**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OFA MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Held via Zoom at 7.45pm on Tuesday 8th March 2022**

**Present:** Cllrs. Vine (chair), Bond, Twitchett, Clarke, Ashelby, Clements the Clerk Andrew Berry, Internal Auditor Paul Sizer and three members of the public.

**Apologies:** There were none

1. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

The chair thanked everyone for moving to Zoom at the last moment due to an outbreak of Covid in the village. It was agreed that any disclosures of personal interest would be taken if and when they arose.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chair asked if everyone was happy with the minutes of the last meeting. Cllr. Ashelby pointed out an error with the typing of OVW. Cllr. Twitchett had spoken to Bishopston Council and Cllr. Ashelby to Llangenith and Pennard about their playgrounds. The House above the King Arthur Hotel is in fact Cwrt-Y-Berllan and not Cortobello.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Vine had spoken to Neil Pritchard, and she will meet him at the end of the week. The work on the Higher Green will now take place in May.

Dan Morris is very busy at the moment. Cllr. Vine will persuade him to get work done on the culverts before the end of the year.

Cllr. Twitchett said that the no overnight camping sign on the Higher Green was overgrown. He will cut down the gorse to make it visible again.

Cllr. Twitchett who declared an interest as he lives on the green said that the no unauthorised access sign was very faded. Could the sign be replaced? The Clerk will look up the manufacturers of the village signs and pass on the details. This was agreed.

Cllr. Twitchett also asked if Neil Pritchard could do a bit more reinforcing of the verge at the side of the road at the top of the Higher Green?

1. **PROPOSAL FOR A PLAY PARK**

Cllr. Vine thanked David Gibson and the play park group for all their work so far.

David Gibson said that there had been no information on the ownership of the strip of land between the stream and the road (Robbins Lane). The Penrice Estate have not yet got back to him. Cllr. Richard Lewis has promised to have a word with Penrice, but nothing so far.

The play park group had a meeting with Swansea Council Planning and it seems that planning permission is not required. They will check this with Swansea Estates Office as well.

Cllr. Vine asked if there was a site plan? There had been a plan of the whole site, but not of the area to be developed. This had been forwarded to the Council the next day by David Gibson.

Gill Pittman suggested that members of the council could come and have a look. She suggested that the lower 12 metres of the field could be used.

David Gibson said that this was not too definite at the moment, the bridge over the stream would be about 2 metres wide.

Cllr. Vine asked if there had been any objections?

Cllr. Bond said that one couple had expressed concerns about the number of cars, although they don’t live in Robbins Lane.

Gill will speak to people who live adjacent to the proposal who were named. Cllr. Twitchett declared an interest although he said he was in favour of the proposal.

David Gibson said that the proposal forwarded to councillors before the meeting had tried to answer as many questions as possible.

David Gibson asked for help from the council.

The Chair stated that the council had to be careful to try to represent the views of all constituents.

Alyson Jones said that she had visited other village playgrounds on Gower and that there were in her experience no traffic problems.

Cllr. Twitchett said that someone from the group should join the council. There are elections or there may be room for co-option after the election.

Apparently the playground plans for Port Eynon are on hold due to discussions about where it should be sited.

1. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (LIMITED TO A TOTAL OF 15 MINUTES)**

This had been included in the previous item. There were no other contributions at this time.

1. **VILLAGE GREENS AND HIGHWAYS**

The chair said that she will meet Neil Pritchard soon with regard to the work on the Higher Green and will try to persuade Neil Morris to work on the culverts above the post office and at the bottom of the Higher Green as soon as possible.

The lane above the village hall is very wet and difficult to navigate. Chris Lindley from the AONB will talk to the footpaths people. There is some confusion over whether it is an ancient track, footpath, bridleway and who owns it. Cllr. Ashelby said that she had been told when purchasing their house that it was an ancient track ownership unknown. However it may belong to Penrice. If it turns out there is in fact no listed ownership the council can ask for it to be a public right of way as it seems to appear on old maps of the village.

Paul Sizer said that the reason the path is permanently wet is a broken main drain at the top. It was agreed that he and Cllr. Vine will meet on site to view the problem.

There is also a bent sign by the King Arthur.

1. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There was nothing to report this time.

1. **GRANTS**

The council had received £2058 from the AONB for work on the Higher Green.

1. **VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

It was agreed that this would mention defibrillator training in the Village Hall and that appointments need to be made. Thanks to Cllr. Lewis, Hugh Jones and the St. John’s Ambulance

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had received a telephone call from a resident of Puck’s Hollow about pastoral land being altered to Christmas trees behind their house. The Clerk had contacted Swansea Planning and Richrd Lewis, the AONB, Natural Wales had been informed. The land already planted north of Stouthall was designated parkland and Natural Wales were already aware of this.

1. **FINANCIAL POSITION AND BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

The Clerk said the balance on the account is £16602.14

The amount received from the AONB £2058.00

Clerk’s pay £556.89

Income tax £139.22

1. **AOB**

Andrew Berry is retiring as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer today. He was thanked by the chair.

There had been adverts with OVW, SLCC and Swansea Council as well as the village noticeboards, but only one application for the post.

Paul Sizer was unanimously elected as Clerk and RFO. He said that he could not fully take up the post until May.

Paul Sizer has asked Amiee Dyer if she would be the Internal Auditor and she has agreed. Amiee is a qualified accountant. This was unanimously approved

Cllr. Vine asked Cllr. Clements if she could check rates of pay and she agreed to look in to this before the next meeting.

The Council will write to Penrice Estate to congratulate them on banning jet skis from Oxwich Bay and the launching ramp.

Cllr. Ashelby asked that the council would apply and pay for a Zoom licence so that meetings could not be limited to 40 minutes with a break. This was agreed.

David Gibson said that he might know of a younger councillor who would be interested in joining the Council.

Elections are scheduled for early May.

Cllr. Vine said that it would be very good if younger people would get involved as many on the council now and in the past had begun in their thirties.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Scheduled forTuesday May 10th in the Minor Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.