

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25 March 2009 at Raglan Junior School at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr R Moorby, Chairman

Cllrs Mrs S Price, Mrs H Williams, S Thomas, T Phillips, N Porter, R Parry and R Watkins.

In attendance: The Clerk and three members of the public

2072. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs M Chilcott and D Watkins.

2073. Declarations of interest would be made as and when they arise.

2074. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25 February 2009 were received and adopted as a correct record.

2075. Matters arising.

Re minute 2064, The Chairman referred to the site meeting that had taken place to resolve the problem with the fence at Sunny Vale. It had been agreed that the fence should stay but that the County should be asked to install a self-closing gate in the fence to allow people to use the route.

2076. Planning matters.

a) A list of Enforcement cases and two County Planning Committee Agendas were received.

b) The following Planning Application was considered:

DC/2009/00168 Proposed new fodder store extension at Llanwilcae Land, Raglan. Agreed.

2077. Financial Matters.

a) The following accounts were paid:

Clerk's salary and expenses. £338.42

One Voice Wales subscription £208.00

Robert Parker (Notice Boards) £388.00

Viking Direct (Paper and storage device) £31.55

b) A request for payment of the Council's contribution to the Raglan Festival was considered. After some discussion it was agreed to pay it on 2 April 2009 in recognition that it may be needed to pay advance fees for the festival.

A letter from the County Council asking for payment for the use of the school for Council meetings was noted. The Clerk had responded pointing out the history of the situation and a reply was awaited.

A letter requesting information on the money held by the Council for Raglan Village Hall was noted. The Clerk will respond.

2078 Highway Matters.

a) A letter notifying the address of a refurbished barn at Hill Farm was noted.

b) Members concerns

The Chairman noted that some remedial work had been done in his area, but no progress at Pen y Parc Road or at The Graig, Penyclawdd had been noticed. There remained strong concerns about the lack of action to deal with dangerous problems.

2079. Correspondence.

A number of items of correspondence were received and noted

The Clerk would respond to the Consultation on the future of Community Health Councils, to give general support but to express concern about the reduction in members which would make it difficult for the CHC to carry out its duties effectively.

A review of Bus Services was noted. Agreed to respond saying the existing services in the Raglan area were satisfactory and should be retained.

2080. Common Land

A letter from Mr Jonathan Stephens was considered, and it was agreed that the Clerk would seek a valuer's opinion as to the value of Commons before the Council agree to sign an indemnity concerning the future.

2081. Dog Fouling and other matters (Mr D Brown)

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr Brown to speak.

Mr Brown asked what the Council were doing about the continuing problem of Dog Fouling. It seemed that much of the problem was happening early in the morning, and dog owners were not acting responsibly.

There was a general discussion which identified that the Council had provided stickers in the past, that Cllr Phillips had been to a Tidy Towns presentation recently and had discussed the problem with the presenters. It is open to any member of the public to report dog fouling, and prosecution would be pursued if evidence can be provided. The Enforcement Officers from the County would do early morning inspections but the key issue is to catch the owners in the act of allowing their dogs to foul pavements without subsequently picking it up. It was understood that recently a member of the public had given evidence against an offending dog owner and a prosecution was pending.

It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a Press Release for the local papers and would liaise with the Enforcement Officers about further visits to Raglan to catch the offenders. He would also provide costs for dog waste bins for the next meeting, so that members could consider that option.

Mr Brown also challenged the Council about not giving a reaction to the consultation on the the Law- making Powers of The Assembly concerning the Welsh Language.

After discussion, it was agreed to respond saying that the consultation period was too short and that any further laws concerning the use of Welsh should not create discriminatory practices against English-only speaking people.

The Chairman resumed the meeting under Standing Orders.

2082. Members Reports.

Cllr Mrs Price was awaiting a reply about further maintenance of the dog walk from the Young Offenders Team. She also asked if there had been any progress about white lines in Caestory Crescent. She was advised to take a concern about the gravel from a house frontage migrating onto the pavement causing people to slip in the dark to the Highways Department of the County Council.

Cllr Phillips had attended a meeting recently at which the Rural Community Action Team was said to be on the verge of closing down due to lack of funds. Given the good work that the Team had done, he asked that the Clerk should write to the Assembly expressing concern and asking what will replace it. He would also write to the Rural Community Action

Team thanking them for their efforts. The Cold Calling initiative was still being pursued and may get the numbers it needs to be brought in.

Cllr Thomas noted that the recent Governors meeting had been postponed, but that some work had been done on the Infants School building.

The Clerk had brought with him the to new notice boards. It was agreed that the Chairman would take one for Llandenny Walks and that Cllr Thomas would hold the other one until it was erected in the village by the school.

The meeting ended at 8:35pm