**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Minor Hall on Tuesday 26th September 2017**

There were no members of the public present.

**PRESENT:**

Cllrs. Adrian Hughes, Bowen- Simpkins, Deb Vine, John Mahoney, Dan Dyson and the Clerk, Andrew Berry.

**APOLOGIES:**

There were none

**1. TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST FROM MEMBERS:**

Cllr. Hughes declared an interest in anything to do with the fire engine or discussion of purchase of a new first response vehicle for the community.

**2. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR:**

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of Mrs. Jennie Clements being co-opted to the Council. This was proposed by Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins, seconded by Councillor Mahoney.

**Mrs. Jennie Clements was invited to join the meeting.**

**3. INTERNAL AUDITOR’S REPORT:**

The Internal Auditor, Mr. Alan Bryant gave his report (copy attached). Cllr. Mahoney suggested that he and the RFO meet to check the audit form early on. This was agreed. The Internal Auditor and Cllr. Mahoney (a qualified and very experienced auditor) will meet to check over the audit when completed.

**4. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

These were unanimously approved, signed and dated by the Chair.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES:**

There were none.

**At this time Swansea Councillor for Gower Richard Lewis arrived.**

**6. QUESTIONS FORM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

There were none.

**7. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Clerk reported that the balance in the current account was £9,032.24p. A precept payment of £2,500 had been received on the 31st August (account statement received the day after the meeting) raising the balance to £11,532.24. The deposit account remains at £77.64p.

**8. HIGHWAYS:**

Cllr. Hughes welcomed Cllr. Lewis to the meeting. Cllrs. Hughes and Bowen-Simpkins outlined the background to traffic and parking issues on the road passing through the Higher Green.

Swansea Council have repeatedly been emailed regarding the issues to do with parking traffic flow and traffic management around the Higher Green and in the village as a whole including from the top of Cefn Bryn from Fairy Hill, from Little Reynoldston and also from Stouthall Lane. This has gone on for the last seven years. The argument being that no money is available.

At this point Jennie Clements and the Clerk Andrew Berry declared an interest and took no part in the debate as they both live either side of Stouthall Lane.

There have been sympathetic letters from Swansea County Council.

There followed a discussion regarding the amount of money recently spent on speed bumps in Walter Road Swansea and on traffic cameras on the North Gower Road from Llanrhidian through to beyond Penclawdd. Cllr. Lewis explained the background to these.

Cllr. Lewis said that the responses apart from that from Jeff Green were unacceptable.

Cllr. Dyson asked if the queries had been asked for eight years and Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins stated that they had.

Cllr. Lewis stated that the Social Services and Young People’s budgets had been ring fenced and that cuts in other services were therefore proportionately greater. The amount of money brought in to Swansea by Gower tourism businesses such as The King Arthur is much greater than by other areas in Swansea.

Cllr. Lewis suggested that a way forward for traffic issues might be to erect steel bollards along the road outside the King Arthur. This was objected to for a number of reasons, it was felt that The Gower Society, Commoners, Somerset Trust and The King Arthur plus many residents and the Community Council itself would never agree.

Cllr. Hughes pointed out that the whole scheme proposed by the Community Council would cost an estimated £16,000 and that much of this would be in statutory notices. Cllr. Dyson asked why not just signage rather than bollards. Cllr. Hughes said that the scheme proposed by the council was for just that.

Cllr. Vine asked why if we could have bollards could we not just have speed restrictions that would be much cheaper.

Cllr. Hughes outlined the speed limit scheme proposed by the Community Council covering the whole village including signs banning HGV’s from Stouthall Lane.

Cllr. Hughes left the meeting at 19.52 due to an emergency First Responder call-out.

The vice-chair Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins took the chair.

Cllr. Richard Lewis will have a word with Jeff Green Road Safety Manager about the cost of the scheme proposed by the Community Council and will try to work with him to find a solution.

Cllr. Mahoney said that there was just a need to slow vehicles down also to prevent HGV’s and caravans from using Stouthall Lane.

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins said that he had raised the danger of parking / animals / people on the summit of Cefn Bryn with Tonia Antoniazzi MP for Gower ,Rebecca Evans AM for Gower, and Steven Crocker. Cllr. Richard Lewis said that developments in and around Swansea had been repeatedly turned down by the Welsh Assembly. Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins said that the Commoners will object to development. He further said that as an unofficial car park it is being ignored. Cllr. Dyson pointed out that development will bring even more people.

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins thanked Cllr. Lewis for his attendance and asked that he do as much as possible to achieve a traffic management solution.

Cllr. Mahoney said that there was a problem with overnight parking at the top of Cefn Bryn, and that the suggestion is to ring 101. Cllr. Dyson said that websites advertise this as a place to park overnight. There then followed a discussion around opinions that the Gower Society and Commoners object to any signage. Cllr. Dyson said that the problem is that people think that common land is just that and that it doesn’t belong to anyone whereas it does.

**9. VILLAGE GREENS**

Cllr. Dyson said that the King Arthur is responsible for finding a way to make a difference to the problems of parking. He asked if some of the area leased from the Somerset Trust for benches and tables could in fact be used for parking. This is due to the fact that there are consequences in terms of the traffic caused by the sheer numbers of people visiting the Hotel. Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins said that the sheer volume of parking on the sides of the road does have the effect of slowing down the traffic. Cllr. Dyson said that the other issue is encroachment on the green. Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins said that he was impressed by the surface of the new NT car park at Rhossili. Cllr. Dyson said this was not the responsibility of the council but of the King Arthur.

The Clerk asked the Council to read the 21st September email from Mike Scott suggesting a solution and meeting to find a way forward with problems concerning the Higher Green and parking. The Clerk was asked by the chair to write to Mike Scott and invite him to the next meeting of the Council.

**10. VILLAGE MAGAZINE.**

Cllr. Vine will mention Cllr. Lewis visit and the co-option of Jennie Clements to the Council in a piece for the Reynoldston News.

**11. PLANNING APLICATIONS**

There had been no new applications for planning consent but people living close to Fairy Hill had reported very loud noise from a wedding on the August Bank Holiday and they were very concerned about the new extension to the property.

Cllr. Vine suggested that the Council write to notify them that we had received a complaint and that the noise being very loud must have been in contravention of their licence. Cllr. Vine also said that she had had an enquiry about the use of a garage as a B&B – was it legal? Cllr. Dyson thought that this should require permission for change of use / development.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk read the correspondence:

There had been letters from Powercut re the tractor mower, a letter from HMRC about a tax credit for £83.42 on the PAYE account, the bank signatories were now up to date, a letter from Tonia Antoniazzi introducing herself as the new MP for Gower (the Clerk had placed her constituency notice on the display board outside the Post Office). The Council insurance company had changed to BHIB, after they had taken over the business from Aon.

There was a detailed letter from the Revd Carol in response to a letter from the Clerk about car parking outside the church. She said she would inform marrying couples of the potential hazard of parking near the church and that the church will continue to place traffic cones outside the church. Revd Carol wondered if the council might place some no parking or keep off the grass signs on the Lower Green.

The Clerk circulated and drew the Council’s attention to a letter from the Community Health Council regarding the Welsh Government consultation on “Services Fit For the Future”.

There were a number of emails regarding traffic management that had been circulated and discussed earlier in the meeting.

**13. BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

One cheque for the Clerk’s Remuneration, this was a correction from the cheque submitted at the last meeting but not presented for payment. Since then the cheque signatories had changed delaying the possibility of signature, £391.24.

**14. AOB**

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins pointed out that the pond on Cefn Bryn had still not been dug. This will be arranged after mentioning again to The Commoners (who had it dug in the first place). Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins will write to Bob Griffiths as Secretary of the Cefn Bryn Commoners.

The Clerk will check the tractor mower service now due.

Cllr. Clements asked if the council could borrow money to pay for the traffic scheme, and Cllr. Dyson asked if the Council could just pay for the traffic scheme and then charge the County Council. The Clerk pointed out that the Community Council did not have enough money to pay for the scheme.

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins raised the possibility of the Council giving a grant to help raise money for a new First Response vehicle. This was agreed as a good idea, but will be held over to the next meeting when it will be clear how much money had been already raised by that date.

The Clerk asked the Council to vote on acceptance (or otherwise) of the Local Dispute Resolution Protocol. The protocol was accepted unanimously. The Clerk will inform Swansea Democratic Services.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This will take place on Tuesday 14th November in the Minor Hall at the usual time of 7.30pm.