

**Cyngor Cymuned MOCHDRE gyda PHENSTRYWAID
MOCHDRE with PENSTROWED Community Council**

Ashford, The Bank, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2AB

www.mochdrepentrowedcommunity.net

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 25th March 2019,
7:00pm at Mochdre Old School.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Jean Williams
Cllr. Russell Williams
Cllr. Robin Lewis
Cllr. Lloyd Humphreys
Cllr Ian Williams

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Philip Williams
Cllr. Gordon Jones

ABSENT:

Cllr. Martin Turley

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Kath Wigley (Clerk)

County Cllr. Karl Lewis

1. 0. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

1.1. See above.

1.2. **Declarations of Members' Interests** - There were no Declarations of Member's Interest made.

2.0. Confirmation of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th February, 2019 (previously circulated).

2.1. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 4th February, 2019 were agreed to be a true record of what there and then transpired and were duly signed as such by the Chairman.

3.0. Information from the Minutes.

There was no information from the minutes.

4.0. Finance

4.1. Update on Bank Balances:

1) Mochdre CC bank statement £8,224.89. Cash book stands at £8,224.89. There are no outstanding cheques.

2) Mochdre CC No2 Account (for P & L funds) bank statement £2,862.86. Cash book stands at £2,862.86. There are no outstanding cheques.

4.2. To consider invoices for payment:

1) OVW - £20.00 (Cllr Humphrey's Code of Conduct training).

2) Planning Aid Wales - £35.00 (Cllr Humphrey's "Responding to Applications" training).

3) Wales Audit Office - £182.00.

4) OVW Membership Fee - £73.00.

5) Upper Bridge Enterprises - £175.20 (website annual fees).

6) K. Wigley - £873.80 (Clerk's fee for last quarter).

7) HMRC - £126.20 (PAYE tax on Clerk's fee).

8) Laptop Protection Plan Renewal (was due 16/03/19) – Clerk has arranged to pay it by Direct Debit (thus reducing the cost by 20% - from £105.00 to £84.00) with a view to claiming it back within the Clerk's expenses.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to pay amounts 1) to 7) and that the Council was happy with the payment arrangement for 8) – Laptop Protection Plan Renewal.

5.0. Independent Remuneration Panel Report

5.1. Section 13 of the report relates specifically to Town and Community Councils (e-mailed to Councillors on 11th March). Following discussion, the Councillors present voted unanimously to forgo the two mandatory allowances stated in the report (Determinations 40 and 46) and signed personal letters to this effect. The Council also unanimously voted no to receiving any of the optional payments detailed in Determinations 42, 43, 44, 45, 47 and 48.

6.0. One Voice Wales

6.1. SLCC/OVW Joint Conference at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea on 15th May, 2019 (cost to member council is £90.00 + VAT). The Council voted in favour of the Clerk attending.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to book a place at the Conference and investigate if the usual bursary is still available towards the cost.

7.0. Planning Applications (if any)

7.1. Reference the discontinuation of publicising third party correspondence, which was discussed at the 10th December meeting (Minute Ref 13.2), the Council voted not to protest against this decision to show solidarity with other Town and Community Councils at this time.

8.0. Powys County Council

8.1. Draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy – Comments by 22nd April 2019 This is not applicable to this community council area so the Council declined to comment.

9.0. Newtown Town Council

9.1. Place Plan – Series of public events for Councillors to attend (e-mailed to Councillors on 6th March, 2019). Duly noted and a short report was given by those who had attended the 18th March event.

9.2. Welsh Government Joint Arrangements Fund – The offer of a possible joint Rights of Way project with Newtown Town Council was declined by the Council at this time.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to advise Newtown Town Council accordingly.

10.0. Reports of Committees, Meetings or Training Attended.

10.1. OVW Code of Conduct Training - Cllr Humphreys reported that this was useful.

10.2. Planning Aid Wales “Responding to Applications” Training - Cllr Humphreys reported that this was an excellent session and very informative.

10.3. SLCC Branch Meeting – The Clerk reported that the guest speaker was Deryck Evans from the Wales Audit Office (extremely useful with the Audit up and coming!). His main announcements were that unfortunately Councils have been undercharged for the last 3 years’ audits. The good news is that the Audit Office will not be attempting to recoup this, but the bad news is that fees will increase this year, possibly from £50 to £100 extra, and from now on. He is also looking to review the audit regime and any changes will come in the 2020 – 2021 audit. From 2021 audits will be done by the Wales Audit Office.

11.0. Highway Matters

11.1. Maintenance of the Mochdre bridge parapets by PCC (see Minute Ref 11,2, 4th February, 2019 meeting).

ACTION: County Cllr Karl Lewis is to investigate further as more information is required.

11.2. Response received from Aled Jones reference various road maintenance issues brought up at the last meeting (Minute Ref 11.3.) was duly noted. The Council requested a further progress update on these matters.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to request said update from Aled Davies.

12.0. Operation London Bridge

12.1. The Council's forward preparations for marking the death of the Sovereign were discussed. The Council voted unanimously to purchase two Condolence Books.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to investigate costs.

13.0. Review of Standing Orders

13.1. In light of this being included in one of the themes for this year's audit, the Council revisited its Standing Orders, especially in relation to GDPR. The Clerk had drafted a “Data Breach Notification Policy” and a “Request to Exercise Individual Rights under the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018” Policy which the Council duly approved.

14.0. Charities/Donations, etc

14.1. Request for donation from the Wales Air Ambulance. After discussion there was unanimous approval that a £50.00 donation be given.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to raise the cheque for signature at this meeting and forward it on to Wales Air Ambulance.

14.2. Request for donation from the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. The Council voted not to donate to this cause at this time.

15.0. Community Council Grant Requests (if any)

The Clerk reported that there were no items for discussion under this heading.

16.0. Correspondence

- 16.1.** No Nuclear Waste Dump in Wales – Request from CND Cymru for Council to pass a resolution stating that the community will not volunteer to host an underground nuclear waste dump. The Council was in full agreement of this and the above resolution was passed.
- 16.2.** Registration now open for new garden waste collection service. Duly noted.
- 16.3.** Armed Forces Covenant Fund – E-mail received that they are planning to use a profile of the Council's project in their forthcoming publication regarding their "There, but not there" funding programme. Duly noted.
- 16.4.** Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales – Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County of Powys Final Recommendations Report. Duly noted.
- 16.5.** E-mail from Mr Rhodri Thomas asking for the Council's support for the complaint he has made to PCC Highways Dept with regard to HGV traffic on Bog Lane. The Council voted unanimously to support this Complaint.
- ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to write to PCC Highways Dept accordingly.

17.0. To receive questions from Councillors

- 17.1.** The Council was informed that Rhydycwrt Bridge has once again been damaged quite severely.
- ACTION:** County Cllr Karl Lewis is to investigate.

18.0. Chairman's Announcements

- 18.1.** The Chairman expressed concerns about the treatment of buildings on Council-owned farms – buildings are being treated as redundant if they are considered to be too expensive to repair.
- ACTION:** County Cllr Karl Lewis is to investigate.

19.0. Date of next meeting

- 19.1.** Next meeting will be on Monday, 13th May, 2019, **which will be the Annual Meeting followed by an Ordinary council meeting.**

Meeting closed at 8:25pm.