**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN THE MINOR HALL ON TUESDAY 4TH MARCH 2017**

**PRESENT**: Cllr. Adrian Hughes (Chair), Cllr. Peter Bowen-Simpkins, Cllr. Paul Lloyd-Davies, Cllr. Susan Bevan, Cllr. Judith Rock, Cllr. Deb Vine, Cllr. John Mahoney and the Clerk Andrew Berry.

There was one member of the public present.

**1. APOLOGIES**:

There were none.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST**:

None were declared at this time.

**3. THE MINIUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**4. MATTERS ARISING:**

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins said that the new sign for the Post Office was up and pointing in the right direction. The flat in the same block is up for sale and could be used to increase the size of the Post Office. It had been valued by estate agents at £80,000 and grants were available. The Post Office is now open for a further two hours on Sunday mornings and after a campaign for re-instatement there were now refuse bags available.

There was a question as to whether the sewage works were being expanded, but there was no knowledge of this.

Swansea Council has replaced the leaking salt bin by the Post Office.

In response to a query about attendance at council meetings it was felt that Councillors should not miss more than two consecutive meetings.

Cllr.Bowen-Simpkins said that there was a problem with the parking area outside the Post Office. It was pointed out that the Community Council had paid a grant to the Post Office and shop but that it was now their responsibility to repair any wear and tear. Cllr. Mahoney suggested that it just needed a bit more filling in round the edges and that perhaps Neil could fill it in next time he does any work for the Council.

The member of the public said that car parking for the flats outside the Post Office had now eased since a resident had left the flats. He asked if the Council had heard that he had applied for a licence to sell cider for charity. There were no objections to this. It was also asked as to whether there was any more information about a planning application to extend Fairy Hill, but there was nothing other than an advert that had appeared in the Evening Post.

**5. VILLAGE GREENS:**

The Clerk reported that he had received a copy of the lease for the Higher Green from the Council’s solicitors. They had received a reply to their letter of April 2016.

Cllr. Hughes has met with Chris Smith who works for the Badminton Trust and Bob Griffiths from the Commoners. The Commoners were concerned about the Higher Green being designated as a village green although this was accepted as a legal definition some years ago. It does not restrict their rights to graze the land in any way. There will be another meeting with The Commoners before the end of March. Cllr. Vine asked that another councillor be present at the meeting. A common email facility will be set up between the Council, Commoners and the Somerset Trust to ensure that everyone knows what is going on.

Cllr. Vine asked about the SE corner of the Higher Green and whether it was Village Green or not. Cllr. Hughes replied that there was a separate agreement with the King Arthur Hotel covering this section of the Green and use and access thereof.

The member of the public present explained to those who didn’t know that there were in fact two groups of Commoners of which he belonged to one. These are the Gower Commoners and the Cefn Bryn Commoners.

The next meeting with the Commoners and the Somerset Trust will be at twelve mid-day on the 29th March in The King Arthur. It was agreed that Cllr. Vine would accompany Cllr. Hughes.

Cllr. Bevan pointed out that the Commoners were present at the Commission that granted the Village Green status and therefore should know about the agreements reached.

Cllr. Hughes pointed out that as well as the (not yet agreed) lease there was a schedule of works that had been agreed with the Somerset Trust.

Both Cllrs. Vine and Bowen-Simpkins asked that the lease be discussed at this point. It was agreed that there would be a further meeting in the fire station on Thursday 23rd so that the Council could all agree as to the terms of the lease before replying to the solicitors letter and before the next meeting with concerned parties on the 29th March.

Cllrs. Bowen-Simpkins and Mahoney had met with the chairman of ‘Tourism Swansea Bay’ Captain Steve Crocker, with suggestions for a village plan aimed at encouraging / sustaining tourism. Suggestions included signs on Cefn Bryn, as it was pointed out that people looking for Arthur’s Stone wouldn’t know where it was. The car parking and state of the paths had been compared to Stonehenge but not in a favourable way, as the path from the car park is often waterlogged. A suggestion had been made for an overflow car park the other side of the Ridgeway known as Talbot Road. It was pointed out that approximately one quarter of this site – an old quarry, is the Llanrhiddian Higher Community Council responsibility. A suggestion was that there should be a public convenience in the village – could one be located near the shop or near the fire station? Suggestions made about car parking and footpaths were agreed by Captain Crocker as a good idea, also footpaths to Knelston and to the old police station would need surfacing.

It was agreed that encroachment by cars on verges was getting worse.

The member of the public present suggested a weight limit for vehicles; Cllr. Hughes said that a seven and a half ton limit had been suggested. Cllr.Bevan said that in the past the bus company had threatened to cancel school buses if routes were altered by a one-way system. Cllr. Rock said that the car park for Arthur’s stone should not be located at the top of Cefn Bryn.

**6 VILLAGE MAGAZINE:**

Cllr. Vine will place an article in the magazine reminding of the election on the 4th May.

The Chairman asked who would be standing again and it seemed that there would be three vacancies on the council. Cllrs. Lloyd-Davies, Rock and possibly Bowen-Simpkins will resign leaving only four councillors.

Cllr. Bevan will ask her neighbour if he can come to the meeting on Thursday next as he has some expertise regarding the law and village greens.

The Clerk issued nomination papers for re-election to the council. The notices of election due to be posted on the 17th March have already been displayed for both Community Council and County Council Elections.

**7 HIGHWAYS:**

Cllr. Hughes pointed to the new sign to the Post Office and said that the Community Council will pay the County Council to erect new signs outside Brynfield directing traffic around the village. This will mean that all old signs will be removed.

Cllr. Bevan asked if the Council could agree on the position of the dog poo bin. This was not agreed but suggestions included by the salt bin on the Lower Green and by the trees near the church.

**8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

There were none

**9. FINANCIAL SITUATION**

The Clerk reported that balance of the current account was £11,758. However there was a bill for pond clearance to come in and eventually bills for the lease of the Higher Green and solicitors fees. The precept for the year 2017 to 2018 had been reduced to £7,500 as agreed at an earlier meeting.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE.**

There had been correspondence from the solicitors with regard to the lease of the Higher Green, The Wales Audit Office, One Voice Wales, The Teenage Cancer Trust, Lloyds Bank had agreed to a change of bank signatories and St. George’s Church had thanked the Council for a grant. There were many emails advertising playground equipment and street furniture and the Clerk had circulated other emails to members of the Council.

**11. CHEQUES FOR SIGNING:**

Llwchr Town Council for advert in Evening Post £59.09

One Voice Wales Membership £58.00

Wales Audit Office £301.80

Clerk’s Remuneration £387.20

Clerk’s Disbursements £53.50

Post Office Income Tax £96.80

RVHA Hire of Minor Hall £12.00

RVHA Grant £1,000.00

City and Council of Swansea road sign contribution £1,195.16

Auto enrolment Support Limited £414.00

**12. AOB:** Cllr. Lloyd-Davies reflected that meetings used to finish very much earlier twenty years ago. He stated that meetings were always very friendly here unlike some that Cllr. Lloyd-Davies knew of. He wished the Council well in the future and hoped that it would continue to be as friendly as in previous times.

Cllr. Bevan thanked Cllr. Lloyd Davies for his contribution over the years particularly with regard to his work in getting Village Green status.

Cllr. Rock was also thanked for her contribution to the Council. Councillor Hughes suggested a meal at the King Arthur to include the previous Clerk Howard Evans. This was agreed for a date to be fixed in the future.

There will be a working party for the Robins Lane and village clean up on April 22nd. Cllr. Vine will advertise this in the Village Magazine, to meet outside the Village Shop at 9.30 am with gardening equipment.

The Clerk will organise a skip to be placed in the road outside the fire station for April 21st to be removed on April 24th.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday May the 9th 2017 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.