**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held in the Minor Hall on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.30p.m.**

There were three members of the public present.

**1. PRESENT:**

Present were: Cllrs. Adrian Hughes, Peter Bowen-Simpkins, Deb Vine, John Mahoney and the Clerk Andrew Berry.

**2.** **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Dan Dyson apologised for absence.

**3. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr. Mahoney proposed Cllr. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins.

**4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Cllr. Vine proposed Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins, seconded by Cllr. Mahoney.

**5. ELECTION OF CLERK**

Andrew Berry was elected as Clerk.

**6. ELECTION OF RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Andrew Berry was elected as Responsible Financial Officer

**7. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR**

Alan Bryant will be offered the post of Internal Auditor for the year 2017 – 2018.

**8. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

Andrew Berry (Clerk) declared an interest, also Cllr. Dyson although the latter was not at the meeting. Both their properties are adjacent to a proposed development.

There were three residents of Stouthall Lane present who wished to raise the question of a proposed development behind Park Place and contiguous with their own properties.

Dr, Wigley stated that the following people or groups had already objected: these were Dr.Cath Wigley and Andrew Booth, Andrew Berry, Lucy Evans, Mr. Alan and Mrs. Susan Bevan, Mr. Dan Dyson, The Gower Society, and The Mid and West Wales Fire Service.

Dr. Wigley presented a case to the council to oppose the development on a number of grounds, these were:

1. There was no access for fire appliances to the property. The maximum width of the lane is 2.6 metres and the requirement is 3.7 metres.
2. There is a risk of flooding not declared.
3. The land in question is in a conservation area.
4. It is in an AONB.
5. The house would appear to be double storey, out of scale with the surroundings and there is no local need for a four+ bedroom house.
6. The neighbouring dwellings would suffer from a loss of privacy.
7. The applicant had not consulted the neighbours.
8. It was felt that this could lead to more houses on this and neighbouring land..

The Council unanimously voted to support the objection. The Clerk will lodge an objection with Swansea Planning.

At this point the members of the public left the meeting.

The Chair decided to look at the other planning applications at this time.

Fairy Hill - The Council decided to object largely because of what was felt to be a lack of information regarding certain aspects of the scheme.

Cllr. Hughes summarised these as:

1. A lack of information regarding car parking for what was assumed to be up to 70 vehicles.
2. Traffic and access to the venue through the village of Reynoldston. There are animals on the Common Land / Cefn Bryn on the way to and from the property (not fenced) and the village is already in need of signage, speed limits and traffic

 calming measures. There are only very narrow roads at the venue itself

3.There did not appear to be accommodation for guests which would mean that they would have to travel to and from the venue. As it is a wedding venue most would be leaving late at night. See item 2.

4. There was some concern about the scale of the development in relation to a Grade Two listed building.

The Clerk will write to Planning at Swansea Council to highlight the Council’s concerns.

There were no objections to the plans for Bryn-Y-Mor for insulation.

**9. ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

Cllr. Mahoney was proposed by Cllr. Hughes and seconded by Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins. Cllr. Dyson was similarly volunteered in his absence.

**10. ELECTION OF ONE COUNCILLOR AS A DELEGATE TO ONE VOICE WALES.**

The Clerk, Andrew Berry volunteered to attend the meetings on behalf of the Council.

**11. ELECTION OF ONE COUNCILLOR TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE.**

Cllr. Vine volunteered unopposed for this.

**12. TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST FROM MEMBERS.**

The Clerk reminded members of the Code of Conduct with regard to this issue, if at all in doubt members must declare an interest.

**13. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

These had already been circulated. They were approved by the Council, signed and dated by the chair, Cllr. Hughes.

**14. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Cllr. Vine agreed to become a bank signatory. Cllr. Mahoney suggested that the Council switch to online banking and payment by BACS, the Clerk will arrange this.

Payments for the skip at £288 and for NRP at £600 had already been agreed but the cheques had been written after the last meeting due to the two month gap between meetings.

There was a discussion between Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins and Cllr.Hughes about which Community Council the Old Gravel Quarry on Cefn Bryn was part of. The Clerk will consult the maps.

Cllr. Mahoney suggested the Clerk approach the NFU to ascertain whether they insure Community Councils and if they do at what cost. The Clerk had received a quote from Zurich and another from AON and was awaiting a quote for insuring the motor mower. The Council agreed to go with the lowest quote. These will have to be arranged aand paid before the next meeting of the Council.

**15. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017-05-12**

The Clerk circulated the financial statement. This was agreed although Cllr. Mahoney questioned the forecast addition for 2017/18. The clerk will check the figures as will Cllr. Mahoney.

**16. ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017.**

Unfortunately the internal auditor, Mr. Alan Bryant was unable to attend the meeting. This item was deferred to reconvene on the 12th May during which meeting he presented his report a copy of which is attached.

**17. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CLERK’S REMUNERATION**

Cllr. Hughes suggested an increase of 2.5%. The Clerk will ascertain what he should legally be paid by the next meeting.

**18. GRANTS.**

The Council agreed to give grants to The Village Hall of £1,000, upkeep of the Community Burial Ground of £1,000, and for Christmas celebrations (the Christmas tree on the Lower Green). Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins declared an interest in the donations to the Church.

**19. REVIEW OF MEETING FREQUENCY**

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins suggested that the current meeting frequency was probably insufficient. It was agreed that the current number and frequency of meetings would be kept under review.

**20. VILLAGE GREENS.**

Captain Stephen Crocker had telephoned Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins to say that he had contacted the Somerset Trust, Commoners, Peter Llanfair and Bob Griffiths. There had been a meeting about signs, paths safety and access to Arthur’s Stone. There is a real danger of the combination of a blind summit, traffic, parking animals and tourists leading to an accident or danger of death. The suggestion of at least warning signs had been made to the County Council.

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins said that the brick bus shelter opposite Bryn View was being used as a toilet and sheep shelter. Children waiting in the morning do not use it. It was also an eyesore, not accessible for the disabled and would best be replaced by a shelter similar to that on the Lower Green. The shelter would be much safer if moved along from the corner. It would need planning permission and the bus company would need to be asked. He suggested that the City and County of Swansea be asked to offer funding. Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins offered to contact the newly re-elected County Cllr. Richard Lewis for his support with this.

**21. REPORT FROM ONE VOICE WALES**

The Clerk attended the last meeting of OVW; he reiterated the importance of declaring an interest in any council discussion as this had been highlighted by One Voice Wales. There had been a request by the ombudsman for only serious complaints between councillors (in other councils) to be passed on as many had been rather trivial. There were courses on offer for new councillors in Swansea and the Clerk had the details of these.

**22. VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

Cllr. Vine will publish a short piece on each councillor and the need for two more members at the next issue of the Village magazine.

**23. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr. Hughes will ask for a meeting with Swansea Transport and Cllr. Richard Lewis regarding the need for new traffic signs and traffic calming in the village.

**23. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

These had been dealt with earlier in the meeting (see item 8)

**24. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had received a large amount of correspondence very much of which had been advertising for street furniture and playground equipment.

**25. BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

Bills that will need to be paid before the next meeting will be for:

Insurances – quote from Zurich £791.20

Hire of the Hall RVHA £12.00

The Council agreed to these, however the Clerk is still waiting for more information about insuring the tractor mower, and will contact the NFU for a quote as mentioned in item 14.

**26. AOB**

Cllr. Hughes asked if the council could purchase a brush for the tractor mower at a cost of about £1,000. Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins asked if the council could get a discount from Celtic Mowers.

The Clerk will contact the Highways Department to chase up the second sign by the old bus shelter.

**27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next full council meeting will be held in The Minor Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11th July.