

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 September 2011 at Raglan School at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs H Williams (Chairman)

Cllrs T Phillips, R Watkins, D Watkins, Mrs S Price, Mrs A Vaughan, A Crump and R Moorby.

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr A Sherwill (Press) and two members of the public.

Supt Mark Sutton attended for the first item.

The Chairman welcomed Supt Sutton who had come to talk about the possible closure of Raglan Police Station. A formal consultation is in place at present, and will end at the end of October. A number of premises across Gwent are currently being assessed as to their future, as the force seeks to make best use of its resources. If Raglan Police Station is closed and sold, the alternative arrangement will be for a mobile police vehicle to attend on a regular basis for a limited time in the day to offer the opportunity for members of the public to talk to police personnel about local issues. Raglan has been used occasionally as a facility for witness interviewing, but has had very limited use in that way. The mobile facility is already in use and is getting good feedback from the areas where it operates. A number of questions were then raised by members.

Will the vehicle turn up regularly? – yes.

Is crime increasing in the village? – no, it is decreasing across Monmouthshire and Raglan is one of the better areas.

Do we really need the building as it is under-used at present?

Supt Sutton told members that the new Officer in Charge of the division was Chief Inspector Joanne Bull, who would take over when he retires at the end of this week. Also, PC Lenny Oliver was no longer the local PC; it would now be PC Steve Clarke. The Chairman thanked Supt Sutton for attending and members wished him well in his retirement.

3071. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Parry and S Thomas.

3072. Declarations of interest would be made as necessary during the meeting.

3073. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 July 2011 were received and adopted as a correct record.

3074. Matters arising.

Cllr R Watkins told members that the War Memorial had been altered just before the funeral of the person who had asked for it. A donation towards the cost had been received from the family.

Cllr D Watkins noted that the trees at Castle Rd had still not been cut back. The Clerk would remind Highways again.

Cllr Mrs Price noted that the trees in Caestory Crescent had been taken down.

Cllr Mrs Vaughan had been getting quotations for a new website and a further report would be made to the next Council meeting.

Cllr Moorby noted that the Environment Agency was now notifying all septic tank users of the need to register.

Cllr D Watkins asked if any progress had been made about the power supply for the Christmas lights. Cllr Phillips confirmed that information had now been received

which would enable the calculation to be made. The Clerk would speak to Cllr Watkins outside the meeting about this.

3075. Planning Matters.

a) Enforcement reports were received and noted. The decision concerning the track at Grange Lodge was received. As it was an established access onto the roadway it would not be possible to refuse it for the new use. Members noted this and expressed concern about the safety of road users if the usage increased.

b) The following Planning Applications were considered: (Cllr Crump declared an interest as a member of the County Planning Committee and took no part in the discussion of Planning Applications.)

DC/2011/00862 Planning Permission for extension of existing 15m mast to instal 3 antennae, 1 transmission dish and two ground based cabinets at Conamore, Warrage Rd, Raglan. Agreed

DC/2011/00711 Extension to boiler house at Cefn Maen, Usk Rd, Raglan. Already agreed.

DC/2011/00560 Proposed stables, workshop and garaging for horse trap at Field No 7900, Old Clytha Rd, Raglan. Agreed but the Clerk to write a letter of concern separately about the accesses on this bend needing visibility splays.

DC/2011/00905 Erection of a Rural Enterprise Dwelling at Walks Farm, Llandenny Agreed (Cllrs R Watkins and Moorby declared interests in this application and took no part in the decision)

DC/2011/00857 Installation of solar photovoltaic panels on an agricultural building at Lower Pen y Clawdd, Dingestow. Agreed (Cllr R Watkins declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion or decision)

It was noted that the following applications had been decided under delegated powers during the August recess:

DC/2011/00710 Extension to boiler house at Cefn Maen, Usk Rd, Raglan

DC/2011/00717 Two storey extension to side, conservatory to back, at 41 Sunny Vale, Raglan

3076. Finance matters.

a) The following payments were agreed:

Clerk's salary for 2 months £326.54

Tax on salary £ 216.80

Two Merlin Waste invoices £71.28

Invoice for One Voice Wales course £25

b) Correspondence.

Requests for funding from Victim Support, NSPCC, Urdd Gobaith Cymru and MacMillan Cancer Care were deferred to the January Finance Meeting.

3077. Highways Matters.

Cllr Moorby asked if a follow-up to his request to cut the hedge near the Llandenny Overbridge could be made. This was agreed.

The hedge at the lower end of Usk Rd needs cutting where there is no pavement.

Also, along the bypass, the hedge behind Ross Farm Machinery needs cutting back.

Cllr Moorby noted potholes and poor road surface on route 41.2 from Llandenny Walks to The Hall Inn.

In regard to a question about progress on selling the toilet block, there had been a legal delay which was now resolved so progress should happen.

The Clerk would progress a request for police support for Remembrance Services on 11th and 13th November.

With regard to emptying a bin in the alley to Caestory Avenue, the Clerk would send Cllr Phillips a contact to assist with this.

Tree pruning is badly needed at the telephone exchange in Somerset Drive. The Clerk would pick this up.

The Clerk would contact Mr Edmunds about a Litter Picker to help to keep Raglan tidy, and would report back to the Council.

3078. Correspondence.

A number of items of general correspondence were received.

A new set of One Voice Wales courses were circulated and members were invited to put their names forward. The Clerk would then seek to make bookings.

A letter concerning a lime tree on the bypass was received. After some discussion it was agreed that the Council has no responsibility for the tree and therefore we should decline to make a contribution to its removal.

3079. Agenda Items.

a) Cycling in alleyways.

Cllr D Watkins expressed concern about young people cycling along a number of alleyways which are essentially for pedestrians and the danger that this poses to pedestrians. It was agreed to ask if the signs can be replaced.

b) the Chairman noted that it was planned to take a coach-load of people to Parce in August next year and as part of the visit a twinning agreement would be signed. It was hoped that the Chairman at the time would agree to go to sign, and if so, it was agreed to consider funding the travel costs for the trip. This would be put to Finance Committee in January.

3080. Licence for footpath.

Members considered the draft licence before them which would make the Council responsible for the maintenance of the new footpath to the MUGA. After considerable discussion it was agreed to decline to sign the Licence document as it was taking on responsibility for County Council land but with no authority to exercise control over access to the land by other agencies. The Clerk would convey this to the county.

3081. Members Reports.

Cllr Moorby would be attending the CAB AGM shortly. He noted that there was a move to combine the four bureaux in Monmouthshire into a combined service. He feared that this might create a problem with collecting funds locally for the individual bureau. He would report back in due course.

Cllr Mrs Price raised several issues about Allotments. Recent hedge spraying had caused some damage but a load of manure had been donated to help mitigate the problem. She also reported that rats had been seen on the allotments across the road, but Cllr Phillips said this had been dealt with.

There was also discussion about unauthorised use of the access roadway. Anyone seeing this happening should report to police on 101.

Cllr Phillips reported that Raglan had come second to Usk this year. It was a shame that they had been put in the same category and he was concerned about some of the judges comments which seemed quite harsh. Raglan had won the Best Kept

Village Award however. Members congratulated Cllr Phillips on his hard work in helping the Village to achieve these awards.

He reported that the Village Hall Committee had been negotiating with the County about use of the school and kitchen area during the summer break while work was going on at the school. A community Room had been provided but it was an odd shape because it had a toilet in the middle of it. The intention was sound, to make the room independent of the school, but the toilet prevented the room from being used effectively. The Village Hall Committee would now have to pay for it to come out. Another meeting was to be held soon.

Cllr D Watkins expressed some personal concerns about a lack of communication during the negotiations, but it was pointed out to him that it affected people's jobs, and we had no meeting in August to report to. A Management Committee was in the process of being constituted.

Standing orders were suspended for ten minutes to allow the Council to complete business.

Llangovan Charities.

Cllr Moorby asked if another attempt could be made to get progress on this. The Clerk would do so.

The Clerk asked if members would agree for the photocopier to be transferred to Abergavenny Town Council with both Councils still using it. This was agreed.

The meeting ended at 9:38pm