CWMDU AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMDU A’R CYLCH

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Boat House, Coed-yr-Ynys Road, Llangynidr, Powys. NP8 1NA

**Minutes of a Council meeting 2nd February 2023**

**Present**

**Chairman:** John Williams (JDW)

**Councillors:** Hank Jackson (RDHJ), Paul Silk (EPS), Martin Pearse (MP), William Forster (WF), Selena Clay (SC), John Jones (JJ) and David Meyer (DM).

**In Attendance**:County Councillor Sian Cox (CSC) PCSO Lee Garrett, Sue Dale (Clerk).

# Apologies:

LD and KL

CCllrs S-J and M Beecham

# Declarations of Interest:

SC declared an interest in planning item 23/21683/FUL.

# Public participation – PCSO Lee Garrett reporting on Police activity in the area between 5/1/23 and 2/2/23.

Data protection rules mean that the Police cannot discuss individual cases.

There have been 10 incidents this month, an alarming identity theft/fraud where mobile phones worth thousand of pounds were stolen. Residents need to be aware of the problem and take care not to leave identity information in the recycling or post boxes.

A pushchair was left for a long while, a dog handler had been called but the pushchair had been removed by the time he arrived. In Bwlch, it was reported that chainsaws were taken.

Lee appealed to the council to circulate a Veterans Wales poster.

There was a question about noise, Lee advised contacting environmental health at Powys County Council.

Lee was thanked for his attendance.

# Minutes of the meetings 5th January 2023 and 19th January 2023.

5th January 2023: Prop. MP, Sec. RDHJ. Approved

19th January 2023: Prop, MP, Sec SC. Approved

# Matters Arising (information only)

5/1/23 - Car Park - JW spoke to the owner’s representative, they are not in a position to discuss selling at the moment. JW will stay in touch and reported that the discussion was positive.

Post Office - County Councillor Cox will follow up on the way that foot traffic was monitored in Bwlch Post Office. There was disappointment at the lack of Post Office representation to witness the hilly terrain, the distances, the busy traffic and the absence of any buses to Llangynidr or Talybont. The closure happened so quickly, but it seems that there may have been problems for a while.

It was reported that identifying the correct person to communicate with in the Post Office, had been a difficulty. The Community Council needs the support of residents if they feel strongly about the lack of a Post Office or an outreach service in Bwlch.

The Post Office consultation website lists Bwlch as temporarily closed!

There has been a letter from the Post Office stating the reasons for closure. But has due process been followed? The Post Office is not only a business, it is a public body and it needs to be reasonable in all the aspects of it’s decision making, for example in closing a business. There would be public support for a re-opened Bwlch Post Office, but there is no Postmaster/mistress yet. The Outreach service would be popular.

No matters arising from the minutes of the 19/1/2023.

# Powys County Council Matters.

None

# Correspondence: Councillors are notified of incoming email from external bodies, some are listed here:

* Agenda Health of Radnorshire & Brecknock Local Committee Meeting Powys Health Board- 26th January 2023.
* Welsh Government response to the request to reduce the speed limit on the A479 at Cwmdu.

# Planning Applications:

23/21683/FUL Heol Gerrig. New single-storey side extension. Block up existing gable window. New and replacement rooflights to rear roof slope of cottage. Associated tree works.

No objections provided all legal requirements have been met.

23/21683/FUL Nant Helyg. Temporary workers accommodation. The response is as follows:

I am asked by the Council to provide its response to the new planning application in respect of Nant Helyg (23/21721/FUL) following the withdrawal of the previous application (22/21031/FUL.

The application documentation appears to consist only of the application form itself, a site plan and a single drawing.

The application form

Although section 5 of the application form refers to the provision of pre-application advice by Rhydian Williams, this appears to relate to the withdrawn application and not to the current, replacement application.  In any event, the matters referred to in section 5 are not addressed in this new application.

Although section 8 of the application form suggests that the applicants have consulted with their neighbours and local community, this appears to be a reference only to the statutory consultation process attached to the withdrawn application.  The Council is not aware of any consultation having been carried out with the local community in respect of the current application - despite the concerns expressed in that respect by this Council in respect of the withdrawn application.

The Council questions the applicants' negative response to section 15 (trade effluent). If, as was previously the case, the applicants propose to run a rural undertaking involving the rearing of quail, it is to be assumed that this will give rise to effluent.

The drawing

The Council notes that this new application appears to provide for a 2-bedroom timber dwelling, but that the application is not supported by any justification whatsoever for the provision of this or any other dwelling.

Conclusions

The application relates to a 'rural enterprise workers temporary dwelling', but no details are provided of the nature of the rural enterprise or why a worker's temporary dwelling is considered to be necessary.

There are strict controls in respect of all and any residential developments (including temporary) within this part of the National Park.

None of the factors giving rise to a departure from this approach has been addressed in the application.

On the scant details available the Council is unable to support this new application and objects to it.

If further details are in due course provided the Council will be willing to reconsider.

If those details, once provided, are similar to those provided with the original (withdrawn) application, then the Council will expect any such details to address the numerous concerns previously expressed by this Council in connection with that application - see the Council's response recorded on the BBNP website on 17 June 2022.

# Financials – cheques for approval.

* Sue Dale, Clerks salary Dec 22 £465.20
* Planning Aid Wales £150.00 (see 1)

Cheques were approved.

# Wi-fi service at Cwmdu Village Hall.

A service provider has indicated that the first year of a wi-fi contract would be free and approximately £25/month thereafter. The unique property identification number has been obtained for the Hall. The Village Hall Committee are keen to install the facility.

# Placement of a pedestrian crossing in Cwmdu, to be discussed and action agreed. Considered to be unlikely as the A479 is a trunk road

# Zoom pro or some similar programme needs to be purchased for the Community Council.

Clerk to ask Llangynidr Community Council to share the expense of Zoom pro. Clerk to see how much Teams would be.

# Cwmdu Community Council and local charities.

There appear to be some inconsistencies in aspects of the governance of Fedw Wood. MP to examine and report back. Councillors would like to visit the wood before the next meeting. In contrast, the Ann Williams Almshouses Charity seems to be well constructed.

# Standing orders to be approved.

The Standing Orders were approved. A query concerning the necessity for a register of interests of the website was raised. In addition, the need for an annual appraisal for the Clerk soon was raised, Clerk to arrange.

# Financial Regulations – update on progress.

The financial regulations have been examined and recommendations made. They will be circulated and offered for approval at the March meeting.

# Planning Aid Wales offer £150 for a year for all community councillors to access the training platform whenever they like.

Approved. Prop: MP, Sec:SC.

# Valuations of the chains of office at Jonathan David of St Mary Street Cardiff will cost £100 (£55 for first item and £45 thereafter). Adjourn to March meeting.

# Orders Branch have issued a plan to formalise the current speed limits through Tretower (30mph) and Cwmdu (40mph). To discussed and action agreed (see item 7).

Clerk to write to Orders Branch to request a delay in implementation at Cwmdu until outstanding correspondence, raising unlawfulness in the process, is resolved.

# Any Other Business (for information only)

Website – Some Cllrs have only been able to access old versions of the website on the internet.

Gilestone Farm – An invitation to consult has been sent to other Community and Town Councils in the area. Some positive responses have been received. Clerk advised putting the matter on the agenda for March.

Glanpant Fields - There is a Planning Committee meeting on the 21st March, the application may be considered then, To go on the agenda for April.

Connectivity – The internet equipment used by the community council is not adequate for the task. The wi-fi connection is fine at Tretower Village Hall and at Bwlch Village Hall. March Agenda.

Litter picks and other measures (Traffic Wales website) to reduce littering. March Agenda

Speed watch – re-establishing a group? March agenda

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.11pm

Thursday 2nd March 2023 is the date of the next meeting at Bwlch Village Hall.