**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held in the Minor Hall of Reynoldston Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th September 2019**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. John Mahoney (chair), Deb Vine, Jennie Clements, Sue Ashelby and the Clerk Andrew Berry.

The Internal Auditor Alan Bryant and three members of the public were also in attendance.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Margie Bond, Dan Dyson.
2. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST:** It was agreed that these would be taken when and if they occurred during the meeting.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** These were agreed, signed and dated by the chair.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** It was agreed that many of these will be addressed during the body of this meeting.

Cllr. Mahoney said that the stones near the Old Rectory and Green Lodge were in fact for building.

Cllr. Vine said that she had obtained a price for the new village signs. Cariad have not rung back about the defibrillators despite several attempts to contact them.

Cllr. Ashelby had a reply from the Gower Society about a possible grant for the new bus shelter, they don’t normally support this. Reynoldston Community Council could fill in the application forms on line. Cllr. Mahoney said that we would return to this later in the meeting.

1. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were no questions from the public at this time.
2. **FINANCIAL POSITION AND BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** Cllr. Mahoney said that the reason for this item being so early on in the agenda was the number of projects the Council had in mind. The Clerk said that the current account balance was £14,391.67. There were cheques that needed signing for hiring the village hall for this and the last meeting and a payment for the new battery for the tractor mower for £190.80. All were approved. Cllr. Mahoney said that the reason for the large balance was the number of projects that the Council had in mind for this year.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
* The Clerk had received information today via Hugh Jones from CADW extending the designation for Stouthall as a listed site in terms of area. The Chair thought that this included the area toward Frogmore Lane and as far North as West Down.
* The Clerk had spoken to Adam Cowley the Fire Station manager. Powercut had delivered a new battery for the tractor mower and the Clerk believed that this was now working again. Hopefully Paul Lloyd-Davies would be able to access the mower and provide training and safety training for Cllrs. Mahoney and Bond and the Clerk all of whom had offered to drive the mower.
* The Clerk had received a communication from Cllr. Bond regarding parking and the Higher Green.
* Councillors could respond to the Cardiff University planning survey before the 30th September if they so wished.
* Swansea Council had responded to the third request from the Clerk to mend the potholes outside Ty Bryn. This was a temporary repair (already lifted) before more extensive remedial work could be carried out involving sub-surface drainage work.
* The new financial regulations had been circulated and read by the Chair and the Internal Auditor. These were approved the Internal Auditor had expressed misgivings about lay people coming forward to volunteer with such weighty complex regulation.
* Swansea Council had given a price for a new bus shelter moved away from the triangle on Top Road on health and safety and visual grounds at £5,858. Cllr. Vine pointed out that this did not include demolition, removal and legal plus planning costs.
* The ash tree opposite Stouthall had now been removed after a letter concerning it’s possible danger of imminent collapse and the Clerk’s and others letters to Swansea Council.
* The old fridge and other parts left at the roadside opposite Green Wooders had also been removed but whether this was because of the Clerk’s email to the Council or in spite of it was a moot point.

Cllr. Mahoney said that at least one major project should be proceeded with as soon as possible. The Council has over £10,000 that it can now commit to this work.

Cllr. Vine mentioned that the Council had to make a clear statement to encourage people to think about biodiversity and the environment. It was suggested that this be mentioned in the village magazine. The Council has used and will use local stone and soil in projects including tidying up the pond in Robins Lane, Cllr. Ashelby suggested asking the Scouts if they would do an environmental survey of the village for the Council.

1. **TRACTOR MOWER:** See items 6 and 7 above.
2. **HARDSTANDING OUTSIDE METHODIST CHAPEL:** Cllr. Mahoney said that there had been no objection from the Commoners to items 9, 10 and 11. It was unanimously agreed by the Council that the Council would pay for ‘grasscrete’ or similar at this point. There was some discussion about this and the blocking of the drain caused by the most recent attempt to repair this damage. The Council will first get two or three quotes for this work. The car park opposite the Post Office will be fixed by John Mahoney. Cllrs. Mahoney and Vine will liase on this work.
3. **THE BUS STOP AND SHELTER:** The Council has met with a lady from Swansea Council and they have provided a quote for the work of £8,858 (see item 7). This does not include legal fees removal of the old bus stop and planning. In response to a question from the public at this point Cllr. Mahoney said that the reasons were the present shelter being an eyesore and the present site being a health and safety issue for children getting off the bus. It was unanimously agreed that the Council would proceed with this work subject to quotes.
4. **ROAD PLINTHS AND SIGNS:** Cllr. Vine said the original plinth bought in 2014 had cost £500 and the new quote for two was £960. One would be on the Top Road near Cefn Bryn House and the other at the Lower Reynoldston end of the village. Cllr. Mahoney said the signs themselves would be the same as that just erected on the original plinth and the cost estimated at £240 for the two.
5. **INFORMATION PANELS:** The Commoners have not yet discussed this.
6. **PATH ACROSS THE HIGHER GREEN:** The Commoners did not want this work due to the possibility of it reducing grazing.
7. **THE LEASE OF THE HIGHER GREEN:** This is dealt with in a later item.
8. **PARKING ON THE HIGHER GREEN:** The Commoners are completely against stones at the top of the Higher Green. Opinions seem to suggest that the King Arthur should take responsibility for parking at the King Arthur. There is a Commoners meeting in November where they will discuss this quite contentious issue. The Commoners do wish the issue to be resolved. Cllr. Ashelby said have the Council taken into account the interpretative panels attracting even more traffic and tourism to narrow roads. Cllr. Vine said that photos of a car that has repeatedly been driven across the Higher Green have been taken. As the car has personalised number plates and is relatively local it is obvious who it belongs to.
9. **TRAFFIC VOLUMES:** Both Cllr. Clements and the Clerk declared an interest. Cllr. Clements had recently had a wall outsde her house demolished by a hit and run driver whilst she was on holiday and the Clerk has witnessed a great many traffic hold ups and incidents including a car with damage to the side and two burst tyres outside his house in a 20 mph area. Cllr. Mahoney read a submission from Cllr. Dyson who could not attend the meeting. He suggested that increased advertising by the Welsh Government, Swansea Council and the National Trust had led to a large increase in traffic in Stouthall Lane this year.along with a drop in the value of the pound and good weather along with Sat Navs sending traffic up and down a narrow lane including buses lorries mobile homes and caravans. He has had his gate driven in to, damage to his boundary wall, his drive damaged. A suggestion was for signage diverting traffic away from Stouthall Lane with a Rhossili and all other routes sign above the triangle on Cefn Bryn He suggested writing to the National Trust at Rhossili, Swansea Council and the police. Also a Park and Ride Scheme in to Gower at Fairwood Common in the summer.

Councillor Vine produced a folder of photographs given to her by Hugh Jones of unsuitable vehicles and detailing dangers to pedestrians. A member of the public then gave the Council a card from a community policeman and it was decided that the Chair would contact the police in the first instance. Swansea Cllrs. Lewis and Richards were also suggested as contacts.

1. **PARKING ON CEFN BRYN:** The letter from Cllr. Dyson mentioned damage to an ancient archaeological site, an SSSI, erosion and loss of view. The site is in Llanrhidian Higher however they can’t see it. The Commoners won’t allow signage or barriers as they are concerned about then being held responsible for any damage to cars, vans or health and safety issues not within their control. The suggestion was made for a joint meeting with Llanrhdian Higher to discuss the issue. Is there a possibility of moving any car park off the brow of the hill, or physically restricting access? Could Cllr. Mahoney mention this to Bob? These things have been extensively discussed in AONB meetings and at this Council before. The Clerk will write to Llanrhidian Higher to ask for a meeting.
2. **GREENS AND HIGHWAYS:** It was felt that these had already been covered earlier in the meeting.
3. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** Cllr. Mahoney said that the planning application for widening the gate at Fairy Hill had been approved. The application for a cottage on Frogmore Lane had been turned down again. The Council had no objection to the lopping of trees at The Hermitage.
4. **THE LEASE OF THE HIGHER GREEN:** The Clerk had received a letter from Headleys Solicitors. This had been circulated to members. The Clerk had at the request of the Chair also circulated the minutes of a meeting of the Council held on the 23rd of March 2017 when this was last discussed in detail. It was decided at that meeting that the lease wouldn’t be signed at that time.

The members present were of the opinion that the Council shouldn’t sign.

As the Council is completely different to that originally involved in the lease negotiations it was decided that the Clerk will write to our solicitors asking whether the Council needs a lease. There seemed to be a number of items in the lease that were incompatible with a designated village green. The Council does not have a lease on the Lower Green.

1. **VILLAGE MAGAZINE:** Cllr. Vine will write to describe what the Council is planning to do plus mention the traffic problems.
2. **AOB.** There was none
3. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 12th November at 7.30.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.