

Raglan Community Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday
27th May 2015 at the Raglan Junior School at
7.00pm

Present

Cllr Dennis Brown	Cllr Noel Porter
Cllr Ewen Brierley	Cllr Ray Parry
Cllr Vivienne Compton	Cllr Trevor Phillips
Cllr Penny Jones	Cllr Sylvia Price
Cllr Richard Moorby(Chairman)	Cllr Peter Williams

Due to Monmouthshire County Council not opening the meeting room at the Junior School the meeting was reconvened in the ball room of a local hotel.

3870 In attendance:

Adrian Edwards, Clerk to the Council.

3871 Agenda item 1:-Apologies for absence.

Cllr Helen Williams, due to holidays

3872 Agenda item 2: Declarations of interest

No declarations made at this time.

Agenda item 3: Consider any outcomes or actions from the Community Meeting.

Members noted the comments made by the public, and it was agreed the council would send a letter of support for the Monmouthshire Meadows Group.

Action the clerk

3873 Agenda item 4: To receive and if appropriate to adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April 2015

Proposed by Cllr P Williams seconded by Cllr P Jones that the minutes are signed as a true record.

All Members Agreed

3874 Agenda item 5: Matters to report.

A member asked about minute 3831 and if this tenant has paid the allotment fee. The clerk informed the meeting that he had paid and returned the agreement.

A member asked about the allotment that is being cultivated by more than one person. The clerk informed members that he has written to the tenant asking for confirmation the tenant is the sole person cultivating the allotment plot.

Action Clerk

A member asked about planning application **DC/2014/01491:** Woodland View, Cold Harbour Farm. Cllr P Jones and the clerk gave members a verbal report following the site meeting. It was

explained that MCC sub-committee are minded to approve this application.

Cllr Phillips gave members a verbal report on the current situation relating to minute 3838 and the school transport. He explained that the situation has been resolved.

3875 Agenda item 6: Planning applications, no application received prior to the meeting

Planning Application received:

- **DC/2015/00599** 3.050 to lowest and 3.7m to highest to come off side of an existing building. Designed to BS 5502 agricultural specification. To be used as barn/implement site and seasonal lambing site. Park View, Tywn Lane, Raglan.

This application was considered and no objection, were offered

- **DC/2015/00483:** Non material amendment in relation to DC/2007/00337 that was allowed on appeal – change of driveway finish from brick paviour to gravel.

This application was considered and no objection, were offered

- **DC/2015/00402.** Erection of a two story extension to side of existing cottage. New vehicle access to highway. Erection of new garage/car port. The School House, Pen-y-clawdd.

This application was considered and no objection, were offered

- **DC/2015/00421.** Proposed 2 storey rear extension and single storey front entrance porch. Yew Tree Cottage, Lower Raglan Road, Pen-y-clawdd

This application was considered and no objections, were offered

3876 Agenda item 7: Finance Matters

Payee	Amount
Payments for May	
Clerks salary	
HMRC	
Raglan VC School hall hire	10.00
SET office supplies	159.66
Thomas Waste	263.00
Raglan VC School hall hire from	
February 15	45.00
Clerk reimbursement for postage	53.90
Raglan CC Copying	33.20
Raglan CC Waste Bin	213.50
Mrs S	100.00
Raglan in Bloom	1,000.00
Raglan Twinning	500.00

It was agreed: by all members present that the payments above are paid

All receipts were available for inspection

3877 Agenda item 8: Members concerns on highway issues.

Cllr P Williams raised concern over the footpath passage way from Usk Road towards Sunnyvale.

Action clerk

Cllr Jones raised concern over the bus bay on Chepstow Road. Members debated this matter and it was:

Agreed: *That representation should be made to MCC Highways for its retention.*

Action Cllr P Jones

A member raised concern over the time it is taking to improve the road junction between Llandenny and Chepstow Road. After some debate it was:

Agreed: *the clerk should write again to MCC Highways.*

3878 Agenda item 9: Items of correspondence. (Please see appendix)

Welsh Government:

1. Use of Cadw monuments

Monmouthshire County Council:

2. Temporary closure of Public Footpath No 82
3. Monmouthshire Emergency Contact details

Other Correspondence:

4. Pension Regulator letter of staging
5. Letter from Mrs Powell relating to her allotment

Correspondence by Email

6. Gwent Police crime report
7. Email from Mrs Parton regarding allotments
8. The National Eisteddfod in Monmouthshire
9. Waste and street services
10. s 69 amends s 73 of the 2000 Act
11. Static advertising and street furniture in Monmouthshire
12. Planning work shop for councillors
13. Monmouthshire Meadows Group
14. Integrated catchment management training

Grant Application

15. Raglan in Bloom

Members considered the grant application and after some debate it was:

Agreed: to award a grant for a £1k

16. Raglan Festival

The clerk presented the grant application from Raglan Festival to the council. Members considered the application and debated the amounts that should be awarded. There was some consideration and the clerk and chairman explained the council awarded a grant in 2014. After further debate it was:

Proposed: *by Cllr D Brown seconded by Cllr S Price that the council should not award a grant this year as the Festival made a profit last year and the council should not be awarding a grant to group that a makes a profit.*

The Chairman asked if there were any amendments. After further debate it was:

Resolved: *not to award a grant.*

All members agreed

3879 Agenda item 10: Clerk reports

Reports distributed to members at the meeting.

It was agreed: that the council should enrol with the Pension Scheme

The clerk distributed new declaration of interest forms so members can complete and return to the clerk.

Members noted the clerks report relating to Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (Commencement No 2) Order

Appendix Reports attached

3880 Agenda item 11: Reports from members on outside bodies

Cllr Phillips expressed concern over the cancellation of the joint working group with MCC and One Voice Wales regarding the Charter meeting. He explained this was the second time this meeting has been cancelled.

Cllr Price asked about the footpath on the dog walk. Cllr Price expressed concern with the overgrowth and the general appearance of the area. The clerk will contact the contractor to confirm a start date for the remedial works.

Cllr Price also asked about the fence adjacent to the field and the allotments west of the Usk Road. After some debate it was agreed that this fence should also be completed.

3881 Agenda item 12: Reports from the County Councillor

No further reports to make

3882 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm. The date of the next meeting 24 June 2015

Signed by _____
Chairman Cllr Richard Moorby

Date 24th June 2015

Reports to:- Raglan Community Council**Subject:- Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2015****Report:- by the Clerk****Date:- 27 May 2015**

The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 ("the 2013 Act") received Royal Assent in July 2013. Its primary purpose was to reform the constitution and function of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (formerly the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales). The 2013 Act, introduced various other provisions connected with local government. The above Order commences sections 55-58, 68 and 69 of the 2013 Act with effect from 1 May 2015.

Community and Town Councils

Following commencement of sections 55 - 57 of the 2013 Act, Community and Town Councils will be required to publish certain information electronically (i.e. on a website). This includes information about the council's clerk and members, minutes of council meetings and any audited statement of the council's accounts.

Community and Town Councils will be required to publish public notices electronically, and to make certain information about their meetings and proceedings available electronically.

The requirement to publish information electronically is in addition to existing publication requirements.

Statutory guidance to assist Community and Town Councils in fulfilling their duties will come into force on 1 May 2015

Members should be mindful of the revised Registers of Members' Interests

Currently, section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 ("the 2000 Act") requires the monitoring officer of each relevant authority to establish and maintain a register of members' interests. In the case of a community or town council, this duty rests with the monitoring officer of the county or county borough council for the area in which the community or town council is located. The Welsh Government understands that in practice day-to-day responsibility for this is often delegated to clerks of community and town councils.

Section 81 of the 2000 Act also requires each relevant authority, including a community or town council, to make its register available for public inspection at all reasonable hours.

Following commencement of section 58 of the 2013 Act, these requirements are amended in two respects:

1. The duty to establish and maintain the register of members' interests transfers from the monitoring officer to the 'proper officer' of the community or town council, ie the officer designated by the council for this purpose; and
2. in addition to being available for public inspection, the register of interests must also be published electronically, ie on the authority's website.

Commencement of section 58 will require a number of small consequential amendments to be made to the Model Code of Conduct to clarify interpretation of its provisions. However, the Welsh Government is working to bring forward a number of unrelated amendments to the Model Code for consultation later in the year. Consequently, to avoid the need for authorities to adopt revised codes of conduct in relatively quick succession, it is intended to make all amendments at the same time.

Joint Standards Committees

Section 68 of the 2013 Act amends the duty on a relevant authority in section 53 of the 2000 Act to establish a standards committee, so that two or more authorities may establish a joint standards committee. The Welsh Government is currently of the view that this provision does not, of itself, require consequential amendments to be made to the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001, or the Local Government (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001. References in these regulations to a 'standards committee' will take the same meaning as that in the 2000 Act (as amended) and thus will include a joint standards committee where one has been established. However, the Welsh Government intends to make a number of unrelated amendments to these regulations later this year and will review the matter further at that time. In the meantime, should authorities become aware of any issues arising from the operation of the regulations in relation to joint standards committees, these should be brought to WG attention by email:

Referral of Misconduct Cases / Dispensation Applications

Sections 73 and 81 of the 2000 Act provide powers for the Welsh Ministers to make regulations for, respectively, the:

1. way in which any matter relating to an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct referred to a monitoring officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales is to be dealt with; and
2. circumstances in which standards committees may grant a dispensation to a member with a prejudicial interest.

Section 69 of the 2013 Act amends these regulation-making powers so that the Welsh Ministers may make provision enabling such matters or applications to be referred to another authority's standards committee. The Welsh Government intends to consult on amended regulations giving effect to these provisions later this year.

Reports to:- Raglan Community Council

Subject:- Community and Town Councils automatic enrolment and the Local Government pension scheme Report:- by the Clerk

Date:- 27 May 2015

Community and Town Councils automatic enrolment and the Local Government pension scheme.

Under the Automatic Enrolment Rules each employer must provide a Pension Fund for their employees. Failure to do so may result in the Employer being fined by the Pension Regulator. The fines can be up to £10,000 per day. This presentation sets out the choices Town and Community Councils MUST make. The council has several options:

- Automatic Enrolment. The enrolment date for Raglan Community Council staging date is 1 May 2017 and the nominated contact is the 30 June 2015
- The Local Government Pension Scheme
- Alternative Qualifying Pension Arrangements

Who must be enrolled - Eligible Job Holders

- Employees earning more than £10,000 per annum, who are aged at least 22 but under State Pension Age.

Who can elect to join

- Non Eligible Job Holders: Employees earning between £5824 to £10,000 and who are aged at least 16 but below age 75
- Entitled Workers: Employees earning less than £5824 and who are aged at least 16 but below age 75

COST to Employer LGPS

- Employer contributions set by actuary over 3 years
- Dependant on age of member and funding position
- Can increase or decrease as determined by Actuary
- Minimum likely to be 13% of Annual Pay but could be higher

Below there are some examples:

Annual Pensionable pay LGPS Cost to employee		Nest	Employer	Employee
Up to £13,600	5.5%			
£13601 to 21,200	5.8%	Oct 12 to Sept 17	1%	1%
£1,210 to 34.400	6.5%	Oct 17 to Sept 18	2%	3%
£151,801 or more	12.5%	Oct 18 onwards	3%	5%

COST to Employer and Employee : (NEST)

- Dependant on earning used
- Minimum contributions using total pay
- The employer and the employee can pay more than the minimum up to a total annual contribution of £4600 (2014/15)

Scheme Administration LGPS

- Scheme administered by Torfaen CBC as the Administering Authority
- Employers must provide information to the Pension Fund to maintain members records
- Employers must set out Discretionary Policies
- Employers must comply with Regulations

Conclusion:

All employees must be asked if they wish to join a pension scheme.

Members must be minded the failure to do so may result in the council being fined by the Pension Regulator. The fines can be up to £10,000 per day, therefore the council will need to pass a resolution relating to this scheme.