Bridgend Development Plan has been received by the Clerk and is available should any one wish to see it.
* Councillor Thomas reported that an application is to be made shortly for a second test bore hole at Llandow.

1. CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported that she had received the following emails and correspondence:

* An Employment Survey to complete for the Office of National Statistics
* Agenda and Minutes for the OVW meeting being held in Cowbridge on Monday 30th September.
* List of Events taking place in the Vale in October and November
* Details of the Electoral review programme 2014 in Wales
* Consumer Council for water Wales Annual Review
* Notification from OVW re various Training Courses
* Request from the Brecon Beacons Mountain rescue for a donation
* Details of training courses throughout South Wales being run by One Voice Wales

1. FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk reported that she had received the completed Annual return from Mazars and had placed a copy on the Notice Board.

Invoices for Payment:

£156.00 to Mazars for the Audit Fee

£50.00 to Grant Smith for strimming etc in August

£481.68 to J.Corwin for payment of salary for the months of July/August and September

£50.60 to J Corwin for payment of Expenses for July/August and September

£120.40 to HMRC for Payment of tax etc on the Clerk’s salary

The Clerk’s Salary was calculated using the revised rate as advised by NALC of £9.345 per hour and included back pay of £5.87 for April/May and June

Payment of the invoices was agreed unanimously

Balances at the Bank:

Current Account: £1575.73 credit

Deposit Account: £8180.24 credit

The Clerk reported that she is completing a VAT refund claim form.

1. TRAINING COURSES

Details of Courses have been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Maclehose is attending a Planning Course in Barry shortly. A Bursary form has been completed for a grant towards the cost of this.

1. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Councillor Maclehose has obtained details of costings for the Crab Apple Trees to be planted at Maes y Bryn and at Spinney Bank. They will cost £22.95 each plus £8.95 for delivery. It was agreed that 3 should be purchased and that Grant Smith should be asked to plant them once they have been delivered.

Councillor Maclehose had attended the One Voice Wales meeting in Cowbridge on September 23rd, at which the issue of bus transport within the Vale was discussed at length. Concern was expressed that there appears to be little or no link between transport services and planned housing developments, which is a particular concern in view of the LDP. Councillor Thomas said that the current issues have been caused by the withdrawal of subsidies by the Welsh Assembly and the refusal of the Vale to intervene. A questionnaire has been drawn up for bus users to complete and Councillor Maclehose will circulate copies within the village.

It was reported that the Audit rules for Community Councils will be changing next year with the intention of tightening up procedures in the light of the fact that 1 in 5 Councils failed their audits this year.

The Speaker at the January meeting of OVW will be on the subject of fracking.

8.2 Charter: it was agreed that this should be discussed in detail at the next meeting once Councillors have been able to read through the proposals in detail.

8.3 Local Development Plan: as the revised Plan is to be published shortly, it was felt that there will need to be a Village Meeting to discuss responses to the plan.

1. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday November 12th at 7.30pm