

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26 November 2008 at 7:30pm in Raglan Junior School.

Present: Cllr R Moorby, (Chairman)

Cllrs T Phillips, N Porter, A Crump, Mrs H Williams, Mrs S Price and R Watkins.

In attendance: The Clerk , Miss Shirley Hughes and several members of the public.

Before the meeting started the Chairman invited Miss Shirley Hughes to say a few words about a new initiative that she is engaged in developing.

She is working with Trading Standards in an attempt to stop Cold Calling in the Raglan area. This needs 70% of the people to sign up to agree that they would like to see it introduced and is likely to happen in the spring. It involves a joint activity with the police to visit all households to seek signatures for agreement that they would wish to see a ban on Cold Calling. If that is successful, there will be signs up in the village and every household will get a sticker and a leaflet to explain the implications of the ban. This would improve security, particularly for older people.

Members felt that this would be a good initiative and supported it. Cllr Crump suggested that a Press release before the start would be a good idea.

2027. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Watkins, Mrs M Chilcott, S Thomas and R Parry.

2028. There were no declarations of interest at this point.

2029. The minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 October 2008 were agreed and adopted as a correct record subject to 3 minor corrections.

2030. Matters arising.

a) Cllr Mrs Williams had not been able to attend the Leisure meeting in Monmouth but she noted from the information in the report that Raglan had been the only community to contribute to the scheme apart from the Monmouth Town Council. The Clerk confirmed that this was a similar situation to that in the Abergavenny area, and he understood that Mr Moran would be circulating a report to all Communities showing the potential users of the leisure schemes in the communities and suggesting a formula for funding from each community.

b) It was noted that the Dog Walk had now been cleared up and that it was looking much better as a result. Agreed to write to Mr Edmunds to congratulate him and the team for the work done.

c) It was noted that nothing had been heard from County Highways about Pen y Parc Rd yet. Agreed to pursue this as it continues to flood every time it rains.

2031. Planning Matters.

a) Correspondence.

A report on Candidate Sites for future development was noted and discussed. The following comments were made about individual sites.

Sites 0005, 0037, 0045, 0116, 0130, no comment made.

Site 0137 was a site identified by this Council as suitable for affordable housing.

Sites 0151 and 0152 were identified as liable to flooding.

Site 0160 was possible if drainage concerns were resolved.

Site 0170 was in the centre of the village but would be unlikely as it could be seen from the Castle.

Site 0171 was the subject of a current application.

Site 0188 and 0273, no comment.

Sites 0213 and 0247 could be appropriate for affordable housing

Site 0246 was a priority for the new school or village hall, and possibly some affordable housing.

A further site for development was the bottom of the field which contains the MUGA.

These comments would be passed back to the County Council.

Following on from this discussion, Cllr Phillips asked that a letter should go to the County Council protesting in strong terms that the County Council had reneged on its verbal agreement to put the new school on field 0246. Originally it had been earmarked for the Village Hall, but then a proposal to use the existing school for a Village Hall and that field for the new school had been accepted by all parties in good faith. Now the County had broken that faith by identifying the field for residential development. The Clerk will write to the Chief Executive to make these points.

A notice concerning option workshops was noted. Cllr Mrs Williams may be able to attend.

A schedule of enforcement work was received.

b) The following planning applications were considered:

DC/2008/01189 Planning permission for a new garden wall at Hillcrest, Twyn y Sheriff Rd, Raglan was agreed.

DC/2008/01146 Planning permission for retention of an agricultural store at Cayo Farm, Usk Rd, Raglan. Agreed subject to it being retained as a barn and the condition for it not to be converted to residential use at any time being inserted.

(Cllr Phillips declared an interest in this application and took no part in the decision)

DC/2008/01172 Retention of Development for lake for private carp fishing. Field 1735, Rhiwlas, Bryngwyn, Raglan Agreed.

DC/2008/01223 Replacement dwelling at Rose Cottage, Llangovan, Monmouth was agreed.

DC/2008/01257 Planning permission for conversion of barn to dwelling at The Mardy, Llandenny was agreed

DC/2008/01254 Listed Building Consent for the above was also agreed.

2032 Financial Matters.

a) The following payments were agreed.

Hire of Old School £28.00

Grounds maintenance £744.39

Clerk`s salary £262.50

b) Two requests for financial support were deferred to the January Finance Meeting.

c) The Finance report produced by the Clerk was noted. The next report will be a summary rather than a full list of payments made.

d) A cheque for the first instalment of the grant for new notice boards for £150 was received.

2033. Highways Matters.

a) Correspondence.

Two change of address notices were received.

A letter concerning Graig Rd was noted.

Correspondence concerning the Cross-over at Monmouth Rd and the A40 was considered. Members were frustrated that the number of accidents recorded by the Highways Agency was so low when it is clear that many more are happening and not getting reported. It was accepted that it is difficult to evidence the Council's concerns as many accidents do not involve the police and up until now there have not been any really serious incidents. Members remain concerned that it is inevitable that there will be one at some stage as the crossing is inherently dangerous as it exists at present.

b) Members concerns.

Pen y Parc Rd remains a problem and will be pursued again.

Road 41.2 from Llandenny Walks Common is in a poor state.

The Penyclawdd to Trecastle road at Llangovan road 44.2, is also in a poor state.

The Clerk will report these.

2034. General correspondence.

A number of items of correspondence were received and noted.

A letter from a lady in Yorkshire concerning a relative who fought and died in the First World War was considered. Members would check whether the name appears on any memorials.

2035. Raglan in Bloom concerns.

Cllr Phillips identified several areas in need of improvement in the village as noted by the judges in this year's competition. Seats in High Street need stripping and repainting; at The Cross two benches needed removing and replacing with seats and slabs at The Cross had been broken and needed replacing. The County Council had put new litter bins in the village but there were at least two or three more needed which this council would need to supply. It was agreed that these should be referred to the January meeting for funding. A broken seat off Usk Rd would also be removed as it was potentially dangerous.

There was a discussion about other litter bins in rural parts of the Community, but it was agreed that rather than installing bins in areas where they would probably not get emptied, we should investigate the possibility of signs saying "Take your litter home".

2036. Members Reports

a) Cllr Mrs Williams reported on the meeting on 3 November about the school and village hall. A number of questions had been raised but answers were still awaited. The Village Hall Committee is meeting to consider its options.

She also went to the County Planning Training day which had been quite useful.

No report had yet been received from the Rural Housing Enabler following the visit to possible sites for affordable housing. The Clerk would check on this.

b) Cllr Thomas had submitted a written report in his absence.

The County Council are not submitting the school travel plan to the Assembly because of the possible new school and local objections. (These had not been made clear)

School governors would like to submit a Community Travel Plan to get to the doctors and community centre and the MUGA as well. Further work is needed on this.

A site survey of the school had identified a number of urgent repairs needed to keep the school in use, and the Parish Room would be handed back to the Diocese,

together with about 8 feet of the infants school playground to enable damp proofing to be done on the Parish Room.

Up to 50 admission requests are expected in January for the next school year, compared with about 30 in a normal year. There is a 31 January deadline for admission requests and decisions will be made by 1 April.

c) Cllr Moorby noted that the Monmouth CAB was looking for alternative premises because of difficulties on the present site. They are also seeking compensation from Haberdashers Schools for the inconvenience caused by adjacent works on the Almshouses.

d) Cllr Phillips noted that the Christmas lights would be on soon.

2037 Any Other Business.

a) It was agreed to write to Andy at the Free Press thanking him for his work in the Raglan area over the years.

b) The next meeting of the Council will be a week early on 17 December..

c) It was agreed to note that Cllr Mrs Chilcott had been absent for a number of months which could mean that the seat should be declared vacant, unless it was agreed that she should be granted an extension due to her illness. It was formally agreed to grant an extension for six months to cover her recovery period.

The meeting ended at 9:10pm