

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23 February 2011 at Raglan School at 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr S Thomas (Chairman),

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

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr D Downer (For the first item), Mr N Ramsay AM (For the second item) and PC L Oliver (For the third item) Mr C Fountain and Miss S Hughes were also present.

1. The Chairman welcomed Mr Downer the 21st Century Schools Manager for Monmouthshire, who attended to update members on the position with Raglan School.

The school had originally been in the transition programme but had not managed to get the necessary priority. It was now in the first phase of a 12/15 year programme which means that if all goes well it will get funding next year and a start in the following year. It is possible that the funding may be a negotiable issue, with Monmouthshire having to find some of it if the 21st Century Schools programme fails to provide all of it. It is also possible that the school may not get the necessary priority depending on the overall position in Wales. Monmouthshire remains optimistic that there will be progress however.

Mr Downer answered members` questions and he was reminded that Raglan Community had a stake in the present school and was anxious to ensure that adequate Community Facilities were provided in the new school. It was important that the Community is kept in the picture during the design stage to enable it to finance its part in the whole project. Mr Downer acknowledged this.

Before he left Mr Downer was asked if he could find out what is happening to the safe routes to school plan. Members were very keen to see it in place and traffic calming in place in Chepstow Rd. He would take it back and ask the relevant person. The Chairman thanked Mr Downer for attending and at this point he left the meeting. It was agreed to ask if Kellie Beirne would still come to next months meeting.

2. The Chairman then welcomed Mr Nick Ramsay, AM, to the meeting. Mr Ramsay had come to talk about the purpose of the Referendum on 3 March and what it did and did not do for the Assembly. He emphasised that this is a logical step in the Government of Wales Act, and although it makes it easier for the Assembly to make laws in its own right, it does not extend the range of issues over which the Assembly can make laws. If there is a "yes" vote it means that the LCO process (Legislative Competence Order) will go, and Wales will not have to get Parliament`s permission to make laws on areas within its jurisdiction. This will save some £2M a year and about 2 years off the process of making a law.

If there is a "no" vote the present process will continue, as at present. It will make no difference to the presence of the Assembly or its powers either way.

It was agreed that people were associating the Referendum with the value of having the Assembly, but that was categorically not the case. After a discussion on a number of points, the Chairman thanked Mr Ramsay for coming to the meeting and he left at this point.

3. The Chairman then welcomed Pc Lenny Oliver to the meeting. Pc Oliver circulated the latest crime report for the area, which was relatively small. He referred to the

work being done on speeding traffic in Chepstow Rd and Old Monmouth Rd and said the Camera Safety Partnership had recognised it as an area which needed regular attention so that it probably did not need to be given the priority it had received from the local partnership meetings. He asked if the Council would agree to promote the OWL network development to No1 for the next three months so that it could be consolidated by getting more members and becoming established. This was agreed. There was a discussion on whether Police Surgeries could be advertised more in the area, as very few people used them. Pc Oliver was waiting for dates for the new mobile police station to be available and he would then try to do so. At this point the Chairman thanked Pc Oliver for attending and he left the meeting.

3007. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs H Williams, N Porter and A Crump.

3008. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary.

3009. The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 January 2011 were received and adopted as a correct record.

3010. Matters arising.

The Clerk was asked about responses on the brown signs for Raglan Castle. He had received e-mails acknowledging the Council's efforts to promote this.

The notice board outside the school would now need to be re-sited as the new fence had been run right in front of it. This would be corrected shortly.

3011. Planning Matters.

a) Correspondence and enforcement lists were noted.

b) The following planning applications were considered:

DC/2011/00107 Supply and fit 1.8m high green bow top railings and gates to match existing at Raglan Primary School, Chepstow Rd, Raglan. Agreed, but concern was expressed that the Council had abused its powers by completing the work before the Planning Application had been considered.

DC/2011/00035 Certificate of Existing Lawful use or Development – Dwelling house on plot adjacent to Hillcrest, Twyn y Sheriff, Raglan. There was some doubt about the evidence for this application as the occupants were not on the Electoral Roll for that address and several members had serious reservations about the claimed occupancy of the property.

c) To note appeal against decision on DC/2010/01111 at Moatenwell, Kingcoed by Mr Gavin O'Donnell. This was noted.

3012. Finance matters.

a) The following payments were authorised:

Clerk's salary £271.67

Vat on Christmas lights.£886.80

Monmouth Summer Play-scheme £100

Stationery £41.36

b) Various letters requesting donations were noted and kept for next January.

c) Risk assessment.

Members considered the various risks that were identified. It was agreed to add the Dog Bins to the schedule of insurance and to check other insurance quotations.

3013. Highway Matters

a) There was no correspondence.

b) It was noted that the entrance to the MUGA was now compromised by the school fence. A barrier on the edge of the pavement to stop children running into the road was needed. Trees on the path need lopping and the Chepstow Rd needed narrowing. Cllr Philips will contact Tim O`Donovan to see what can be done.

Cllr R Watkins noted that the pothole opposite his house was now fully exposed again as the tarmac had broken out of it.

Cllr Parry noted a bad pothole on the new road surface outside his house.

Grit bins below the church at Penyclawdd and at Warrage Rd were still needed.

3014. Several items of general correspondence were received and noted.

3015. Review of Allotment conditions.

The requests by Mrs Powell were considered. It was agreed not to provide a shelter on the allotments as it might well attract the wrong people to a secluded place. It might be difficult to find a suitable location as well.

It was also not agreed that a receptacle for green bags should be provided. The green waste teams do not put bags back into people`s gardens so it was very unlikely they would use it, and the bags would blow away. There was also concern that there should be a need if weeds are kept under proper control and green waste is composted.

On the third issue about trees and fruit bushes, this was agreed and would be written into the conditions, together with an amendment to the condition on receipts and the need for signed copies to be returned by allotment holders.

The Clerk would write to Mrs Powell to let her know.

It was also queried if Mr Cornfield was taking up the offer of the allotment.

3016. Members` Reports

Cllr Moorby had attended the CAB meeting. They were expecting to increase their office space shortly.

Cllr Mrs Vaughan noted that the land at Station Rd near Idlebrook had been cleared up.

Cllr Phillips told members that the Charter would be signed on 23 March.

Cllr Thomas reported that the school had a full complement of pupils and 4 spaces in reception for next year with 5 appeals outstanding. Interviews for the Deputy Head were being arranged. A good response had been received for the post.

Cllr Phillips asked if we can write to the refuse crews to thank them for their efforts during the snow.

3017. Two quiz nights had been arranged for the Play Group and Llandenny Village Hall. Members were made aware of the details.

The Clerk would give the Chairman an up to date list of the plot-holders at the allotments.

The Meeting ended at 9:05pm

