

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23 June 2010 at 7:30pm in Raglan School.

Present: Cllr S Thomas (Chairman)

Cllrs T Phillips, Mrs S Price, R Moorby, D Watkins, R Watkins, Mrs A Vaughan, Mrs H Williams and A Crump (for part of the meeting).

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Bryan Jones (Mon CC), R Hoggins and P Jones for the second item and Police Officers for the first item.

2230. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Parry. (Cllr Crump joined the meeting late having attended a School Governors` Meeting first.)

2231. Police Report. Pc L Oliver presented a report of significant incidents since the last meeting. There were fewer incidents to report this time and the Police had been focusing on the Raglan area since it had been identified as a hot-spot. Arrests had been made at Raglan Garden Centre recently and some progress was being made with the Land Rover thefts in North Monmouthshire.

The PACT Priority was still the speed of traffic in Chepstow Road, and members endorsed this.

Cllr Mrs Vaughan said a syringe had been found on the children`s slide in the play area and this was concerning. Reference was made to other incidents around the toilets area, and members were urged to ring 101 with any information. If an offence is under way, such a call should get a response within 20 minutes.

The Chairman thanked the Police Officers for attending and they left the meeting at this point.

2232. Public Toilet in Raglan.

Cllr Bryan Jones set the context for the discussion by saying that the County had a £7M hole in its budget for next year, so it had no choice but to examine all options for reducing its costs.

Mr Hoggins said that they were there to discuss/consult with the Council on how the toilets in Raglan should be dealt with. The County would be having a meeting in July to decide on their course of action, and it was likely that they would choose to close the toilets in Raglan or offer them to the Community Council to manage. There are options that could reduce costs by opening for limited periods or on some days only, or if they are closed altogether it might be possible to persuade a local public house to open its toilets to public use and to benefit from the £500 on offer from the Welsh Assembly.

Mr P Jones outlined the costs of keeping the toilets open, by quoting from last year`s costs, which amounted to some £7500 per annum. Last year had been quite a low-cost year, as sometimes there were costs associated with maintenance and vandalism that would boost this total.

If the decision was taken to close the toilets and the Community Council did not take them on, the building would be secured and services cut off while decisions were made as to what to do with the building.

The Chairman thanked the three visitors for the information, and it was agreed to place this item on the agenda for next meeting. In the meantime the Clerk would write to the three Public Houses in the village asking if they have any interest in the Welsh Assembly Scheme.

2233. Declarations of interest would be made as and when they occur.

2234. a) The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 May 2010 were received and adopted as a correct record.

b) The Minutes of the Annual Meeting were confirmed as a correct record.

2235. Matters arising.

The Clerk was waiting for responses from other Communities about additional dog bins before placing an order.

The request for grit bins had been made and acknowledged.

The Chairman referred to an inspection of allotments by the committee and the Clerk confirmed that letters had been written to some allotment holders as a result. Not all replies had been received yet, but the Clerk would remind those still outstanding. It was noted that two tenants had given notice that they intend to relinquish their tenancies at the end of December.

This would be considered again at the next meeting of the Council.

It was noted that a meeting about the new school was to take place on 14 July, and the School Inspection had taken place; the report was awaited.

2236. Planning Matters.

a) Planning Agenda and Enforcement lists were noted.

b) The following Planning Applications were considered:

DC/2010/00497 2 storey extension to 23 Fairfax View, Raglan – agreed.

DC/2010/00383 Outline Planning Permission for a 3 bedroom dwelling house plus garage at Moatenwell, Kingcoed, Usk – recommend refusal as it contravenes policy H3 of the UDP, being development in dedicated countryside.

(Cllr Crump arrived at this point; he declared an interest as a member of the County Planning Committee and took no part in the Planning items on the agenda.)

DC/2010/00526 Works at Usk Showground for Ryder Cup – this application was noted with no comments made.

DC/2010/00528 Revised access to Homestead barn and Brick Cowshed at The Homestead, Llangovan - agreed.

c) An appeal against refusal of application DC/2010/00147 was noted.

2237. Finance Matters.

a) The following accounts were approved for payment.

Clerk's salary and expenses £350.51

Monmouthshire Beacon £70.50

Second Life Products £492.32

GHP Jones (Audit) £100.00

b) The Annual Audit Return was submitted to the Council for approval and duly signed by the Chairman. The advertisement of the accounts for public inspection would be placed in July.

c) Several letters of thanks for donations made were received, and a request for funding was referred to January Finance meeting.

It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Festival Committee on producing such a good festival this year.

2238. Highways Matters

a) A notice of Street Naming was received.

b) Members concerns.

There were concerns about potholes at Cefn Tilla Drive, Flash Floods by The Chestnuts, a raised manhole at the end of Sunny Vale, a pothole by 48 Sunny Vale, and a tree raising steps in the School grounds together with a manhole concrete surround raised and broken away.

It was also noted that during the school Sports Day there had been severe parking problems throughout the village.

It was also noted that verges needed cutting on many of the rural roads.

Cllr Phillips will contact the County about weed spraying.

2239. General Correspondence.

It was agreed to ask for an officer to attend the next Council Meeting to talk about the Rural Housing Allocations. The Meeting would start at 7pm to accommodate this.

The One Voice Wales Training Programme for the coming year was noted. Members were invited to contact the Clerk if they wish to attend any of them.

It was agreed to nominate Cllr Phillips to continue as Chair of the local One Voice Wales Committee.

2240. Members Reports.

Cllr Phillips reported that the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales is leaving. One Voice Wales is in the final stages of becoming a limited company.

Cllr Thomas reported on a meeting at the Golf Club which had been well attended by local people as well as Supt Johnson and Inspector Boycott. So far very little appeared to have come out of the meeting, other than the police were made very aware of public concern about the outbreak of crime in the area. It was noted that there are very few police on duty at night, sometimes as low as 6 officers to cover the whole of Gwent.

The Meeting ended at 9:20pm