**CWMDU AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMDU A'R CYLCH**

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**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting Held at Bwlch Village Hall**

**On 20th January ‘22**

**Present**

**Chairman -** Martin Harbour (MATH),

**Councillors:** Leslie Doggett (LMD), John Williams (JDW), Hank Jackson (RDHJ), Janice Block (JEB),

Sylvia O’Brien (SO)

**County Councillor:** Kathryn Silk (KS),

**In Attendance:** Leslie Jackson

**Apologies:** David Meyer (DM), John Morgan (FJM), Heather Sweeting (HGS), Colin Morris (CJM)

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

MATH had been in contact with CADW regarding the cleaning & repair of the War Memorial in Bwlch. He was awaiting a quote from someone they had recommended. It was agreed that we needed to get at least 3 quotes.

The sign at the LLangorse junction has been repaired, but the sign in the Bwlch cutting is still incorrect.

The local artist of the painting given to Bob Doak is Graham Goodrich.

The widening of the highway is taking place in Bwlch, not Cwmdu.

The Remembrance Day sermon was not a sermon but a prayer and was read by Rev Kelvin Richards.

High traffic speeds were damaging the brickwork of buildings in Tretower & Bwlch, not in Cwmdu. It is expected that the speed limit will soon be reduced to 20 mph.

The Grade 2 listed tomb at St Michael’s Church belongs to Rev Thomas Price.

Subject to the corrections above, the Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising**

There was a discussion regarding the upcoming webinar on second homes in Wales. SO felt that the Council should respond to the issues involved, and agreed to attend the webinar on behalf of the Council. MATH pointed out that holiday homes bring income into the local communities.

The Clerk was asked to follow up his letter to the Trunk Road Agency requesting a 30mph speed limit in Cwmdu.

MATH had had a meeting with a “Go Safe” representative from the local police force. The police view was that speeding was not a problem.

MATH suggested that residents start recording speeds themselves while he will continue to put pressure on the relevant agencies.

RDHJ reiterated that we should have Annual Reports from the Almshouses and Allotments prior to the Council’s own Annual Meeting. The Clerk was asked to look into this.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Vale of Grwyney CC to find out how they were progressing with their complaint on retrospective planning permission.

**Highways**

There had been some complaints regarding the location of the public bench in Bwlch, and the matter was discussed at length.

Some residents had said that the location was used as a passing space for cars, but Powys Highways had clearly stated that it was unsafe for such use. Judging from tyre markings, there was also little evidence of it being used thus.

Conversely, there had also been several messages in favour of the location.

MATH & RDHJ felt that relocating the bench now would make the Council culpable by agreeing to the use of an unsafe parking space.

KS felt that the main complaint appeared to be that there had been no prior consultation with residents, but RDHJ pointed out that the matter had been discussed at several earlier meetings and been mentioned in the Minutes.

At the end of the discussion it was decided that, having considered the views of some residents and acknowledged their concerns, the Council still felt that the proposed location of the bench was the most favourable and would proceed with its installation.

The Clerk was asked to contact Nick West and Alison & Robert Smith and inform them of this decision.

Regarding the flooding of the road by the old school in Cwmdu, JEB has been told that the condition of the road to the caravan site is to be investigated and repairs will be carried out before the site opens.

**Correspondence**

The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Valerie Powell, Treasurer of Cwmdu Village Hall, offering the Council’s support in their effort to improve facilities in Cwmdu. The letter should thank them for their work, which was vital to the village.

The Clerk had received notice that from May ’22, the Welsh government would require Council Clerks to have certain Public Office qualifications if the Council wanted to remain “eligible”. He had asked for clarification of the term “eligible”, but suspected that it related to the eligibility of receiving a Precept from the government.

As the current Clerk had none of the required qualifications, it was necessary for the Council to find a qualified replacement.

SO suggested the possibility of several Councils combining to use a full-time Clerk and the current Clerk was asked to find out if there was a pool of qualified people.

**Planning**

**20/19255/CON – Coed y Bryn, Bwlch – Erection of two-storey building**

Application withdrawn.

**21/20104/FUL – Bryntirion, 8 Springbank Close, Bwlch – Erection of garage & carport**

Approved.

**21/20219/FUL – The Vine, Bwlch – Erection of detached garage with rooms over**

Planning permission granted.

**21/20412/FUL – 8 Springbank Close, Bwlch – Enlarge patio area & construct retaining wall**

Planning permission granted.

**Financials**

The Clerk was asked to provide blank forms for Councillors to sign when they have an interest to declare.

Agreed that we should replace the cheque for £600.00 payable to Tretower Village Hall (no. 000931).

The following payments were agreed:

**000946 B S Khaneka - £54.90:** Travel expenses for December ’21.

**Playing Fields & Allotments**

No matters to discuss.

**Council Website**

The website had now been updated. Some Councillors had had trouble finding the latest Minutes, but KS showed them how to find these.

**Any Other Business**

SO asked the Clerk to describe the subject matter of emails that were forwarded to Councillors.

There being no further matters to discuss, the Meeting was terminated.