

Ponthir Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Held on 11th November 2024 at Ponthir Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllr I Danaher, Cllr A Lang, Cllr P Matthews, Cllr L Ryan-Scales, Cllr R Morgan and Cllr P Buffery

Also present: Clerk to the Council – Mrs C Danaher, Carolyn Wallace and Gareth Cooke (HDRC Focus Group)

1. **Apologies:** Cllr M Leighton. Apologies accepted, proposed Cllr Danaher, seconded Cllr Ryan-Scales.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** None
3. **To consider matters raised by members of the public:** Clerk read an email received from Mr Gunter of Stokes Court regarding the parking at the recent fireworks display in the village. Also, the use of cones at the PSCC and village hall. Cllr Buffery confirmed that the village hall is on private land and the use of cones is permitted. **Action:** Clerk to reply to Mr Gunter and forward his email to PSCC.
4. **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting** - 14th October 2024. Proposed Cllr R Morgan and seconded by Cllr P Buffery. Minutes were signed and dated by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. **HDRC Focus Group:** 94 statements on cards were given to Councillors and were grouped together by topics and named. The focus group will be back in touch for assistance when all the statements and groupings have been analysed.
6. **Matters arising:**
 - a. **Audit and bank forms:** outcome of full audit still not received, and Cllr Leighton not been into the Co-op to be added as a signatory. **Action:** to be discussed again at the December meeting. Clerk to check if ex Cllr L Morgan is still a signatory on the account.
 - b. **Charter between TCBC and Town and Community Councils of Torfaen:** Cllr Morgan attended the meeting on 31st October. Draft charter was colour coded in green, blue and yellow for ease of reference. It is still very much in draft format and Cwmbran Community Council will be in touch to arrange for 2 representatives from all the councils in Torfaen to meet and go through all the suggested amendments.
 - c. **Marquees and PSCC:** Clerk confirmed that the marquees had been collected by the PSCC. They will be put up to assess the damage and the 2 marquees will be colour coded so that they can be used in the future.
 - d. **Planters:** Cllr Lang and Cllr Ryan-Scales felt that their planters were still looking good and will plant their bulbs when they feel the time is right. **Action:** Cllr Lang and Cllr Matthews to arrange the movement of the planter at School Close to the bus stop at Lamb Lane.
 - e. **Ponthir School Anniversary Celebrations:** Cllr Ryan-Scales said that the school have nothing arranged yet for the 50th anniversary. Clerk confirmed that the Chair of the PTA had emailed asking for money towards a visiting pantomime at Christmas. Clerk asked them to complete a grant form, nothing has been forthcoming yet.
 - f. **Biodiversity:** Clerk confirmed that information was still outstanding from PSCC and village hall. **Action:** Clerk to agenda for the January meeting.
7. **To consider and discuss items**
 - a. **Gwent Archives:** Clerk confirmed that she had received a response from GA outlining what needed to be done. All the filing cabinets need to be gone through to see exactly what we have, prior to having a meeting with GA. **Action:** Clerk will go through the filing cabinets and will agenda in January for an update.
 - b. **Communication/Precept and Planning:** Cllr Danaher attended a recent meeting with OVW on precept and planning. One council has a "5 to drive campaign". This means that they focus on 5 objectives for the year, and this allows them to plan their precept more accurately. Councillors decided on the first objective as being a meeting with groups in the village to see how the council could help and guide them. Clerk also reiterated the need for Councillors to respond in a timely manner and check their emails regularly. It was suggested that WhatsApp could be used as a quick method for confirmation of certain things. **Action:** Clerk to contact the PSCC, VH, Ponthir School and the 2 churches to invite them to a village meeting on Monday 13th January at 6pm (prior to our CC meeting at 7pm).
 - c. **Drains and School Close Parking:** TCBC have confirmed that the contractor has been issued with the order for the additional gully and increasing the capacity of the drainage ditch. A meeting is arranged this week for a start date which council will be informed of. About the SAB, a meeting is also being arranged with the new board at the PSCC. The Councils gully sucker has blown up which has put the crews behind

schedule, but the contractor doing the drainage will now clear the gullies as part of their work. Our questions raised re the proposed traffic order in School Close have been received and will be considered after the consultation ends on 15th November.

d. James Ball bench ceremony: this was a very successful event, and we received publicity online, in the South Wales Argus and Torfaen Matters. We had councillors, Peter Fox MS, Nick Thomas-Symonds MP and villagers in attendance. James and his family were very grateful for all our efforts. The meeting said what a good job the Clerk had done in arranging the event in 10 days.

8. **Finance and Accounts:** balance and all transactions noted. The meeting acknowledged that the Clerk has received a pay award, hourly rate of £13.24 raising to £13.91, backdated to April. Proposed Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Morgan.
9. **Planning: TBRA/24/P/0687/HH** – proposed garage conversion with first floor over, single storey rear extension and side bin store canopy at 50 Candwr Park, Ponthir – no comments. **CPULLE/24/P/0684/HH** – proposed outbuilding at 4 Candwr Park, Ponthir – no comments.

10. Committee Reports

Ponthir Church in Wales Primary School: Cllr Ryan-Scales confirmed that she had attended a Governors meeting at the school. There are 102 on roll, but the school are not hitting their attendance figures this term due to unauthorised absences for holidays being taken.

Torfaen County Association of Local Councils: Clerk has had confirmation that this is no longer in existence. Cllr Buffery now to be our representative on Torfaen Community Transport.

Gwent Valleys Partnership: Cllr Matthews attended the recent meeting. All councils represented were from Torfaen. The police did a talk and the main crime in Torfaen is shoplifting. **Action:** Cllr Matthews to provide a summary of the meeting and share with the Clerk.

Ponthir Village Hall: Cllr Buffery confirmed that they need to spend grant monies received by end of February, so trustees have been busy getting quotes and meeting with trades people. Solar panels are to be fitted shortly which will greatly help with the hall's electricity consumption. Council memorabilia has now been handed to the hall to go on the wall in the meeting room once decorated.

PSCC: Cllr Danaher attended the club's recent AGM. A new board has been appointed consisting of much younger people. The Chair confirmed that they are keen to work with the community council.

Mick Morris Memorial Sporting Trust: Cllr Ryan-Scales confirmed that the next meeting is on 11th December.

Local Councils Partnerships Committee: see item 7 b also. Cllr Morgan confirmed that the minutes of these meetings now must be published within 20 working days. Start time is to stay at 4pm. If we have any events coming up, they can be publicised on the "What's on in Torfaen" page of TCBC website. There is a vacant position on this committee if another councillor would like to attend.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 9th December 2024 at 7pm in Ponthir Village Hall

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 by telephone or email.

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