

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24 November 2010 at 7:30pm in Raglan School.

Present: Cllr S Thomas (Chairman)

Cllrs R Moorby, T Phillips, Mrs A Vaughan, D Watkins, R Parry and A Crump.

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr D Brown and Mr R Davies

Mr G Edmunds and colleagues and Ms Jenny Lewis attended for the first two items.

2270. The Chairman welcomed Mr G Edmunds and his colleagues who had attended to update members on the refuse collection service. Mr Edmunds used a slide show to explain that Monmouthshire along with all other Welsh Councils had been set progressively stricter targets for recycling waste, and the methods being used to achieve these targets were also set out in his slides. At present Monmouthshire is reaching its target of 40% recycling in the current year, and he was confident that this could continue to improve for several years, although as the targets become more challenging, it becomes very difficult to see how they will be achieved unless suppliers of goods change their methods of packaging and new technologies are used to boost the recycling possibilities.

Since the introduction of the co-mingled bags some twelve months ago, the amount of waste recycled had increased markedly, as people got used to the new system and embraced it. The next step would be to collect black bag waste (the waste still going to landfill) fortnightly, as the amount had reduced and by doing this the Council could save up to four lorries and crews. It was also likely that by doing this people would become more careful about disposing of food waste in the blue box rather than simply dumping it in the black bag, and this would further aid recycling targets. It is intended to start fortnightly collections of black bag waste in this area in Jan/Feb next year. Before then a road-show caravan would visit Raglan to enable local people to have their questions answered

Mr Edmunds then answered members' questions and outlined the severe financial penalties imposed by WAG for not meeting targets.

The Chairman thanked Mr Edmunds and his team for explaining the position, and they left the meeting.

2271. The Chairman then invited Ms Jenny Lewis to talk to members about her role and the way in which the County Council was trying to interact with Town and Community Councils. She used Mr Edmunds as an example of the way in which officers of the County Council were expected to interact with local councils and local people. The County was aiming to have its officers attuned to dealing with problems and not passing the buck between them. It is recognised that this is not always achieved at present, and work is needed to improve the situation. Ms Lewis is in post as Community Engagement Manager, and as such is trying to improve relations between the communities in the county and the County Council, and to make sure that issues are addressed. The intention is that one officer will own a problem and will deal with it even if it is partially outside his or her remit.

The development of the Charter between County and Community Councils was a good process which had already improved working relations between the people involved. Area Committees were to be enhanced to include local council representation, and a quarterly liaison meeting between County and Communities was also planned.

There was discussion on local issues that had been frustrating the Community Council such as the Community Facilities in the School and the Multi-use Games Area, as examples where things could have been done better.

The Chairman then thanked Ms Lewis for attending and wished her success in her role. Ms Lewis left at this point.

2272. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Williams and Mrs Price.

2273. Declarations of interest would be made as they arise during the meeting.

2274. The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 October 2010 were received and adopted as a correct record.

2275. Matters arising.

Re minute 2263, Cllr Mrs Price had spoken to Probation about the Dog Walk but as they could not help at this time, she was now speaking to Countryside Wardens and it seems likely that they may be able to assist.

The Clerk was having difficulty getting the Dog Waste Contractor to locate the new bins. He would try again.

2276. The following Planning Applications were considered:

(Cllr Crump declared an interest as a member of the County Planning Committee and took no part in the discussions or decisions on these items.)

(Cllr Phillips declared an interest in the first item)

DC/2010/00892 Erection of conservatory at 37 Sunny Vale Raglan, Agreed.

DC/2010/00994 New vehicular access at The Lodge, Llandenny. This Council has no objection but believes the application to be in an adjoining Community Council area.

2277. Finance Matters.

a) The following payments were agreed:

Clerk's salary £271.67

Hosting of website £57.58

Allotment hedges £110.00

Audit fees to Mazars £158.62

Donation to Royal British Legion for Wreath £25.00

b) Several requests for financial support were deferred to the Finance Committee in January.

c) It was noted that the External Auditors had completed the Audit of 2009/10 Accounts and no matters needed to be brought to the Council's attention.

2278. Highway Matters.

a) A letter from Mr R Davies was considered concerning the way in which hedges/trees had been hacked back on the roadside on the A40 using the wrong equipment, thereby disfiguring the trees and shrubs. It was agreed to write to SEWTRA about this.

b) Members concerns.

A manhole in the verge by the allotments, near the roundabout, was in need or attention.

The trees at Orchard Leigh House were overhanging Fairfax View. Cllr Phillips would speak to the owner to ask him to cut them back.

The handrails on the Llandenny over-bridge on the A449 were severely corroded. Cllr Moorby had reported it to SEWTRA who were going to put the work on their programme.

The Clerk would remind Mark Watkins of his commitment to a meeting with Cllr Phillips.

2279. General Correspondence.

It was agreed to nominate the Playing Field at Prince Charles Rd for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

The correspondence on Usk Sorting Office was noted.

A letter on Community Resilience was noted Llandenny Community are seeking to buy a Defibrillator o locate in the redundant phone box.

Other items of correspondence were noted.

2280. Charter Document.

Cllr Phillips explained that the document was the subject of two two-hour meetings with County members and Community Representatives, and he commended it to members. It was noted that it is a working document and if it proves to be problematic it can be reviewed again. It was agreed to approve the document.

2281. Grants Forms.

The Clerk had circulated proformas for consideration to be used by the Council when any group asks for a significant grant. The forms were agreed subject to one amendment and would be sent to Raglan Past and Present, Music Festival and Stepping Stones Nursery for completion so that their requests could be considered at the January Finance Meeting.

2282. Toilet in Raglan

The Clerk had done a summary of the possibilities regarding the public toilet in Raglan. After some debate it was agreed that the Council should not support the continued opening of the present toilet but would favour a grant to The Beaufort and The Ship to make their toilets available. It was also agreed to press the County Council to dispose of or demolish the building to prevent it becoming an eyesore.

2283. Members` Reports

Cllrs Thomas and Crump had attended a recent School Governors meeting. The Head had found a charitable deed relating to Community Use of the School. This prompted a discussion which agreed that the Clerk should ask Kellie Beirne to attend a meeting of the Council as soon as possible to update members on the issues.

It was noted that the school had recently had some works done to improve health and safety and other issues. The school choir had gone to perform at the Albert Hall.

Cllr Mrs Vaughan reported that the Online Watch Link was now operational. They are looking for coordinators for each street. It was noted that there is a section where potholes can be reported.

(At this point it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders for five minutes to complete the business.)

2284. Any Other Business.

- a) A request had been received to add William A Davies to the war memorial. This had been considered before when his widow had said no. It was agreed to discuss this again when Cllr R Watkins is at the meeting to enlighten the discussion.
- b) It was noted that MDP Landrovers are offering sponsorship for local events. Raglan in Bloom had approached them for assistance.
- c) It was noted that Monmouth Ambulance Station was closing and would be rebuilt with a Police Station and possibly a minor injuries unit in due course.

The meeting ended at 9:35pm