

Raglan Community Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday
22 March 2017 at Raglan School, Station Road, Raglan,
at 7.00pm

Present

Cllr Ewen Brierley
Cllr Vivienne Compton
Cllr Noel Porter
Cllr Richard Moorby
Cllr Trevor Phillips

Cllr Ray Parry
Cllr Sylvia Price
Cllr Helen Williams
Cllr Peter Williams (Chairman)

4221 In attendance:

Adrian Edwards, Clerk to the Council.
38 members of the public in attendance

4222 Agenda 1:- Apologies for absence.

Cllr's Penny Jones, Dennis Brown both members had family commitments

4223 Agenda 2:- Declarations of interest.

No declarations made at this time.

4224 Agenda 3:- 15 minutes set aside for members of public to address the Council with any concerns.

The chairman invited members of the public to address the meeting. One resident asked about a question about the public meeting and the outcomes, and when the results will be published. One resident informed the council members that he was told the results will be published before the 5 May. One resident asked about the petition and correspondence sent to the Welsh Government the Assembly Member has also sent correspondence to the Cabinet Member in the Welsh Government. One resident stated that the issues relating to traffic management and road safety has been debated for a number of years.

The clerk read out the reply from the Cabinet Member, where the community council was informed that the road safety audit found the A40 section in Raglan to be safe, and the Minister has declined the invitation to attend a site meeting but asked an official to respond.

A number of questions were asked and the chairman asked the clerk to answer a number of the questions. A number of residents become very angry and believed the community council are not doing sufficient work on behalf of the community.

A number of members of the public left the meeting at 19.20 hrs

4225 Agenda 4:- To receive and if appropriate to adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2017

Proposed: by Cllr Richard Moorby *seconded by Cllr Trevor Phillips that the minutes are signed.*

All Members Agreed

4226 Agenda 5:- Matters to report.

Cllr Phillips informed member the Playing Fields located at Prince Charles Road, is registered on the Jubilee fields register.

Cllr Price asked about the street light located on the public footpath in Castory Avenue.

Cllr Price asked about the overhanging brambles on Old Monmouth Road.

Cllr Phillips expressed concern over the litter and the amount of rubbish on the A40 between Raglan and Abergavenny.

Action the clerk to contact the relevant officers or council departments

4227 Agenda 6:- To receive and if appropriate to adopt the Minutes of the Special Site Meeting held on Saturday 25 February 2017

***Proposed:** by Cllr Trevor Phillips seconded by Cllr Sylvia Price that the minutes are signed.*

All Members Agreed

4228 Agenda 7:- Matters to report.

No matters to report

4229 Agenda 8:- To receive and if appropriate to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Thursday 9 March 2017

***Proposed:** by Cllr Trevor Phillips seconded by Cllr Richard Moorby that the minutes are signed.*

All Members Agreed

4230 Agenda 9:- Matters to report.

No matters to report

4231 Agenda 10:- Planning applications.

- **DC/2017/00089** Cefn Maen Farm, Llanwilcae Fach to Pen-y-Rheol, Usk Road. Various minor alterations to existing farmhouse.

No objection was offered

- **DC/2017/00242** Church House Chepstow Road Raglan, Conversion of existing detached building into self-contained annex.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to address the meeting. Concern was expressed about the trees in this location. After some debate it was:

Proposed: by Cllr Ewen Brierley seconded by Cllr Porter to offer no objection as long as it complies with the LDP and conservation plan

- **DC/2017/00250** DEMOLITION OF VACANT SCHOOL AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COMMUNITY HALL

After some debate it was:

Proposed: by Cllr Trevor Phillips seconded by Cllr Richard Moorby to offer no objection as long as it complies with the conservation plan

- **DC/2017/00141:** Ashmead, Lower Raglan Road, Llangovan, Nr Raglan, NP25 4BT.

Proposed alterations and two storey extension to existing dwelling.

After some debate it was:

Proposed: by Cllr Trevor Phillips seconded by Cllr Richard Moorby to offer no objection as long as it complies with the conservation plan

- **DC/2016/01445:** The Patch, Elms Road, Raglan, NP15 2EX. Residential accommodation and related domestic garden.

After some debate it was:

It was noted the application had been withdrawn

4232 Agenda 11:- To note finance matters, including Income & Expenditure

Payments in Jan & Feb	Amount
Clerks salary & HMRC January & February	£
Merlin Waste 6 & 20 March	£40.68
One Voice Wales membership	£261.00
Reimbursement to clerk postage	£9.42
Set Office supplies	£159.52
The Beaufort Hotel Raglan	£125.00
Monmouthshire CC Street Cleaning	£344.40
Clerks Mileage claim	£9.60

It was: proposed by Cllr Sylvia Price seconded by Cllr Richard Moorby the invoices are paid

All those present agreed

All invoices were available for members to inspect

4233 Agenda 12:- Members concerns on highway issues.

Cllr Moorby expressed concern over the amount of gravel on the A40 roundabout again, and the road surface is deteriorating.

Cllr Parry expressed concern over a number of roads in the Penclawdd community where heavy vehicles are damaging the surface and the roadside verges.

Cllr P Williams asked about the VAS speed sign at the entrance to the village and what would the cost be?

Cllr H Williams asked if the data collected from the Public Exhibition will be published by MCC.

Action: clerk to contact the relevant officers

4234 Agenda 13:- Items of correspondence.

Welsh Government:

1. Initial Teacher Education Accreditation Committee Chairman
2. National Library of Wales Vice President
3. Initial Teacher Education Accreditation Committee Vice Chairman

4. The 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies
5. Copy Letter to Nick Ramsay from WG
6. Reforming local Government, Resilient and renewed
7. Welsh Language partnership Council

Monmouthshire County Council:

8. MCC Chairman invitation
9. Ground maintenance 2017/18

Other Correspondence:

10. Teenage Cancer Trust
11. ICO register
12. One Voice Wales Newsletter
13. Abergavenny Town Council invite to Chairman on the 15 April
14. Letter from local resident about parking in Fairfax View
15. Press release from CHC
16. One Voice Wales Newsletter
17. Letter from Friends of Llangovan Churchyard
18. Letter from Friends of Llangovan Churchyard
19. Bobath request

Emails

20. New 1,500-home community for Pontypool makes wave
21. Old Planning Application 3 Fairfax View Raglan
22. Neighbourhood Planning Bill: Tight vote as Lords seek to make plain government's intent on conditions
23. Email from Nicola Evans Wales Audit office
24. Receipt of your correspondence to Carl Sargeant
25. Wales Audit office
26. Email from a resident relating to feedback forms
27. Email from MCC CEO to Mr Watkins relating to Public Exhibition
28. Email from Resident to Clerk and MCC members and Officers relating to parking
29. Email from Ms L Jones Resident
30. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT 2015 / SUSTAINABILITY at PONTYPOOL
31. Members Code of Conduct
32. Email from Mr Compton Resident
33. Email from Tracey Thomas MCC
34. Press Release – Council flag raising ceremony marks Commonwealth Day
35. Press Release – £4.5 million for Monmouthshire solar farm
36. Press Release – Councillors urges government support for businesses hit by rate rise

All the correspondence was available for members to inspect. Members noted the correspondence received.

4235 Agenda 14:- Clerk reports.

Please see appendices

4236 Agenda 15:- Reports from members on outside bodies.

Cllr H Williams gave members a verbal report following the One Voice Wales NEC meeting. It was explained that the Code of Conduct was debated and it was felt that the all newly elected members should attend members training relating to the Code of Conduct.

Cllr Trevor Phillips gave members a verbal report following a Kept Tidy Wales meeting held jointly with MCC, relating to litter picking in Monmouthshire, and litter pickers and bags etc, will be provided by MCC

4237 Agenda 16:- Reports from the County Councillor

C Cllr Jones offered her apologies and no reports were available

4238 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 20.50 hrs. The date of the next meeting 26 April 2017

Signed by _____
Chairman Cllr Peter Williams
Date 26 April 2017

Reports to:- Raglan Community Council
Subject:- Correspondence with Officers from MCC
Report:- by the Clerk
Date:- 22 February 2017

I find it disappointing and uncomfortable that I need to report to members regarding the current situation and communication between the Community Council and the County Council. In the January meeting I was asked to write to the CEO of Monmouthshire regarding the unsatisfactory way officers have been dealing with the CAT process and the time it's taken. I emailed the CEO, on the 27 January; you can see the email below. I spoke to the CEO regarding this correspondence and the CEO confirmed that he would reply in due course. I emailed him again and the community council did not receive a reply. I subsequently emailed the leader of the council and received the reply below. I find the current situation very disappointing that the CEO and leader of the County Council have shown so much contempt for locally elected members, when both leading individuals in the County Council cannot respond in a timely manner.

I can't offer any explanation neither a way forward but as the Clerk and Proper Officer of this Community Council, I find myself in a difficult position where the County Council will not engage with Local Elected representatives. I would recommend that the Community Council consider writing to the Cabinet Member for Communities at the Welsh Government

Dear Mr Matthews

During the community council in Raglan on the 25 January. I was asked to contact you to see if a small delegation of councillors can meet with you regarding the 'CAT' of an asset in Raglan.

I spoke to a member of staff on Monday to ask if a meeting could be convened, but at the time of writing this email I've not received a reply. Members have been trying for a number of years to work with MCC on this project but it would seem without a great deal of cooperation from some members of staff.

Your help would be most appreciated as members are becoming very frustrated.

Dear Mr Matthews

Further to my email dated 27 January. I have received a further email from one of the Community Councillors. I think the email is showing the frustration members are feeling.

Would you be able to set aside an hour to meet with Raglan Community council members in the next couple of weeks if your diary allows.

Dear Cllr Fox

It is disappointing that I need to write to you as leader of the County Council. You will see from the email trail below the requests for a meeting as the Community Council has not received a reply nor an acknowledgment.

Local members are becoming very frustrated with the current situation. This transfer has been ongoing for almost two years. Members from the community council were told that the documentation was with the Legal Department, but one of the councillors contacted the Head of Legal Services and was told that the Legal Department had not received any documents. Please see below the email from Head of Legal Services.

I hope you will be able to arrange an appointment with the CEO and arrange for the documentation to be transferred to the Legal Department.

Hello Adrian

Thanks for contacting me and can I apologise for the lack of communication. I'll follow this up tomorrow with the Paul Matthews, and hopefully we will see some movement.

Regards

Peter

Reports to:- Raglan Community Council
Subject:- Notes to members regarding the forthcoming Elections
Report:- by the Clerk
Date:- 13 February 2017

On the 4th May 2017, elections will be held in Wales to elect Councillors to represent areas at County and Community and Town Council level.

The Returning Officer / Electoral Registration Officer:

The Returning Officer is the person who is appointed by the Council to have overall responsibility for the election. The Electoral Registration Officer is the person appointed by Monmouthshire County Council who is responsible for ensuring that the electoral register is as complete and accurate as possible. The Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for Monmouthshire is the Chief Executive, Paul Matthews.

- Notice of Election, No later than 27th March 2017
- Delivery of Nominations Day after the notice of election is published 9:30 – 16:00
- **Close of Nominations 4th April 2017 16:00**
- Deadline for appointment of election agents 4th April 2017 16:00
- Deadline for withdrawal of candidate 4th April 2017 16:00
- Statement of Persons Nominated 5th April 2017 16:00
- Deadline for registration applications to be included in time for election 13th April 2017
- Bank Holiday 14th April 2017 Bank Holiday 17th April 2017
- Deadline for applications for postal votes 18th April 2017 17:00
- Notice of poll 25th April 2017 Deadline for proxy applications 25th April 2017 17:00
- Deadline to appoint polling and counting agents 26th April 2017 Polling day 4th May 2017 07:00 – 22:00
- Final day for submission of candidate expenses (Town & Community Council) 2nd June 2017
- Final day for submission of candidate expenses (County Council) 9th June 2017

Qualifications and Disqualifications:

In order to stand as a candidate at local elections, each candidate must submit to the Returning Officer a nomination paper within the prescribed time period. Legislation relating to qualifications of a candidate can be found in Section 79 of the Local Government Act 1972. In order to stand as a candidate at both County and Community level, the person standing must satisfy the following criteria on the day they are nominated and on polling day: The person must have attained the age of at least 18 years and be a British citizen, qualifying commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union. The candidate must also meet at least one of the following four qualifications on the day they are nominated and on polling day.

Community/Town Council Elections:

The candidate must: Be registered as a local government elector for the parish, Community or Town Council area in which they wish to stand. Have occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises in the parish, Community or Town Council area during the whole of the 12 months before the day they are nominated, have their main or only place of work during the last 12 months within the parish, Community or Town Council area, have lived in the parish, Community or Town Council area.

The Nomination Paper:

Any person wishing to stand for election must submit a valid nomination paper. The candidate can submit the nomination paper in English or Welsh. The nomination paper must contain the full name of the person wishing to stand as a candidate. A nomination paper containing initials instead of a full name may be deemed invalid. The nomination paper must also include the candidate's full home address which does not need to be in the area in which they are standing as long as they meet the requirements of standing for election. Each nomination paper must also be signed by registered electors, known as subscribers prior to the submission of the nomination paper.

Requirements for County and Community/Town are as follows:

County Council candidates require ten subscribers to support their nomination paper Community & Town Council candidates require two subscribers to support their nomination paper. All information should be included on the nomination paper before electors are asked to subscribe a nomination paper. This ensures that those people who subscribe the nomination paper are aware of who they are subscribing and are aware of whether they are standing for a political party. For

County Council candidates, the ten subscribers must be registered electors within the County ward for which election is sought.

For Community & Town Council candidates the two subscribers must be registered electors from within the Community & Town ward in which election is sought. The elector number, including letters and numbers of the polling district must be entered on the nomination paper alongside the name of the relevant subscriber.

Entitlement to a copy of the electoral roll:

Each candidate standing for election is entitled to a copy of the electoral register for the area in which they are nominated. A person will become a candidate, whichever is the earliest, either:

1. On the last day for publication of the Notice of Election if that person or others have declared that person to be a candidate on or before that date;
- or:
2. Otherwise, after the last day for publication of the Notice of Election, on the date on which a person or others declare that person to be a candidate or they are nominated as a candidate at that election. For these reasons it may be difficult to complete and submit the nomination paper with the relevant subscriber information before the deadline for close of nominations. If information needs to be checked a copy of the electoral roll at County Hall, Usk, can be inspected.

Deadline for receipt of postal, postal proxy and proxy applications:

The deadline for receipt of applications is 5pm on the following days: Deadline for requests to change or cancel an existing postal vote or proxy vote and applications for new postal votes 18th April 2017, deadline for receipt of applications for new proxy votes 25th April 2017, distribution of postal votes-postal votes cannot be sent out to electors until after the deadline for requesting new and amending existing postal votes which is the 18th April 2017. Postal votes will be issued on the 19th April 2017 and hope to have them distributed by Royal Mail on the 20th April 2017.

Statutory Notices Notice of Election:

The Returning Officer must publish a notice of election. This effectively begins the election process and provides details of when the election will take place and how nomination papers can be obtained and delivered. Candidates can submit their nomination paper on any day after the publication of the notice of election up

to the deadline for close of nominations. Statement of Persons Nominated As soon as practicable after the close of nominations the Returning Officer will publish a statement of persons nominated for each area that an election will take place. This will be for both County and Community/Town Council elections.

Notice of Uncontested Election:

In areas where insufficient nomination papers are submitted to warrant an election, the Returning Officer will publish a notice of uncontested election which confirms that the candidates who have submitted valid nomination papers are elected. This will be published shortly after the close of nominations.

Notice of Poll Prior to polling day:

The Returning Officer will publish a notice of poll which confirms that an election will be taking place and provides details to electors on how they can cast their vote. A list of polling stations and polling districts allocated to them will also be published with the Notice of Poll.

Members must be mindful the close of nominations is 4th April 2017 16:00