**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN REYNOLDSTON MINOR HALL TUESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Margie Bond (Chair), Jennie Clements, Michelle Clarke, Charles Twitchett, Sue Ashelby, the Internal Auditor Paul Sizer, the Clerk Andrew Berry and two members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Deb Vine.

Cllr. Bond took the chair in the absence of Cllr. Vine. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST:** It was agreed that these would be taken if and when they arose.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** These were agreed and will be signed by Cllr. Vine at a later date as Cllr. Bond was not present at the last meeting.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:** Paul Sizer reported that Welsh Water had not yet completed work tidying up the lane above the village hall. There was some discussion as to the name of the lane ‘Coal Path Lane’ was suggested by Mr. Sizer. The Clerk had received a reply from the Penrice Estate dated the third but received yesterday stating ownership. The Clerk will write to suggest that the Community Council pays for gravel chippings to make the path accessible in winter to pedestrians.

Cllr. Clements and the Clerk declared an interest as they live on Stouthall Lane.

The sign suggesting that caravans avoid Stouthall Lane provided by Richard Lewis and the County Council was in the event felt to be too small. There followed a discussion of traffic in Stouthall Lane. It was felt that caravan access really should be prevented going south. There was a call for better signage and a discussion of one-way traffic. It was suggested that this might make the lane more dangerous as people might speed down it as opposed to taking more care. Cllr. Twitchett said that the problems were much worse in July and August due to the numbers of tourists. Could there be a 3.5 ton weight limit except for access? There is a tree in front of some of the signs coming off Cefn Bryn – could the County Council be asked to look at the signs again?

The issue of speeding traffic was raised, it was suggested that the 20mph speed limit was not at present legally enforceable.

Cllr. Ashelby said that it was important that Facebook should not be allowed to make decisions about the village as the Community Council was for people who lived in the village not for visitors or people with connections however close.

Cllr. Bond said that tourists / visitors bring money and employment in to the area.

1. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (LIMITED TO A TOTAL OF 15 MINUTES):** David Gibson had questions about traffic mentioned above.

The Facebook Group is for people who live in and have connections to the village but also sons and daughters who have moved away.

David Gibson said that his Facebook Group had had 65 responses all in favour of a children’s playground in the village. There was lack of something outside for young children and their parents accessible to all and this was something the Community Council ought to consider. Considerable sums had been given to the Village Hall in the past. could they look at it again?

Cllr. Ashelby said that there had been some negative comments about the need for a playground. The council had looked at it many times in the past, however land had been built on or was considered unsuitable / highly unlikely to gain planning permission for a wide variety of reasons. The Council was however in favour of the idea.

The suggestion was made that fliers asking the opinion of residents could be given to each house perhaps in the magazine to be returned to the post office to gauge the level of support.

Cllr. Clarke said that without a suitable plot of land, it was unreasonable to raise hopes for something that might not happen as it was the availability of land and/or it’s suitability that had been the problem in the past.

The Clerk said that funding probably wouldn’t be a problem as there was money that could be applied for at low rates of interest from the PWLB.

David Gibson said that it would be a good idea to ask Crofty and Llangenith Councils how they went about obtaining their playgrounds. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact these councils.

David Gibson said that the playground could be a legacy that would last 100 years rather like the village hall.

David Gibson passed a summary of questions for the council that has now been forwarded to councillors.

1. **VILLAGE GREENS AND HIGHWAYS:** Paul Sizer said he was extremely concerned about the speed of vehicles, not just cars but also bicycles and tractors passing his house and all along the top road near the Post Office where there are parked cars and a T junction to where the road meets the road passing the King Arthur. The Clerk will write to Highways asking about any measures that could be implemented in this area. (Subsequently Highways have suggested that the 20mph speed limit is enforceable by the police. Rules in AONB’s about repeater signs are apparently different to those outside these areas in that signs on the road surface are acceptable as an alternative, however it seems that the signs in Reynoldston are only ‘SLOW ARAF’. The Clerk has written again.
2. **TREES ON THE HIGHER GREEN**

There had been an estimate for the cost of the tree planting on the Higher Green obtained by Cllr. Vine and circulated to members. The Internal Auditor had pointed out that this should require several quotes for the work. The Clerk said that the council did not have to accept the lowest quote, but the best value for money. Cllr. Twitchett suggested that following consultation with a number of Higher Green residents the scope of planting should be limited to about five trees. The main concern was the effect on the availability of car parking. He would ask for another estimate from Gary Dunn (Cllr. Twitchett declared an interest as Gary is his brother-in law.).

It was agreed to let Cllr. Vine decide on this BEFORE the next meeting as the trees should be planted in November as per the original estimate.

1. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** There were no objections raisedto any current applications.
2. **GRANTS:** There were no grants at present.
3. **VILLAGE MAGAZINE:** It was agreed that a brief resume of the meeting would be included in the magazine. The idea of the playground would be mentioned in the magazine and that it would be discussed further at the next meeting.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** The Clerk had already mentioned most of these. There had been an email from Cllr. Vine to members, and all the issues had been discussed. There had been a single point of contact email from Swansea Council. There had been a reply from Penrice Estate re ownership of the lane above the hall. An estimate had been received from Afan Group regarding the tree planting on the Higher Green for £5432.00 +VAT. It should be pointed out that the trees will need protecting from grazing animals (particularly the large black bull! The work includes digging pits for the trees and it will need to avoid underground services. There had been emails regarding plans for playgrounds on Gower discussed above from Cllr. Lewis and his daughter. The Clerk had also had queries from the external auditor to clarify some minor items to which the Clerk had replied.
5. **FINANCIAL POSITION AND BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** Since the last meeting in July there had been a precept payment to the Community Council of £4166.67 from Swansea CC. The Clerk had been paid £556.89, HMRC PAYE £139.22, and One Voice Wales membership had been paid £72.00.

The Community Council balance on the current account stood at £17319.76

1. **AOB:** Cllrs. Twitchett and Clarke signed declaration of acceptance of Office forms and these were also signed by the Clerk.
2. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This will be held in the Minor Hall of Reynoldston Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9th November 2021.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.