**Ponthir Community Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Held on 9th September 2024**

Ponthir Village Hall

@ 7pm

**Present:**  Cllr I Danaher (Chair), Cllr P Buffery, Cllr M Leighton, Cllr L Ryan-Scales and Cllr R Morgan.

**Also present: Clerk to the Council -** Mrs C Danaher, Cllr A Bird Cwmbran CC and PCSO James Llewellyn.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr P Matthews. Apologies accepted, proposed Cllr Danaher, seconded Cllr Ryan-Scales. Cllr Lang did not attend, and no apologies were received.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**  Cllr Morgan re Lamb Lane planning application.
3. **To consider matters raised by members of the public:** None
4. **Cllr A Bird – Cwmbran Town Board:** Cllr Bird informed the meeting that a 20-million-pound fund has been allocated to Torfaen to be spent over 10 years. The main areas of focus are heritage, safety, leisure and tourism along with the regeneration of the high street. Cllrs raised extra buses later at night, more classes at local leisure centres and the re-introduction of mobile libraries. Cllr Bird will come to our January meeting to update us on developments. **Action: -** Clerk to agenda item for our December meeting to discuss prior to Cllr Bird visiting again in January**.**

**PCSO James Llewellyn:** There have been 34 calls to the Police so far this month in this ward, 1 being from Ponthir. Star

Villa woodland had 8 visits from the police in July and 6 in August. Cllr Gauden has now passed this matter to Caerleon

Councilors. Cllr Buffery asked for leaflets and posters from the Police for the Village Hall.

1. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting:** 8th July 2024.

Proposed – Cllr Ryan-Scales

Seconded – Cllr Morgan

Minutes were signed and dated by Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

1. **Matters arising:**
   1. **Newsletter**: Newsletter has now been delivered and spare copies have been placed in the Doctors, Dentist, Pharmacy and Reggie’s fish and chip shop.
   2. **Audit and Bank forms:** Clerk is still awaiting finalisation of full audit 23/24.The meeting noted that the clerk had received an outstanding bill for audit 21/22 for £200. This bill had not been passed on by the previous clerk. Cllr Leighton is in the process of updating the bank account with her as an additional signatory.
   3. **Charter between TCBC and the Town and Community Councils of Torfaen:** Questions asked of Dave Leech have still not been fully answered. Clerk to attend a meeting on October 8th to discuss this further with TCBC. Council not prepared to endorse the Charter until all of our questions have been answered.

d. **Flashing speed signs update:** The signs have now been installed at either end of the village. The meeting

thanked the Clerk for all her efforts in obtaining the signs at no cost to the Community Council.

e. **Marquees and PSCC:** Cllr Leighton suggested that the Clerk email Tony Pead with our concerns as this matter

has now been outstanding for a considerable amount of time. **Action: -** Clerk to email Tony Pead.

f. **Star Villas Woodlands:** please refer to item 4.

g. **Village Hall sign and bookings issue:** Sign for Village Hall has been delivered and will be put up shortly. Clerk

continues to receive emails and calls relating to hall bookings. **Action: -** Clerk to email the Chair of Trustees.

1. **To consider and discuss items:**
   1. **Our Responsibilities:** Clerk circulated a draft copy of “Our Responsibilities” **Action: -** Clerk to amend and re circulate by email for approval.

* 1. **Planters:** Plants to be replaced by bulbs when current blooms die off. Cllrs agreed to plant the bulbs when required and remove the dead plants. Cllr Leighton is arranging for the planter at the top of School Close to be relocated to Lamb Lane bus stop. **Action: -** Clerk to purchase bulbs and Cllr Leighton to arrange planter to be moved.

c. **Initiatives:** Gold bench for Paralympian James Ball. Other ideas mentioned were living toppers on bus stops and

Ponthir free Wi-Fi. **Action: -** Cllr Buffery to make enquiries re the Wi-Fi and Clerk to arrange the painting of the bench.

d**. Ponthir School Anniversary Celebrations / Cllr Bailey Presentation Cup:** Chair and Clerk attended the school

leavers assembly to present the trophy for the first time. The school on its present site is 60 years old in 2025 and the

HT is keen for Council to be involved in celebrating this milestone. **Action: -** Cllr Ryan-Scales to speak to school and

report back at our October meeting.

e. **TVA Community Awards:** Chair and Clerk are judges for the 2024 awards. Both said how much they enjoyed being

part of the judging panel and are looking forward to the awards dinner in October.

f. **Clerk Phone:** Clerk confirmed that she had now secured a SIM only deal, reducing the monthly cost by approximately

£2pm, and transferring ownership of the phone to Ponthir CC.

g. **Poppies:** Council agreed that this initiative should continue this year with a donation of £350. **Action: -** Clerk to

contact Caerleon British Legion.

h. **Christmas Trees: Action: -** Clerk to contact Chris Mellonto quote on trees for PVH and All Saints Llanfrechfa.

**i. Biodiversity:** Council agreed that our Biodiversity plan should cover 4 areas – work at PSCC, Village Hall, Ponthir

School and Candwr Park grass land. **Action: -** Clerk to email PSCC, Village Hall, Ponthir School and TCBC for an

outline of their biodiversity initiatives.

1. **Finance and Accounts:** Balance and all transactions noted.
2. **Planning:** **18/P/0614/FUL** – **Four new homes with new pedestrian and vehicular access and improvements to the public highway at Derllwyn House, Lamb Lane, Ponthir.** The following is taken from Council minutes dated 12th November 2018 - *The residents of Lamb lane made us aware of the following concerns: “To ensure that the current drainage system is adequate to cope with the surface drainage water entering the existing system” “The ecology of the site should be protected” “Any conditions on the previous approval notice to be kept” for example, hours of construction, concerns over road safety in Lamb Lane and at the junction of Lamb Lane/Caerleon Road. Council understand that a 106 agreement had been arranged on a previous application and that should also still stand.* In addition, residents asked what type of houses are to be built, along with the reiteration of all points raised above. Council to submit the above comments again as in 2018 in support of residents.

**24/P/0551/HH Single and two storey extensions to replace existing single story extensions and installation of heat pump at Buckshorn Cottage, Caerleon Road, Ponthir** – No observations.

1. **Correspondence received:** Noted.
2. **Committee Reports:**

**Ponthir CIW Primary School:** Cllr Ryan-Scales confirmed that the next Governors meeting is later this month. There are

103 pupils on roll. Plans are in place to establish a nursery class at the school. Cllr Ryan-Scales to liaise with the school

regarding their 60th anniversary celebrations in February. **Action: -** Cllr Ryan-Scales to report back with details at our

next meeting.

**Torfaen County Association of Local Councils:** No meeting.

**Gwent Valleys Partnership:** No meeting.

**Ponthir Village Hall:** Cllr Buffery confirmed there is a lot going on at the hall including: - new fire doors/ alarms, electrics

have been upgraded, low energy lighting installed, new bar layout, new equipment for kitchen, new fencing, new furniture

and the hall is now offering buffets for functions.

Aspirations for the future - cinema, repair shop and community shop.

The hall will once again be a COVID vaccination centre starting on 18th October.

**PSCC**: See item 6e. Official opening is on Wednesday 11th September.

**Mick Morris Memorial Sporting Trust:** Cllr Ryan- Scales confirmed the next meeting is 11th September 2024.

**Local Council Partnerships Committee:** Clerk asked our representative re timing of this meeting. Choice being 4.30pm

or 6pm. Cllr Morgan opted for 6pm and the Clerk to confirm this with Dave Leech TCBC.

**The date of the next Meeting is Monday 14th October 2024 at Ponthir Village Hall at 7pm.**

Meeting Closed at 20:35

**This document is available on our website**.

**A copy of this document could be made available in Welsh**. Please contact us on the telephone number or e-mail below.

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