

**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, 5th September 2016,
at 7:00pm at Mochdre Church*****

*** The venue was changed due to redecoration work in progress at the Old School.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Jean Williams
Cllr. Paul Sawtell
Cllr. Gordon Jones
Cllr. Linda Davies
Cllr. Philip Williams
Cllr. Russell Williams (Chairman)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Robin Lewis (Vice Chairman)
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 Meeting held on 1st August, 2016 (previously circulated).

2.1. That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 1st August, 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. Stepside War Memorial – Cllr Jean Williams has managed to establish its whereabouts. It was given by Ann Evans to Evan Pryce to allow work to be done on restoring some parts of the frame, and it is currently in his workshop awaiting repair.

4.0. Finance

4.1. Update on Bank Balances:

- 1) Mochdre CC bank statement £5,850.15. Cash book stands at £5,850.15. There are no outstanding cheques. An update was given about the progress of recovering the VAT refund paid in error by HMRC into an unknown account – still being chased and it is hoped to resolve this by the next meeting.
- 2) Mochdre CC No2 Account (for P & L funds) bank statement £595.53. Cash book stands at £595.53. There are no outstanding cheques.

4.2. To consider invoices for payment:

- 1) Mochdre with Penstrowed YFC Annual Grant - £50.00.
- 2) SLCC Regional Roadshow, Llandudno (Clerk's attendance fee) - £82.80 (£69 + VAT – 50% Bursary [£34.50] has been applied for and will be paid directly into the Council's bank account).
- 3) Clerk's salary - £636.60.
- 4) HMRC (PAYE tax) - £88.40.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to pay the above amounts.

5.0. External Audit

- 5.1. Wales Audit Office Consultation on Fee Rates and Scales 2017/18 – Intention to deliver a third-year cash freeze for Town and Community Councils with annual income or expenditure under £2.5 million. Duly noted and the Council was in unanimous agreement of this intention.
- 5.2. Return of Annual Accounts from External Auditor, Grant Thornton (Received 31/08/16) – The Auditor General for Wales has issued the Council with an unqualified audit report. The cost of the audit will be £163.75 plus VAT (invoice awaited). The Council approved a copy of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit being completed and displayed for 14 days before 30th September.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to complete said notice and display it for the stipulated time.

- 5.3. Internal Auditor Engagement Letter - Grant Thornton wished to draw the Council's urgent attention to the lack of an Internal Auditor Engagement letter (this does **not** affect the audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council as it is a legal requirement). The purpose of such a letter is to acknowledge that the Council has reviewed its Internal Audit arrangements and wishes to continue with using the services of Mrs Enid Morgan, an arrangement which has been in place since 2003 (no letter of engagement was sent to Mrs Morgan at that time, her engagement was just minuted at a Council meeting in February, 2003). The Council was in unanimous agreement that it was happy for Mrs Morgan to continue in this role and that a suitable Letter of Engagement be sent to her. The Clerk presented a Letter of Engagement that she had drafted in anticipation of this decision for approval by the Council, for signature by both the Chairman and Clerk. The Council unanimously approved the letter and it was duly signed by both Chairman and Clerk.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk is to forward the Letter of Engagement to Mrs Morgan for her response.

6.0. Zurich Insurance

- 6.1. Increase in the Rate of Insurance Premium Tax from 9.5% to 10% with effect from 1st February, 2017. Duly noted.

7.0. National Assembly

- 7.1. The Assembly is seeking views on new planning advice for the historic environment contained in a draft Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24. Comments on the draft TAN 24 are to be submitted by **3rd October 2016**. After discussion the Council was in favour of the new planning advice, which was felt to be sensible.

ACTION: The Clerk is to forward the Council's comments on before the deadline.

8.0. Planning Applications (if any)

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

9.0. SLCC

- 9.1. National Conference 13th to 15th October, 2016 at Hinckley Island Hotel – The Clerk informed the Council that she has booked and requested a **personal** invoice (she will be travelling with Churchstoke Community Council's Clerk, Ed Humphreys). Clerk needs to attend as there are agenda items which will be of interest to the Council and to ensure maintenance of her recently acquired Institute membership (CPD – Continuous Professional Development). The Chairman proposed that it was only right and fair that the Council paid for this rather than the Clerk and, following discussion of his proposal, a vote was taken. The result was 5 to 1 in favour of the Council paying for the Clerk's attendance.

ACTION: The Clerk is to ascertain if the invoice can be put in the Council's name to enable it to claim the VAT back.

10.0. Highway Matters.

- 10.1. Response from County Cllr John Brunt (Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Highways) following the Council's e-mail regarding grass verge cutting issues was read out. During discussion the Council debated that the figures in the reply were accurate, in the light of what has been happening grass cutting wise in this community alone.

ACTION: The Clerk is to forward the Council's comments on to County Cllr Brunt.

- 10.2. Response received from Mrs Lisa Bridges regarding the Council's request (see Minute Ref 17.1. 1st August meeting) for hedges to be cut back on the Mochdre Lane was read out. Councillors were in agreement that cutting the high hedges on the Mochdre Lane boundary of her property was indeed her responsibility as the householder and not the County Council's as she thought.

ACTION: The Clerk is to forward the Council's comments on to Mrs Bridges.

11.0.Law Commission.

11.1. Planning Law in Wales – Scoping Paper Consultation. **Closes on 30th September, 2016.** After discussion the Council was in unanimous agreement that it supported the Law Commission's efforts and intentions with regard to this matter.

ACTION: The Clerk is to forward the Council's comments on before the deadline.

12.0.Reports of Committees, Meetings or Training Attended (if any)

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

13.0.Charities/Donations (if any)

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

14.0.Community Council Grant Requests (if any)

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

15.0. Correspondence – to receive items of general correspondence for information.

15.1.Short Term Road Closure C2025 by Dolau Inn, Mochdre (17th to 21st October, 2016) – Details of proposed modified diversion route (to avoid sending traffic via the ford) received from Chris Lloyd. After discussion the Council was in unanimous agreement that the contractor involved should be contacted and a request made that road signage advising of the road closure should be posted well in advance to let residents know in plenty of time to allow them to make suitable arrangements.

ACTION: The Clerk is to forward the Council's comments on to DGM Construction Ltd.

15.2.Letter and cheque for £1,266.86 received from P & L Trust. Duly noted – the Clerk reported that the cheque had been banked.

16.0.To receive questions from Councillors

16.1.Cllr Philip Williams advised that there had been fly-tipping by Perth-y-Bu, and it needed to be sorted.

ACTION: The Clerk is to report this to Powys County Council for it to action.

16.2.Cllr Paul Sawtell raised a question from a Mochdre resident who wanted to know why the street lights remain on after midnight.

ACTION: The Clerk is to ask Powys County Council why this is the case.

17.0.Chairman's Announcements

17.1.The Chairman was pleased to report that it would now seem that Planning Application P/2016/0509 (in the walled garden at Glanhafren Hall - Paolo Re) had been passed, although the Planning Portal has not yet been updated to reflect this.

18.0.Date of next meeting

18.1.Next meeting will be on Monday,24th October, 2016.

Meeting closed at 7:50pm.