

## **Cyngor Cymuned Basle Hefo Chrugion Bausley with Criggion Community Council**

Minutes of the Online Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 starting at 7.15pm

- 045/2021**    **PRESENT:** Councillors L Burrowes, R Lewis, T Davies, H Evans, A Lloyd, F Davies  
**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs D Jones unable to attend 7.15pm joining later in meeting  
County Councillor Lucy Roberts in attendance  
Powys Community Broadband Officer Reece Simmons in attendance  
Vice Chairman T Davies took the meeting.  
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Steve Eccleshall
- 046/2021**    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**
- 047/2021**    Cllr R Lewis and Cllr F Davies both declared an Interest regarding the application for the annual grant to Criggion Village Hall.
- 048/2021**    **MINUTES OF AGM AND LAST MEETING HELD 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
Agreed by all present – Copies to be signed by Chairman D Jones
- MATTERS ARISING**
- 049/2021**    **Highways** – County Councillor Lucy Roberts explained that there were new staff in post at Powys Highways and that despite repeated requests she had been unable to get any response to Highways issues so had been forced to escalate the matters and was awaiting a response. Councillors T Davies, A Lloyd and L Burrowes then stated that the potholes nearby to The Skeld above Bryn Hafren and along Back Lane Criggion had been repaired within the past 48 hours. However, the overgrown hedges at Criggion Back Lane leading out onto the B4393 remained dangerous, obscuring vehicles trying to get out onto the B4393 and was an accident waiting to happen.  
**Resolution** : - Councillors agreed that if Cty Cllr Roberts could continue to pressure Highways regarding this issue and that of the drainage and road surface outside no.1 Bryn Hafren and that the Clerk would also express the concerns of Councillors.
- 050/2021**    **Broadband** – County Councillor Lucy Roberts explained that she had been working with a local resident Marcus Matthews to find out if the Broadband service and availability currently available to our Community could be improved. As a result of these enquiries Powys Community Broadband Officer Reece Simmons had offered to attend the meeting to explain his role and the current situation.  
At this point County Councillor Lucy Roberts offered her apologies but had to leave the Community Council meeting.  
Reece outlined that the UK Government had made available funding for households and local businesses to band together, apply for a grant and seek Broadband suppliers to improve the service. In April 2021 this funding had become available and in addition to this funding of £1500 per residential household and £3500 per business, The Welsh Government had also released funding effectively matching the grants thereby allowing £3000 per household and £7000 per business. This means that if 100 households and businesses signed up to the funding the total amount of money is merged together. Households / businesses next to each other

may only require £750 out of the “pot” to get connected, which meant that any surplus could be used to include households that were less accessible to mainstream services.

The intention is that this new installation should be “future proofed” as much as possible as it is recognised that all Communities are and will become even more “data hungry”. The technology to be used is intended to be installed via trenching, cabling, trunking etc in such a way that there should be little need to dig up our streets every few years for upgrades.

Reece explained that outside of BT Openreach there were about 6 suppliers Powys were aware of that offered a service to supply rural and less built up areas with Fibre optic Broadband up to 100Mbs. Reece had supplied these details to local resident Marcus Matthews who had contacted each supplier. In response to his enquiries one provider Broadway Broadband had expressed an interest in this project.

The process is that with the endorsement of the Community Council, Broadway would write to each household within both our Community Council Area and any neighbouring Community Council areas that endorsed the project and ask them to express an interest. If the Interests exceeded 30% then it would be deemed as a viable project and a bid for funding would be submitted. Once agreed the installer has a fixed time to install the infrastructure and ensure that EVERY household does reach 100Mbs before they get paid out. As a guide for this service the average costs paid monthly by households already connected was between £20 - £25, and an additional £9 if a phoneline was required which was very competitive against existing suppliers such as BT Openreach.

Vice Chair T Davies thanked Reece Simmons for his presentation, there were several questions regarding timescales and costs (detailed above). At this point Chairman D Jones was able to join the meeting, Reece Simmons then left the meeting, and the Chairman was updated regarding the previous discussions and presentation.

**Resolution** : - All Councillors agreed to endorse this project and that Broadway should contact our Community to gauge interest in obtaining a better Broadband service than many currently experienced.

**051/2021** Annual Grants – two applications had been received for an annual grant for funding, one from Criggion Churchyard and one from Criggion Village Hall. Councillors agreed that before consideration could be given to Criggion Church, a copy of latest accounts should be supplied.

**Resolution** : - Clerk to contact Criggion Church to seek latest accounts for next Community Council Meeting

**052/2021** In relation to Criggion Village Hall, having declared their interests Cllrs F Davies and R Lewis stepped back from the deliberations of the Councillors. Accounts had been supplied by Criggion Village Hall which showed they had recently received a Government Grant for £10,000 and therefore the accounts showed a balance of approximately £21,000. With the agreement of the Councillors, Chairman D Jones asked Cllr F Davies to explain the basis of the grant and what the Village hall intended doing with any funding. Cllr F Davies in her position of Criggion Village Hall treasurer explained that due to the Pandemic, grants had been made available to Charitable organisations such as the Village Hall as their running costs, staffing costs etc had continued despite the inability of the Community to make use of the Hall. Consideration was being given to upgrading and resurfacing the car park but this was at an early stage, there was also some concern that these grants had not yet been “tested” and there was a fear that the money might have to be returned.

**Resolution** : - Chairman D Jones thanked Criggion Village Hall treasurer F Davies for her candid explanation and Councillors then debated the request for an Annual Grant. Councillors agreed that at this time as the Village Hall funds were so healthy it would not be right to allow the grant at this stage, however should circumstances change then the Village hall could approach the Community Council again in the future if necessary.

**053/2021** Cllrs F Davies and R Lewis formally rejoined the meeting.

### **OTHER MATTERS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA**

**054/2021** Chairman D Jones explained that in his role as School Governor at Bryn Hafren School, he had been made aware of concerns from parents about the School being used as a voting station and children having to take an additional day off of school. The school only has about 32 pupils and this would not help levels if parents took their children to other schools.  
Councillors agreed that it would serve the Community better if perhaps Criggion Village Hall be used for future situations such as this.  
**Resolution** : - Clerk to contact Powys / Electoral Commission to raise concerns and seek a change of venue in future.

**055/2021** Councillor F Davies said that she had been approached by local residents within Crew green regarding the current bus service which operated approximately at 10am and 2pm. Concerns were raised that local young people who were too young to drive or financially unable to drive had no way of getting to and from Shrewsbury – seen as the largest likely employment area – and could the Community Council seek to get a better bus service such as 0800 leaving crew green and returning 6pm.  
Councillors agreed that a better bus service would serve the Community better and enquiries should be made.  
**Resolution** : - Clerk to contact Powys / Tanat Bus Services to raise concerns and seek a review and possible change in the bus time table.

### **FINANCES**

**056/2021** 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 L Burrowes and seconded Cllr F Davies.

**057/2021** Invoice for annual Powys Playground Inspection received £72.00.

**Resolution** : - Agreed by Councillors – proposed Cllr T Davies and seconded Cllr H Evans.

**058/2021** Clerks timesheet and Wages reviewed for 12<sup>th</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - £180.00

**Resolution** : - Agreed by Councillors – proposed Cllr A Lloyd and seconded Cllr D Jones.

**059/2021** **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Community Council meeting is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021