

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

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

[www.mochdrepenstrowedcommunity.net](http://www.mochdrepenstrowedcommunity.net)

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 24th October 2016,  
7:00pm at Mochdre Old School.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. Jean Williams  
Cllr. Robin Lewis  
Cllr. Gordon Jones  
Cllr. Linda Davies  
Cllr. Philip Williams  
Cllr. Russell Williams (Chairman)

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Paul Sawtell  
Cllr. Douglas Wood

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. Kath Wigley (Clerk) County Cllr. Roche Davies

**1. 0. Attendance and Apologies for Absence**

1.1. See above. The apologies were accepted.

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

Name of Councillor	Item	Personal	Prejudicial

**2.0. Confirmation of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5th September, 2016 (previously circulated).**

2.1. That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 5th September, 2016 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.**

3.1. Progress update following the reporting of fly-tipping to Powys County Council (see Minute Ref 16.1. 5th September meeting). The Council has cleared the litter up.

3.2. Response received following the question concerning street lights in Mochdre being left on after midnight being asked (see Minute Ref 16.2. 5th September meeting). Councillors felt it was best to maintain the status quo.

**4.0. Finance**

**4.1. Update on Bank Balances:**

1) Mochdre CC bank statement £8,011.05. Cash book stands at £7,961.05 (includes 2nd instalment of Precept [£1,933.00], 50% bursary [£34.50] from SLCC towards Clerk's attendance fee at Llandudno Roadshow and the VAT repayment [£1001.20]). There is one outstanding cheque for £50.00.

2) Mochdre CC No2 Account (for P & L funds) bank statement £1,862.39 (includes latest cheque from P & L of £1,266.86). Cash book stands at £1,862.39. There are no outstanding cheques.

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

1) Internal Audit Fee - £50.00.

2) Mochdre Old School room hire (2015 to 2016) – £131.62.

3) Mochdre Old School Annual Grant - £250.00

4) Mochdre Church Annual Grant - £150.00

5) Penstrowed Parish Church Annual Grant - £150.00

6) Pentre Chapel Annual Grant - £150.00

7) SLCC National Conference, Hinckley, Leics. (Clerk's attendance fee) - £477.00 (£450.00 + £27.00 VAT).

8) External Audit Fee - £196.50 (£163.75 + £32.75 VAT). Invoice has been promised for this meeting, but not received so payment is held over to next meeting.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to pay the above amounts except for item 8); also with regard to item 8) to chase Grant Thornton (external auditors) again to see if it has been resolved yet who will raise the invoice, Grant Thornton or the Wales Audit Office, and thus establish when the invoice might be received for payment.

9) There was a unanimous vote in favour of the Council contributing £1,000.00 out of the No 2 Account (P & L fund) towards the cost of refurbishing the floor in the Old School (see 18.5. below).

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to raise the cheque for payment at the next meeting.

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

5.1. The draft Annual Budget for 1st April, 2017 to 31st March, 2018 was presented for discussion. Councillors were provided with a copy of the draft budget for 2017 - 2018, and budget figures for the two preceding years as a comparison. Figures comparing actual spend to date and projected spend up to the end of the year for the current financial year were also given to indicate overall budget performance, to assist Councillors in their discussions.

**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 £6,450.00 being made.

#### **6.0. Internal Auditor Appointment**

6.1. Response received from Mrs Enid Morgan, accepting the Council's invitation to continue in her role as Internal Auditor (see Minute Ref 5.3. 5th September meeting).

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Council was pleased to receive and accept her response.

#### **7.0. One Voice Wales**

7.1. List of Training Sessions up to end of December, 2016. Duly noted.

7.2. Details of Mark Drakeford's (AM Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government) keynote address at OVW Conference, concerning the proposed action plan for the local council sector in Wales. Duly noted.

#### **8.0. National Assembly**

8.1. Consultation on "A National Infrastructure Commission for Wales" – Responses by 9th January, 2017. E-mailed to Councillors on 17th October, 2016. It was agreed to hold this item over until the next meeting.

8.2. Community and Economic Development Survey for Mid and West Wales from Eluned Morgan, AM. The Council did not wish to complete the survey at this time.

8.3. Independent Remuneration Panel Draft Annual Report 2017/2018 for Consultation. Section 13 relates specifically to Community and Town Councils. Comments by 28th November, 2016. The Council was unanimous once again that the community should not be made to 'pay' for their Councillors in any way (especially in respect of a Council the size of Mochdre with Penstrowed).

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to forward the Council's comments on before the deadline.

#### **9.0. Planning Applications (if any)**

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

#### **10.0. Powys County Council**

10.1. Powys Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026: Schedule of Further Focussed Changes, October 2016 – e-mailed to Councillors on 10th October. Consultation runs until 21st November, 2016. The Council took into account during discussion of this matter an e-mail which had been received from Jill Kibble (CPRW Powys Branches) expressing concern over a major land use change policy which had been introduced at this very late stage at the Welsh Government's behest. The Council voted unanimously in favour of objecting to this change.

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to forward the Council's objection on before the deadline.

10.2. Update on Consultation on Proposals to close Llanbister and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. Schools: The schools will not be closed at this time, duly noted.

#### **11.0. Powys Community Health Council**

11.1. Annual Review for 2017/2018 Questionnaire – had been e-mailed to Councillors on 17th October to enable councillors to take part by the completion date of 11th November. There is also a meeting concerning the future of Park Street Day Centre on 25th October and a meeting concerning other health matters on 22nd November, which several councillors expressed an interest in attending.

## **12.0. Boundary Commission for Wales**

12.1. 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales Initial Proposals - Consultation runs until 5th December, 2016. Following discussion the Council voted unanimously in favour of responding to the latest proposals as per its response to the last review in 2012 (and sent to the same recipients); that Glyn Davies should be contacted with regard to a possible meeting to discuss this issue (as intimated in his letter of 28/09/2016).

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to compile and send responses as above to the Boundary Commission, Russell George, Glyn Davies and Theresa May; also to contact Glyn Davies' office with a view to arranging a suitable meeting.

## **13.0. SLCC**

13.1. Report from Llandudno Regional Roadshow. Given and duly noted.

13.2. Report from National Conference. In preparation, duly noted.

## **14.0. Highway Matters.**

14.1. The response from County Cllr John Brunt (Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Highways) following the Council's e-mail in response to his reply concerning grass verge cutting issues (see Minute Ref 10.1.5th September meeting) was duly noted.

14.2. Short Term Road Closure C2025 opposite Dolau Inn, Mochdre (17th to 21st October, 2016) – The Clerk contacted Steve Hunt (DGM Construction Ltd) to request that advanced warning signage of the proposed closure be displayed as early as possible (see Minute Ref 15.1.5th September meeting). This was duly done, but the signage stated incorrectly that the closure would be from 17th to 21st **September**, 2016, so the Clerk contacted Steve once again to ask that the sign be corrected, which he said he would get organised. This he did. Duly noted.

## **15.0. Reports of Committees, Meetings or Training Attended (if any)**

15.1. Report by attendees (Cllr Jean Williams and the Clerk) of OVW Montgomery Area Committee meeting held at Penstrowed on 4th October, 2016. The meeting was very well attended by member councils and a variety of matters were discussed. These included problems that some councils had experienced with last year's External Audit and the resultant increased costs incurred; it was felt that, due to the way in which planning applications are now received i.e. online it made sense for each Clerk to have a laptop to enable councillors to view planning applications at meetings more easily (by projecting from the laptop onto a screen).

## **16.0. Charities/Donations (if any)**

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

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

17.1. Bill Jones – Scout Hut repairs in Newtown. Mr Jones had asked if it was possible for the Council to consider contributing to this project via the Community Council Grant Fund. The Council felt that, as this was not a project in the community council area itself, it unfortunately could not contribute towards it from the fund (as per Condition 2 of the Community Council Grant Awarding Policy).

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to forward the Council's decision on to Bill Jones and wish him every success in his quest for funds.

## **18.0. Correspondence** – to receive items of general correspondence for information.

18.1. Information received from Ed Humphreys (Town Clerk – Newtown Town Council and Clerk to Churchstoke Community Council) concerning the 2017 election. Duly noted.

18.2. Big Lottery – Form received requesting details of what the grant allocated to the Council last year was spent on. Duly noted.

**ACTION:** The Clerk is to complete and send off by the end of the month.

18.3. Powys Citizens Advice Bureau – Request received for financial assistance. Held over to next meeting.

18.4. Greenfingers – Information about their services. Duly noted.

18.5. Mochdre Parish Church – Request received for financial assistance towards the cost of refurbishing the floor in the Old School (total cost inc. VAT £4,770.40).

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

19.1. Rhydydwrt – There are still serious concerns here which have not been addressed. County Cllr Roche Davies intimated that Danny Jarman would be open to attending another site meeting to look at the problems again.

**ACTION:** The Clerk is to contact Danny and get this organised.

19.2. Removal of Vanessa Skinner's car - The car is still in situ and could deteriorate/attract vandalism.

**ACTION:** The Clerk is to try and ascertain who is now responsible for the vehicle with a view to getting it removed.

19.3. Old School car park – A working party (to tidy it up) needs to be organised before the winter sets in.

**ACTION:** The Clerk is to contact Enid with a view to this being done.

**20.0. Chairman's Announcements**

20.1. Emma's Forest School – The Council cannot award funds as this is a commercial venture, but agreed that it is quite happy to help in other ways if required.

**21.0. Date of next meeting**

21.1. Next meeting will be on Monday, 12th December, 2016.

Meeting closed at 8:55pm.