

**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, 25th
October 2021, at 7:00pm.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Jean Williams

Cllr. Robin Lewis

Cllr. Martin Turley

Cllr. Philip Williams

Cllr. Russell Williams (Chairman)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Ian Williams

Cllr. Lloyd Humphreys

ABSENT:

Cllr Gordon Jones

(See 1.0.below)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Kath Wigley (Clerk)

County Cllr Karl Lewis

Before the meeting began proper a presentation was given by Jordan Harbin (Community and Corporate Fundraiser for Wales – Ronald McDonald House Charities).

- 1.0. Attendance and Apologies for Absence** – See above. Cllr Gordon Jones was absent – he has informed the Clerk that he will no longer attend Council meetings whilst they are being held on Zoom. He will only return once meetings are back to being held face-to-face. The new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 legislation requires face-to-face meetings to be multi-location meetings and the Council will not have the resources to do this before the beginning of the next financial year.

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

2.0. Confirmation of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th September, 2021 (previously circulated).

2.1. That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th September 2021 were a true record of what there and then transpired, and that they will be duly signed as such by the Chairman when circumstances allow.[See 4.2. below]

3.0. Information from the Minutes

The Clerk reported that this was covered by the individual agenda items below.

4.0. Finance

4.1. Update on Bank Balances:

1) Mochdre CC bank statement £9,259.75. Cash book stands at £8,816.33. There are three outstanding cheques for £155.00, £50.00 and £238.42. Duly noted.

2) Mochdre CC No2 Account (for P & L funds) bank statement £5,123.85. Cash book stands at £5,123.85. 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 - £250.00 (Annual grant).

3) Penstrowed Parish Church - £250.00 (Annual grant)

4) Pentre Chapel - £250.00 (Annual grant)

5) A C Lister Electrical - £53.66 (Installation of outside cabinet for defibrillator at Pentre Chapel – £44.72 + £8.94 VAT)
[See 24.1. below].

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to pay the above amounts and that, in order for her to be able to do this, the cheques would be signed by three Councillors at

Mochdre Old School at 2:00pm on Sunday, 31st October 2021.

5.0. Draft Annual Budget Discussions

- 5.1. The draft Annual Budget for 1st April 2022 to 31st March, 2023 was presented for discussion. Councillors shared onscreen a copy of the draft budget for 2022 - 2023, 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 £9,400.00 being made at the appropriate time.

6.0. External Audit

- 6.1. Update on progress of Annual Accounts from external auditor. Audit Wales is behind in making its opinions because of Covid – but hopes to complete by end of December. Accounts and notice to that effect added to website and notice also posted on community notice-board by Clerk as per Audit Wales instructions.

7.0. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

- 7.1. Draft Annual Report Consultation – Feb 2022. Deadline for comments is 26th November, 2021. Section 13, which relates specifically to Community and Town Councils, e-mailed to Councillors on 16th October, 2021. Councillors were pleased to note that there were now 5 tiers for Councils instead of the previous 3 tiers, and that they were based on electorate size rather than finance. The Council now falls within tier 5 (having an electorate below 1,000) and thus into the bracket where the payment of the £150.00 allowance for Councillors is now optional. The care allowance remains as mandatory but there are ear-marked Council reserves to cover this should it be

required.

8.0. Pentre Defibrillator Update

- 8.1.** The outdoor heated cabinet has now been installed; Matthew Vaughan (St Johns) was going to do a Zoll AED training session on 27th October at 7:00pm at Penstrowed Church Hall as the Old School is not currently available on Wednesday evenings, but this had to be cancelled as Matthew was self- isolating. This training session will be re-scheduled for some time in November. Duly noted.

9.0. Memorial Trees for HRH Prince Philip

- 9.1.** This item has been carried over now for several meetings but there was lively discussion as to what species of tree should be chosen. The Council was unanimous in choosing cherry as the tree of choice but which variety needs to be looked into. The tree's position in Mochdre has been decided but not so far its position in Penstrowed. Cllr Turley suggested that the Clerk contact Rev Alison Gwalchmai to talk to her about planting it in Penstrowed churchyard.

ACTION: Cllr Jean Williams will look into what variety of Cherry tree would be suitable and the Clerk will contact Rev. Gwalchmai.

At this point County Cllr Karl Lewis was placed in the 'virtual' waiting room by the Clerk whilst the following Planning Application was being discussed (due to his position of Chair of the Planning, Taxi Licensing & Rights of Way Committee).

10.0. Planning Applications

- 10.1.** Application Ref: 21/1653/RES Grid Ref: **E:308222 N:289397**
Reserved matters application in respect of outline permission 21/1104/REM for the erection of an eco-friendly dwelling

(access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) at land next to Manteg, Mochdre, Newtown, SY16 4JJ. E-mailed to Councillors on 4th October, 2021 for information. A brief extension to time for comments has been granted until 26th October. 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.

11.0. One Voice Wales

11.1. Pilot of Community and Town Councils Self-Evaluation Toolkit – Expressions of interest are requested. The Council was unanimous that it did not wish to participate in the pilot scheme.

11.2. Amended version of the model Informal Resolution Protocol was considered and adopted by Council.

12.0. Replacement Notice-board

12.1. Types of off-the-shelf man-made timber notice-boards and costings supplied by Clerk for discussion (Cllr Humphreys was unable to supply costings for wooden bespoke notice-boards as he was not at the meeting). The Clerk's costings were for no header board, but following discussion the Council decided that a header board would be a good idea and look more professional.

ACTION: The Clerk is to send Councillors revised quotes, with header board, and links to the various websites. Cllr Russell Williams will check with Cllr Humphreys about his progress with costings for wooden bespoke notice-boards.

13.0.Highway Matters

13.1.County Cllr Karl Lewis reported that the recent site meeting at Rhyd-y-Cwrt bridge had been a positive one. Matt Perry seemed concerned about the condition of the road and about getting funding for making it safe; he had ideas about the design of the bridge which he would run by the Council's Bridge Department; he would contact Highways to see if anything could be done about the gap between the edge of the road and the scaffolding barrier. A visit to Mochdre Bridge followed and discussion took place there about the possibility of the railings being unbolted and sent for stripping and galvanise dipping. All this was duly noted by Councillors, who requested a written report from Matt Perry.

ACTION: County Councillor Karl Lewis will request said report.

14.0.Powys County Council

14.1.Consultation on new 10-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032. E-mailed to Councillors on 16th October 2021. Deadline for comments is 19th November 2021. The Council, following discussion, voted not to comment on this consultation.

15.0.Repair Cafe Wales

15.1.Details about funding available to enable the setting up of a Repair Cafe received and presented to Councillors. Following discussion Councillors felt that the Community Council area was not sufficiently populated to have the necessary repair skills or volunteers so voted against pursuing this any further.

16.0.Llandrindod Wells Town Council

16.1.E-mail received asking Town and Community Councils to join with them in also writing to the Welsh Government with regard to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Following discussion, the Council agreed and voted unanimously to do so.

ACTION: The Clerk is to contact the Welsh Government accordingly.

17.0.Welsh Government

17.1. Consultation on local taxes for second homes and self catering accommodation. E-mailed to Councillors on 16th October, 2021. Deadline for comments is 17th November 2021. The Council, following discussion, voted not to comment on this consultation.

17.2. Consultation on Updating Earnings Thresholds for Council Tax Recovery. E-mailed to Councillors on 16th October 2021. Deadline for comments is 31st December 2021. The Council, following discussion, voted not to comment on this consultation.

18.0.Bowel Cancer UK

18.1. The Council expressed an interest in having a free bowel cancer awareness talk, which will be on Zoom, to take place before the start of the next Council meeting.

ACTION: The Clerk is to contact Bowel Cancer UK and get this arranged.

19.0.Sustain Wales

19.1. The Council was not keen to attend the “Nature Wise” programme, which is an Eco Literacy course, but was happy to promote it. County Councillor Karl Lewis asked the Clerk to forward the details on to him.

ACTION: The Clerk is to forward the details on as requested.

20.0.Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

20.1.Consultation on proposed changes to the Ombudsman's Guidance on Good Administrative Practice. E-mailed to Councillors on 16th October 2021. Deadline for comments is 1st November 2021. The Council, following discussion, voted not to comment on this consultation.

21.0.Reports of Committees, Meetings or Training Attended

21.1.There was no report from the Maldwyn Area Committee meeting on 19th October 2021 as there were no attendees.

22.0.Charities/Donations (if any)

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

23.0.Community Council Grant Requests (if any)

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

24.0.Correspondence

24.1.Invoice received from Andrew Lister for installing the outside cabinet at Pentre Chapel for the defibrillator – £53.66 (inc. VAT).The Council approved this payment and asked for the cheque to be raised at this meeting. See 4.2 5) above.

24.2.E-mail from Powys Pride regarding the first Pride Festival event next year. Duly noted.

25.0.To receive questions from Councillors

25.1.During the Budget discussions at 5.1.above Cllr Philip Williams had asked if face-to-face meetings could now take place. The Clerk reiterated that this is not possible until face-to-face meetings can be multi-locational, which is why it is being budgeted for as the Council does not have the requisite

resources to put this in place at this time. Cllr Williams informed the Council that if that is the case he will do the same as Cllr Jones and not attend any further Council meetings until they are face-to-face once again. He is not happy with the dictatorial policy of the Welsh Government and its lack of support of smaller Councils. During discussion of this topic County Councillor Karl Lewis stated that face-to-face non-hybrid meetings **can** be held as long as the discussion of hybrid meetings is kept as an agenda item each time such a meeting takes place. Cllr Turley suggested that the Clerk looks into this and checks the legality of it out, which will then dictate whether the next meeting is face-to-face or remain virtual via Zoom. The Council voted unanimously in favour of this.

ACTION: The Clerk will contact various sources to check this out.

25.2. Cllr Turley raised the question that perhaps other users of the required new facilities at the Old School could contribute a proportional share of the cost?

26.0. Chairman's Announcements

26.1. The Chairman had little to report other than that one of the farmers in the local community would be moving out of the area at the end of February.

27.0. Date of next meeting: Monday, 6th December 2021.

Meeting closed at 9:08pm.