

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 January 2009 at 7:30pm in Raglan Junior School.

Present: Cllr T Phillips (Chair)

Cllrs Mrs M Chilcott, Mrs S Price, Mrs H Williams, S Thomas, R Parry, R Watkins, D Watkins, A Crump and N Porter.

In attendance: The Clerk, Pc Mike Thomas, PCSO S Hughes, Mrs D Edwards and four members of the public.

2048. Police Report.

Pc Thomas handed out copies of his report. He apologised for not attending the meeting for several months, and noted that the area had been subjected to a number of crimes recently, culminating in the theft of a very large quantity of diesel fuel from Raglan Services the previous night. After he had gone through his report several members raised issues.

There were concerns about parking in Caestory Avenue near to bends which caused potential danger when passing the parked vehicles.

There was a question about how many crimes had been detected. Pc Thomas could not answer this directly, but referred members to the Crime Reduction Officer in Monmouth and the police website.

Concern was expressed that Planning were against higher gates at the entrances to country properties, but that would act as a deterrent to criminals.

Pc Thomas urged people to use the PACT forms to report concerns, and also to contact the police if they had any suspicions about vehicles in the countryside late at night. People should also let the police know of any problems so that the true state of criminal activity could be recorded. There are more police vehicles about now with number plate recognition devices fitted, and this will help to pick up unlicensed vehicles, or stolen vehicles.

He also pointed out that basic security is a real issue, and that people could do more to help themselves by locking up securely and using security equipment.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their attendance and they left the meeting at this point.

2049. Transition Initiatives.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Deb Edwards to the meeting to talk about transition initiatives. She outlined what transition was about. It is a grass roots initiative starting in communities which had concerns about what would happen in ten or more years time when oil supplies became much more expensive as they start to become in short supply, and which also had concerns about climate change. Such initiatives focused on things like sustainable food supplies locally, better use of transport, reduction in long distance commuting and a range of other actions. Mrs Edwards was trying to gauge local support for such an Initiative in this area and would really like one or two Councillors who are interested to join the group which she is trying to set up. She noted that Monmouth is already under way with such an initiative.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Edwards for her explanation and said that the usual way in which the Council dealt with such representations was to consider the issues carefully and to put it on the next agenda for further discussion.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Edwards for attending and she left the meeting at this point.

2050. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Moorby.

2051. No declarations of interest were received at this stage.

2052. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2008 were received and adopted as a correct record.

2053. Matters arising.

Re minute 2041, Cllr D Watkins noted that the Council needed new cross-street Christmas lights for next year.

Re Minute 2042a) The Clerk would let Cllr D Watkins have copies of the planning documents referred to in the minute.

Re minute 2045c), The Chairman noted that the Council is not insured for damage to litter bins. It was agreed to carry out a risk assessment of our insurance liabilities at the next meeting.

2054. The Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 13 January 2009 were received and adopted as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

2055. Planning Matters.

a) Correspondence and agendas etc.

Enforcement lists were circulated for information.

b) The following Planning Applications were considered:

DC/2008/01393 Renewal of Planning Permission M/9896 for a side extension to existing dwelling with a car port to the front at Llangwendr Farm House, Llangovan. Agreed

DC/2008/01389 Conversion of redundant agricultural building into dwelling, Brick Cowshed at the Homestead, Llangovan. Agreed.

DC/2008/00630 Outline planning permission for dwelling and shared driveway on site of former tennis court and existing drive within the curtilage of Hill House, Monmouth Rd, Raglan. Agreed.

2056. Finance Matters.

a) The following payments were agreed:

Clerk's salary £262.50

Websites without Worry £15.21

Ricoh (rental and copies) £110.87

H Jones (erection of Christmas lights) £403.24

Income of £30.05 for photocopier rental from Abergavenny Town Council was noted.

b) A letter from the CAB regarding a grant for 2009/10 was received. (The Council has already agreed to maintain its payment)

2057. Highway Matters

a) Correspondence.

The withdrawal of the street light patrols was noted.

b) Members Concerns.

The state of the roads in Fairfax View, Sunnyvale and Beaufort Gardens was noted as deteriorating and in need of repair. This would be reported.

Strong concerns were noted about the continuing problems with Pen y Parc Rd and The Graig at Penyclawdd were noted again. These roads were a constant source of problems and were getting worse, and nothing useful was being done about it. The Clerk would write again to express these views.

2058 General Correspondence.

It was noted under Cabinet Papers that in last month`s papers there had been a number of measures suggested to make economies, including the reduction in quality of school meals. This was condemned as an unacceptable move. The Clerk would try to find out if it had been adopted.

A request by a local resident for Council approval of a Walk for Life on 29 March was received. Members commended the action and had no objections to it, The Clerk would write accordingly.

2059. Litter Bin at Caestory Avenue.

Cllr Mrs Chilcott asked if an additional litter bin could be installed in Caestory Avenue near the path from the village to pick up litter from children who had bought sweets etc on the way home. This was agreed once a bin became spare in the main street when new ones are installed.

2060. Members Reports.

Cllr Thomas and Mr Fountain explained the progress that was being made about a possible twinning link. Leaflets would be distributed this weekend to all households asking for interest from residents, and a meeting would be held o 26 February at 7:30pm in the Beaufort for interested parties.

Cllr Thomas also reported on the School Governors meeting on 21 January. The travel plan was being worked on again, some infants school site maintenance was being done at half term and the school weekly newsletter was available on e-mail for those who wished to receive it. Admissions for this September had 25 confirmed at present with no siblings missed out as had happened this year and the school budget was looking quite healthy.

In the context of the school it was noted that the asbestos roof on Brooks Farm buildings had been removed with no notice to the school and apparently with little regard for safety. Cllr Crump will check this.

Cllr Phillips and Cllr Mrs Williams had attended the One Voice Wales meeting. The Chairman had not followed the agenda and most of the meeting had focused on grass cutting which was only an issue for Councils in the South who had not previously been charged for it. It had been an unsatisfactory meeting.

Cllr Mrs Price noted that the laurel hedge around the recycling area had been cut.

Cllr Phillips had obtained an estimate for blocking up the hole in the fence at Sunnyvale to stop dog-walkers using it. This was agreed at £125.60 and he will proceed to get the work done.

The meeting ended at 8:50pm