

## **RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2011 at 7:30pm in Raglan Scout Hut.**

Present: Cllr Mrs H Williams (Chairman)

Cllrs Mrs S Price, T Phillips, R Moorby, D Watkins, R Watkins and R Parry

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr A Sherwill (Press), Miss S Hughes and Mr D Brown.

The Chairman invited Miss Hughes to speak on the possibility of Raglan agreeing to be one of 12 communities to undertake a Community Plan. She explained that there was some funding available to her to help with meeting venues, publicity, etc and that there is over two years in which to do it. It would involve consulting as many people in Raglan as possible; it is not designed to raise expectations so much as to identify existing facilities and opportunities and to plan for some improvements in due course. Members commented on the idea and asked some questions. It was noted that this had been started once before with Jenny Lewis from Monmouthshire CC, but not completed. Herefordshire have been doing it for some time.

It was agreed that it would be a positive thing for the Community and that Raglan should be put forward as an interested Community.

3060. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs A Vaughan and S Thomas.

3061. Declarations of interest would be made as and when necessary during the meeting.

3062. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2011 were received and adopted as a correct record. The Clerk thanked Cllr Mrs Vaughan for compiling the minutes during his absence at the last meeting.

3063. Matters arising.

Cllr R Watkins told members that he was still trying to organise the alterations to the War Memorial plaque. It was agreed that the account should be paid by the Council and that Mrs Davies should be invited to make a donation to the costs.

The Clerk would check whether the recent changes in arrangements for low-cost housing in rural areas in England would apply in Wales.

It was noted that Raglan School was no longer on the list for re-provision as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools project had stopped. Work was now being done on the school to improve some areas to keep it in use for the time being. From 1 September the management of Community Facilities in the school would be in the hands of a local committee. The kitchen was to be closed and used as part class-room for cookery classes and part Community Room.

The Brooks Holding Site had been taken out of the Development Plan.

3064. Planning Matters.

a) Enforcement Lists and Planning Agendas were noted. It was noted that a householder whose name appeared on a list of new enforcement cases but where no breach was found had not been made aware of the fact. It was questioned whether this should happen, and if names should appear on a list unless some action is planned. The Clerk would take this up with the County.

b) The following Planning Applications were considered:

DC/2011/00589 To erect a photovoltaic array on a tracking system at Alpha renewable, The Mardy, Llandenny Agreed  
DC/2011/00508 Erection of timber framed garage and garden storage building on existing slab at Village Barn, Village Farm, Llandenny. Agreed  
DC/2011/00501 Single storey rear extension at 15 Barton Bridge Close, Raglan. Agreed  
DC/2011/00701 Change of use of land to domestic cartilage at St Quentins, Treworgan Common, Llandenny. Agreed  
DC/2011/00597 Change of use from barn to residential dwelling, Barn at The Dell, Old Abergavenny Rd, Raglan. Agreed.  
Pre-planning consultation of proposed site share on radio base station at Warrage Rd, Raglan. No adverse comments were made.

#### 3065. Finance Matters.

a) The following payments were agreed:

Clerk`s salary	£271.67
Ricoh Photocopying	£104.91
Merlin Waste	£35.64
GHP Jones (Audit)	£100.00

b) The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit had been completed and it was now necessary to sign off the first part of the Audit proforma and to send it to the External Auditors. He explained that the process was altered and that the external auditors would return the forms in due course for further approval by the Council before the process is completed. It was agreed to authorise the signing of the proforma at this stage of the process and to agree the presentation of accounts.

c) The Clerk reported that it was now necessary for the Council to be recognised as an employer in its own right, and he had registered and received the necessary tax codes. The tax calculation is such that some £400 is due in tax as at the present time. The Clerk would produce a statement for the next meeting and in future the salary would be divided at source so that two cheques would be needed. This was noted.

d) Cllr D Watkins asked Cllr Phillips if he had calculated the Christmas Lights electricity usage yet. Cllr Phillips would take it up.

e) Cllr Phillips asked the Clerk to find out if the money held by the Council could be used for building a Kitchen Extension on the School building for Community use.

There is also a query about the future cost of using the school for meetings. The Clerk would check this with One Voice Wales.

f) It was agreed to sign the agreement for use of the School Building for meetings from now until October as presented by the County, free of charge.

#### 3066. Highway matters.

a) There was no correspondence on this item.

b) Members concerns.

Cllr D Watkins noted that nothing had yet been done about the footpath in Monmouth Rd or the trees obscuring Street Lights in Castle Rd. The Clerk would chase this again.

#### 3067. General correspondence.

A number of items of correspondence were received and noted.

3068. One Voice Wales paper.

This paper was considered in detail.

It was noted that Councils are being asked to budget for training in future as there are many new issues arising which will impact on members awareness of what is going on.

The motions for conference were considered and the representatives going to conference were mandated to vote on all of them except the last one where further information would be provided at conference so the representatives would decide at that stage how to respond.

3069. Review of Polling Stations.

There were no comments on this report as the four Polling Stations in Raglan Community were considered to be acceptable.

3070. Members reports.

Cllrs Mrs Williams and Phillips had attended a One Voice Wales Meeting and the Village Hall Management Committee. They had learned about the bookings being done locally in future and the arrangements for the future use of the school kitchen.

Cllr Mrs Price reported that the trees in Caestory Crescent were definitely the responsibility of Monmouthshire Housing Association and it was expected that they would be removed shortly. She also noted that new recycling banks had been provided at St Cadoc's but there was no can bank. The recycled purple and red bag collections had reduced the use of the Civic Amenities site considerably.

Cllrs Mrs Vaughan, Thomas and Mrs Williams had looked at the web-site in some detail and other sites for local organisations. They had concluded that the village needed a better web-site at less cost but more work is needed to take this forward. They would meet again to decide how to proceed.

Cllr Moorby noted that very little publicity had been given to the fact that septic tanks needed to be registered in the next few months and there was a penalty of up to £20,000 for failing to do so. He believed that the Environment Agency should do more to publicise this fact, or many people who are ignorant of it will be penalised. The Clerk would look into this.

Cllr Phillips suggested that the Council should look into employing a person to do litter picking/street cleaning once again. It was agreed to ask Mr G Edmonds if the County would carry out the work under an agency arrangement.

It was decided that no meeting would be held in August but if there were Planning Applications needing consideration the Chairman, Vice-chairman and Local Member would be convened to deal with them.

**The meeting ended at 9:05pm.**