**COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE SYCAMORE TREE PUBLIC HOUSE COLWINSTON ON TUESDAY MARCH 11TH 2014 AT 7.30PM

1. **ATTENDANCE**

Councillors:

G.W. Bates Chairman

E.H. Lewis Vice Chairman

W. Bellin

Mrs H. Maclehose

Mrs. C. Roach

County Councillor Ray Thomas

Clerk: Jane Motte

One member of the public was present.

1. **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Horton and Kennard

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None

In view of the planning application for houses on the land behind St David’s School, the Chairman asked the Clerk to seek guidance from Democratic Services at The Vale as to whether those councillors whose properties immediately adjoin the site, should declare an interest and whether this would be a prejudicial interest. The view of the Council was that the proposal is of such significance to the village as a whole, that all Councillors have an interest in it, either directly or indirectly.

The Clerk gave Councillor Roach a copy of the Code of Conduct document. Councillor Roach returned her copy of the Register of Interests form

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the February meeting, which took place on Wednesday 12th February 2014 had been previously circulated by the Clerk and were accepted unanimously as a true and accurate record. It was proposed by Councillor Maclehose and seconded by Councillor Lewis 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: Nothing further has been heard from Mark Allen and it is assumed that he is awaiting a delivery date for the equipment. Councillor Reade will apply to be trained as a First Responder.
* Little Hill: Councillor Maclehose reported that she had purchased the two trees to replace the ash trees removed from Little Hill recently and that these had been planted. The Clerk will report this to the Tree Officer at the Vale.
* Stile: nothing further has been heard yet about this matter. Councillor Lewis is continuing to pursue it.
* Footpath at Hen Cartref: Councillor Lewis is still pursuing this matter and has been advised that the Vale Council expects to take a decision in 6-8 weeks. A member of the public has found a copy of an Ordnance Survey map from 1983, which shows a footpath across the field. He will pass a copy to the Clerk and to Councillor Lewis.
* The Clerk had contacted Ian Giblett at Cardiff Conservation Volunteers who has confirmed that they charge £140 per day and that the two dates identified (June 15th and October 12th) are confirmed in their diary. The Community Council would need to provide any materials such as weed retardant material or bark that might be needed. He feels that there might be more than 2 days’ work needed for the projects and that he would like to visit the village again to look at the sited before the work begins. The Council unanimously approved the cost of an initial 2 days’ work and the expenditure of up to £100 to purchase any additional materials needed for the project.
* The discussion on the new version of the Standing Orders was deferred until the next meeting.
* Hospital Services Review: As agreed at the February meeting, the Clerk had emailed the Clerks of the other Community Councils in the Western vale to ask if they had any record of receiving an email in December from the CHC about their response to the consultation programme. Few had replied but of those that had, the opinion was that they could not find a record of such an email. Councillor Lewis reported that the Community Health Council are to have further discussions next month. It was likely that the proposals would be referred to the Minister as a result of the actions of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
* Abandoned Vehicle: the local PCSO is still investigating this matter. It was reported that the police station in Cowbridge has been closed to the public but that the one in Llantwit Major remains open.
* Green Lane: the Clerk had contacted the Vale about the alleged quad biking and had been informed that whilst it did appear that this had been taking place; landowners are permitted to hold such activities for a maximum of 28 days per annum (Jan 1st –December 31st) without the need for specific planning permission. The lane appears to have been used for access, rather than for a biking event itself, which is not illegal. The Clerk will raise with The Vale the question of whether the field was actually reinstated as required after the previous incident.
* Litter Picking: Councillor Lewis asked the Clerk to order 3 extra pickers and 12 hoops for the volunteers to use. Councillor Thomas said he would ask the Vale if they could supply such items.
* Brown Signs: Councillor Kennard was not present to report on this matter. Councillor Thomas said that there was a feeling that The Vale was not doing enough to support local businesses.

1. **PLANNING MATTERS**

* **Land at the rear of St David’s School**

The expected application from Redrow has not yet been received. They have been told by the Vale Planning Dept that a full Environmental Impact Assessment of the site will not be required. At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk has contacted a number of Planning Consultants in the area to enquire about the potential costs of professional services in connection with the Council’s response to the application when it is received. Of the firms contacted, one is acting for Redrow on the project and another expects to act for them again in the future and therefore declined to be considered. St Athan Community Council had recently had advice from Planning Aid Wales re the LDP at a cost of £500. The Clerk had spoken to PAW and they can offer a review/opinion on the application, together with advice on what action the Community Council can take to oppose it in an effective way. There is no charge for this level of service which is carried out by a qualified Surveyor who volunteers with them. It was agreed that the Council should take up this offer. The Clerk will send them a copy of the response to the LDP consultation that was submitted in December, as it sets out very clearly the grounds for Council’s objections to the proposals.

* As a matter of interest the senior partner of the firm White Young Green, whilst declining to act for the Council, pointed out that issues such as water/sewage are often solved by the use of Section 106 funds from the developers, if the potential profits from the development are sufficient to warrant it. He also said that charges by consultants could be up to £100 per hour at the top level although firms would often quote a flat lump sum fee, based on their estimate of the work needed. He further expressed the view that the firm acting for Redrow are known for submitting very thorough applications, with extensive documentation that would have to be digested by anyone acting for the Council, thus adding to the time needed and therefore to the costs.
* Councillor Maclehose produced photographs she had taken of a ditch with effluent in it from the pumping station. A copy of the licence to discharge has been obtained from Natural Resources Wales, which states that there is no limit on the volume that can be discharged when the weather warrants it. It does state that there must be no discharge if it has not rained for a period of 7 days. Councillor Lewis had checked the station recently, as it has not rained now for a number of days and it is not currently discharging into the ditch – so the rules are being complied with at present however unpleasant the remains of previous discharges might be.
* The Chairman said the rest of the village should be notified of the application by holding another village meeting. The Clerk will draft a notice for circulation and book the hall for Tuesday March 25th at 7.00pm. A copy of the notice will be sent to Terry Smith for the website.

**Application to erect 3 Wind Turbines at Ty Maen farm**

The Clerk reported that she had received details of planning application no 2014/00232/FUL to erect 3 wind turbines at Ty Maen Farm. The proposed turbines are 12 metres high (14 metres tip height) and would be sited in a field on the left hand side of the road to Ewenny/Llamffa. They would be visible from properties on the corner of the road and also to passers-by.

It was suggested that a discussion of this application should be included in the Village Meeting and the Clerk will add it to the notice to be circulated to residents.

**Other Applications:**

* The Clerk had received details of a planning application within the village from the Vale as follows:

2014/000211/FUL 5 Beech Park Colwinston

Details of the application had been circulated to Councillors who had no adverse comments to make.

**Local Development Plan:**

* There was nothing further to report on this matter at present other than that the figures for population growth have been significantly reduced.

1. **WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATIONS**

* The Clerk has sent letters to Western Log and B&Q asking for contributions to the scheme for planters and poppies and had, so far, received a positive response form B&Q. She had collected 10 packets of seeds form them, which contain approx. 15k seeds. These will need planting after the verges have been cut for the first time. As many more seeds will be needed, it was agreed that Councillor Lewis should order one of the large packs of poppy seeds from the Real Poppy Appeal at a cost of £100.
* The Clerk had spoken to Mrs Sheila Madge, daughter of one of the soldiers killed in the Second World War, who had expressed a view that the proposed memorial should go on the green, not next to the church. This appears to be the view of a number of residents but is not favoured by Highways. They paid a visit to the village recently and inspected the proposed sites with the Chairman. It was made clear that they would object to an application to put the memorial on the village green as it would obstruct sight lines for motorists on the roads that merge at the green. They have no objections to the site at the entrance to St Michael’s Close, so it was agreed- reluctantly- that the memorial should be sited there.
* The Clerk had been told by the Vale Planning Dept that a full Planning Application will need to be submitted for the memorial. The fee will be in the region of £160.The Chairman passed detailed drawings for the memorial to the Clerk to be submitted with the Planning Application in due course. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Derek Evans to thank him for producing the drawings.
* An invoice for Highways re the new road signs has been requested as a matter of urgency, as the CASH Grants section at the Vale want it to be paid from their 2013-14 budget.
* Neil Prior from BBC News Wales On Line had contacted the Clerk for information about Colwinston’s status as a Blessed Village and an article had appeared as a result
* The Clerk had taken a recent opportunity to talk to Alun Cairns MP about the Commemoration Plans and he had offered assistance if required.
* Wick Young Farmers have made contact again and will meet with Councillors Lewis and Roach next week to discuss the making of the planters. An application for a licence will need to be made to the Vale to install these, accompanied by details of the insurance that covers the activity, a risk assessment and a £50 fee. Other suggestions about organisations that might be able to make the planters were also made.
* The quarry at Corntown only blast every 2 months and will let the Chairman know when this is next taking place so that he can choose a suitable piece of stone. Once the stone is in place, the mason’s will install a plaque to match the one presented by the bikers last year. The proper form for the way ranks should be displayed has been clarified but the actual wording still needs to be decided upon.

1. **CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that she had received the following correspondence:

* Report from PCSO Steve Thomas that there had been no crimes in the village in the previous month. There has been no apparent progress in the removal of the car which seems to have been abandoned in St Michael’s Close. The Clerk will pursue this again.
* Details of various posts on Public Bodies which had been circulated to Councillors
* Details of a Gardeners Question Time event at Dyffryn Gardens for people with an interest in the Best Kept Village Competition.
* Request for a donation from Maesteg Animal Welfare, which it was agreed should be left to lie.
* Copies of the Annual Reports for the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and the Adjudication Panel for Wales, which had been circulated to Councillors
* A copy of Consultation information about the implementation of Local Government (Wales) Bye Laws Act 2012
* Details of Public Events being held re Public Participation in the Marine Planning system for Wales, together with details of the proposals
* A copy of the One Voice Wales response to the consultation on the WA Positive Planning proposals
* A copy of Consultation documents on the proposed regulations on the disposal of Local Authority playing fields.
* A copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Liaison Committee meeting held on February 28th 2014.
* Information from OVW re the implementation of the repeal of Section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972. This concerns the need- or otherwise- for two signatures on payments and the steps that must be taken if Councils wish to adopt the amendment. New model financial regulations covering this will be issued in due course.

1. **Finance Report:**

Balances of the Council’s accounts as at February 28th were:

Current Account: £ 2012.69 credit

Deposit Account: £ 8181.67 credit

The following invoices were presented for payment:

£48.00 from One Voice Wales for the annual subscription

£ 4.48 to Councillor Lewis in reimbursement for Hi-Viz jackets relating to litter picking by volunteers in the village.

£49.86 to the Clerk in reimbursement for stamps and stationery items purchased.

£65.93 to Councillor Maclehose for the purchase of the trees for Little Hill.

It was agreed unanimously that these should be paid.

1. **TRAINING COURSES**

Councillor Roach will attend the course on May 20th in Barry on the Code of Conduct.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

* Councillor Thomas reported that that Council Tax in the Vale will rise by 4.5% in the next financial year.
* Councillor Lewis raised the issue of the consultation process for the proposed changes in the delivery of Mental Health Services in the Western Vale. It is proposed that responsibility for these services should be transferred from ABM to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. It was felt very strongly that insufficient time had been allowed for the consultation on this important matter and it was agreed that Colwinston should follow the example of St Brides Major Community Council and send a formal letter of objection to the inadequate time frame. Councillor Lewis will draft a letter and the Clerk will send it to Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board and other interested parties.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING -**  April 8th 2014 at 19.30pm.

SIGNED…………………………………………………………………

CHAIRMAN, COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DATE…………………………………………………………………….

SIGNED…………………………………………………………………

CLERK, COLWINSTON COMMUNTY COUNCIL

DATE……………………………………………………………………