

Raglan Community Council
Minutes of the reconvened Meeting held on Wednesday
3 February 2016 at the Old School Room, Raglan,
At 7.00pm

Present

Cllr Dennis Brown
Cllr Penny Jones
Cllr Richard Moorby(Chairman)
Cllr Trevor Phillips

Cllr Ray Parry
Cllr Sylvia Price
Cllr Peter Williams
Cllr Helen Williams

4007 In attendance:

Adrian Edwards, Clerk to the Council.

Mr Andrew Watkins a local Businessman addressed the council regarding the proposed closure of the village Post Office.

Sixteen local residents were also in attendance.

4008 Agenda item 1:-Apologies for absence.

Cllr's Noel Porter, Ewen Brierley & Vivian Compton

4009 Agenda item 2: Declarations of interest

No declarations made at this time.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the reconvened meeting and invited residents in attendance to sign the attendance sheet. The chairman asked for Standing Orders to be set aside for 30 minutes to allow residents to address the council members regarding the proposed closure of the village Post Office.

Proposed: by Cllr T Phillips seconded by Cllr P Williams.

All members agreed

Mr Watkins addressed the council and members of the public. He wished to explain the current situation relating to the post office in Raglan Village. He explained that the post office has been in his family for a number of decades. He felt that due to the chatter on the web-sites and face book he asked to address the council to explain the situation fully.

He explained that the current salary is less than the minimum wage. He explained that more people are now using the internet rather than using the Post Office itself. He explained that he has been in discussions with Post Office counters for a number of months regarding the current situation. He stated that post office counters would like to have a more open plan counter and the opening hours extended from 7 am until later in the evening. He stated that the shop will remain open but the Post Office is not viable without written consent from the Post Office counters. He stated that the Post Office has moved three times in the village and Post Office counters have not contributed to the move or any improvements.

Mr Watkins explained that if anyone wishes to take over the Post Office he will be willing to speak to them.

The chairman read out an email from the local Member of Parliament. A representative from the Post Office counters stated that no decision has been taken about how the Post Office counter move forward with the Raglan Branch. He also assured the MP that Post Office counters will be

committed to maintain the post office service in Raglan Village. The chairman explained that a local Post Office in a neighbouring village also closed.

A number of questions were asked of the council and Mr Watkins. After some debate it was:

Agreed: *the community council will write to the Post Office counters in support of the Post Office retention in the village It was: proposed that the letter is sent within the next seven days. This would give Mr Watkins time to inform the council of any updates.*

Mr Watkins and residents left the meeting at this stage at. 7.35pm

The chairman welcomed members to the reconvened meeting from 27 January

Members expressed concern over the way the council was asked to close the meeting on the 27 January. The clerk explained that he has written to MCC Estates Department making a formal complaint. He explained that the Estates Manager had contacted him regarding the hire of the community room in the new school. A number of members expressed concern over the way this matter was handled. The clerk explained that the hire fee has been paid from January to December 2016. The clerk also explained that he has been told that all payments must be made payable to MCC not the school.

After some debate it was:

Agreed: the chairman would contact the head teacher regarding this matter.

The Clerk also explained that members must be mindful of the limit the council can spend under s137 of the 1972 Act. He explained this limit will be £7.42 per elector providing the total the council will be able to contribute to local groups. The estimated amount the council would be able to spend on groups and projects third sector groups undertaking projects will be £13,200. *(The number of electors in the united Raglan community is 1591, this would be £11,805.22 in total for 16/17).* The clerk informed members that the council may be able to contribute towards funding under a different piece of legislation. The clerk would produce a report for members at a later date. One member asked for the clerk to refresh member's memories on the precept increase for 2016/17 year. Members asked about the increase last year and the amount that was ring-fenced for projects. The clerk explained the projects they were intending to support in partnership with MCC did not materialise for one reason or another. It was also explained that the community council was going to allocate funds to improve the MUGA and adjacent field; this would spend a substantial amount of the budgeted amounts in this financial year.

Some members made comment about the increase that was recommended by the members who considered the budget following councillors leaving the meeting after declaring an interest in a number of groups that have made applications for funding in 2016/17 financial year.

The chairman gave members a verbal report relating to Raglan Village Hall Association (RVHA) Big Lottery application. The clerk reminded members that RVHA have not submitted a grant application for this financial year but have submitted a letter identifying an amount of £3,360.00 plus the VAT. This amount is needed for professional fees. The clerk explained to members that he drafted a grant form for the minor grants. Members considered the draft form and made some minor amendments. Members agreed to accept the form. It was:

Agreed: *after the amendments the form can be sent to local groups before the start of the new financial year and it was:*

Resolved: that the precept would be increased by 10% making the 2016/17 precept £34,805.00 for the forthcoming year, increasing the precept by an estimated £3.37 per house hold in band D.

Proposed: by Cllr D Brown seconded by Cllr S Price
All members agreed.

4010 Agenda item 6: To note finance matters, including Income & Expenditure.

Payee	Amount
Clerks salary & HMRC January	
Clerk's office allowance	£150.00
Merlin Waste 7 & 21 Dec	£40.68
Keith Davies Paid and Cllr Phillips hand delivered cheque	£135.00
ICO renewal	£35.00
Reimbursement to the clerk	£59.90
Cllr Helen Williams Mileage claim	£64.40
City Illumination	£4,879.20
One Voice Wales annual fee	£254.00
Llandenny Church	£100.00

It was: proposed by Cllr P Jones seconded by Cllr P Williams the invoices are paid

All members agreed.

All invoices were available for members to inspect

4011 Agenda item 7: Members concerns on highway issues.

The clerk informed members that a meeting has been arranged with officers from MCC. The meeting is to inspect the Pen-Y-Parc Road and the junction with both industrial estates, and the abutments at Barton Bridge.

- Cllr P Williams gave members a verbal report relating to parking in the village and condition of the roads in the community.
- Cllr P Jones gave members an update relating to the new community car park and the associated signage.
- Cllr Moorby raised an issue over the car park and it was his belief that a hammerhead/turning cycle should have been constructed in readiness for the use of the former school site.
- Concern was expressed over the number of parking places in the new car park and there was some debate over the ownership and management of the car park.
- Cllr Jones also reported that she with highways officers, inspected the village regarding road markings and street calming and associated works. If any projects are to go forward local residents will be able to attend an open consultation and presentation, if and when these works are programmed.
- Cllr Jones explained that she along with other members has been contacted about the number of cars parking on the side roads and residents are becoming frustrated with the current situation.

4012 Agenda item 8: Items of correspondence.

Welsh Government:

1. Section 137 expenditure limit 2016/17

The clerk explained that the limit on expenditure for the 2016/17 financial year will be £7.42 pre elector. He explained that members must be mindful on the proposed amount the community council are going to award Raglan Village Hall in 2016/17.

2. Superfast broadband in Wales

Monmouthshire County Council:

3. Council precept 2016/17
4. Monmouthshire County Council- Emergency contacts

Other Correspondence:

5. One Voice Wales area agenda

Email Correspondence

6. Trelleck Unite, regarding Aneurin Bevan Engagement team
7. One Voice Wales February training days
8. MCC Flood Risk Regs 2009
9. One Voice Wales, Manifesto on Climate change commission for Wales
10. MCC Press release, Walk or Run for Sport Relief
11. MCC Press Release, Estyn report
12. Aneurin Bevan Heath board engagement team
13. MCC Press release Monmouthshire to go RED for National Eisteddfod
14. The Queens 90th Birthday Beacons 21 April 2016
15. MCC Regulated alterations at Monmouth Comprehensive School
16. Proposed closure of Llanfair Kilgeddiddin-VA CIW Primary School
17. MCC Press release, Monmouthshire parents advised to meet 15 January deadline to apply for 2016 reception class places
18. MCC Press release, MCC Corporate Assessment sees the positive in significant report
19. MCC Press release, MCC Youth services helps families remember loved ones
20. MCC Press Release, MCC moves forward on budget plan
21. Gwent Police crime report

New

22. *Llandenny Parochial Church Council*
23. *Monmouth CAB*
24. *Nick Ramsay Petition*

Application for funding

25. Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice
26. Llandenny PCC Church
27. Monmouthshire Meadows Group
28. Raglan in Bloom grant to sweep the village
29. Raglan in Bloom donation request
30. Raglan Twinning Association
31. Gwent Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
32. Raglan Young Farmers

Agreed: to send an application form to all of the above

4013 Agenda item 9: Clerk reports.

No further reports

4014 Agenda item 10: Reports from members on outside bodies.

Cllr D Brown asked if the minutes and agenda could be sent to the local papers to be published

so residents can see any what the community council are doing on their behalf. After some debate it was.

Resolved: the agenda and minutes are sent to the local papers.

4015 Agenda item 11: Reports from the County Councillor

Cllr Jones gave members a verbal report relating to the footpaths on Station Road and the new school entrance. There was some debate over the safe routes to the school. Cllr Jones will report back to council in the February meeting.

There was some debate over parking on the footways in the community and parking in the village. Concern was expressed about the number of individuals parking cars in the village and car sharing to and from work.

4016 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.10 pm. The date of the next meeting 24 February 2016

Signed by _____
Chairman Cllr Richard Moorby
Date 24 February 2016