**COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE SYCAMORE TREE PUBLIC HOUSE COLWINSTON ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12TH2013 AT 7.30PM

1. **ATTENDANCE**

Councillors:

G.W. Bates Chairman

E.H. Lewis Deputy Chairman

B. Kennard

Mrs H. Maclehose

Mrs J Horton

W. Bellin

County Councillor Ray Thomas

Clerk: Jane Motte

Two members of the public were present. Due to the delay of the Chairman, Councillor Lewis opened the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES:** None
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**  None

The Clerk has accessed templates of a register of Interest forms and will circulate these shortly.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the October meeting, which took place on Tuesday October 1st 2013 had been previously circulated by the Clerk and were accepted unanimously as a true and accurate record. It was proposed by Councillor Kennard 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. **MATTERS ARISING**
* Defibrillator: the Clerk has heard nothing further from Mark Allen as yet
* Little Hill: the Clerk has spoken to JV Tree Services on a number of occasions to press for the work on the Ash Tree to be carried out and it is expected that this will take place shortly.
* Thankful Village Signs: the costings for the 3 new signs have been received from Mike Toozer and amount to £2471.42. If we delay placing the order for these until the start of the new financial year, as was suggested at the recent Cabinet Meeting, it is likely that there will be a price increase. The Clerk has made enquiries of the CASH Grants team and has been told that there is no need to wait until April to make an application for funding for the project. It was agreed that the application should be for 100% of the cost of the signs.
* The Clerk has contacted Wick Young Farmers Club and they have agreed to make some planters for the village as part of the WW1 Commemorations. They would like someone from the CC to attend one of their meetings and Councillor Maclehose agreed to do this.. It was agreed that the Community Council would meet the cost of the materials for the project.
* World War One Commemorations: Councillor Maclehose has made enquiries about both the design and funding of new memorials but it will be necessary to have a clear idea of what form the proposed memorial should take and how much it would cost before approaching organisations for funding. The Clerk will contact the local quarries to ask if any of them would be prepared to donate a piece of stone for the project and will also speak to a memorial mason about the lettering etc. for the stone. It was felt that the memorial should be in the form of a cairn or cluster shape with an inset plaque, rather than in a form resembling a gravestone, which would record the names of the men who died in the Second World War. It will need to have the plaque presented to the village recently by the Bikers affixed to it and it was suggested that Medwyn Davies, the instigator of the Bike Ride, should be invited to the opening ceremony in due course.
* A member of the public present suggested that the Wetlands area might be developed into a Peace garden, in which the memorial could be sited but it was felt that this would be too far outside the main centre of the village and, not surprisingly, would carry a risk of flooding.

Also, the ownership of the land is far from clear, although it may be that it does in fact form part of the Pwyllywrach Estate. Apparently, Mathew Prichard has recently established a new trust aimed at supporting Community projects and it was suggested that in view of the family connections with Colwinston, an application might be made for grants towards the Commemoration project, once this has been finalised.

After some further discussion, it was agreed that the best location for the memorial would be on the Village Green, despite the fact that space there is limited. If placed there it would be both visible and accessible to residents and visitors. Councillor Belin and Mr Phil Jones –present at the meeting a s a member of the public- had done some research into the men who served in the First World War, including 5 brothers from the Arthur family, including accessing the 1911 census records to determine occupations, homes etc. A descendant of the Arthur family has been in touch and along with Mr James Prichard, is searching for photographs and family memorabilia. Further research via Ancestry.com or military records would carry a cost and it was felt that an article in The Gem might produce more in the way of local family connections and information.

* Councillor Belin had met with Creative Rural Communities representatives who told him that the National Library of Wales has a project in operation to record people’s memories of the period to form a digital archive. It was also suggested that there might be work in the community for school students as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate.
* Councillor Belin and Mr Jones will put a proposal together and report to the Community Council at the December Meeting.
* Stile: nothing further has been heard yet about this matter
* Footpath at Hen Cartref: no time has yet been given for when a decision about the application will be made
* Footpath : no response from Phil Beaman – Clerk will chase again
* Website: Clerk has received the invoice for renewing the domain name for 5 years.
* Spinney Bank Trees: Councillor Maclehose has now received the trees and the Chairman will ask Grant Smith to plant these, including stakes and ties, as soon as possible.
* Bus Questionnaire: Councillor Maclehose distributed the questionnaires as agreed.
* Charter: Councillors confirmed that they had read the Charter document in detail and were happy to accept it. The Clerk will inform the Vale of this.
* The Chairman arrived at the meeting and took the Chair.
* Road signs: the Clerk said she had contacted Miles Punter about the issues raised by Mr Jones and had received an apology for the fact that the matter had not been dealt with previously. He has confirmed that new signs discouraging lorries from using the lanes through the village will be installed shortly. The Vale will pay for these from the current year’s budget. The signs will not be identical to the ones at St Hilary as the design has been amended. The Chairman will let Mr Jones know about this,
1. **PLANNING MATTERS**

Waterton Lodge: nothing further has been heard as yet about this application. Councillor Kennard said he had spoken to the Planning Department at the Vale who said that it was in abeyance pending responses from consultees.

Wind Turbine at MB Jones farm: This application has been withdrawn following an objection from Cardiff Airport. Information obtained by Rob Thomas indicates that the airport objections are unlikely to be overcome (although they can be for St Mary Hill) and it is unlikely that it will be resubmitted.

Other Applications: The Clerk had received details of two planning application within the village from the Vale as follows

2013/00940/FUL for Church Cottage

2013/1001/FUL for 12, Beech Park

Details were circulated to Councillors who had no comments/objections to make.

Local Development Plan:

The village meeting on October 21st was attended by over 30 members of the public, who expressed a variety of views about the proposals, the majority of which were overwhelmingly negative.

The Clerk had received a hard copy of the draft LDP, together with accompanying maps and appendices. Councillors had been able to access these electronically. Councillor Kennard had produced a draft response on behalf of the Community Council which had been circulated to all Councillors. This was discussed and it was agreed that, subject to some minor alterations to spelling etc., it should form the Community Council’s response to the draft Local Development Plan. It will be submitted with an appendix from Councillor Belin about the flooding issues. Councillor Kennard will send the final version to the Clerk to be submitted electronically to the Vale. A hard copy will also be sent and Councillor Lewis will put the response on the website as well where it will be available to residents. A copy will also be attached to these minutes as an appendix.

The period of Public Consultation has begun and will run from November 8th to December 20th. Local Consultation Events take place in Cowbridge on November 12th and Llantwit Major on November 21st

It was agreed that a further Village Meeting should be held to encourage residents to participate in the consultation process and to inform them of the response that the Community Council will making. The Clerk will book the Hall for either Monday 25th or Tuesday 26th of November, depending on availability and notices will be distributed around the village to alert people to the meeting.

1. **CLERK’S REPORT**The Clerk reported that she had received the following correspondence:
* Email from Electoral Services at The Vale re the annual canvas forms encouraging residents to register and asking for Community Councils to promote and encourage residents to complete the forms
* Electronic copy of the Local Government and Communities, Community and Town Councils Welsh Government News
* Notification of the opening of applications for badger vaccination grants
* Copies of presentations from OVW Annual Conference in Builth Wells
* Invitation to nominate individuals for St David’s Awards
* Notification of public appointment vacancies on the Advisory Panel on Substance Abuse
* Copy of updated Financial Regulations ( I’ll print this off and digest it)
* Invitation to apply for a CASH Christmas grant
* Copy of statement re the consultation on the introduction of a table valuation system for bovine TB compensation
* Letter from Christine Chapman AM chair of the National Assembly for Wales Communities Equality and Local Government Committee re the Housing Bill Wales
* Copy correspondence from One Voice Wales re mobile signals/availability in isolated rural communities
* Copy of written statement from Minister for Natural resources and Food on Climate Change and implications for Wales
* Natural resource E bulletin
* Various reminders from OVW re training opportunities
* Latest copy of the Ombudsman’s casebook
* Feedback from South Wales Fire and rescue service on Stage 1 of the Fire Cover Review, followed by Stage 2 of the Improvement plan
* Notification of the launch of the new Welsh Government £6m Nature Fund
* Request for views on the First review of Regional Technical Statements for North and South Wales regional Aggregate Working Party
* Guidance on Auditing Requirements from the Wales Audit Office.
* ‘Social Media’ a Guide for Councillors
* Letter concerning the review of service level agreements re the provision on legal services by the Vale Council
* Letter from Barry Town Council about the provision of Burial Land within the Vale of Glamorgan. A meeting about this is being held in Barry on December 12th and councillors would be welcome to attend if they have an interest in this matter.
* Letter from the War Memorials Trust – the Clerk will contact them to ask if they have any advice on creating new memorials.
* Request for financial support for the Urdd next year
* Agenda and Minutes for the Vale Council meeting on October 23rd
* Community Liaison Committee Agenda etc. for the meeting held on October 16th.
1. FINANCE REPORT

Balances at the Bank as at 31/10/13

Current AC: £1658.41 CR

Deposit Ac: £8180.24 CR

The VAT refund of £370.87 was received on November 6th

The following invoices were presented for payment:

£81.00 to Calico UK for payment of 5 years annual charge for domain name

£13.50 to One Voice Wales for attendance on Planning Course in Barry

£99.26 to Councillor Maclehose for the purchase of trees as agreed.

It was agreed unanimously that the invoices should be paid and the cheques were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

The Clerk reported that in order to change her name and signature – following her recent marriage- on the Council’s Bank Account with HSBC Cowbridge, it will be necessary to complete a new mandate. She has obtained the relevant forms and it was agreed unanimously that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should sign the mandates as required.

Budget 2014/15: A first draft of the budget for the next financial year was discussed. The Clerk will contact the Vale Highways Department and ask them to refill the salt bins in the village, which they have done in previous years. Providing this is done, the figure allowed in the budget for salt can be removed which would result in a balanced budget for the Revenue account based on a Precept of 17p – a 1p increase on the current year

The World War One Commemoration Plans are still being finalised and detailed estimates of the likely costs are not yet known except for the new road signs, where a Cash Grant is being applied for. Councillor Lewis will prepare a proposal for the next meeting on the costs and numbers of new planters that will be required. It was agreed that the Capital Expenditure planned for 2014-15 should be revisited at the December meeting when some of these issues will be a little clearer.

1. **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR**

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Councillor Alun Austin tendering his resignation from the Community Council due to pressure of work and his commitments overseas. She had advised Democratic Services at the Vale and is awaiting the necessary forms from them to advertise the vacancy. The vacancy will be advertised on the Vale website and on the notice boards in the Civic Offices in Barry as well as in Colwinston, where it will be on the notice boards on the green and in the Sycamore Tree and on the Community Council website. It is recorded in these minutes that the Community Council, on behalf of the residents of the village, is very grateful for his service and considerable input to the work of the Community Council. The Chairman will write to Mr Austin, thanking him formally for his service to the Council.

1. **TRAINING COURSES**

The Clerk had circulated details of training Courses being run by One Voice Wales over the next few weeks.

1. **AOB**
* Councillor Horton reported that the local Hunt had been present in the village on November 11th and that the hounds appeared to have been out of control, resulting in a potentially dangerous situation for residents, motorists and children. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Master of the Hunt expressing the Council’s concern at these events.
* Councillor Lewis reported that the damaged sign indicating the school had been removed but not yet replaced. Councillor Thomas stated that he would follow this up.
* The Clerk is exploring membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks and would find a copy of their Manual helpful.
1. DATE OFNEXT MEETING

Tuesday December 10th 2013