**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Held at Minor Hall, Reynoldston at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th November 2023**

**Present:** Cllrs. Clarke, Ashelby, James, Thomas, Twitchett, Cousins,Internal Auditor Aimee Dyer and Clerk Paul Sizer

**Absent:** Cllr. Clements

There were three members of the public present.

Councillor Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting

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| **1.** | **Disclosures of Personal Interests**  It was agreed that any Disclosures of Personal Interest would be discussed as they arose during the meeting. |
| **2.** | **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting**  The Chair asked if everyone was happy with the minutes of the last meeting. Cllr. Ashelby noted two minor spelling errors. The minutes will be adjusted by the clerk and republished on the website. The minutes were altered to reflect this error. Cllr. Clarke proposed and Cllr. Ashelby seconded that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held in July. |
| **3.** | **Matters Arising**  There were no matters arising as most minuted discussions were in the agenda for today’s meeting. |
|  | At this stage, the chair requested that the agenda order be amended to bring items 8 and 11 forward. There were no objections from the Councillors |
| **11.** | **Update on possible Community Council boundary changes.**  The clerk had received a few responses from members of the public regarding the changes. All were against the proposals and there were none in favour of the changes.  The majority all referred to the fact that parts of Little Reynoldston lie in the Penrice Community Council although they are geographically in the Reynoldston area.  Two members of the public attended and gave their opinion on the boundary changes. They both live in the Little Reynoldston area and agree that they should be in Reynoldston and not Penrice Community areas.  It was agreed by the Councillors that the Chair will make contact with City and County of Swansea offering the feelings of both the Community Council and also of the residents of Reynoldston.  Cllr. Thomas did state that a courtesy call should be made to Penrice Community Council to warn them of the request to “move” some properties into Reynoldston Community. |
| **8.** | **Grants**  Mr. Hugh Jones made a request on behalf of St George’s Church in Reynoldston for support in regard to the repair costs to the bell tower and the bells after the recent incident with one of the bells falling out of the tower.  At this stage Mr Jones and the residents from Little Reynoldston left the meeting.  A discussion was held with regard to the request to support St. Georges Church. It was agreed that support should be made, however, the clerk would make contact with the SLCC to ensure it was “legal” to support the church with this appeal.  *Findings post meeting – the Clerk was advised by the advice line at SLCC that it was not legal for the Community Council to make any support to the Church’s Fabric of the building. This relates back to the Local Government Act of 1874 which is still in power today. This does not allow funds to be offered to the Church if it is being used on the fabric of the building and it was felt the tower was fabric. Support can be offered for maintenance if required.*  *The clerk will make contact with Mr Jones and explain the position.*  Other grant requests were received by the clerk as follows:  Wales Air Ambulance – last year a donation of £500 was offered. It was agreed this year, due to demand on donations, £200 would be offered with the provisor if there was any budget left at the end of the year, a further grant might be offered. This was proposed by Cllr. James and seconded by Cllr. Cousins. The motion was carried unanimously.  Christmas Tree – it is tradition that the Community Council support the Christmas Tree on the lower green. A donation of £200 was proposed by Cllr. Ashelby and seconded by Cllr. Cousins. The motion was agreed unanimously  Village graveyard – it is tradition that a donation of £1,000 is made towards the maintenance of the graveyard. The clerk did note that there is no legal provision to offer support as it is connected to the Church, however, the graveyard can be used by members of the village who are not connected to the church. It was proposed by Cllr. Clarke and seconded by Cllr. Ashelby to offer a grant of £1,000  Village Newsletter – it is tradition to offer a grant of £150 to support the Village Newsletter. Cllr. Twitchett proposed the grant which was seconded by Cllr. James.  Cllr. Clarke declared on interest on this item as she is connected to the Village Hall who arrange the funding for the Newsletter. The motion was passed unanimously.  Stable Trail – this is a new request to support the Village Stable Trail arranged by the churches Together on Gower. Cllr. Ashelby declared an interest at this point. Cllr. Clarke proposed and Cllr. Twitchett seconded that a grant of £100 be offered to this cause. This motion was carried unanimously.  Friends of Gower Common – this is a new request from a group of individuals who erect signs around Gower warning of the loose animals around Gower. Cllr. Cousins proposed and Cllr. Thomas seconded a grant proposal of £100. This was voted unanimously.  The last request for support was from the Post office Community Shop. Cllrs, Clarke, Ashelby and Twitchett all declared an interest as they held shares in the community shop but stated they were not dividend paying shares or there was any personal gain to be made. The request was for £2991 including VAT to help pay for the new Air Conditioning unit which was also the heater for the shop. Cllr. Thomas proposed supporting the community shop and this was seconded by Cllr. James. The motion was carried unanimously. The Clerk did state he would again contact SLCC and check if there was any precedence in place for Community Council to “own” the unit as a fixed (Non-Current) Asset. If this was allowed the VAT could be recovered.  *Finding post meeting – the SLCC has an independent organisation that supports questions regarding legality on VAT. The Advice received by the Clerk was that it might be possible for the Community Council to purchase the Air Conditioning directly and recover the VAT however that this was a “grey” are.*  The Chair reverted to the agenda in the remaining order. |
| **4.** | **Questions from members of the public.**  The members of the public had left the meeting and therefore there were no questions. |
| **5.** | **Village Greens and Highways**  Cllr. Twitchett would make contact with City & County of Swansea regarding the sand box’s bases to check if they would support repairs to the foundations of the boxes.  Cllr. Twitchett would also discuss the culverts at the Post Office and on the higher green which both had flooding during the recent bad weather. |
| **6.** | **Proposed alterations to bus shelter**  The clerk reported he had not heard back from the builder he had contacted and would discuss the matter with another builder to receive an estimate. |
| **7.** | **Planning Applications**  There was one planning application:  **Y Twlc Brynfield Reynoldston Swansea**  [*Demolition of an existing residential outbuilding and the construction of a separate residential unit as ancillary accommodation and a 1m high retaining wall, within the curtilage of an existing dwelling.*](https://property.swansea.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S1R2XSEVHD900&activeTab=summary)  Cllr. Twitchett produced copies of the planning request and photographs of the proposal. It was agreed by all Councillors that that the alterations will not be seen from the road and they therefore have no objections. |
| **9.** | **Village Magazine**  The Council request Cllr. Ashelby provide an article in the next newsletter mentioning the grants the Council had agreed to. |
| **10.** | **Training**  It was agreed that the Councillors were undertaking training as required and Cllr. Thomas had just completed her “Councillor” training. Cllr. Cousins was awaiting a start date to her training.  Cllr. Thomas also wanted to attend another training unit offered by One Voice Wales.  Cllr Ashelby & Cllr. James have also completed the New Councillor Training.  The Clerk stated he would have to start training himself through the SLCC. Initial quotes were in the region of £450 but this would be split 50/50 with Ilston Community Council. Cllr. Clarke proposed that both training requests be undertaken and this was seconded by Cllr. Ashelby. The motion was carried unanimously. |
| **12.** | **Clerks Update**  The current bank balance stood at £1130 and the Deposit account at £23186 before the grants were paid that had been agreed earlier in the meeting.  The clerk also reported his salary net of tax of circa £677.38 was due at the end of November and HMRC in respect of his PAYE of circa £181.65 was also due. The figures quoted were approx. as the clerk had not received the payroll advice from the accountant yet.  The clerk reported that the new salaries had been agreed by NALC applicable from the 1st April. The Clerk proposed paying the new scale in March plus a calculation of any “back pay” due to him. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Cllr. Clarke and the Internal Auditor to have the revised values agreed for the March pay run.  The clerk had recently paid one invoice to One Voice Wales for £38 for training. He had just received a second invoice for £76 for further training which required paying.  The clerk had recently paid an invoice to the Village Hall for the use of the room for the September meeting.  The Clerk noted that the Community Council’s policies and Standing orders etc all required updating. He would prepare new versions and send them to all Councillors so they could be agreed at the January meeting.  The Clerk also advised that the budget would be written between now and the January meeting. As soon as it was available, he would forward to the Councillors for agreement at the January meeting.  The Clerk requested that the Community Council consider updating the website they own as compared to other Community Council sites, it was very dated. Cllr. Thomas would contact a member of the Village who works in this field and arrange a possible meeting between Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. James and the Clerk to discuss the matter.  The Clerk noted that Cllr. Clements had not attended a meeting for over 6 months and was therefore under the Local Government Act of 1972 was now disqualified as a Councillor at Reynoldston. The chair would write to Cllr. Clements explaining the position. It was agreed that Cllr. Ashelby would include in the Village Newsletter a request for a new Councillor.  Cllr. Ashelby proposed to accept the Clerks Update and Cllr. Thomas seconded the proposal. The motion was carried unanimously. |
| **13.** | **Any Other Business**  Cllr. Cousins advised the Council that City & County of Swansea had some grants available to support local organisations under their “Enabling Food Fund”. It was agreed that Cllrs. Thomas and James would consider making an application for the playgroup in the Village Hall. |
| **14.** | **Date of the next meeting**  The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th January at 19.30.  Preceding the Council meeting, there would be a Budget meeting to be held at 6.30  The meeting closed at 9.45 |