

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

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

www.mochdrepennstrowedcommunity.net

**Minutes of the online Council Meeting held on Monday, 26th  
October 2020, at 7:00pm**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. Jean Williams

Cllr. Ian Williams

Cllr. Robin Lewis

Cllr. Philip Williams

Cllr. Gordon Jones

Cllr. Russell Williams (Chairman)

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Martin Turley

**ABSENT:**

Cllr Lloyd Humphreys (unable to connect)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. Kath Wigley (Clerk)

County Cllr Karl Lewis

Mrs Enid Morgan

**1.0. Attendance and Apologies for Absence – See above.**

**1.1. Declarations of Members' Interests– There were no  
Declarations of Member's Interest made.**

**2.0 Confirmation of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on  
7th September, 2020 (previously circulated).**

**2.1.** That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th  
September, 2020 were a true record of what there and then  
transpired and will be duly signed as such by the Chairman  
(see 4.2. below).

**3.0. Information from the Minutes.**

**3.1.** Mrs Enid Morgan (Church Treasurer) presented the figures for  
Mochdre Church expenses (as per the Council's request at  
the last meeting - see Minute Ref 17.2, 7th September, 2020)  
to facilitate discussion about what the Council might be able to  
do to help Mochdre Church financially during these  
difficult times (funds would be taken from the P & L account).  
Following questions from Councillors, Mrs Morgan agreed to

e-mail the figures to the Clerk to forward on to Councillors, after which she left the meeting. The Clerk had contacted P & L and established that there are no restrictions on what the annual grant can be used for in the community. The Council voted to read and digest the figures, once received from the Clerk, and discuss this further at the next meeting.

**ACTION:** The Clerk is to forward the figures on to Councillors once received from Mrs Morgan, and put this on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

- 3.2.** Response from County Cllr Karl Lewis with regard to Councillors' question raised at the last meeting (see Minute Ref 17.2, 7th September, 2020) – Danny Jarman has checked out the tree root situation, but does not feel that it is much of a problem and thus is low priority at this time. He will continue to monitor the situation on an ongoing basis. The Council asked County Cllr Lewis to reinforce with Danny that this is a problem for some of the people who live locally, which he agreed to do.

#### **4.0. Finance**

##### **4.1. Update on Bank Balances:**

- 1) Mochdre CC bank statement £8,785.44. Cash book stands at £8,536.44. There are two outstanding cheques for £149.00 and £100.00. Duly noted.
- 2) Mochdre CC No2 Account (for P & L funds) bank statement £5,680.91. Cash book stands at £5,680.91. There are no outstanding cheques. Duly noted.

##### **4.2. To consider invoices for payment.**

- 1) Mochdre Old School - £250.00 (Annual upkeep grant).
- 2) Mochdre Church - £150.00 (Annual Grant).
- 3) Penstrowed Parish Church - £150.00 (Annual Grant).
- 4) Pentre Chapel - £150.00 (Annual Grant).

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to pay the above amounts. It was agreed that three Councillors and the Clerk would attend at the Old School at a convenient time (to be arranged) to sign off the cheques and update the

signing of the Minute Book. The Clerk highlighted the fact that a set of new batteries was required for each of the Community Defibrillators for the beginning of next year (they have to be replaced every five years and are now due). The Cash Book is on its last two pages so a new one is required (the current one has lasted since 1989!). It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase these items and be reimbursed accordingly at the next meeting.

## **5.0. Draft Annual Budget Discussions**

**5.1.** The draft Annual Budget for 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022 was presented for discussion. Councillors had been provided with a copy of the draft budget for 2021 - 2022, and budget figures for the two preceding years as a comparison. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Council voted unanimously in favour of approving the draft Annual Budget and in favour of a request for a Precept of £7,500.00 being made at the appropriate time.

## **6.0. External Audit**

**6.1.** The Clerk updated the Council on the progress of the external audit from external auditor, Grant Thornton. The date for completion of the audit has been moved once again due to the current pandemic situation, to 1st November, so the Council can expect to hear very shortly.

## **7.0. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**

**7.1.** The Clerk e-mailed a letter template to the remaining five Councillors on 27th July, 2020 (see Minute Ref 6.1., 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 meeting) for them to sign, date and return to the Clerk as soon as possible to comply with the legislation in place. However, there is one letter **still** outstanding.

**ACTION:** The Chairman will speak to the Councillor in question, to chase this up.

**7.2.** IRPW report for 2021 for discussion/comment. Duly noted, the Council did not wish to comment.

**At this point County Cllr Karl Lewis was placed in the 'virtual' waiting room by the Clerk whilst the following Planning**

**Applications were being discussed (due to his position of Chair of the Planning, Taxi Licensing & Rights of Way Committee).**

### **8.0. Planning Applications**

**8.1.** Application Ref: 20/1393/RES Grid Ref: **E:308626 N:290435**  
Proposal: Reserved matters application in respect of outline approval P/2016/0797 (August, 2016) for the erection of 30 dwellings (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the proposed development, together with condition 8) at Land to the North of the A489, Newtown, SY16 4HZ. E-mailed to Councillors on 1st October, 2020. An extension to the time allocated for observations had been granted by the Planning Officer. Following discussion the Council voted unanimously to object to this application – it felt that this kind of development was progressing faster than the necessary infrastructure to support it, putting a strain on the area’s current hospital, general medical practice and schools facilities, etc. (bearing in mind that another development for 60 houses was in the pipeline also).

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to inform the Planning Officer accordingly within the required timescale.

**8.2.** Application Ref: 20/1470/HH Grid Ref: **E:307298 N: 287774**  
Proposal: Removal of garage, field gate and fence, timber casement windows, iron frame casement window, corrugated metal sheet gabled porch and blockwork garden wall. Installation of new field gate and fence, new timber casement windows, construction of new brick porch, new brick garden wall, install new roof lights and rebuilding of brick chimneys (retrospective) at The Rock, Mochdre, Newtown, Powys, SY16 4JW. Following discussion the Council voted unanimously in favour of supporting this application.

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to inform the Planning Officer accordingly within the required timescale.

**8.3.** Application Ref: 20/1389/LBC Grid Ref: **E:307298 N: 287774**  
Proposal: Removal of corrugated metal single storey garage, field gate and fence, timber casement windows, iron frame casement window, corrugated metal sheet gabled porch and

blockwork garden wall. Retention of new field gate and fence, new timber casement windows, construction of new brick porch, new brick garden wall, install new roof lights and rebuilding of brick chimneys at The Rock, Mochdre, Newtown, Powys, SY16 4JW. Following discussion the Council voted unanimously in favour of supporting this application.

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to inform the Planning Officer accordingly within the required timescale.

**At this point County Cllr Karl Lewis was returned to the meeting by the Clerk.**

## **9.0 Council Website**

**9.1.** Guidelines on GDPR recommend that the website has an SSL Certificate to make it secure. The certificate would cost £35,00 per annum and £30.00 for UpperBridge to install it. GDPR also requires that there is an option for site visitors to accept or reject the use of cookies. Upper Bridge would charge £15.00 to add the cookie choice and the link for the Accessibility Statement. All prices are plus VAT at the current applicable rate. The Accessibility Package has now been completed. The Council voted unanimously that this required work should proceed.

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to advise UpperBridge accordingly.

## **10.0.SLCC**

**10.1.** Clerk's report on attendance at Virtual National Conference 12th to 16th October 2020 was held over to the next meeting.

## **11.0.Reports of Committees, Meetings or Training Attended**

**11.1.** Garn Fach Wind Farm Community Liaison Group inaugural meeting on Wednesday, 16th September at 6:00pm via Microsoft Teams. Attendee Cllr Robin Lewis had some difficulty in accessing the meeting but reported that all the necessary information to date is available to view on their website. He asked that the e-mail containing the minutes of the meeting (which the Clerk had also received and which

comes complete with a link to their website) be forwarded on to Councillors for their information.

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to forward the e-mail on to Councillors accordingly.

## **12.0.Charities/Donations.**

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

## **13.0.Community Council Grant Requests (if any)**

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

## **14.0.Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that there were no items of correspondence.

## **15.0.To receive questions from Councillors**

**15.1.**County Cllr Lewis was asked for an update on the position regarding Rhyd-Y-Cwrt bridge's proposed weight restriction signage (see Minute Ref 8.2, 7th September, 2020 meeting). He informed Councillors that the "Except for Access" rider had been accepted, that the weight restriction will not affect local businesses and that it is to have suitable signage. The Council asked that the new signage be placed in a prominent position so that it can be clearly seen.

## **16.0.Chairman's Announcements**

**16.1.**The Chairman pointed out that the P & L funds were showing a healthy balance and it would be a good idea to spend some of it. He suggested perhaps purchasing another Defibrillator for the community, a suggestion which was well received by fellow Councillors. After discussion it was decided that, should one be purchased, the best position for it would be up at the Pentre, and it was further decided to ask contacts up there as to the suitability of a place for it and also if there would be someone willing to be Community Champion, responsible for looking after it.

**ACTION:** Cllr Jones volunteered to make enquiries regarding a possible site and Community Champion for it and the Clerk was instructed to find out an up-to-date cost for another Zoll AED Plus + Aivia cabinet (there will also be a charge for connecting the cabinet electrically).

**17.0.Date of next meeting:** Monday, 7th December, 2020.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.