**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 7th July ‘22**

**Present**

**Chairman:** John Williams (JDW)

**Councillors:** William Forster (WADF), Hank Jackson (RDHJ), Paul Silk (EPS), Martin Pearse (MJP)

**County Councillor:** Sian Cox (SC)

**In Attendance**: Sue Dale (Clerk) and 2 Members of the public.

**Apologies:** Leslie Doggett (LMD)

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting (9th June ’22) had been circulated to all Councillors. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by RDHJ and seconded by WADF

EPS had tried to attend the meeting via Zoom, but had been unsuccessful.

**Matters Arising**

Powys CC had confirmed that we can proceed with co-opting new Councillors. The Clerk was asked to contact the Elections Officer at Powys CC.

The A40 works on either side of Bwlch had been completed and there no longer were any diversions.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Council should have a full list of Standing Orders, including how much can be spent without having to get 3 quotes in advance. The Clerk was asked to begin compilation of an updated Standing Order list.

RDHJ confirmed that Vedw Wood was still active and was administered by Nick West. There is a registered charity of which the Council is a Trustee.

The Clerk was asked to contact Pryor & Rickett Silviculture and agree a date for their presentation.

**Highways**

SC was still attempting to get the Bwlch community together to get speed cameras installed.

**Planning**

**22/21031/FUL – Rural enterprise workers’ temporary dwelling – Nant Helyg, Cwmdu:** MJP had drafted a series of bullet points outlining our objections to this enterprise and the Chairman had sent a letter to the planning authorities.

EPS had contacted 4 members of the National Park Committee (NPC), but none was prepared to contest the application.

There followed a discussion on whether the Council should ask why the NPC was not prepared to object to the application and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to them. EPS will supply a contact name.

**22/21157/FUL – Use of land and buildings as mixed agricultural, building and construction operating base – Llansanffraed, Aberhonddu:** This is a field on the edge of Bwlch that used to be a smallholding, but has lately been bought by a construction company.

As an environmentalist, SC was extremely concerned by the application and thought it would be good if the Council also raised its own objections. The application was currently going through an enforcement process, but she was concerned that this may not be particularly vigorous.

The current applicants have already erected a 2-storey metal building and security lights. There are currently 20-30 people who work there daily.

The Council has 21 days from the 27th June to file a complaint. It should express its concern at the creeping industrialisation of the site and the lacklustre planning enforcement. The site has a negative environmental impact, including phosphates leeching into the River Usk and has a detrimental impact on local amenities.

The Council should reinforce its concerns to the planning authority, with copies to Dean Williams at the Trunk Road Agency & Powys Environmental Health.

**Control Framework of Social Services**

Police recently raided a house in Cwmdu owned by Social services.

During discussion it was learnt that a local authority can own properties in another local authority’s area and authorities in England are not required to inform the host authority. Social Services in Powys have no power to find out who the providing authority is and police are only required to inform the local council if there is a safeguarding issue.

SC said she would investigate further.

JDW will contact Billy Dunn (PCSO), who may be able to tell us who the provider is.

**Trustees for Cwmdu Almshouses**

As Trustees, we want to reappoint Colin Harris & Malcolm Thomas, and appoint Janice Block. This was proposed by EPS and seconded by WADF.

**Correspondence**

One Voice Wales has asked if any Councillors are interested in joining the Committee for their quarterly meetings. All agreed that it was a very good forum for small councils such as ours, and the Clerk was asked to nominate JDW as a candidate.

Crickhowell Town Council had circulated a letter regarding safety issues at the Co-Op development site. They were asking adjoining councils to join the protest.

Agreed that the Chairman would send a letter of support, with a copy to the Clerk. Proposed by MJP and seconded by all.

**Playing Fields & Allotments**

WADF has looked around the allotments and thought they were in good order.

WADF said he was unaware that the playing field was provided by the Council as an amenity for local residents.

SC had been asked about playing areas in Bwlch, but didn’t know of any. RDHJ said there was a playing field & equipment near the council houses.

**Financials**

The Clerk had spoken to Stefhan Caddick about updating the Council’s website. He was now back permanently and was willing to help (subject to his fee). However, it was best to wait until the new Clerk had started.

One cheque was presented for signature:

**000962 – Stefhan Caddick –** Website hosting fees.

**Council Clerk’s Replacement**

Sue dale attended the meeting and said that she was willing to work through a trial period and was willing to begin updating the website.

She would charge a standard rate of £10.85p.h.

**Any Other Business**

MJP suggested venturing into social media.

There was a discussion on how the Council should set up virtual meetings. Further discussions would be held at the next meeting.

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