

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
BERRIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
on THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022 at 19:30**

(Held at Berriew Community Centre and by Zoom)

**PRESENT**

Cllr. P.J. Bettley	Cllr. D.G. James	Cllr. S. Upton
Cllr. J Morgan	Cllr. D. Kent	Cllr. M. Davis
Cllr. E.B. Thomas	Cllr. R.M. Morris	Cllr. T. Jones

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr. J. Skelding	Cllr. A. Roberts
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr. A. Jones                      Mr. Gwilym Rippon (Clerk)  
There were three members of the public present

**Agenda  
item**

- 056-22**    1.    **OPENING**  
Cllr. Bettley opened the meeting and thanked everyone present. He sought the agreement from members to give County Councillor Adrian Jones permanent dispensation to speak at the meetings as he is technically a member of the public, not a Community Councillor. This was agreed and will be reviewed at the General Meeting in May.
- 057-22**    2.    **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**  
As listed above
- 058-22**    3.    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
No declarations were made
- 059-22**    4.    **MINUTES**  
Following review, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were a true and accurate record.
- 060-22**    5.    **ACTIONS OUTSTANDING**  
There were no actions outstanding that would otherwise not be covered in the agenda.

**061-22 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a) County Councillor Report by Cllr. A Jones
- i. Cllr. Jones reported that the blockage of Dolphin's Lane has for the moment been removed. Should any member of the public be concerned about their safety due to a dog on the lane, they should report this to the police.
  - ii. Cllr. Jones expects to have a walk round with Highways to review the Highways log and ongoing issues. He is also calling for progress reports to be made available so the status of any reported item can be checked.
  - iii. Problems with recycling were noted, which are largely down to staffing issues. On the plus side, Recycling rates are up by 18% in tonnage terms.
  - iv. Discussions have been taking place with PC Hannah Richards about crime prevention and the Go Safe and community speed watch programme.
  - v. It was pointed out that a fault with a street light can be reported through the Powys County Council portal, or by scanning the QR code below.



- vi. Cllr. Jones is assisting with a school transport review
  - vii. He also noted that a recent motion had been carried to invest in preventative drain and gulley clearing.
- b) PCSO contact – The Clerk will make contact with the Police Community Support Officers to ask them to attend a Community Council meeting in the autumn.
- c) Public comments
- i. One member of the public commented on the rough surface by the post box in the centre of the village. It was agreed that Powys Highways would be asked to take a look.
  - ii. A comment was also raised about speeding past the school. Even in the light of the proposed reduction of the village speed limit from 30mph to 20mph, it was felt that the risk posed by speeding justified action. The Council decided that vehicle activated signs on both approaches to the school might be appropriate. The Chair agreed to investigate options.
  - iii. Two members of the public spoke about Planning Application 22/1495/REM, expressing concern about noise and traffic nuisance should the application be successful.

**062-22 7. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported the following:

- a) Since the July meeting, MetroRod had been called to the toilets to clear a blockage
- b) The porch light outside the gents had been tripping a circuit breaker but this seems stable for now

- c) The Chair and Cllr. A. Jones had met to 'clean' the Highways Log and remove duplicate or resolved items
- d) The Chair had completed a Digital Survey regarding the Council, noting that cloud storage, online surveys and further use of social media are areas for improvement.

## 063-22 8. COMMUNITY COUNCIL GOALS

### a) Transport and Highways

1. To update the Highways Log
  - i. A deep pothole on the U2461 on the south east side of the aqueduct needs attention.
  - ii. There are three culverts under Pump House Lane, C2050, which need clearing out before the first heavy rain of the winter
  - iii. The last 50m of Cefn Rhallt lane (U2455) still in urgent need of attention where it meets the B4385.
  - iv. There are 3 severe potholes on Pennant Pitch.
  - v. Trees and shrubs from Cae Celyn, on the corner at the junction of the B4390 and the B4385, are severely restricting visibility for vehicles travelling from Berriew and wishing to turn up the Castle Caereinion Road past the school.
  - vi. Water is standing on the corner at Rhiewport on the B4390.
  - vii. Surface drainage past the Old Court House on the U2461 seems incomplete, and allows water to pour across the road in wet weather.
  - viii. A manhole cover in Brithdir, below the Copse Bungalow, as broken leaving a large deep hole that children, a horse's leg or a vehicle wheel could get trapped in. Cllr. Bettley volunteered to report this directly to Highways in view of the urgency.

### b) Housing and infrastructure

A multi-disciplinary meeting, outside of regular council meetings, with OpenReach, Powys County Council and our MS is to be arranged by Cllr. T. Jones and Cllr. Bettley to push for better fibre broadband connectivity in our area.

### c) Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism

Cllr. Davis reported that a more detailed, realistic budget for the toilet refurbishment had been created and agreed to obtain indicative quotes from local builders before the November meeting. No breakthrough was forthcoming regarding funding, so the Council might instead consider a Public Works Loan.

### d) Business and Retail

The Business Survey is outstanding.

### e) Environment and Sustainability

Cllr. Kent has attended training on Green and Resilient Communities and has continued to meet the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust to develop the Berriew Woodland Walk project, which we hope to rename The Jubilee Woodland Walk if the Council adopts it. A grant has been applied for from the Resilient Communities Grant Programme. Cllr. Kent also drew the Council's attention to the following:

- Should Berriew Community Council declare a climate emergency in view of current vulnerabilities to power and water shortages?
- How can we help during the 'cost of living crisis', eg providing a 'warm hub'?

The team that looks after Environment and Sustainability will come back to the Council with suggestions.

**f) Community Support**

1. Community Centre Committee – Cllr Upton reported that a team has been formed to look at refurbishment of the Centre and is deciding what work is essential, and what work would be desirable.

**g) Aspirations of the Council**

1. The next meeting of the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster will be on 17<sup>th</sup> October at the Andrew Logan Museum of Sculpture. The Cluster is focussed on sharing good practice, information, contacts and ideas across 4 local councils in our area.
2. 3 Councillors have recently attended training courses. The Council needs to have a robust training plan in place, and Cllr. Upton offered to look into the feasibility of this.

**064-22 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a. 22/1563/FUL

Application for a proposed agricultural building extension at Pen y Ffridd, Castle Caereinion, Welshpool, SY21 9AU

**Resolved.** The Council discussed the application and resolved to support it.

b. 22/1495/REM

Application to vary condition 12 from planning approval 19/1515/FUL to extend opening hours at the café associated with King’s Nurseries, Garthmyl, Montgomery, SY15 6RT

**Resolved.** The Council discussed the application at length and resolved to object to the application on the grounds of the late hours proposed and potential noise nuisance to neighbours.

c. 22/1469/TEL

Application to site a mast, telecommunications equipment and cabinets at Cold Orchard Hill, Brooks, Welshpool, SY21 8QY.

**Resolved.** The Council discussed the application and noted that the applicant had been advised by Powys County Council on 4<sup>th</sup> October that prior approval was not required and that the application was covered under ‘permitted development.’ Cllr. James suggested that the applicant might be approached to help fund local projects and the Council agreed to this.

d. 22/1459/AGR

Application for the erection of an agricultural storage building and associated works at Pied House, Garthmyl, Montgomery, SY15 6SQ.

The Council were advised that this application was covered by ‘permitted development’ and the applicant had been notified of this on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

e. 22/1358/OUT

Application for outline planning permission for the erection of a 3-4 bedroom house and double garage, alterations to vehicular access, installation of a sewerage treatment plant and all associated works (all matters reserved) at land opposite Pen-y-bont, Felindre, Berriew, Welshpool, SY21 8BE.

**Resolved.** The Council discussed the application at length and made no recommendation. It was suggested that issues relating to flooding, access and the 'disused path' be carefully considered if full permission is sought, particularly with regard to access for walkers and riders.

f. 22/1462/FUL

Application for the erection of a dwelling with new pedestrian and vehicular access with provision of a passing place at Maesyrafron Caravan Park, Berriew, Welshpool, SY21 8BQ

**Resolved.** The Council discussed the application at length and resolved to support it.

**065-22 10. WALES AIR AMBULANCE**

Cllr. Morgan raised the issue of the proposed relocation of the Wales Air Ambulance from Welshpool and how it might affect local residents. A letter previously received from David Gilbert, Chair of the Wales Air Ambulance Board of Trustees, was read out, stating the outline case for the move. Cllr. A. Jones recounted a number of statistics from his own research.

**Resolved.** The Council agreed that further data was required to help understand the implications of the proposed relocation.

**066-22 10. FINANCE**

1. To note the Bank reconciliation. The Bank reconciliation was noted.
2. Update on the annual audit. The Clerk noted that the audit status had been revised to 'unqualified' meaning that there would be no impact on the Council's General Power of Competence.
3. To discuss and agree payments to be made.
  - a. HMRC £16.40 Staff Tax (S111 Local Government Act 1972)
  - b. Berriew Newsletter £250.00 (S142 LGA 1972)
  - c. Black Mountain College Training £50.00 (S111 LGA 1972)
  - d. Hafren Dyfrdwy £3.21 (S111 LGA 1972)
  - e. Hafren Dyfrdwy £62.02 (S111 LGA 1972)
4. To ratify payments in September
  - a. Staff Salaries £764.66 (S111 LGA 1972)
  - b. HMRC £425.31 Staff tax (S111 LGA 1972)
  - c. G.J. Rippon Expenses £99.60 (S111 LGA 1972)
  - d. Metro Rod £96.00 (S111 Local Government Act 1972)
  - e. Office Express Toilet Consumables £77.87 (S111 LGA 1972)

For information:

- a. Hafren Dyfrdwy £3.21 (S111 LGA 1972)
- b. Hafren Dyfrdwy £62.02 (S111 LGA 1972)
- c. Hafren Dyfrdwy £3.21 (S111 LGA 1972)
- d. Hafren Dyfrdwy £62.02 (S111 LGA 1972)
- e. HSBC £5.00 Bank Charges (S111 LGA 1972)

**Resolved** - The clerk was requested to pay all invoices.

**067-22 11. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence received from Jennifer Linsdell regarding the rerouting of the X75 bus service. The council noted that this is an issue that they had no influence over and the Chair was requested to respond with some suggestions as to how the issue could be mitigated.

Correspondence was also received from Mrs. V. Wallis regarding the Council's customary donation to the Community Poppy Wreath Appeal.

**Resolved** - The Council agreed to contribute £25 and the Clerk was asked to make this payment to Mrs Wallis.

**068-22 12. TO RECEIVE ANY REPORTS**

22 circulars and emails had been forwarded to Councillors amongst which there were many interesting and important items, eg:

- Information on the Replacement LDP 2022-37
- Joint One Voice Wales and Society of Local Council Clerks conference on 9<sup>th</sup> November
- Potential availability of Welsh Government Funded defibrillators
- Statutory Training Planning, advice and templates

**069-22 13. INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

No matters were raised at the time, but may be raised at any point before the next meeting agenda is published.

**070-22 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Berriew Community Council will be on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 19:30. The meeting closed at 22:00.

Signed

Chair

Date