

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

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

www.mochdrepennstrowedcommunity.net

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 6th December 2021,
7:00pm at Mochdre Old School.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Jean Williams
Cllr. Robin Lewis
Cllr. Martin Turley
Cllr. Philip Williams
Cllr. Russell Williams (Chairman)
Cllr. Gordon Jones
Cllr. Lloyd Humphreys

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Ian Williams

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Kath Wigley (Clerk)

1. **0.Attendance and Apologies for Absence** – See above.
- 1.2. **Declarations of Members' Interests** - There were no Declarations of Interest made.
- 2.0. **Confirmation of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th October 2021 (previously circulated).**
- 2.1. That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th October 2021 were a true record of what there and then transpired and were duly signed as such by the Chairman.
- 3.0. **Information from the Minutes**
The Clerk reported that there was no information from the minutes.
- 4.0. **Finance**
- 4.1. **Update on Bank Balances:**
 - 1) Mochdre CC bank statement £8,804.75. Cash book stands at £7,762.67. There are five outstanding cheques for £238.42, £250.00, £250.00, £250.00 and £53.66. 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) K. Wigley - £970.00 (Clerk's fee 3rd Quarter)
 - 2) HMRC - £155.00 (PAYE Income tax on Clerk's Fee)
 - 3) E. S. Morgan - £100.00 (Internal Audit Fee 2020 – 2021)**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to pay the above amounts.
- 5.0. **Draft Annual Budget Discussions**
- 5.1. The draft Annual Budget for 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 was revisited in the light of the Welsh Government's clarification to the Clerk concerning hybrid meetings (see 14.1. below), i.e., that remote access is by request, rather than being compulsory (so could use a phone if remote participation is requested at some time in the future, or Zoom if several people request it for a particular meeting) which thus negates the need for expensive equipment or broadband. Following discussion the Council agreed: that provision for expensive equipment was no longer required; agreed the revised budget figure of £8,400; agreed that a Precept request for this figure be submitted.
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to submit the Precept Request accordingly.
- 6.0. **S106 Duty Report Review**
- 6.1. The Council undertook the annual review, noting that there were no changes to last year.
ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to add the latest review to the website.

7.0. External Audit

- 7.1. Update on progress of Annual Accounts from external auditor, Audit Wales – the Clerk reported that a response was still awaited. Audit Wales has previously said that it hopes to complete all audits by 31st December 2021.

8.0. Pentre Defibrillator Update

- 8.1. Attendees of the Zoll AED training session held on 1st December at 7:00pm at Penstrowed Church Hall reported that it was a very good 2-hour presentation by Matthew Vaughan. It was just unfortunate that only a small number of people attended it. Matthew had said that the training was free but a donation to St John's Ambulance would be appreciated, After discussion the Council voted unanimously to give a donation of £100.00 (cheque to be raised at next meeting). Cllr Jones raised a concern with where the cabinet had been sited at Pentre Chapel – round the back (he appreciated that this was done probably because it was nearer to the electricity supply). Other Councillors felt this was a more secure position than at the roadside. After further discussion it was agreed unanimously that good directional signage would help considerably.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to look into preparing suitable signage.

9.0. Memorial Trees for HRH Prince Philip

- 9.1. Cllr Jean Williams reported that there are 10 varieties of cherry tree which would be suitable ranging in cost from £28.00 to £50.00. The Clerk had contacted Rev Gwalchmai about getting permission to site one in Penstrowed Parish Churchyard. The PCC and the Archdeacon will need to give approval, and the next PCC meeting is on 16th January 2022. The Council decided unanimously to await the results of the church's discussions before progressing this further.

10.0. Planning Applications

- 10.1. Application Ref: 21/2039/LBC Grid Reference: **E:308288 N: 290414** Proposal: Listed building consent for demolition of single storey extension and erection of a new single storey extension at Glanhafren Hall, Llanidloes Road, Newtown, Powys SY16 4HZ. E-mailed to Councillors on 10th November 2021 for information. A brief extension to time for comments has been granted until 7th December. Following discussion Councillors voted unanimously in favour of supporting this application.

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

- 10.2. Application Ref: 21/2037/HH Grid Reference: **E:308288 N: 290414** Proposal: Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of new single storey extension at Glanhafren Hall, Llanidloes Road, Newtown, Powys SY16 4HZ. E-mailed to Councillors on 10th November 2021 for information. A brief extension to time for comments has been granted until 7th December. Following discussion Councillors voted unanimously in favour of supporting this application.

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

- 10.3. Pre-Planning Application Consultation for proposed outline planning application (with access) for a commercial development comprising of petrol filling station, restaurant with drive-thru facility, hotel and public house on land south of Llanidloes Road, Newtown, Powys. E-mailed to Councillors on 19th November 2021. Comments by 24th December to Mike Lloyd at Berrys, Shrewsbury. Following discussion Councillors voted unanimously in favour of supporting this application and asked that the following comment be passed on for consideration: that the development be future proofed by providing a good number of charging points for electric vehicles.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to inform Mike Lloyd at Berrys, Shrewsbury accordingly within the required timescale.

11.0. One Voice Wales

- 11.1. Response received from Lyn Cadwallader reference the Council's request for OVW to fight its cause with regard to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021's new regulations regarding hybrid meetings (see Minute Ref.3.1. 20th September 2021). He confirmed One Voice Wales' full support on this matter and stated that OVW would continue to lobby on this agenda on behalf of its members. A survey from One Voice Wales in regard to Section 47 has been received and completed by the Clerk. OVW will be using the results of this survey to further make the case for support for the sector. The Councillors asked if they would be able to have a copy of the results of the survey.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to ask if a copy of the survey results would be forthcoming,

- 11.2. Response received from Lyn Cadwallader further to Clerk forwarding on to him Welsh Government's response with regard to hybrid meetings (see 14.1 below). He will send this on to more of his colleagues so that they are fully aware of the situation and stated that the Clerk's summation of the situation was totally correct.

12.0.Replacement Noticeboard

12.1.Types of off-the-shelf noticeboards and costings supplied by Clerk (e-mailed to Councillors on 27th October 2021) were discussed. The Council was unanimous in choosing a 9xA4 size, post mounted man-made timber notice board with header (text will be "Community Noticeboard") from Greenbarnes (this item will be paid for out of the P & L funds).

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to get the order underway.

13.0.Highway Matters

13.1.Update from County Cllr Karl Lewis, about progress of Matt Perry's report regarding Rhyd-y-Cwrt bridge, was not available as he was not in attendance.

14.0. Welsh Government

14.1.Response to Council's letter concerning the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021's new regulations regarding hybrid meetings (see Minute Ref 16.1 25th October 2021) received giving clarification of this thorny issue. E-mailed to Councillors on 18th November 2021.It states that remote access is only required if someone actually requests it, otherwise face-to-face meetings can carry on as usual. The Council must have provision in place to accommodate such requests should they be made – in the Council's case, if such a request was made it could accommodate the request by using a phone line (or if multiple requests for remote access were made for a particular meeting it could take place fully remotely on Zoom) in order to comply with the regulations' requirement that all can hear and be heard. Councillors asked that notice of such requests be given in writing to the Clerk a stipulated number of days prior to the date of the meeting. Council meetings have now recommenced on a face-to-face basis.

14.2.Consultation on Planning Legislation and Policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets – E-mailed to Councillors on 25th November 2021. Comments by 23rd February 2022. The Council voted unanimously to carry this item over to the next meeting.

15.0.Standing Orders

15.1.Further revision of the wording was requested by the Council in the light of the information received from the Welsh Government and further to the Council's' request that a period of notice be included with regard to remote access requests (see 14.1. above).

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to revise wording accordingly for approval at the next meeting.

16.0.Bowel Cancer UK

16.1.The Council had expressed an interest in having a free Zoom bowel cancer awareness talk, which was due to have taken place before the start of this Council meeting which was to have been virtual. As meetings have now reverted to being face-to-face the Council voted unanimously to discuss this further at a later date.

17.0.Powys County Council

17.1.Introductory Guidance concerning the election in 2022 was duly noted.

18.0.Reports of Committees, Meetings or Training Attended

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

19.0.Charities/Donations (if any)

19.1.Wales Air Ambulance – Request for a donation. After discussion the Council voted unanimously to give a donation of £100.00 (cheque to be raised at next meeting).

20.0.Community Council Grant Requests (if any)

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

21.0.Correspondence

21.1.The clerk gave notice that she wished to leave her employment with the Council. According to her contract there is only the need to give one month's notice, but she felt this was unfair in the light of the fact that the audit was not yet complete, amongst other things. She asked that the Council now begins to actively seek her replacement. This was duly discussed and the Council felt that it would be more appropriate to put an ad in the County Times at the beginning of January 2022.Councillors requested a Job Description, including the required qualification path, so that they fully understood the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer's role and responsibilities. They felt that local knowledge would be a definite advantage for the new Clerk.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to find out the sizes/costs of ads in the County Times and provide

Councillors with the requested Job Description, including the required qualification path.

22.0.To receive questions from Councillors

22.1.Leaves on the road by Rhyd-Y-Cwrt bridge and on Hyde Park Pitch need sweeping.

ACTION: The Clerk was instructed to contact highways accordingly.

23.0.Chairman's Announcements

23.1.The Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance and the Clerk for her hard work and assistance in 2021.

24.0.Date of next meeting: Monday,7th February 2022.

Meeting closed at 8:22pm.

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