

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13th February, 2020 At 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre, New Radnor

1. Present: Cllrs. R. Harris (Chairman) J. Hodge (Vice-Chairman), E. Blackman, M. Cooper, E. Giordano.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Clerk.

2. Apologies: Cllrs. N. Dodman K. Williams.

3. Declarations of Interest:

Personal:

Cllr. Giordano - Agenda Item Byway LM1268 - part of route passes over land belonging to relative.

Cllr. Harris - Agenda Item Byway LM1268 - uses route for access to farmland.

Prejudicial:

Cllr. Blackman - Agenda Item Planning Application 20/0192/TRE - related to applicant.

4. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January were approved as circulated and duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Harris.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

5.1 Blocked Drains A44: Cllr. Harris reported that these had still not been cleared.

5.2 Leaning Bridleway Sign: The Clerk had reported this and the Footpaths Officer would check when next in the area. It was likely that the sign would be removed as it was not required on a public road.

6. Finance:

6.1 Payments: The following payments were agreed –

N. Dodman (annual allowance)	
HM Revenue and Customs	
(Two cheques - Total £150.00)	£150.00
Information Commissioner (direct debit)	£35.00
XMA Ltd (ink)	£97.87
Upper Bridge Enterprises (website hosting)	£175.20
Wales Audit Office (External Audit)	£209.75
Old Radnor Community Council (contribution twds training)	£85.00

6.2 Letter of thanks from New Radnor Snooker Club: Noted.

6.3 Request for Donation Llandrindod Wells and Area Twinning Association: Request refused.

6.4 Receipt: The following receipt was noted –

SLCC (bursary for Clerk's Training)	£75.00
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6.5 Request for Financial Support from Radnor Valley Resource & Amenity Centre: Cllr. Giordano reported on the failure of the boiler at the Centre and the need to re-site the oil tank at a cost of £5000 plus VAT. Having considered the monies available Members agreed to donate £500 - £100 to be re-allocated from the amount for pre school play provision and £400 from the allocated reserve for Christmas Lights. The Clerk would adjust the allocated reserves accordingly.

New Radnor Resource and Amenity Centre	£500.00
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7. Correspondence/General:

7.1 Correspondence from the Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform: Resolved to repeat the Council's previous comments – that the size of the Assembly should not be increased.

7.2 Transforming Education in Powys Consultation: Resolved no comment be made.

8. Village Matters:

8.1 Radnor Arms: Members noted the letter from the County Council closing the enforcement case with great concern. They asked the Clerk to respond indicating their amazement and disappointment that the Authority was not taking further action on the issue and asking that the decision be re-considered. In addition the Clerk was asked to write to Kirsty Williams AM and CADW to ask for support and assistance and to ask Environmental Health about the control of vermin on the site.

8.2 Water Break It's Neck Access Track: Cllr. Harris and Hodge reported on the site meeting and notes from the meeting were – Councillors Dodman, Harris and Hodge met the three above officers and walked the track as far as the fork to the forestry car parks. It was acknowledged that the volume of traffic was now enormous at weekends and holidays, with both car parks full. The dire state of the road was obvious to all present, as was the cause of the damage. There was general agreement that substantial repairs were necessary, and that because of the advertising and on line prominence of the waterfall as a visitor attraction, NRW should undertake the repairs, with a contribution from Powys CC. Repairs in the past had amounted to filling in potholes and levelling without compaction, thereby wasting money on very temporary solutions.

In the short term, temporary emergency repairs would be undertaken, with more substantial and sustainable repairs to be carried out in the spring when it would be drier. This would include resurfacing, proper vibro-rolling, camber adjustment and repair of drains and ditches along the whole length of the track all the way to the waterfall. The precise nature of surfacing works was discussed but not agreed. This would be decided once an engineering assessment had been made by NRW. The byway surface does not require repairs along its entire length in order to meet the standard of 'ordinary traffic of the neighbourhood', i.e. foot and horse. There is section of approximately a third of the length of byway from its junction with the A44 to the forked junction leading to the waterfall car park that now requires works to repair potholes due to extraordinary levels of traffic. Ditches, grips and culverts require clearing along the length of the byway between the lower car park and the forked junction to maintain surface drainage. PCC advised that additional works to improve the profile of the byway surface along much of the length in question would assist drainage in the long-term. The surface on these areas is currently acceptable as a public byway but the extraordinary traffic is now wearing the surface in places. NRW agreed to undertake remedial repair of the potholes and then assess the route with a view to undertaking further additional maintenance after winter. PCC will liaise with NRW regarding a contribution towards maintenance not attributable to extraordinary use, e.g. drainage. It was pointed out that cars often go beyond the car park all the way to the waterfall stream. NRW to produce a plan of action which should be copied to the Community Council. The car park and track beyond it are not public highway and are not the responsibility of PCC to maintain. A temporary closure of the byway from the main road to the car park turn may be necessary for significant maintenance works to be undertaken.

The officers were reminded of the vast expenditure on the repairs to the BOAT higher up, where very few vehicles travel, compared to the heavily used section leading to the waterfall. It was requested that a large visible sign of road closure be placed on the gate where the TRO starts. PCC explained that 'road closed' suggests the complete restriction of all lawful traffic. Only 4x4 motor vehicles are currently restricted and a 'road closed' sign would be inappropriate. However, consideration would be given to installation of a 'motor vehicles prohibited' sign on the existing post at the forked junction.

There was some discussion about keeping the verges clear where the drop into Vron farm land is dangerously obscured. It was also requested that the strimming and mowing of verges and pathways within the forestry be confined to times of year when the diverse flora was not in bloom.

8.3 Cornwall Lewis Memorial Update on repair works: The Clerk reported that the County Council had no money to finance repairs but that if the Community Council wished to budget monies to cover repairs in the future the County Council would arrange the works. The Clerk was asked to request the return of the two dislodged pieces.

8.4 Street Lighting (inc light by churchyard): The Clerk reported that the light by the Churchyard had been turned off for a number of years and that given this it would seem more logical for a general review of the lighting in the village. The County Council would not turn on an extra light but

would consider adjustments to current lights on all night or to the complete turning off of other lights. The Clerk was asked to request a list of the current lights on all or part night so Members could review the lighting generally.

8.5 Request for Financial Support from Radnor Valley Resource & Amenity Centre: Cllr. Giordano reported on the failure of the boiler at the Centre and the need to re-site the oil tank at a cost of £5000 plus VAT. Having considered the monies available Members agreed to donate £500 - £100 to be re-allocated from the amount for pre school play provision and £400 from the allocated reserve for Christmas Lights. The Clerk would adjust the allocated reserves accordingly.

New Radnor Resource and Amenity Centre £500.00

9. Planning:

9.1 Planning Application Decisions: No decisions this month.

Cllr. Blackman left the room for the duration of the following item.

9.2 Planning Applications: The following application was considered –

20/0192/TRE Grid Ref: E: 321263 N: 260961 Proposal: Removal of a purple beech tree and an oak tree. Location: Castle Cottage, Mutton Dingle, New Radnor. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllr Blackman returned to the room.

9.3 National Development Framework Update and Committee Report: Noted.

9.4 Local Development Plan Consultation on the following policies – Archaeology, The Historic Environment, Land Drainage and Flooding: Resolved no comment be made.

10. Date of Next Full Meeting: Thursday 12th March, 2020.

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 it was resolved to exclude the Public and Press due to the confidential nature of the following item.

11. Annual Appraisal of Clerk: Members had no issues to raise and the Clerk also had no concerns.

The meeting closed at 8.41 pm.