REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Minor Hall on Tuesday 14th November 2017

There were no members of the public present

PRESENT: Cllrs. Adrian Hughes (chair), John Mahoney, Deb Vine, Dan Dyson, Jennie Clements, Paul Lloyd Davies (the latter after co-option) and the Clerk Andrew Berry.

APOLOGIES: Sue Ashelby

1. CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Paul Lloyd Davies was proposed by Cllr. Mahoney and seconded by Cllr. Hughes. This was accepted unanimously. Sue Ashelby was proposed by Cllr. Vine, seconded by Cllr. Mahoney. This was accepted unanimously.

2. TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST:

Cllr. Hughes declared an interest in item 7 The First Response Vehicle.

Other interests will be declared if and as they arise.

3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING;

These were unanimously approved. The Clerk thanked Cllr. Dyson for corrections to the draft minutes.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk has paid the bill for the web host company for the Village website including the Community Council website. This bill covers web hosting for the next four years and had to be paid as the site had been taken down whilst the Clerk checked the veracity of the request for payment. The last payment had been made four years previously.

Cllrs. Mahoney and Hughes had noticed and recorded a van parked on the Higher Green for a number of nights in a row. The police had been informed and the van appears to have gone.

5. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

There were none.

6. THE 2016 /2017 EXTERNAL AUDIT:

The Clerk gave each member present a copy of the Audit and the Audit Report. The Audit was qualified due to omissions on the website. The Council voted to accept the report and agreed that the auditors concerns and recommendations would be addressed to allow full compliance.

The Clerk had received an email from the auditors that morning stating that at the time of the last audit communication with the Clerk they had been unable to open the relevant pages on the website.

The externally sourced accountant had also emailed the Clerk to say that he couldn’t understand why the auditors thought that a payroll wasn’t operated by the Council as he organises the payroll, returns and payments to HMRC.

7. GRANTS:

Cllr. Hughes gave the background to the campaign to raise funds for the new Gower First Response Vehicle. He did not take part in the discussion that followed.

Similar vehicles in South Wales are all funded by sponsorship. The current vehicle is 17 years old. The new vehicle will be able to carry a patient plus be able to use the same equipment as an ambulance. About half of the £50000 required has been raised so far. There have been incidents when the casualty has not been able to be removed by helicopter. Accidents have occurred on beaches or when people have fallen off horses. There will be a similar trial vehicle for a fortnight. It will be a Land Rover Discovery with an improved wading depth and schnorkle, The vehicle will cost about £38,000 and the conversion another £12,000 in Devon and then Peterborough.The National Lottery doesn’t support statutory services, however petrol will be paid for by the fire service.

Money donated goes to the registered charity Cariad who then donate it to the fire service. The warranty will go to the fire service and they will be responsible for running and servicing the vehicle. There will be a request for a small amount to help repairs and replacement of equipment each year. So far seven other Community Councils have responded with grants of up to £1,000.

At this point in the meeting Cllr. Hughes took no further part in this discussion. Cllr. Mahoney was elected unanimously as Vice Chair of the Council

It was noted that Paul Tucker and Bronwyn the greyhound have raised money for the vehicle and had been the subject of a recent article in The Evening Post. Also Jessica Beynon was thanked for her efforts to raise £1,000.

After a brief discussion Cllr. Mahoney proposed and Cllr. Paul Lloyd Davies seconded the proposal that the Council donate £1,000 toward the purchase of the new vehicle. It was also unanimously agreed that there is a provisional agreement to make another grant for this cause in the future.

Cllr. Hughes resumed the chair at this point. The Village Hall Committee has asked for a grant to improve storage facilities for the hall.

Cllr. Vine declared an interest in the Hall Committee and took no part in the discussion of a grant for the Hall extension.

Cllr. Hughes wondered if the Council should ask the PWLB for a grant. The Hall Committee would then pay the money back over the coming years.

Cllr. Dyson asked about the size of the precept. Cllr. Hughes replied that it had been £10,000 per annum but had this year been reduced to £7,500.

Both the Hall and the Film club have a small reserve of money.

Cllr. Mahoney asked if the Council could first find out how the Hall is considering raising money. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the January meeting of the Council.

Cllr. Dyson asked if the new storeroom would allow for more income for the hall. It was suggested that the reasons would also include safety in moving and storing chairs and allow for more room for activities in the Hall.

Cllr. Hughes suggested that the Hall Committee write to the Clerk to ask for a specific amount of money. This could then be either a loan or a grant depending on the circumstance.

Cllr. Vine will ask the Treasurer of the Hall Committee to come to the next meeting of the Council.

Cllr. Vine then declared an interest in the Village Magazine and took no part in the next discussion.

It was unanimously agreed that the Council would make a grant of £150 to the Village Magazine, £1,000 for the upkeep of the churchyard and £120 for the Christmas celebrations.

8. HIGHWAYS.

Jeff Green had agreed to come to the next meeting of the Council in January.

Cllr. Vine had attended an interesting sustainable transport meeting in the Guildhall concerning bus transport, cycling, and walking in and around Swansea. The meeting had discussed traffic calming measures, shuttle buses and completion of cycle path routes.

Cllr. Hughes stated that with the approval of Mike Scott and funded by the Gower Society the footpath from Reynoldston to Knelston School will be improved. It would be a good idea to link a proper path from Reynoldston to Llanrhidian in order to complete a network of paths in Gower with Reynoldston as a hub.

Cllr. Vine suggested that bigger speed bumps might be an idea in the village as in parts of Swansea.

The Clerk mentioned an email from David Gibson asking for information about statistical information and traffic surveys in the area. The Clerk had informed him of a lack of money for such a survey in the Council precept and referred him to Swansea Highways for further information.

Cllr. Mahoney volunteered to meet the MP next week plus Cllr. Dyson if he can attend.

Cllr. Dyson asked who is responsible for highways. Cllr. Hughes replied that it is Swansea Highways.

The new finger post outside Brynfield had finally arrived. Cllr. Hughes will point out to Swansea Highways that one faces the wrong way.

The old Port Eynon sign should be changed to no through road for heavy vehicles, avoiding narrow lanes. The Clerk will ask Swansea Highways how much it will cost to replace the sign and not the post. The sheep have continued to wear away the Reynoldston village sign!

9. POST OFFICE

Nothing to report

10. VILLAGE GREENS

Cllr. Vine asked if the dog waste bin could be removed as it looks awful. Cllr. Lloyd-Davis said it could not be got rid of as it was being used. The Clerk will write to ask if it could be re-sited.

Cllr. Hughes said that parking in the quarry below the summit of Cefn Bryn would make more sense than present arrangements. Cllr. Dyson said that large signposting arrows would be a bad idea. It was suggested that the car park needs an information board but that it needs to be hidden from despoiling the view.

11. VILLAGE MAGAZINE

Cllr. Vine agreed to include in the December issue information regarding the departure of Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins, the election of Cllr. Mahoney as Deputy Chair, and the co-option of Sue Ashelby, and Paul Lloyd Davies to the Council. She will also include the grant awarded to the First Response Vehicle by the Council.

12. FINANCIAL POSITION

The Clerk reported on the balance as at 3rd October of £11,141 on the current account.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr. Mahoney reported on the Granary at Frogmore Farm – no objections.

Cllr. Dyson reported an interest in the proposed extension to ‘Stonecroft’ as a next door neighbour. There were no objections to the side extension.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

There had been a request for information about traffic accidents from David Gibson. The Village website had been closed for two days whilst the Clerk paid by credit card to get it up and running again after finally ascertaining that the request for payment by the web host company Just Host .Com was indeed genuine. The bill covers the next four years. There had also been an email asking whether the Council needed a copy of the electoral register.

15. BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Clerk’s Remuneration £391.04

P.O. Income Tax £97.80

Clerk’s Disbursements (for Just Host.Com) £541.67

RVHA (Hire of Minor Hall) £12.00

Reynoldston Village News £150.00

St. George’s PCC (Christmas Grant) £120.00

Cariad / GFR Vehicle £1,000.00

16. AOB

Cllr. Bowen-Simpkins has resigned due to having moved house after a long period serving the Council as Deputy Chair. The Chair asked The Clerk to write to thank him for his valuable service to the Community.

It was agreed that the Lawnmower needs a service, the Clerk will organise this.

The Clerk will purchase a laptop for the sole use of the Council. This was agreed, Cllr. Dyson suggested a price sub £300. These bills are to be presented at the next meeting.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There will be a budget meeting in the Fire Station Meeting Room at 7.30 on the 6th December. Cllr. Mahoney and the Clerk will meet before this date.

The next full Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January in the Minor Hall at 7.30.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.