**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held in the Minor Hall of Reynoldston Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th January 2019**

**Present**: Cllrs. John Mahoney (chair), Deb Vine, Jennie Clements, Sue Ashelby, Dan Dyson, Margie Bond (see below) and the Clerk Andrew Berry.

There was one member of the public present.

**Apologies:** There were none.

**1**. Margie Bond was proposed as a member of the Council by Cllr. Vine, this was seconded by Cllr. Clements and unanimously approved. The position had been advertised and Swansea County Council Democratic Services informed of the vacancy. Cllr. Bond signed the declaration form, this was signed by the responsible officer.

**2.Disclosures of Personal Interest:** It was agreed that these would be taken if and when they arose during the meeting.

**3.Matters Arising:** Cllr. Ashelby wished to make it clear that there was also a village war memorial in the chapel. Cllr. Mahoney said that regarding Applegrove access and verges Cllr. Richard Lewis will reply on this issue as soon as possible, he has been involved in a large number of planning applications recently. Mrs. Cindy Williams was thanked for donating large stones for the groundworks on the Higher Green. Cllr. Lewis will also get back to the Council regarding the bus stop opposite Seafield. There was nothing to report on the planning application for caravans at Stouthall. There was also nothing to report on progress with the loan for the Hall as the Clerk had still not received quotes (this was discussed later). The Christmas tree had cost £150 and not £120. The suggestion had been made to the chair that the vicar might be involved in arranging for the tree to be purchased, or indeed to buy an artificial one that might be stored in the hall. The Council was happy to pay the extra £30 on this one occasion only. This was unanimously approved. As far as sheep in Applegrove were concerned, Laurence Carpanini had tracked down the hole in the fence. There was some discussion over who actually owned the field abutting Applegrove that the sheep had gained ingress through. Laurence was going to talk to the owner. Ed John will be contacted by Ms. Hughes with an aim to get one of the commoners to cut down the gorse on the S bend leading to Little Reynoldston.

**4.** **Questions from members of the public:** Ms. Hughes will contact Ed. John.

**5. 2019 -2020 Budget Approval:** Cllr. Mahoney gave an explanation of the budget looking first at the budget for 2017/2018 and then 2019/2020. He explained the figures to November 2018, then to March 2019. Cash carried forward to next year was estimated at £6372. The precept for next year would be for £12,500. The Clerk had obtained information about the precepts for community councils in Swansea, at approximately £40 per band D property this fell roughly in the middle. Cllr. Mahoney did not feel this was unreasonable. Next year’s precept was mainly for bunding and drainage to the Higher Green to prevent erosion and cars parking on the green and getting stranded that had been discussed for many years. The precept included £1,000 grant for the first responder vehicle and £1,000 for the maintenance of the churchyard. The Council may be able to obtain grants and money from other sources if the work is more expensive. By May or June 2019 there should be £10,000 available to pay for work on the Higher Green.

The budget was approved.

Cllr. Dyson asked about the cost of insurance for the ride on mower. Why not sell the mower and get a contractor to do the work for less? Cllr. Clements said it cost more than £1000 a year for the upkeep of the (relatively small) churchyard. It was agreed to keep the lawnmower for the time being. Many councillors and the clerk volunteered to learn to drive it.

**6. Village Greens and Highways:** Cllr. Ashelby asked about the Higher Green path. Cllr. Bond asked who owned the Higher Green? Cllr. Mahoney explained that it was the Somerset Trust and that Bob Griffiths of the commoners would contact the Trust and get back to us if there was a problem.

Cllr. Vine raised the question of the grant application for new toilets in the Village Hall. The Clerk had asked for quotes that had been promised so that he could proceed with the application. Cllr. Vine distributed some printed quotes from Trews and Mark Evans but not the originals. The chair suggested that we come back to this later in the meeting.

Cllr. Mahoney said that there had been new offers of large stones for the Higher Green from Adrian and Joan Richards and Bryan and Alma Ashman.

Cllr. Vine circulated plans from Nigel Fitzgerald re the Higher Green. Pipework to drain the verge would be too expensive and the road would need to be shut. Mike Scott and Nigel had come back with plans from an engineer in the Highways Department that use planings and scrapings from the Kingsway. This would cost around £50 for a 10-tonne lorry load. Bob Griffiths had said this could be stored on his farm alleviating the need for road closures and storage on the green. The work would take approx. 1.4 tonnes per cubic metre of infill over the 138 metres of the ditch created. Cllr. Mahoney suggested that the council get a quote for this work. Cllr. Vine said that the aggregate would have to be compacted. The SDF fund might contribute £1, 346.82p to the work. Cllr. Vine will continue to get more information for a quote so that the council has a better idea of the total costs.

Cllr. Mahoney asked that the council nominate himself and Cllr. Vine to talk to and / or get quotes from Bickford Construction, Neil Pritchard and Paul Whitehead. The council unanimously agreed to this suggestion. Cllr. Mahoney said that the culvert at the SE corner of the Higher Green had now been repaired. Cllr. Dyson asked that the council should ask for design and construction costs.

It was agreed that the next project would be to improve the path across the Higher Green. The original estimate for this was approximately £10,000. Cllr. Dyson asked why the path needed work? Cllr. Mahoney replied that it was dirty and uneven, Cllr. Ashelby said that it was slippery, bumpy unsafe and difficult to walk on in the dark.

Cllr. Mahoney said that it was important not to overcommit to too many projects at once.

Cllr. Mahoney said that the recent water main repairs had taken away a finger post giving directions to Port Eynon, Rhossili and Oxwich. It had completely disappeared after the work. The Clerk will write to the water company for a replacement.

There is also a missing pedestrian sign up the road from the chapel. This has been displaced and needs to be put back. The Clerk will write to Highways about this.

The pond in Robins Lane will need clearing again in the Spring – it hasn’t been cleared for two years although the stream is running well.

**7. Planning Applications:** Plans for Sunny Bank, Box Farm, Fairy Hill and Seafield were all approved. The Clerk agreed to bring the large OS map showing the boundaries of Reynoldston to the next meeting.

The Clerk reminded the Chair of the Reynoldston sign. Cllr. Dyson asked if we could get a new sign to replace that worn by sheep and weather. Various suggestions were made about this.

**8. Village Magazine:** Cllr. Vine will mention dog poo bags after a complaint about these being left in Robins Lane (why do people do this?!) There is a £100 fine. The Clerk mentioned that it was not always even in bags.

**9. Correspondence:** The clerk has circulated most emails to councillors (not advertising emails) There was a request for a councillor to attend the One Voice Wales meeting in the Civic Centre on the 21st January. The Clerk can’t go, but will circulate the details to councillors. Cllrs. Clements and Dyson showed an interest. There had been a request for a donation from Marie Curie, the council decided not to donate at this time.

**10. Financial Position and Bills for Payment:** The Clerk listed bills paid since the last meeting and bills for payment as follows:

The balance on the current account 08/01/2019 is £11,573.16

All payments in pounds

Hire of Hall 12.00

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Clerk’s remuneration 544.07

Income 136.02

NRP 670

Hire of Hall and heating 16.00

Wales Audit Office 308.40

St. George’s Church for Christmas Celebration (tree) 120

NRP 340

**Cheques for payment**

Hire of Meeting room 8.00

Hire of Hall and heating 16.00

St. George’s Church 30.00

**11. AOB:** The Clerk thanked the chairman for his work around the village including sweeping up debris from the flood and clearing drains.

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 12th March

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.