

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25 November 2009 at 7:30pm at Raglan Junior School.

Present: Cllr T Phillips (Chairman)

Cllrs Mrs S Price, N Porter, R Moorby, D Watkins, R Parry, Mrs H Williams, Mrs A Vaughan

In attendance: The Clerk, and 7 others including Mr J Piper, Head Teacher.

2153. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Thomas and R Watkins.

2154. Declarations of interest would be made at the appropriate time in the meeting.

2155. The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 October 2009 were received and adopted as a correct record.

2156. Matters arising.

Re minute 2142, Cllr Watkins asked if Cllr Crump had come back with any answer; the reply was not yet.

He also asked when the Council were to meet County Councillor Hackett Pain, and it was suggested that this be deferred to the agenda item on the school.

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to ask for the MPAN numbers for the two phone boxes to be adopted and he had told the County Tourism Officer liaising with BT that the Council were pursuing these boxes.

Cllr Mrs Price was told that a response from the Recycling Officer had said the collection times at Raglan would be altered to a more suitable time.

2157. Planning Matters.

a) An e-mail concerning the outbuilding at Rosedale, Castle Hill, was noted. It seemed that no action was likely to be taken.

b) Planning Applications.

The following applications were considered:

DC/2009/00985 Proposed extension to form study at Berllan Fedw Farm, The Walks, Llandenny – Agreed.

DC/2009/01058 Retention of existing barn, Cayo Farm, Usk Rd, Raglan – Agreed.

c) An appeal by Mr and Mrs Hobbs at High Clawdd Farm, Penyclawdd was noted

2158. Finance Matters.

a) The following accounts were agreed for payment:

Clerk's salary £268.92

Website Hosting and Domain Name £68.14

Travel expenses to conference for Cllr Mrs Williams £71.60

Mazars audit fee £155.25

(The Clerk would publicise the outcome of the Audit)

K Clarkson for gate and fence £275.00

b) Several requests for funding were deferred to January Finance Committee.

2159. Highway Matters.

a). There was no correspondence.

b). Members Concerns.

Cllr Mrs Vaughan had telephoned the County about moss on footpaths.

Cllr Moorby noted that a neighbour had told County about drainage problems on the road from Hall Inn to The Walks.

Cllr Phillips noted that water was standing in the village since the road improvements had been done.

2160. General Correspondence.

A number of items of general correspondence were received and noted.

A Police Report for the past month was received with some concern, as the amount of crime seemed to be rising. There was also concern about rumours that Usk and Monmouth Police Stations would close, and the possible impact that this would have on crime reduction in the area. The Clerk will write to the Chief Constable and the Local Inspector.

An update from the group producing the Raglan Booklet was received and considered. Members noted the suggested financial contribution from the Council of £1500, and agreed to pay this on receipt of an invoice.

2161. Raglan School.

Cllr Mrs Williams told members that a meeting with County Officers and Cllr Hackett Pain had taken place on 6 November. The local group including Community Councillors and representatives from the Village Hall Committee presented her with a folder of all of the history surrounding Raglan School and the Community Facilities provided there, but she said that the County were not interested in the past but were looking to the future. The group had looked at funding of Village Hall facilities, and had seen Rogiet School and others in this context, and they were assembling their minimum requirements for Community Facilities for Raglan. No plans had yet been prepared for the new school. Funding arrangements from WAG were changing. The School is still in the Building Programme, but there is no clarity when funds will be available.

There was some discussion of concerns about building on the present site and when the public should be informed of all the details, including safety of pupils.

The group are asking County for 50% contribution to community facilities, quoting the original contributions made by Monmouth Borough Council and Raglan Community Council for the present school.

The Chairman agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

Mr Piper, Head Teacher, said that there was good liaison with Monmouthshire CC, who were listening to local concerns concerning transport and safety. The present site is actually bigger than the proposed site behind it, and the School Governors and the Local Group had agreed that a united front was important and were collaborating closely.

Mr Brown confirmed that the Village Hall Committee were working closely with the school and commented that until there are plans available and more useful information, it would not be helpful to start a publicity campaign.

Mr Piper confirmed that Raglan is a Community School and there is good working together in place. Raglan is the top priority on Monmouthshire's list.

Standing orders were resumed for the rest of the meeting.

2162. Raglan Railway Station.

The Chairman explained that he had heard that Raglan Railway Station was to be offered to the National Museum at St Fagans as a building of historic interest, and he had expressed concern that the Community had not been consulted. The Clerk, on his instructions, had contacted the Chief Executive and as a result the Cabinet Member had postponed his decision for two weeks. Unfortunately the two weeks only took us to the morning of the 25 November, and as this Council would not meet until the evening, that had not contributed much. It had been suggested that if Cllr Phillips had any specific comments to make he should make them and they would be considered before the decision was taken.

Members shared the Chairman`s concern that no consultation had taken place, and agreed that if the building were moved to St Fagans it would not be a bad thing.

2163. Members Reports.

Cllr Moorby had been to the CAB AGM in Monmouth. The bureau was in good health with sound finances. It is currently looking for new premises as the existing premises are too small with the increasing work-load.

Cllr Mrs Price asked if this Council could do anything about gravel from driveways encroaching on pavements. It was agreed that if details were brought back to the next meeting the Clerk would write asking the householders to keep their gravel off the pavements.

Cllr Mrs Vaughan asked if it was permissible for Councillors to hold surgeries for the public. It was confirmed that there is no objection to this as long as all Councillors in the ward have an opportunity to take part. She would come back with possible dates to the next meeting.

Cllr D Watkins asked if there had been any correspondence about the Raglan Charity. The Clerk had written to the Vicar some months ago but had received no response. Cllrs Phillips and Watkins would approach the Vicar on this.

The Meeting ended at 8:43pm.

Please note that the December meeting will be held on 16 December 2009