**COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE SYCAMORE TREE PUBLIC HOUSE COLWINSTON ON TUESDAY APRIL8TH 2014 AT 7.30PM

1. **ATTENDANCE**

Councillors:

G.W. Bates Chairman

E.H. Lewis Vice Chairman

W. Bellin

Mrs H. Maclehose

Mrs. C. Roach

B. Kennard

Mrs J.Horton

County Councillor Ray Thomas (from 20.15pm)

Clerk: Jane Motte

One member of the public was present.

1. **APOLOGIES:**

None

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Following the March meeting, the Clerk had consulted Democratic Services at the Vale and had been informed that they consider that the two councillors whose properties adjoin the field to the rear of St David’s School do have personal, prejudicial interests in the application and should therefore take no part in the discussions about the planned development by Redrow. They had also provided information about how to submit an application for a dispensation which could be made to the Council’s Standards Committee, should the Community Council wish to do that. A decision on that was deferred.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the March meetings, which took place on Tuesday 11th March 2014 and Tuesday March 25th had been previously circulated by the Clerk and were accepted unanimously as true and accurate records. It was proposed by Councillor Kennard 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.
* The discussion on the new version of the Standing Orders was deferred until the next meeting.
* Hospital Services Review: As agreed at the March meeting, the Clerk had sent formal letters of objection re the time frame for the consultation on the transfer of Mental Health Services to the Health Board and to the AMs and MP. The response from Ian Wile had recognised the issues of the short time frame for consultation but had not agreed to any extension. Councillor Kennard went to a meeting in St Brides about the proposals, which was also attended by Maria Battle, Chair of Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board. Various reasons/excuses for the lack of consultation were offered. However, it emerged that the Community Health Team will still be based in Cowbridge, with a Consultant from the Princess of Wales available at the Clinic, although Acute Assessment will move to Port Talbot. The changes are likely to affect St Brides and some of the other villages more than Colwinston as many residents of them have GPs in Bridgend, rather than in Cowbridge. Maria Battle suggested that a regular programme of 6-monthly meetings with the Community Health Council would help to facilitate better consultation and involvement in the future. Details are awaited of this initiative.
* Abandoned Vehicle: The Clerk had spoken to the PCSO about the vehicle in St Michael’s Close Car Park. He had investigated the 2? Vehicles that are there without tax discs ( and are not insured either) and discovered that they appear to belong to residents of the village but ones who do not live in the houses/flats in St Michael’s Close itself. The car park is the property of the Church, not the Housing Association and is not part of the public highway.
* Green Lane: the Clerk had raised with The Vale the question of whether the field was actually reinstated as required after the previous incident and had been informed that, in the opinion of the officer concerned, the field had been fully restored after the previous use of quad biking and that the recent usage was in different areas of the land and did not involve the construction of banking etc.
* Litter Picking: the Clerk had ordered the 3 extra pickers and 12 hoops for the volunteers to use.
* Brown Signs: Councillor Kennard said he had written again to Miles Punter about this and had copied the letter to both Jane Hutt and Alun Cairns. Jane Hutt had then written to the Vale to support the request for brown signs.
1. **PLANNING MATTERS**
* **Land at the rear of St David’s School**

COUNCILLORS KENNARD AND BELLIN WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

The minutes of the village meeting that was held on March 25th contained details of the views expressed by residents that the Council will use as part of its response to the application by Redrow. As agreed at that brief meeting of the Community Council that took place immediately after the Village Meeting, the Chairman had contacted several more Planning Consultants and had commissioned both Alec McKenzie and Rob Hathaway to help in the preparation of the response.

Both consultants had been complimentary about the draft response that had been put together so far. Some reordering of the most salient points had been suggested. Rob Hathaway had suggested that specialists should be asked to look at the population figures being used by Redrow and The Vale and also at the heritage, agricultural, drainage and transport issues. All of this would carry a significant cost, certainly in excess of the £2000 agreed at the previous Council meeting.

It was agreed that there was probably already sufficient information in the Council’s response about the agricultural issues in the application and that a consultant’s report on that would not be necessary. It was also agreed that the report received to date from Alec McKenzie should be passed to the Village Action Group for them to use. The Clerk will confirm the position re the reclaim of VAT on professional fees.

The date for responses to be submitted to the Vale has been put back until April 17th, following the posting of notices by The Vale referring to the fact that the site was not included in the old Unitary development Plan, which still has some relevance in view of the current lack of an LDP. However, the Vale must also consider any representations made to them up to the date of the actual Planning hearing, so if the consultants’ reports are not available by April 17th, they can still be submitted.

The Clerk confirmed that she had circulated copies of the bullet points re the application to all those who left their email addresses at the end of the Village meeting.

Alun Cairns, MP for The Vale had held a surgery in the Sycamore Tree recently, which had been attended by 3 Councillors. He had discussed the planning issues facing the village and offered both useful advice about tactics and his personal support.

There was then a detailed discussion of the ways in advice from consultants could be paid for. In view of the very strong feelings in the village about the development, it was agreed unanimously that a maximum of £5000 from the Council’s reserves should be allocated for this purpose. This would use the majority of the Council’s funds and there would no longer be a reserve to cover approximately 6 months normal expenditure. However, it was felt that it was in the best interests of the village as a whole.

The Meeting then closed briefly for a refreshment break, after which Councillors Kennard and Bellin rejoined the meeting.

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

The Clerk reported that she had submitted the response to this application on behalf of the Council, as agreed at the meeting on March 25th, stating that the proposed site was felt to be too close to neighbouring properties and to the road. She also stated that the Council would not object to an amended plan which sited the turbines further west.

 **Other Applications:**

 None

**Local Development Plan:**

* The consultation re Alternative Deposit sites is now taking place and the Council has to submit its views by May 1st. Six alternative sites have been put forward as possible development sites. These include an amended site from Redrow which further extends the existing plot behind the school and which carries exactly the same problems/issues for the village. These are sites 1 and 2.
* Plot 3 is the field on the eastern side of the cricket field behind Pantiles, which again was felt to be inappropriate due to access problems and the lack of connection to the existing village.
* Plots 4 and 5 are land opposite the school, either in part or in whole. Plot 4 which comprised the whole of Plot 5 and land behind that, would not be acceptable as it would have access problems and would again be outside the village envelope. However, linear development of affordable housing on Plot 4, running along the road, would be acceptable to the Council, subject to suitable arrangements for drainage etc and might have the added benefit of resolving the parking issues opposite the school.
* Plot 6 is at Waterton Lodge, to which the Council objected earlier when an application for planning permission was made. However, the Council –recognising that there is a case for some limited development within the village- would not object to a small ribbon development of affordable housing along the road on the site of the existing house and site, rather than a development of large houses extending back on to the agricultural land.
* Plot 7 put forward is the plot next to Heol Faen which was felt to be an inappropriate location outside the current village envelope and on a very narrow lane.
* The Clerk will prepare a response to the Consultation on Alternative sites on the basis of these discussions and will submit the response by the closing date of May 1st.
1. **WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATIONS**
* The Clerk had purchase additional supplies of poppy seeds and had then ordered a further kilo of these, after consultation with the Vice Chairman
* The Vice Chairman and Councillor Roach had met with Wick Young Farmers, who will make a number of planters in an agreed size shortly. The Young Farmers will also be asked for plastic plug trays to help in the growing of plants to go in the planters. Young Farmers would like some assistance in the hiring of the village hall for rehearsals for a stage show later in the year.
* Councillor Lewis had produced a Risk Assessment for the planting process which the Clerk will send off to Zurich Insurance now, together with a copy of the Licence application form, so that they can confirm that our insurance covers the project. The Licence can now be applied for.
* The Clerk had written to Derek Evans as agreed at the previous meeting to thank him for his drawings and had also been in touch with Hafod Housing Association again to seek their consent to the proposals for the memorial
* Alexandra Lodge from ITV Wales had contacted the Clerk as she is researching the Thankful Villages for a programme that is being planned. She wanted to speak to families in the village who had relatives who had served in WW1. The Clerk put her in touch with Councillor Bellin and he had given her contact information for the Prichard family and others in the village.
* BBC 5 Live have also made contact about an article that they want to broadcast on Thankful Villages. Phil Jones is dealing with this enquiry.
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.
* Details of various posts on Public Bodies which had been circulated to Councillors
* Application forms for entry in to The Best Kept Village Competition 2014. It was agreed that an entry would not be made this year.
* A copy of the new Electoral Register for 2013/14.
* Information about a Land and Asset Transfer Shared learning Seminar from One Voice Wales
* request from OVW for questions for the Police and crime Commissioner who will be attending the next area meeting of OVW
* an email from Councillor Judith Marsh, forwarded by OVW, about developments within the Cardiff Partnership Leadership Group. It appears that the suggestion is to be made that T and CCs should have input to the Local Service Board only via Neighbourhood Management Committees
* details from OVW of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Wales consultation on its enquiry into Making Laws in the Fourth Assembly.
* Mazars had sent through the Annual Return for the year ended March 31st, which must be completed and returned by June 30th.
* Details of the annual insurance policy renewal from Zurich Insurance., due at the end of May. This was last put out to tender in 2012 and it was agreed that this should be done every 3 years.
1. **Finance Report:**

Balances of the Council’s accounts as at March 31st were:

Current Account: £ 1523.00 credit

Deposit Account: £ 8183.10 credit

 It had not been necessary to transfer funds from the deposit account to cover the payment to The Vale for the new road signs, as the CASH Grant advance payment of £2000 had been received in time.

The following invoices were presented for payment:

£ 21.50 to J. Motte re purchase of poppy seeds.

£ 100.00 to Grant Smith re planting of new trees on Little Hill

In view of the expenditure agreed earlier in the meeting in connection with the Planning Issues, the Clerk will review the Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31/3/2015, together with the Expenditure from Capital for the First World War Commemorations.

Clerk’s Salary: the Clerk and the member of the public present withdrew for this item. Councillors agreed that the Clerk’s salary should be increased to Point 22 on the Scale, in recognition of her additional responsibilities for financial matters. This will take effect from June 1st, on the anniversary of the appointment.

1. **TRAINING COURSES**

Councillor Roach said she would like to attend training sessions on Planning and Community Engagement in May and July respectively.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Lewis thanked Councillor Ray Thomas for the enquiries he had made about the ownership of the village green, which is owned by the Community Council. Little Hill is not apparently registered but is classed as a Bridleway.

The Chairman reported that he had heard from the Ystradowen Action Group who expressed concern about the demolition of village boundaries. They feel that the Rural Vale Villages should form an action group to resist this. This was agreed to be a useful initiative and one which the Council would be happy to support.

Councillor Lewis reported that someone had suggested to him that a village database of email addresses would be a helpful thing to have in the future and this will be considered further in due course.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING –**
* May 14th 2014 at 19.30pm in the Village Hall. The monthly meeting will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting .

SIGNED…………………………………………………………………

CHAIRMAN, COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DATE…………………………………………………………………….

SIGNED…………………………………………………………………

CLERK, COLWINSTON COMMUNTY COUNCIL

 DATE……………………………………………………………………