**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** of the Council held in the Minor Hall on Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 7.30p.m.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from Cllr. Judith Rock.

**PRESENT:** were Cllrs. Adrian Hughes (chair), Peter Bowen-Simpkins, Susan Bevan, Deb Vine, Paul Lloyd-Davies, John Mahoney and the Clerk Andrew Berry. Two members of the public were also present.

1. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST:** There were no disclosures of personal interest at this time.

2. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** These were circulated, approved agreed and signed by the Chairman.

 3. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Concerns were raised about village shop opening hours on Sunday morning. A member of the public volunteered to pay the wages of the staff to keep the shop open for an extra two hours. There is also concern about refuse bags no longer being available at the village shop due to council cuts. It was pointed out by Cllr. Bevan that Swansea Council will send out bags to individual houses if people run out – the viability of this approach was questioned, the nearest pick up point for bags is now at Pennard Library. Concern was also raised about the lack of bins and the number of holiday homes in the village. Cllr. Hughes stated that there were no powers to stop people buying holiday homes.

 4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

These were dealt with as they arose during the meeting

 5. **APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2017 / 2018:**

This was unanimously approved by the Council. Cllr. Hughes stated that the long term aim was to reduce the budget surplus. The Clerk pointed out that £1,500 needs to be set aside for possible elections

 6. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS 2017:**

The outline for this was explained by the Clerk including key dates. Cllr. Vine offered to advertise the dates in the village magazine and, this offer was accepted by the Council. The Clerk will attend a meeting to have the arrangements explained in detail on Monday 16th January.

 7**. HIGHWAYS:**

Cllr. Hughes said that the County Council will support grant funding for a new speed limit scheme in the new financial year. Only four fingers are allowed on finger posts. The scheme allows for two finger posts, one at the corner of Brynfield and The Higher Green. Another next to the brick bus shelter should take the pressure of traffic off Stouthall Lane which the Council believes is unsuitable for coaches and heavy vehicles.

Geoff in the transport department is fully on board with the principle of the speed limit signs. There needs to be a consultation on the proposals which are open ended.

A member of the public interjected at this point to suggest the creation of a long term plan for the village. The chairman said that this is a good idea. The suggestion was also made at this point for improving the street lighting in the village.

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins again raised the issue of road being mis-named on satellite navigation systems. Cllr.Hughes said the fire service has complained to Tom Tom. The Clerk has written to the County Council Highways Department with copies of the maps that have been on display in Reynoldston Post Office with road and house names in the village.

 8. **VILLAGE POST OFFICE:**

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins stated that the refurbishment had been delayed by the Post Office. Cllr. Mahoney said it had been delayed for ten to twelve weeks after Christmas due to illness. The local MP Byron Davies on a visit to the shop had promised to try to get it actioned sooner rather than later. Cllr. Mahoney asked whether the hanging baskets could be reinstated. Cllr. Bowen – Simpkins said that the Post Office appearance will be improved once the old air-conditioning unit has been removed and the Post Office and shop has been externally repainted.

 9. **VILLAGE GREENS:**

Cllr. Hughes said that the work on the Cefn Bryn pond on the Top Road had been agreed. The Somerset Trust had been informed of the work some time ago. Consent will be raised soon. There will be a meeting with Knight Frank and Chris Smith the land agent for the Somerset Trust in the next few weeks regarding this and other work. Cllr. Vine asked if other councillors could know of the meeting so that they could come along as well. Cllr. Hughes agreed to this.

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins had asked about the possibility of grants for buying the flat next to the Post Office and paying for signage. The RDP has £3,000,000 of money for the whole of Wales rural areas. The process for applying for grants is very complex and the booklet is over ninety pages in length. Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins read out paragraph 65 which seemed open to interpretation as to it’s meaning. Expressions of interest have to be submitted by January 31st. The Clerk offered to talk to the Secretary of The Gower Society to ask about this.

Cllr. Hughes explained the location of the proposed new speed limit signs.

The Clerk will email Highways to state that the salt bin opposite the Post Office is leaking. It is in urgent need of replacement and also needs to be moved to the left or to the West by about 10 yards. It also needs filling with salt.

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins raised the question of the relocation of the electricity sub-station on Cefn Bryn. Cllr. Hughes said that this had been delayed at present.

 10**. VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

Cllr. Vine will insert a notice about the coming elections. A working party to clear litter was suggested for 1st April.

Cllr. Vine offered apologies and left at 8.38.

11. **FINANCIAL POSITION:**

The Clerk reported that the current account balance was £12,890.06p. The Budget had already been discussed and approved earlier.

 12. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

Cllr. Bevan explained and showed plans for two planning applications. A member of the public made a plea for councils to work with architects to improve plans rather than reject them outright. One was for a house behind the old Compass Cafe on the South Gower Road, the other an internal change (already carried out) at Fairy Hill..

 The Council had no objections to the plans.

 13. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk explained that much correspondence had been for adverts such as playground equipment and salt bins. There had been correspondence regarding the election dates and OVW meetings. The Clerk cannot attend a meeting on the 23rd but will attend the meeting about the elections on the 16th. The Clerk had already forwarded a number of emails to the councillors.

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins will look in to the practicalities of setting up a database for letters and other information held by the Council so that it becomes more accessible to all.

The Clerk will copy Cllr. Vine’s letter about pink and green bags to Richard Lewis.

14. **CHEQUES FOR SIGNING:**

Cllr. Mahoney returned the forms for becoming a bank signatory to the clerk after it had been signed by the other two signatories. The Clerk will forward this to Lloyds Bank.

Reynoldston Village Hall Association Hire of Minor Hall - £12.00

Reynoldston Church for upkeep of the Churchyard £1,000.00

Reynoldston Church for Christmas Celebrations £120.00

 15. **AOB**

The Clerk was asked to look up the rules to clarify those relating to attendance by councillors at meetings.

Cllr. Mahoney asked what should be done about apparently abandoned and possibly untaxed cars. Cllr. Hughes suggested ringing the police on 101 to report such vehicles.

 16. **Date of Next Meeting**

This is scheduled for Tuesday 14th March at 7.30 pm.