

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24 October 2007 at Raglan Junior School at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr R Moorby, Chair,

Cllrs Mrs M Chilcott, D Brown, T Phillips, Mrs H Williams, R Parry, R Watkins, Mrs J Harry, D Watkins and A Crump.

In Attendance: The Clerk, Pc M Thomas, and Mr Challis of Calor Gas. One member of the public attended.

Before the meeting started Mr Challis presented Cllr Phillips with the award for the South Wales Village of the Year in the Business category. Those present applauded this significant achievement and acknowledged the work that had been put in to achieve it.

1195. Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr N Porter.

1196. The Chair welcomed Pc Mike Thomas as the new Neighbourhood Policeman for the area. Pc Thomas presented a report on incidents that had occurred in the area since July and discussed it with members. He referred to a new Ringmaster telephone system by which the public can give the police their details and if an incident occurs in their area they can receive a call from the police to alert them to what is going on. He call will go to all subscribers simultaneously. Members received copies of the form by which they can become users of the system. This system will help them to assist the police by noticing anything unusual in the area.

Reference was made to number plate thefts which should be reported as the stolen plates may end up on another vehicle involved in a crime.

A request was made that in future when the Council receives a report it should include an update on outstanding crimes so that some feel for the success of the police is available. Pc Thomas noted that this would take additional time as it was on another system.

Members were advised that if they were reporting anything to the police it was preferable to ensure you speak to someone and not just leave an answerphone message.

It was noted that cars advertised for sale by the A40 roundabout were creating an accident risk.

Members were told that Monmouthshire County Council would not allow speed awareness signs on their lamp-posts, which was a problem if the village is to have use of the temporary variable message signs. Cllr Crump will make some enquiries about this.

The Chair thanked Pc Thomas for attending and he left the meeting at this point.

1197. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 September 2007 were received and adopted as a correct record.

1198. Matters Arising

Re Minute 1194 (Cllr Mrs Williams left the meeting at this point), It was proposed that a donation of £200 be made to the Meningitis Trust in recognition of Cllr Mrs Williams journey in the Himalayas.

(Cllr Mrs Williams returned at this point)

(Cllrs Phillips and Mrs Chilcott left the meeting at this point) Members discussed the contribution made to the village by the Raglan in Bloom Committee led by Cllr Phillips. Because of their achievements the village was always attractive to visitors and local people and it was agreed that the Council should host a reception for the team of helpers. It was agreed to ask Cllr Phillips to list the people to be involved and to suggest a suitable date. It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair be delegated to agree the arrangements and to authorise the expenditure.

(Cllrs Phillips and Mrs Chilcott rejoined the meeting) Cllr Phillips told members that Raglan had been invited to compete in Britain in Bloom again next year because of their success this year. Members also congratulated Cllr Phillips on his personal award.

1199. Planning Matters

a) Planning Agendas were noted.

b) The following applications were considered.

DC/2007/01274 Regularisation of Access arrangements at Cayo Farm and Cayo House, Raglan. No objections were raised.

DC/2007/01316 Conversion to two residential properties Courtyard Farm Buildings, County Farm, Brooks Farm, Brooklands, Chepstow Road, Raglan. (Cllr Crump declared an interest in this application) Agreed.

c) It was noted that a report had been received that a barn at Cayo Farm had been demolished and re-erected on a different site nearby. It was agreed to write to Planning Enforcement to report this for investigation.

2000. Finance Matters

a) Agreed to pay the following:

S Heath £60

Clerk`s salary £258

Wales Audit Office £141

Meningitis Trust (as per minute 1198 above) £200

b) A letter of thanks from Llandenny Village Hall Committee for the grant was received. A request for funding was referred to the January meeting.

c) A discussion about the cost of erecting Christmas lights took place. It was agreed to get Mr Jones to erect them and an authorised contractor to connect them.

It was further agreed that Cllr R Watkins would ask Mr Bradley to cut the dogwalk.

2001 Highway Matters

a) Correspondence on road repairs was noted.

b) It was noted that a section of road closed for repair was not in accord with the licence. The signs on poles said it would be closed from 30 July for 7 Weeks but the signs by the road said it would be closed from 17 September for 10 weeks.

There are still dangerous potholes in the Llangovan Road.

2002. General Correspondence

The Clerk will look at the consultation document on the Fire Service by the next meeting

The Council will not agree to fund PCSOs for the area. It is not appropriate use of Council funds.

There was discussion on recycling and the suggestion that it was likely that when extended recycling was in place the weekly refuse collection would possibly move to two or three- weekly collection.

The letter about tree removal at Rumpus House Llandenny was noted and no objection raised. (Cllr Mrs Williams declared an interest in this)

2003. Members Reports

a) Cllr Brown noted that Monmouthshire County Council have an additional £2500 to spend at the Raglan play area and decisions were needed about how it should be spent. Rubbish bins were noted as a need but they would need to be near the roadside to enable collection. One picnic table would stay under the trees to accommodate those who preferred shade.

b) A meeting had been held on the previous day about the MUGA. Nothing had happened so far. The money was available for a further year and the planning application was stated to be going to committee the following week. A bid to the Sport Council for £15,000 to make up the shortfall in funding had been submitted. So far there were still no guarantees that it would proceed. Management arrangements had also been discussed and a draft agreement will be sent for the Council to scrutinise.

c) Local Service Board Stakeholder Group.

The members who had gone to this found it quite a difficult meeting because of acoustical problems in the Priory Rooms in Abergavenny and because it was difficult to relate local issues to the global factors that the facilitators had introduced into the discussion. Cllr Crump noted that these wider concerns are very real and cannot be ignored.

d) The local One Voice Wales meeting attended by Cllrs Phillips and Mrs Williams had heard from the Monmouthshire Chief Executive but his comments had not actually helped to deal with concerns raised at the meeting.

The Meeting ended at 9:40pm