**COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE SYCAMORE TREE INN COLWINSTON ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 9TH 2014 AT 7.30PM

1. **ATTENDANCE**

Councillors:

G. Bates Chairman

E.H. Lewis Vice Chairman

Mrs H Maclehose

Mrs. C. Roach

B. Kennard By Skype

W. Bellin

Clerk: Jane Motte

One member of the public was present.

1. **APOLOGIES**: Apologies were received from Councillor Horton and County Councillor R Thomas
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Following the discussions at the November Meeting, the Clerk had written to Debbie Marles, Standards Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan, copied to Sian Davies Managing Director of The Vale and to One Voice Wales, to express the Community Council’s grave concerns about the implications of the Dispensation given to Councillor Lewis. To date, a formal response from Debbie Marles has not been received but Christopher Hope from Democratic Services has contacted the Clerk and explained that all the Councillors should have applied together for a Dispensation. It is still not clear how the Community Council was supposed to have known this or why the very clear explanation of the circumstances that accompanied Councillor Lewis’s application was not apparently taken into account. The Clerk has now done this and sent the form to him, accompanied by a list of the Councillors and their addresses, a map showing where everyone lives and a further explanation of the impact of the Redrow application on the whole village. The application, which includes a reapplication for Councillor Lewis, will be put to the Standards Committee meeting on December 16th. The Clerk has requested that the dispensations, if granted, should run until the next Council elections.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting, which took place on Tuesday 11th November 2014 had been previously circulated by the Clerk and were accepted unanimously as true and accurate records. It was proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor Maclehose 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 had heard nothing further from Marc Allen about this and will try to contact him again as he is thought to have been away recently. The Landlord of the Sycamore Tree is happy with the plan to put the cabinet on the outside wall of the building as it does not apparently need an electricity supply. He will check with Brains that they are content with this.
* Untaxed Vehicles: the Clerk has chased the PCSO again about this and she has said that she in turn is chasing The Vale for action. Councillor Lewis reported that no notices have as yet been affixed to the vehicles.
* Post Office Services: The Clerk wrote to the Post Office Customer Support section as agreed at the last meeting and expressed the difficulties that the lack of a PO in Cowbridge is causing residents of the village. The initial reply said that talks were in hand with someone who wishes to provide a PO Counter Service in Cowbridge and they hope that this will come into being before too long. The reply also said that the Sorting Office at Llandow could be used for posting items. The Clerk has contacted them again to clarify if this includes the posting of parcels and the purchase of stamps, which would be particularly helpful at this time of year. An email received on December 8th apologised for having given incorrect information and stated that the sorting office at Llandow cannot in fact be used for parcels/stamp purchase etc. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Member of Parliament.
* Footpath: Councillor Lewis has pursued Mr. Teague the Footpaths Officer again re the path across the field at Hen Cartref as a decision had been promised by September. There has been no response as yet. The Vice Chairman will write again and copy in the Managing Director.
* Retention of Records: The Chairman had spoken to the previous Chairman who has confirmed that there are no further records in his possession. This means that there are still about 10 years records missing, from the first years of the existence of the Community Council. It may be that these were inadvertently destroyed after the death of the then Chairman.
* Following discussions about the possible amalgamation of areas – such as The Vale with either Bridgend or Cardiff- Councillor Lewis proposed that a letter should be sent to the Local Government Democracy and Boundary Commission to ask if they have any plans to review the numbers of electors for each Community and/or County Councillor. He will draft and circulate a letter in due course.

1. **RESHAPING SERVICES AGENDA**

The Clerk attended a meeting in Barry on November 19th which focussed on the need to make Budget savings over the next few years, which it is hoped can be achieved by various means, including the devolution of responsibility for some services currently provided by the Vale Council to Town and Community Councils, thus eliminating the need for a layer of middle management. The meeting received a presentation from Rob Andrew from Cornwall Unitary Authority. Cornwall has been pursuing a programme of devolving responsibility for such things as Public Toilets, car parks etc. for some years now with considerable success, both in terms of financial savings and in terms of the improvement of community cohesion etc.

Whilst interesting in principle, there was little indication of how such changes might be financed in the Vale, other than by Town and Community Councils increasing their precepts, which might not be popular with the public, unless it was matched by a corresponding reduction in the element of the Council Tax charges for the Vale itself.

The time frame for this, whilst clearly urgent, is not known in sufficient detail for it to be a factor in the determination of the precept for the CC next year. It was suggested that a letter should be sent to Jane Hutt AM to say that the salient point of the financing of this initiative other than by the precept seems to be being ignored at present. It was agreed to discuss this again at the January meeting.

1. **PLANNING MATTERS**

Councillors Lewis, Kennard and Bellin all declared an Interest in this matter. It was noted that their current Dispensations allow them to speak on the issue but not to vote.

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

There has been no further action re this application in the last month. Councillor Kennard had phoned the Planning Department and been told that the application will not be heard in November but may be listed for the meeting on December 18th, although that is also felt to be unlikely in view of reports that are still outstanding. Paul Griffiths is logging the sewage outflow pipe activity, following the recent rain, to see if the lining of the drainage pipes by Welsh Water has been successful. There has been no sign of sewage outflow in recent weeks. A member of the public had seen people in the field and had spoken to them in a forthright manner as they were from Redrow. As yet, there is no sign of the extra reports on the Planning website and it looks unlikely that the application will be heard in December. The Chairman will speak to Rob Hathaway so he is on standby for advice if/when the application is successful.

**Other Applications:**

2014/01369/FUL Crack Hill House Brocastle – erection of a single storey extension. Councillor Bellin declared a personal interest in this matter as he knows the owners of the property personally.

2014/01353/FUL The Paddocks- erection of a porch

Details of these applications had been circulated to Councillors by the Clerk. There had been no comments or objections to either application.

There is an article on the St David’s School website about the possibility of them acquiring an early year’s unit building. This would be a 5 unit demountable building currently on the site of the now closed St John’s School in Porthcawl. This could be relocated and would replace the existing demountable units. This would enable numbers in the nursery to be increased and give more space generally which would be welcome as numbers elsewhere in the school have increased this year. Details of the proposals are on the school website.

**Local Development Plan:**

There has been no further action re this since last month

The Ystradowen Village Action Group is continuing to concentrate on promoting the Llandow Newydd plan and resisting the proposed abolition of village boundaries/envelopes.

1. **WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATIONS**

The Clerk contacted the organisation responsible for the proposal to take part of the Poppy Display on tour, as agreed at the previous meeting. The response had been that they had had – not surprisingly- many enquiries about this and would be in touch again as plans crystallised.

Redrawing of Plans: the Clerk said she still needs to have copies of the plans of the memorial redrawn to reflect the new position and needs to send these to the Vale Planning Dept. as soon as possible,

Thought need to be given to the finishing off of the area immediately around the memorial. The Chairman will speak to a resident about how this might be achieved and the likely cost. Once the work has been completed, Councillor Maclehose will plant rosemary bushes around the area.

Councillor Bellin presented invoices totalling £110 for the laminating of the material he has collected re the village and its residents during the war and it was agreed that this should be on permanent display as an on-going record. The Committee room in the Village Hall was felt to be the best place and the Chair will approach them about this. Councillor Bellin will cost any further works before commissioning it.

Councillor Lewis has not heard anything further from the National Museum of Wales about the possibility of an exhibition of the history of the area. He will contact them again.

The Chairman will ask John Lloyd for a quote for supplying some more new planters.

1. **CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that she had received the following correspondence:

* The PCSO reported that there had been no crimes in the village in the last month.
* Details of various posts on Public Bodies which had been circulated to Councillors
* Details of various training courses run by OVW taking place over the autumn.
* Letter asking if Colwinston has a suitable location for the siting of a textile recycling facility in the village to support SSAFA
* Information on a public opportunity to meet the Hospital Discharge Service at the Vale Co-Creating Healthy Change Forum in Llantwit Major on December 3rd.
* An invitation to take part in a Channel 4 programme on dispute resolution.
* Notice that a two year agreement has been reached with the Local Government Association for a two year pay award. Revised Salary Scales will be published shortly
* Request from One Voice Wales for examples of work being undertaken by Community and Town Councils that is relevant to the Reshaping Services agenda.
* Details of Public Transport arrangements over the Christmas period
* Invitation to nominate the Chairman to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party
* Copy of Minutes from the recent Clerk’s Meeting in Barry, which focussed on the Reshaping Services Agenda
* Information about the Vale of Glamorgan Destination Action Plan initiative, connected to the promotion of Tourism in The Vale
* Invitation to attend an Inspired by Wales meeting re the development of community owned enterprises taking place in Gwynfi on December 11th
* Details of an annual fuel poverty conference run by the National Energy Action Cymru organisation on December 20th
* Details of an Aging Well in Wales initiative –Councillor Roach is attending this from her job.
* Request for donations to support the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2015.
* Request for a donation from St David’s Children Society
* Request for a donation form the Dogs’ Trust
* A copy of the updated Register of Electors.

1. **Finance Report:**

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

Current Account: £ 648.38 credit

Deposit Account: £ 3184.63 credit

The Christmas CASH Grant of £475.00 had been confirmed and was paid into the account by The Vale last week.

Invoices for Payment:

Bellin: £110.00 for the laminating of World War 1 material.

Gates £ 100.00 for the purchase of 2 Christmas Trees for the Green and the Churchyard. Clive Ecclestone was thanked for collecting and erecting the trees.

These payments were approved unanimously

As the Christmas Cash Grant has now been received it was proposed by and agreed unanimously that a donation of £100 should be given to support the Seniors Christmas Lunch

The Chairman will enquire if the Shoebox Appeal has taken place this year.

Draft Budget for 2015/16:

The Clerk had prepared a first draft of the budget for 2015-16 and circulated this to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

After discussion, it was agreed to reinstate the Christmas Cash Grant from The Vale and to remove the cost of salt bin refills. The final budget will be discussed at the January meeting by which time; the Clerk will have had the formal letter from the Vale which contains the figures for the calculation of the precept.

1. **TRAINING COURSES**

No courses had been attended.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

* Village Newsletter: Julie Lloyd has given up editing/printing the newsletter. The Community Council would have expected to cover the costs of printing this if asked. Alan Horton has taken this over and the Chairman will explore the costs with him.
* The Chairman will do the reading at the Carol Service as requested by the Vicar.
* Councillor Lewis said that works on the well are still needed on an ongoing basis to stop it getting over grown again. It would be helpful to have the trees and undergrowth trimmed back, as well as the bushes to the south of the well. A tractor with a cutter would be effective. Enquiries will be made of the local farmers to see if they could help.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

* The next meeting of the Community Council will take place on Tuesday January 13th 2014 at 19.30pm in the Sycamore Tree. The Clerk explained that she would be unable to attend as she is having an operation the previous week. Councillor Roach volunteered to take the Minutes.

SIGNED…………………………………………………………………

CHAIRMAN, COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DATE…………………………………………………………………….

SIGNED…………………………………………………………………

CLERK, COLWINSTON COMMUNTY COUNCIL

DATE……………………………………………………………………