

Cyngor Cymuned Basle Hefo Chrugion Bausley with Criggion Community Council

Minutes of the Online Meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021 starting at 7.30pm

- 001/2021** **PRESENT:** Councillors L Burrowes, D Jones, R Lewis, T Davies,
APOLOGIES: Cllrs F Davies, S Morris and A Lloyd.
County Councillor Lucy Roberts in attendance
Chairman D Jones took the meeting and noted that the Councillors unable to attend had updated the Clerk / RFO with their views on the matters listed on the agenda to be discussed.
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Steve Eccleshall
- 002/2021** This Community Council meeting was held using the Online platform of Zoom, due to the ongoing COVID Pandemic. The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 state Councils can hold official meetings, with members participating in telephone / video conferencing. There is NO requirement for the Public or Press to attend, as long as decisions / minutes etc are published promptly on the website.
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
- 003/2021** None declared
- 004/2021** **MINUTES OF AGM AND LAST MEETING HELD 21st December 2020**
Minutes agreed by all present – Copies to be signed by Chairman D Jones
PLANNING APPLICATION
None
MATTERS ARISING
- 005/2021** **Co-Option New Councillor**
Local farmer and resident Huw EVANS had been proposed by Cllr F Davies as a potential new Community Councillor to fill the last remaining vacancy. This vacancy had been advertised constantly for the past 18 months so applications were always welcome. Mr EVANS was happy to be co-opted onto the Community Council (this process is valid until next elections).
Resolution : - Discussed and agreed by Councillors. Proposed Cllr R Lewis, seconded Cllr D Jones.
- 006/2021** **Playground Equipment**
5 suppliers had been approached regarding tendering for installing and supplying new Playground equipment, and from their responses and lack of responses, this had been shortlisted to two suppliers. Councillors discussed the value for money, amount of equipment supplied and quality of materials and also the time factor for installation.
Resolution : - Councillors decided to proceed with Ray Parry Playground Services Ltd, based in Shrewsbury and his quotation for supply and installation by Mid March for £11796.00. The budget is too be reviewed and if possible existing swing sets and roundabout to be jet washed and repainted as still serviceable. Proposed Cllr T Davies and seconded Cllr L Burrowes.
Playground Equipment Funding
The Clerk was able to report that he had approached local businesses to try and secure additional funding to purchase and install the playground equipment and had been successful in obtaining a further £6200.00.
Councillors expressed their thanks to : -
PrimeSave Properties - £500.
Morgan's Plumbing & Heating Ltd - £250.
Salop Leisure Ltd - £500.
Powys "All Wales Play Opportunities" - £4950.
This additional funding combined with the budgeted funds mean the project can now proceed.

007/2021 Shropshire Flood Prevention Project

This was reported on by County Cllr Lucy Roberts and Community Councillors who had taken part in an online meeting with stakeholders on 25th January 2021. In essence, the information was extremely concerning. It appears that the project is being led by Shropshire and stakeholders within England and is tied into the proposed northern relief road around Shrewsbury with an intention to build the road and a dam at about 9 – 10 meters above water level combining construction etc to benefit land downstream from Shrewsbury onwards. Little if any thought seems to have been given regarding the major impact on land upstream from Shrewsbury, with a suggested potential of turning the flood plain west of Shrewsbury (encompassing Ford, Pentre, Melverley, Bausley & Criggion, Llandrinio, Llanymenech etc etc into a vast flooded area of similar size to Loch Ness 26 square miles!! The suggestion being that it would make a good Inland Water centric Wildlife Habitat which could be good for tourism.

Understandably this of great concern to all the residents, farmers and businesses in the area affected and the lack of engagement with Powys / Wales disturbing. Despite the planning and progress of the 'England' stakeholders, it appears there has been no modelling on the impact of rising water on the Welsh land, so there is no data available at this time for objections to be based. Participants in the meeting asked why the dams at Clywedog and Vyrnwy were not better managed allowing for water to be raised gradually during drier months instead of being held at full capacity meaning that there was no proper management of water levels.

The meeting concluded : -

- Severn Rivers Trust stating they are applying for Grant Funding upstream to map and look for opportunities to hold back water.
- County Cllr Lucy Roberts attending the Clywedog & Vyrnwy Liaison Meeting regarding reviewing water levels,
- Russell George M.S felt that Powys County Council were coming late into the Project and has formally written to Minister, Lesley Griffiths, asking for her views,
- County Cllr Heulwen Hulme responded the lack of engagement would change going forward and Welsh Minister, Lesley Griffiths, would be briefed.

The conclusion was that each and every member of the community needed to write or email <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/svwms/> voicing their concerns to prevent local communities being overlooked.

Resolution : - In addition to encouraging everyone to make their voices known, Councillors decided that a formal letter raising concerns over the issues raised be submitted to the Stakeholders and Russell George MS and County Cllr Heulwen Hulme as she reported directly back to Welsh Minister, Lesley Griffiths. Clerk and Councillors to draft and send letter accordingly.

008/2021 Save Rodney's Pillar

Chairman D Jones, explained that there was no representation on the Save Rodney's Pillar committee from Bausley with Criggion Community Council and that the Trustees of SRP welcomed a representative. However, a representative would need to be a Trustee or could not attend the committee meetings. Being a Trustee places certain conditions on a holder and can involve additional work. Councillors explained they were unable to undertake extra workload or duties in addition to their ongoing daily commitments, and whilst recognising the value of being part of the SRP and their valuable work in protecting Rodney's Pillar, no representatives were forthcoming.

Powys Broadband Project Group update

The Clerk explained that he had become aware of a Pilot scheme run by Powys regarding trialling alternative Broadband solutions and had submitted a bid for Bausley with Criggion to be included. Unfortunately, this bid had been rejected. This was ironic as the 3 Councillors unable to attend this meeting had each notified that they were unable to get a broadband signal to log in. County Cllr Lucy Robert's, said she would be raising this issue with Russell George MS as he had strong views on Community access to working Broadband.

009/2021 Highways

Cllr Lesley Burrowes asked if it would be possible for Powys Highways to install depth markers after Crew Green towards Llandrinio to indicate to motorists how deep flood water was likely to be in an attempt to stop motorists taking a chance and getting stranded as yet again in the recent flooding, cars, vans and even HGV's had to tried to get through and got stranded.

The issues of potholes particularly along Pecknall Lane, and road drainage issues outside the property east of Hand & Diamond PH, and sewage drains overflowing in the road outside Rodney's Crescent were all raised.

Resolution :- County Councillor Lucy Roberts said she would raise these issues with Powys Highways and in addition the Clerk would contact Severn Trent Water regarding the drain capacity outside Rodney's crescent.

A resident had also complained that Bryn Hafren had not been gritted in recent icy and snowy weather. The Clerk confirmed he had seen Bryn Hafren being gritted on Monday 25th January after snow fall and Cty Cllr Roberts explained that for some reason the school and Bryn Hafren were on different gritting schedules and so it could appear that one had been done without the other.

FINANCES

010/2021 The Bank reconciliation and Lloyds Bank statement were presented to the Councillors for their information, and the Clerk / RFO reported that the Budget for this period was still on target. Agreed by Councillors – proposed Cllr D Jones, seconded Cllr R Lewis.

011/2021 **Welsh Audit Office 3 year guidance for future Audits**

The Clerk / RFO reported that the Welsh Audit Office were now responsible for externally auditing Council finances, as previous companies used had not highlighted issues and malpractice when necessary. The new system took into account the difference in auditing between larger and smaller councils and therefore worked on a 3 year cycle of two basic audits and then in year 3 a transaction based audit which was hoped would lessen the onus of bureaucracy but ensure that financial standards were raised. The Budgets for 20/21 and 21/22 would be basic budgets for our Council.

012/2021 **Annual Return and Audit report for 2019 - 2020**

Clerk / RFO reported that the last set of Accounts had now been examined and reported on by the Welsh Audit Office, which gave a "qualified" finding. Qualified means there have been issues highlighted, these issue were :-

- 1). The RFO had signed off the year accounts at the same time as the Chairman, when in fact the accounts should have been signed by the RFO and then presented to the council to be signed off by them, rather than at the same time.
- 2). The current RFO highlighted in his accounts submitted that the figure given in previous Audits for the Assets Register was in fact wrong £124,110 when it should have been £118,999.
- 3). The Notice issued for electors to review the Accounts was posted earlier than the notice period.
- 4). PAYE was overpaid in this period – This was whilst signatories were updated on the mandate and resulted in a standing Order not being cancelled in time – The money was recouped in next financial period.
- 5). Training and costs and mileage had been included in the same column.

Chairman D Jones and Councillors agreed that they did not feel that these issues constituted any serious regard and accepted that they were mostly issues of process which the RFO was clearly resolving. He extended his thanks to the RFO for the works so far.

013/2021 Invoice for Welsh Audit Office - Period 2019 / 2020 - £399.75

HMRC PAYE Liability 3rd Quarter - £191.20

Clerks timesheet and Wages reviewed for 20th December 2020 and 20th January 2021 - £405.05

All three payments reviewed and signed off by Councillors present, proposed Cllr L Burrowes and seconded Cllr T Davies.

014/2021 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Community Council meeting is scheduled for 22nd March 2021