

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22 October 2008 at 7:30pm in Raglan Junior School.

Present: Cllr R Moorby (Chairman)

Cllrs T Phillips, D Watkins, N Porter, A Crump, Mrs H Williams and S Thomas.

In Attendance: The Clerk, Mr D James (Rural Housing Enabler), and three members of the public.

2018. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs M Chilcott, R Parry, R Watkins and Mrs S Price.

2019. The Chairman welcomed Mr David James to the meeting. Mr James outlined the salient facts from the report that he had produced following the exhibition in the village in September at which he had received a number of suggestions for sites for affordable housing.

The next step was to critically examine those sites and to narrow them down to a few favoured options with strong reasons for their inclusion. These would then be put to the County Council with the evidence and a request that one at least be considered a Rural Exception Site for affordable houses.

After further discussion in which it was identified that a number of the sites identified could be discounted as impractical (eg Sports field, play area etc), it was agreed that a group of Councillors would accompany Mr James on a tour of the remaining sites on Saturday 8 November at 2:30pm. The group would meet at the school.

The Chairman thanked Mr James for attending and he then left the meeting.

2020. The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 September 2008 were received and adopted as a correct record.

2021. Matters Arising.

Re minute 2013c) It was noted that the appellant can replace the building to be demolished with an alternative agricultural building.

Re minute 2016, the Clerk had found the Sustainable Communities Act and it seemed to infer that the onus is on the County Council to work with local Councils to achieve the purposes of the Act. Cllr Thomas was given the summary of the Act for reference purposes.

Re minute 2017, it was agreed to invite Mr Jonathan Stephens to the Council to outline how the transfer of keepership of commons would take place.

Re minute 2013, it was agreed to follow up the query about why planning permission was needed for the fence at Cayo House.

2022. Planning matters.

a) Two County Planning Agendas were received, together with the list of enforcement cases currently being pursued. There were two local ones of note at 3 Fairfax View and at Twyn y Sherriff.

b) The following Planning Applications were considered.

DC/2008/01070 First floor extension sun room extension and open porch at White House, Llandenny. Agreed

DC/2008/01168 Retention of detached garage with office in roof space at Hillcrest, Twyn y Sherriff Rd, Raglan. Agreed.

2023. Finance matters.

a) Agreed to pay the following:

Second Life Products (two seats) £728.50

Ricoh (photocopying rental) £61.48

Monmouthshire CC (elections) £482.95

Clerk`s salary £262.50

b) Several requests for funding were deferred to the January budget meeting.

A letter of thanks from Penyclawdd was noted.

2024. Highway matters.

a) A letter and work schedule from the Highways Dept was considered. Agreed to write acknowledging the good work that had been done, but pointing out that despite a number of requests, no lasting work had been done at Penyclawdd on The Graig road, and this was in a serious state.

b) Members concerns

It was agreed to chase the Welsh Assembly for a meeting at the crossover on the dual carriageway. The letter should include a suggestion that one lane approaching the crossover from the roundabout should be coned off for an experimental period to assess the effect it would have on road safety.

It was also agreed to pursue the failure of the County Council to overcome the flooding problem at Pen y Parc Rd.

2025. Correspondence

a) The draft letterhead produced by the Clerk was considered and supported with minor amendments. The Clerk will try to improve the image on the letterhead before starting to use it.

b) Cllr Mrs Williams will try to attend the meeting on 6 November concerning the Monmouth Summer Play Scheme. The report from Mr Moran was noted.

c) The notes from a talk by Mr Deryck Evans of The Wales Audit Office would be circulated to all members.

d) A letter from the Raglan Village Hall and Recreation Association concerning the site for the new school was considered. It was also noted that the Council had been invited to a meeting in the School at 6pm on 3 November to discuss the new school. Agreed to await the outcome of that meeting before deciding if a letter should be sent on behalf of this Council.

2025 Members Reports

a) Cllrs Phillips and Mrs Williams had attended the One Voice Wales meeting recently and had heard Mr Deryck Evans talk. Members were content that the Council`s financial position was not threatened by the sort of stories outlined in the report, but it was agreed that a monthly statement of the Council`s finances should be presented. The Clerk will ensure this is done.

b) raglan had won a silver gilt award in the Britain in Bloom competition. This was very pleasing, but the reasons that it had been marked down were to do with some areas such as damaged benches, broken flag stones and a rusty post office storage box. It was agreed to put these items on the agenda for the next meeting.

c) The Grass Routes bus scheme was in line for an award next month. Cllr Crump outlined the history of the scheme which had been imported as an idea from Wiltshire which he had seen when he carried out a peer review on a local authority there.

d) On behalf of Cllr Mrs Price, the Clerk noted that the two seats are now in place at St Cadocs.

The hard standing area is in a poor state and could cause tripping. The Clerk will write to Monmouthshire Housing about this.

Cllr Mrs Price had arranged a meeting with Glyn Edmonds about the Youth team carrying out work at the dog walk. This would be on 31 October.

e) Cllr Thomas reported on the School Governors meeting of 2 October which had largely focused on the new school. Currently there were 203 pupils in the school, but or 3 transfers would take place after half term (but not in reception class). The school had a new caretaker, Mr Paul Betts.. There was concern about the Safety of the Infants School building which was to be inspected as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Thomas also noted that the possibility of a twinning link with a village in France was being followed up by Mr Fountain.

He also noted that he had been told that the civic amenities site at Mitchell Troy had been observed with all of the separated glass and plastic thrown into the general waste container. The operative had said that as it had not been collected he had no alternative to dispose of it. This was discussed and it was acknowledged that it depended on the market for the materials. Cllr Crump noted that there was a proposal for a major recycling plant in the Cardiff area in the future, and that this would resolve these problems if and when it came about.

It was also noted that some tips have resaleable items on sale, but there was some confusion about responsibility for the serviceability of such items when sold.

The meeting ended at 9:14pm