**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held in the Main Hall of Reynoldston Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th September 2020**

**THIS MEETING WAS DELAYED FROM MARCH DUE TO COVID 19.**

**The meeting took place according to social distancing measures and other regulations in force at the time. Please see risk assessment attached.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Mahoney (retiring Chair), Vine (Vice-Chair), Bond, Dyson, Ashelby, Internal Auditor Paul Sizer, and Clerk Andrew Berry. Steve Heard.

There were twelve members of the public present.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Clements.

**AN EXPLANATION OF MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY ON CEFN BRYN BY STEVE HEARD OF THE AONB.**

Steve Heard started by asking for comments about the present parking situation on Cefn Bryn and plans for the future.

The first speaker said that there were no signs or facilities for visitors to this ancient monument. It should be viewed as an asset and it is almost as if despite it being widely advertised by Visit Wales, Swansea Council and others it seemed as if visitors weren’t welcome.

Another member of the public disagreed with this and send the village was very welcome to visitors and new people alike.

Another member of the public said that it was a power grab by vested interests. Because of the closure of the car parking area people were now parking dangerously at the side of the road instead. The closure of the car parking area disadvantaged the disabled and adversely affected visitors and locals. He accepted that a small or smaller area for cars would be a good idea but that it needed to be bounded by stones to prevent vehicles going down the path to Arthurs Stone. He pointed out that wild camping is illegal in Wales without the land owners position. Campers can be moved on by the police.

The next person suggested that this needed to be seen in proportion. This was not a good use of police time and resources. In 1987 plans were drawn up and the cattle grids put in but nothing had been done since then. Fencing the common land was impractical, some stones were OK but the stones should be repositioned.

The next speaker said that there is camping on the Bryn and it would help if it were opened up to the public.

Steve Heard then spoke to explain the current position. It was accepted that this was a dangerous spot for parking. The Commoners are in effect in charge. There is a plan (see September minutes and the AONB website. )

Stones appeared in March at the request of the Commoners and the police. They will stay until the site can be altered. This will decrease the area available for parking. Erosion of the site on the way to King Arthurs Stone in the last five years has been substantial. Wild camping is illegal and selfish. There is not too much of a problem with rubbish (although a volunteer does clear the area of their own volition) ‘Soiling’ is a problem. There will be an arc shaped area back to 15 metres from the road. The AONB Committee wants this to be completed as soon as possible. It is hoped that funding will come from the Welsh Government. The banks at the side of the road will be bunded. The Welsh Government have supported the action although they have also passed on complaints about the current closure of the car park. It seems the landowner the Duke of Beaufort is not really interested.

Commoners will not agree to any other car parking spaces. Earlier today it was noted that four cars had pushed over the bund lower down the slope.

Steve Heard asked that if anyone has any other ideas would they please pass them on to him.

It was pointed out by another member of the public that the car park was not safe as it was on the brow of the hill.

It was then pointed out that this is because it is closest to Arthurs Stone.

If the car park was anywhere else it would be in boggy land.

Cllr. Mahoney thanked Steve Heard for his explanation.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR:** Cllr. Mahoney resigned from the Council and the Vice-Chair Cllr. Vine was elected to chair this meeting.
2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR** Cllr. Dyson was elected to vice-chair this meeting.
3. **ELECTION OF CLERK:** The present Clerk Andrew Berry was re-elected.
4. **ELECTION OF RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER:** Andrew Berry was re-elected as the RFO
5. **APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR:** Mr. Paul Sizer was elected as Internal Auditor for the coming year.
6. **ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** Cllrs. Bond and Dyson were elected to this position.
7. **ELECTION OF ONE COUNCILLOR AS DELEGATE TO ONE VOICE WALES:** Cllr. Clements was elected in her absence. This will be confirmed.
8. **ELECTION OF ONE COUNCILLOR AS OBSERVER TO THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.** This is no longer relevant.
9. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST:** These would be taken if and when they arose during the rest of the meeting.
10. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**. These were approved and signed.
11. **MATTERS ARISING:** It was agreed that these would be dealt with later in the meeting
12. **APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31ST 2020 –** ALREADY APPROVED March 2020. The Clerk said that he believed that the Annual return would soon come back from the external auditors.
13. **REVIEW OF THE CLERK’S REMUNERATION:** The Clerk said that the pay rate had been raised according to NALC from £9.77p per hour to £10.04 per hour. This was approved.
14. **GRANTS:** The new ramps at the entrance to the Village Hall had cost an extra £2,100. Mr. Hugh Jones asked if the Council could contribute towards this the Council voted to approve a grant of £2,000. The bill for the church sign had not yet been received. The grant toward half this cost had already been approved at a previous meeting. Cllr. Dyson asked whether the sign should have been bilingual? Hugh Jones said that it was on church land and there was no requirement for this. It would also have cost twice as much.
15. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (LIMITED TO A TOTAL OF 15 MINUTES):** Returning to the information board it was pointed out that it seemed to be in the way of wedding photos taken at the church porch.

It was also asked whether someone who had the power to remove the stones at the car park could be asked to remove them. It was suggested that we had already gone over this but that Bob Griffiths of the Commoners should be contacted by the person in question. It was also pointed out that the car park was not actually in Reynoldston but in Llanrhidian Higher.

1. **VILLAGE GREENS AND HIGHWAYS:** Cllr. Vine said that she would contact Bob Griffiths about the possibility of preventing parking on the top of the Higher Green. There didn’t seem to be any money for the path between Applegrove and the Hall at the present time.
2. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** There were none that required any action at the present time.
3. **VILLAGE MAGAZINE:** Cllr. Vine would write a piece for the next edition of the Village magazine.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** The Clerk said that he had forwarded all relevant (not adverts) to Councillors. The Gower AONB Design Guide is worth a read particularly with reference to Reynoldston itself.
5. **FINANCIAL POSITION AND BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** The current account balance is £10,483.90. The Clerk asked for reimbursement of £14.97 for a new trickle charger for the village ride on mower that is currently using his own trickle charger. This was approved as were the payments for the entrance to the hall and the notice board mentioned earlier.
6. **AOB:** Cllr. Bond said that she would move the council mower to her garage so that it was much easier to get hold of. She also said that she would cut the grass on the Lower Green now that the camomile was no longer growing.
7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** This will be held on Tuesday November the 10th at 7.30pm Covid 19 permitting.