

## **RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24 September 2008, held at 7:30pm at Raglan Junior School.**

Present: Cllr R Moorby (Chair)

Cllrs D Watkins, R Watkins, N Porter, R Parry, Mrs H Williams, S Thomas and Mrs S Price (who arrived late)

In attendance: The Clerk, Pc Mike Thomas (for the first item), Mr A Keep and Ms M Parfitt (for the second item) and 6 members of the public

2108. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Crump, Mrs M Chilcott and T Phillips.

2109. The Chairman welcomed Pc Thomas and invited him to give his report. Pc Thomas referred to the paper circulated to members which covered incidents that had occurred since the March meeting. There had been quite a lot of theft of machinery and fuel oils and a number of sheds broken into. There was a shortage of vehicles for the police in the area which caused some difficulties, but there were response vehicles which could be called in from anywhere in the County if needed. The sale of cars on the roundabout had started again, and this needed cooperation from Highways to be resolved.

There were still problems with people parking on the double yellow lines in the village, but although some had been caught, the police did not see too much evidence of it when they were about.

There had been some 352 incident calls to the police from this area in the last 6 months, but some of these would have been duplicates for the same incident, and many were very minor.

The Chairman thanked Pc Thomas for his report and he left the meeting at this point.

2110. The Chairman now welcomed Mr Keep, Director of Lifelong Leisure and Learning and Ms Parfitt, Head of the Access Unit to talk about the difficulties experienced by a few Raglan parents this autumn in getting their children admitted to Raglan School.

Mr Keep explained the legal process that the County were obliged to follow and the fact that the County had adopted a policy to manage admissions to ensure that if challenged they were confident of validating the decisions they had taken, in terms of fairness and consistency. Only about 5 schools out of 39 had any problems with failure to admit local children due to over-subscription, and Raglan was one. It would probably also have difficulties again next year. The policy criteria set by the County could be reviewed to be effective in 2010, but not before. If members had views they wished to input into that process they were welcome to put them forward. Some appeals had been allowed but none on the basis of failure to follow procedure.

(At this point Cllr Mrs Price joined the meeting)

The Chairman outlined two cases he was aware of and, without talking about individuals, Mr Keep and Ms Parfitt explained why they had arisen and why they had not been changed.

Emphasis was placed on the parents` responsibility for seeking admission for their children at the right time. Notice had been given to ensure that they had sufficient time in which to do it.

Cross Ash School was over-subscribed with children from its own area.

5 Children from Raglan are going to Usk which has plenty of capacity. It may be possible for them to come back to Raglan if vacancies in their year-group occur.

Split classes are not now permitted.

In response to a question as to whether the new school was on course, Mr Keep said that there was a problem with the capital needed to finance it at present, due to the credit crunch. He was waiting to see what the outcome would be.

The Chairman then thanked the two officers for their attendance and they left the meeting.

2011. The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 August 2008 were received and adopted as a correct record.

2012. Matters Arising.

Re minute 2107, Mr Bradley would cut the dog walk this week.

The proposal for recognition of the Land Girls had identified about 8 ladies locally who were involved. On that basis it had been suggested that a lunch at the Beaufort might be a good idea. The Council accepted in principle that it would support such an initiative but would await more details.

2013. Planning Matters

a) Agendas of County Planning Meetings were received.

b) The following applications were considered:

DC/2008/00980 Conservatory at 22 Fairfax View, Raglan – Agreed.

DC/2008/00746 Amendments to approved scheme to provide canopy over steps to cellar and new window to living room at The Old Shop, High St Raglan – Agreed

DC/2008/00747 Listed building Consent for the above – No comment

(Cllr D Watkins declared an interest in both of these applications and took no part in the decision or discussion.)

DC/2008/01000 Retention of fence and erection of replacement access gate, Cayo House, Usk Rd, Raglan – Agreed but queried why the application is needed

DC/2008/01093 Proposed oak framed and glazed day room at West Barn, Fedw Farm, Llandenny Walks. - Agreed.

DC/2008/01052 Single storey side extension, Kyrles View, Warrage Rd, Raglan – Agreed.

DC/2008/01053 Listed Building Consent for the above – No Comment.

c) It was noted that the appeal against demolition of a barn at Cayo Farm had been dismissed and the owner given six months to remove it.

It was also noted that the appeal against removal of the security roller blind at the Post Office had been dismissed and two months had been given for its removal.

2014. Finance Matters.

It was agreed to pay the following accounts:

Clerk`s pay and expenses £361.08

Ricoh UK photocopying £10.28

A Bradley (dog walk in spring) £105.75

Penyclawdd Village Hall donation £200.00

An account for two benches was noted but it was agreed to confirm the order with Cllr Phillips before payment is agreed.

A successful bid for £300 towards notice boards was noted.

b) Correspondence was referred to the January meeting.

2015. Highway Matters.

a) Correspondence.

A response to several previous highway queries was noted.

A letter about a SEWTA workshop on Friday was noted.

b) Members concerns.

It was noted that drains on Castle Hill are blocked with building sand.

Continuing concerns about The Graig were noted.

The broken kerbs in Monmouth Rd were still a cause for concern.

The Clerk would report them.

2016. General Correspondence

A number of items of correspondence were considered, including bids to Tidy Towns for funding for waste bins and a campaign to stop dog fouling.

A letter from County Cllr Val Smith concerning recycling locations and related issues was received. Agreed to note the need for more regular cleaning up of the site in Raglan.

A paper about sustainable communities was submitted for consideration. The Clerk would follow it up and report back to the next meeting.

2017. Members Reports

The Clerk agreed to chase up what was happening about the footpath at Barton Bridge.

Cllr Mrs Price was in dialogue with Housing about the two seats at Prince Charles Close.

The Chairman reported no progress about the keepership of common land.

Cllr Thomas reported on the Music Festival AGM. It had been reported that this year had been the best so far, that it had met its declared objectives and was unlikely to grow any more. It had made a loss of £1300 this year but this could be funded from reserves. Some 4000 people were estimated to have attended in the three days.

Cllr Parry reported that the welcome home function for Olympic rower Tom Lucy had been very successful.

Cllr Mrs Williams reported on a site meeting for the new school. Currently the development is at a standstill.

It was noted that the MUGA is being constructed and that work is needed to reduce the height and width of the hedge for security and safety purposes. The management of the MUGA will be discussed at a Village Hall Committee meeting on 14 October.

The Rural Housing Enabler would come to the next meeting to report the outcome of the session in the Old School. (Several people expressed concerns about the short notice for the session and the lack of publicity.)

**The meeting ended at 9:30pm**