**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Minor Hall on Tuesday 9th January 2018**

There were three other people present, Rob Vine and Hugh Jones from the Reynoldston Village Hall Association and Mike Scott from Gower AONB.

**PRESENT:**

Cllrs. Adrian Hughes (chair), John Mahoney, Deb Vine, Dan Dyson, Paul Lloyd-Davies, Sue Ashelby and the Clerk, Andrew Berry.

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Jennie Clements sent her apologies.

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

Cllr. Hughes suggested that these be received if and when they arise. Cllr. Vine declared an interest in the Village Hall. It was agreed that the order of items on the agenda be altered to receive items on grants and the Higher Green first.

**2. GRANTS**

Hugh Jones and Rob Vine were invited by the Chair to speak on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. Hugh Jones outlined the reasons for the Committee asking for a grant for improvements to the Hall. The Hall is managed by nine trustees and a management committee. It is used by 8,000 people over the course of a year; the main hall was being used by thirty five scouts and cubs at the time of the meeting. There are fifty bookings a month including local groups, the AONB and The Gower Festival. The Hall is central to Gower and does suffer from wear and tear over the years. The Hall Committee wishes to offer the best facilities available.

At the time of writing Rob Vine stated that the Management Committee was considering five projects totalling approximately £80,000 in total.

The Communities Facilities Fund had been approached for a grant of £24,500 for new storage facilities.

The AONB had agreed to help fund new radiant heaters for the hall.

Approximately ten thousand pounds was needed to fund improvements to the toilets off the main hall to include disabled access, new urinals and light sensitive water saving taps and baby changing facilities as well as new hand driers.

The kitchen is about twenty years old and includes many appliances not suited for catering to the public on a large scale it is envisaged that the upgrade to this will cost approximately £16,000.

Finally the wiring and audio visual equipment for the stage and film projection plus public address system is a muddle and difficult for visitors to use, this needs £10,000 plus £5,000 promised from the City Council.

Cllr. Hughes said that the funding of village halls is one of the core functions of Community Councils; this has been checked with One Voice Wales. Cllr. Mahoney asked where the money would come from. Cllr. Hughes replied that a loan could be obtained from the PWLB at a low rate of interest. The good thing would be that everyone in the village would contribute something. Councillor Dyson asked if IT connections could be improved in the Minor Hall.

Rob Vine stated that one problem was confusion over wiring on the stage. The system was now 15 to 20 years old. The cost of renewal here would be £10,000 plus or minus 25% it would not reach £20,000.

Cllr. Mahoney suggested that the Council agree a grant of £15,000. He proposed that this be the case, Cllr. Dyson seconded the proposal and this was unanimously agreed. The grant would be paid for from a grant from the PWLB. This will be applied for in the financial year 2018/2019. Hugh Jones left the meeting.

**3. VILLAGE GREENS AND HIGHWAYS.**

Cllr. Vine stated that now Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins had resigned she been asked to a meeting by the Highways Department and Bob Griffiths of the Commoners. Cllr. Vine attended as neither Cllrs. Bowen-Simpkins nor Mahoney could go. Swansea Highways said that they were happy to build the highway that was crumbling back to the edge. Cllrs. had copies of the letters from Bob Griffiths and The Highways Department plus photos taken earlier.

Bob Griffiths from The Commoners said that the Community Council had caused the problem and that The Commoners permission had not been asked. Bob stated that the verge needed to be re-instated as it was ugly, caused erosion and that there was a risk of accidents.

Cllr. Hughes said that the gap had always been there and that he had damaged the wheel of his car about fifteen years ago.

Cllr. Lloyd Davies said that at Cilibion and Broad Pool as well as other places in Gower the same roadside erosion was occurring. He forcibly made the point that this was NOT technically Common Land but Village Green. The Commoners rights were superseded by the laws covering village greens WITH grazing rights for the Commoners.

Cllr. Hughes said that a schedule of works had been agreed with the Somerset Trust who owns the land in 2009. The Community Council had created the bunds as far back as 1980. The bunds had been altered by the Community Council in 2017 as cars were getting stranded whilst encroaching on the Higher Green.

Cllr. Dyson asked if the Green was the responsibility of the Community Council?

Both Cllr. Rock and Cllr. Vine had asked in the July meeting 2017 if the verge was ever going to green over?

Cllr. Vine proposed that Cllr. Hughes, Bob Griffiths, Chris Smith, The Community Council and perhaps the King Arthur Hotel get together to help agree the funding toward the work and that no interested party be left out.

Cllr. Mahoney asked whether the problem might have been caused by the King Arthur Hotel. He said that it was not up to the Council to provide parking for the King Arthur.

At this point the Chair asked that the meeting be suspended in order that the representative from the AONB Mike Scott is allowed to take part.

Mike Scott suggested that if it would help he would have a quiet word with the Highways architect for a solution to the problem. The verge may need reinforcing and it may need drainage. He suggested less visible markers than for example wooden posts. The surface next to the road may need to be reinforced and backfilled with soil. He volunteered to get the road engineers or architects to come up with some solutions.

Cllr. Vine said that it was important to take the Commoners along with us. Cllr. Mahoney said that it was important to include the Community Council, Commoners, Somerset Trust and County Council. Cllr. Hughes said that we needed to consider the whole area in any decision. Cllr. Mahoney said that if not careful parking could just move to The Lower Green and the top of the Higher Green that was also suffering erosion. Any group would need to consider the whole area. Cllr. Dyson stated that at the end of the day the landowner The Somerset Trust would have to give consent.

Mike Scott said that a partnership approach would be best. Cllr. Lloyd-Davies said that the King Arthur also needs to be involved in discussions.

Mike Scott suggested that Bob, Chris, SS, KA and the CC should all be present. Cllr. Hughes suggested that Chris Smith might chair the meeting.

Cllr. Ashelby stated that the letter from Bob Griffiths previously circulated clearly stated their position. Cllr. Dyson asked what should happen and who should pay? Cllr. Ashelby said that the Council letter stated that they didn’t want parking on the verge. Cllr. Dyson said that this is up to the landowner.

Mike Scott pointed out that exactly where stones go is an issue whether too far in or not far enough?

Cllr. Lloyd-Davies asked whether double yellow lines were a possibility; however Mike Scott pointed out the difficulties with enforcement.

Cllr. Hughes said that the Community Council should write to everyone including Chris Smith and Mike Scott.

Cllr. Dyson again pointed out that any decision has to be up to the landowner.

Mike Scott will put out feelers with Highways he will ask for rough sketches for possible alternative solutions. It will be a good idea to maintain an open vista.

The Community Council via the Clerk will invite all interested parties to a meeting.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

These and those of the budget meeting were circulated, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE 2017/2018 BUDGET**

Cllr. Mahoney read through and explained the budget.

Cllr. Hughes said that we could manage the first year repayments notwithstanding any increase, however because of outstanding work, for example to the pond and the work to repair the verges there would be an increase in the precept back to the previous year’s £10,000.

The Budget was unanimously approved by the Council.

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Mahoney met with the Gower MP Tonia Antoniazi and she supported the aims of the council regarding road safety. There was also a letter from the police that was vaguely supportive of the plans. The MP was to be congratulated on donating £800 won at a House of Commons Darts Tournament to the First Response Vehicle.

The Clerk had been asked by the postmistress as to the future of the phone box. Cllr. Hughes said it could be purchased by the Council for £1.00. The Clerk will check with the Village Post Office as to whether it was wanted or not.

**7. VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

Cllr. Vine will write highlighting the Council plans to help with the Village Hall toilets and help with the wiring on the stage.

**8. FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Clerk outlined the financial position of the Council. The purchase of a laptop had been approved but not included in the budget as had the website renewal for the next four years. £2,000 had not yet been spent on signs, £1,500 for election expenses was not needed but had to be put to one side as well as up to £2,100 for ground works. There will be a need for money for work on The Higher Green.

The Clerk asked that electronic banking be approved as it was becoming impossible to pay for some services or goods without it. The Clerk will ask the two signatories in writing (email) for agreement before any purchase. This was agreed.

**9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Cllr. Mahoney outlined a planning application for an extension to a house in Applegrove, there were no objections.

**10. REPORT FROM THE INTERNAL AUDITOR**

This was circulated by the Clerk as the IA was not able to attend. This was accepted and signed by the Chair

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday 13th March in the Minor Hall.

The Meeting ended at 9.30