

Cyngor Cymuned Nantmel Community Council
Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2017 at Dolau Chapel

Present: Cllr J Price, K Curry, P Bowen, A Bates, J Harris, J Morgan, R Lewis
Cty Cllr D Evans

Apologies: Cllr C Lewis

NC 82/07 **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th October 2017 were confirmed and signed.

NC 83/07 **Information from Minutes**

None

NC 84/17 **Planning Applications**

- a) **P/2017/1116** – Full: Proposed erection of Free Range Poultry Unit, erection of 2 no. feed silos, creation of vehicular access and all associated works at Neuaddfach, Nantmel. **No objection.**
- b) **P/2017/1255** – Full: Proposed hard standing to area adjacent to planning approval P/2014/0234 land adj to Brynawel, Crossgates.
Cllr Harris declared an interest in this application and left the room whilst discussions took place. No objection.
- c) **P/2017/1280** - Section 73 application to vary condition 9 of planning approval P/2017/0455 to extend the hours of operation at Cae A Llwyn, Llwyn Lane. **No objection.**

NC 85/17 **Correspondence**

- a) **Mrs Joy Morgan – Co-option Process & Planning Application Complaint**
Cllrs J Price, J Morgan, A Bates & R Lewis declared an interest in this application and left the room whilst discussions took place.

Cllr Curry took over the Chair for this item only.

The Clerk read the email from Mrs Morgan. The Chair clarified the 3 main issues within the email and asked the Clerk to respond on these issues. The Clerk read out the following reply to the complaint:

1. Agendas were circulated to members of the Community Council on 11th May 2017, these included a co-option notice for discussion and approval. (This was not for circulation as it had not been approved at this point.)
2. At the meeting held on 18th May 2017 members discussed the notice and agreed to amend the closing date to Wednesday 12th July 2017 to allow local residents sufficient time to make their applications.

3. 4 applications were received during the co-option period and were acknowledged by me as Clerk on receipt.
4. As Clerk, I issued the agenda to members on 13th July 2017 for the meeting to be held on 20th July 2017. This included at item 8 – Community Council co-option. The candidates were not listed on the agenda (which is standard practice) to protect their confidentiality.
5. At the meeting held on 20th July 2017, as Clerk I announced the names of the 4 candidates and indicated to all members present their responsibility to declare a personal or prejudicial interest if they have a close relationship/friendship with any of the candidates. I was aware that probably 3 members would declare an interest, however only 2 members did this. Cllr John Price (Chair) and Cllr John Morgan declared an interest and left the room for the whole process.

Cllr Carol Lewis took over the Chair for this item and conducted the co-option process. I circulated full copies of the 4 applications to all members who were given 15 minutes to read the contents of these.

Members requested a written ballot for this, which was carried out. Mr Roger Lewis and Miss Anne Bates received the majority of the votes and therefore were the successful applicants.

6. The contents of email from Mrs Joy Morgan (one of the candidates) refers to ? “You as a clerk should know the process and be fully aware of the correct system in place here? “

I am fully aware of the process and have been employed as a Clerk for many years. The process undertaken, I confirm was correct and feel there is no recourse.

I am also of the opinion that one of our members has handed a copy of the initial co-option notice to Mrs Morgan prior to this being agreed. Which should not have happened, as actual notices with the agreed date were emailed out and sent to members the day after the meeting.

I am also aware of an anonymous libellous letter which has been received by Clive Pinney, Solicitor for Powys County Council accusing me of distorting the process, which I find extremely offensive, and confirm I will be taking further private action with regard to this matter. Powys County Council have confirmed they will take no action on this matter as they are satisfied that the correct process was undertaken.

I am also aware that other members of the Council have been approached by local residents with regard to the process, and have been given a somewhat distorted version of the actual process undertaken and once the actual process was explained subsequently apologised for being misled.

As Clerk I have always enjoyed my role serving the Community Council and have been aware of malicious undertones within the Council. This must not be allowed to continue.

As Clerk to the Council I am employed to be its legal adviser and from now on, I will accept no behaviour which breaks the code of conduct and if I feel this is occurring I will have no option other than to report the member/s concerned to the Public Services Ombudsman.

As a Councillor and a representative of the local residents it is your responsibility to behave in an appropriate manner befitting the office of Councillor. It is also against the code of conduct to make unsubstantiated allegations about any other member of the Council or local resident. Actions such as these are deemed as bringing the Council into disrepute and should be reported to the Public Services Ombudsman.

The Chair asked the Clerk to clarify the advice given by Powys County Council and the Clerk confirmed that the advice given was that they are satisfied that the correct process was undertaken. No action will be taken resulting from the anonymous libelous letter which has been received, a copy of which has been retained for the Clerk.

The Chair asked members for comments; members were happy that the correct process was undertaken.

b) Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council – Portable Speed Signs

An email had been received from the above informing members that they are considering purchasing portable speed notification signs for the community which could be used within the other, and asked if the Council would consider assisting with the funding of this project.

The Clerk had replied and asked for an indication of the possible costs, but had received no reply. She also advised members of the difficulty with regard to ownership when co-funding the purchase of items.

Members felt these would be of little use within Nantmel as the National Speed limit operates along the main road, but agreed to wait for an indication of the costs from Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council.

Resolved: to await costs.

- c) **One Voice Wales – Review of Town & Community Councils Meeting**
A meeting will be held in Howey Village Hall on Tuesday 5th December 2017 from 2pm to 4pm to allow a representative from each Council to discuss the above review.
Resolved: Cllr Curry will attend to represent the Community Council

NC 86/17

Finances

- a) **Vision ICT – Website Hosting - £168** – approved.

NC 87/17

Precept 2018/19

Members discussed the draft budget and make amendments. The budget for 2018/19 was agreed at £9010, equating to £28.46 per household.

Resolved: Make a request from the precept of £9010.

NC 88/17

Appointment of Internal Auditor

Following the recent changes concerning audit regulations and the employment of a sector specific auditor, it was agreed to appoint Lee Stephens as Internal Auditor for 2018/19.

Resolved: to appoint Lee Stephens as Internal Auditor for 2018/2019

NC 89/17

War Memorial

Cllr Curry confirmed that all work is now complete and it was agreed to release the payment to Mark Haslam. It was agreed that the area looks wonderful. Cllr J Price felt that the Memorial was in need of a clean and the Clerk agreed to speak with the War Memorials Project Officer with regard to carrying this out in the spring.

Resolved: Clerk to contact War Memorials Officer.

NC 90/17

Nantmel School Building.

Cllr R Lewis had circulated copies of photographs he had taken from the National Archives with regard to Nantmel School. Cllr Lewis was asked to prepare a short summary to be circulated to all members and the Action Group prior to the next meeting.

Cllr Curry confirmed that Gareth Jones of PCC Education is in the process of preparing a report for Cabinet with regard to the £25,000. Members agreed to await the outcome of this.

Cllr Bowen felt that the Action Group should be notified of progress to date and be assured that progress is being made.

Resolved: the Clerk will contact Julia Lewis with regard to this.

NC 91/17

Christmas Dinner & Next Meeting

The next meeting will commence at 6.30pm promptly at the meeting room in the Bell Inn, Llanyre. The Dinner will take place 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

NC 81/17

Any Other Business

a) Speed Issues – Gwystre

Cty Cllr Evans' meeting with a Highways Officer had been cancelled as the officer had had an accident. This will be re-scheduled shortly. Cllr Evans will notify Cllr Harris of this.