

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22 July 2008 at 7:30pm at Raglan Junior School.

Present: Cllr T Phillips (Chairman)

Cllrs R Moorby, A Crump, D Watkins, Mrs S Price, S Thomas and R Parry

In attendance: The Clerk and two members of the public.

Before starting the meeting formally, the Chairman opened up a discussion on the new school and village hall allowing the members of the public to contribute to the discussion. He expressed strong concern about the way in which the County Council were approaching the development of a new school and in particular the poor facilities proposed to be provided for the Community within it.

Mr D Brown said that they are proposing to re-build on the existing site over a period of years with the children still on site and facilities such as the canteen and the school hall being out of commission for many months. He was concerned as to how much the required Health and Safety precautions would cost, as this is largely unproductive money. He had also been led to believe that the development on a new site would cost something like £1million less than redeveloping on the existing site. He also noted that the new school was to be the same size as the existing school yet the County were also proposing some 40 additional houses in Raglan, which would add more children to the school roll.

Cllr Thomas expressed the view that the County approach was purely financial, and the main influence as the prospect of significant value from the site adjacent to the school which already had permission to build a Village Hall on it, as well as originally the new school. He felt that the village would end up with a second rate facility as a result. He was also concerned that people in the village did not know what was going on, and that attempts should be made to make the situation more public.

The Chairman noted that there are complications because of the new Local Development Plan being used as an excuse, but that it did not need to affect the position of the school. There were three good new schools at Deri View, Abergavenny, Llanfoist and Overmonnow, and the proposals for Raglan did not match up to these at all. There were also problems with parking on the existing site which would not be improved at all in the new development if it goes ahead on the existing site.

It was agreed that the Director of Resources, Mr S Greenslade, be invited to attend the next meeting or another suitable date to explain why the County proposed to re-build on the existing site. After that, a public meeting may be called to inform local people of the facts.

2116. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Watkins, N Porter and Mrs H Williams.

2117. Declarations of interest would be received as necessary during the meeting, but Cllr Crump declared an interest as a member of the County Planning Committee and took no part in the Planning decisions or discussions.

2118. The minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 24 June 2009 were received and adopted as a correct record.

2119. Matters arising.

An alternative quote for the gate at Sunny Vale had been received. The Clerk will check the first quote before agreeing to commission the work, in conjunction with the Chairman. It was noted that non-domestic burglaries were increasing in the area.

2120. Planning Matters

a) Agendas and Enforcement lists were noted.

b) The following Planning Applications were considered. (Cllr Crump took no part in this matter.)

DC/2009/00661 Garden Shed at 2 Orchard Cottages, Llandenny - Agreed

DC/2009/00541 Menage for private equestrian use at Llangwendr Farm, Llangovan – Agreed

DC/2009/00659 Erection of detached house on land adjacent to Con Amore, Cuckoos Row, Raglan – Agreed.

2121. Finance Matters.

a) The following payments were agreed:

Clerk's Salary £268.92

Websites without worry £15.21

Ricoh photocopier costs £99.29

Allotment hedge £100.00

Cut dog walk £117.50

Conference Fees (2) £120.00

b) A request from Shelter Cymru for funding was referred to the January Meeting.

2122. Highway Matters

Members Concerns.

Concern by residents across the road from the school about parking across their drives at school delivery/collection times was noted. They were advised to contact County Highways.

The hedge along the Travelodge boundary on the old road was overgrown and a traffic hazard. The access from Penyclawdd onto this road was also obscured.

There was a conflict of opinion about when verges should be cut, with the wild flower lobby at odds with the road safety lobby. It was agreed that road safety was the paramount issue.

It was noted that the Graig pitch was actually on the list for refurbishment soon, and that some work had been done at Berllanderi to improve safety there.

These items would be taken up with County Highways where appropriate.

2123. General Correspondence

A number of items of correspondence were considered.

It was agreed that Poll Cards would be required for the by-election.

A verbal report on the situation with the Council taking on the keepership of common land was received. Agreed that the Council will probably proceed but that the Clerk carries out more enquiries about indemnity from possible death duties before a decision is made.

2124. Members reports.

The Clerk informed members that the Chairman had been elected as Chairman of the Newport and Monmouthshire One Voice Wales Committee for the coming year. Members congratulated Cllr Phillips on this appointment.

Cllr Mrs Price noted that she understood someone was sleeping on the allotments. Concern was expressed about this and it was agreed to investigate and to notify the Police.

Cllr Thomas reported on the School Governors meeting. There were 206 children in the school this term, with 27 expected in reception in September. It was proposed that all reception children would be loaned violins or cellos in September as a trial. Sarah Jenkins would be the year 6 teacher covering for maternity leave. Year 5 would all receive laptop computers next term, again as a trial. The adult toilets in the infants` school building had been improved and the fence repaired. The governors would be invited to visit other new schools in September to see what was available. Members considered that this may make them think about what they will be missing with the present proposals for Raglan. Some locks had been changed within the school because of security issues.

There being no other issues, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:50pm