**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Held at Minor Hall, Reynoldston at 7.30pm on**

**Tuesday 12th November 2024**

**Present:** Cllrs. Clarke, Twitchett, Ashelby, Thomas, Cousins & Spacie and the Clerk Paul Sizer

**Apologies:** Aimee Dyer Internal Auditor

There was no request from members of the public for Zoom access to the meeting.

Councillor Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting

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| **1.** | **Disclosures of Personal Interest**  Any disclosures would be stated before any agenda item. |
| **2.** | **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting**  The minutes confirmed as a true record after a minor alteration in an incorrect spelling.  Cllr. Clarke proposed accepting the minutes and this was seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All present agreed to accept the minutes after the corrections. |
| **3.** | **Matters arising**  The Clerk stated that the only matter that was not on the agenda referred to the Bus Shelter. The painter and fabricator for the gate had both been booked and the work will be completed in the spring when the warmer weather returns. |
| **4.** | **Questions from members of the public (limited to 15 minutes)**  There were no members of the public present or had requested to attend via Zoom. |
| **5.** | **Co-option of new Councillor**  The Clerk had placed notices on the notice boards regarding the vacancy and no-one had contacted City and County of Swansea so the Community Council are free to co-opt a member. A suggestion had been made to the Clerk but that person was not available for the November meeting and the matter will be carried over to January. |
| **6.** | **Update on Boundary Changes**  The Clerk had received notification, which had been sent to all Councillors that the boundary changes had been agreed by City & County of Swansea upon the recommendations of the Boundary Commission and that Reynoldston Community Council would be merged into a new Council to be known as Gower South Community Council from 2027. All recommendations from the Community Council and other Community Councils had no effect on the decision.  The Chair had received a letter from our MP Tonia Antoniazzi who was agreeing with the decision for the mergers.  All north Gower Community Councils were also being merged to form North Gower Community Council at the same time. |
| **7.** | **Grants**  The Clerk reported that the new Grant application form was in place and had been used already by a few organisations requesting grants.  The Clerk asked all present to agree what the difference was between a Grant and a Donation so it would be clear who the new Grant form was being sent to. The Clerk thanked Cllr. Cousins for her assistance on this matter.  The Clerk detailed the donations that were already in the budget for 2024/2025 and the following were discussed and agreed:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Reynoldston Village Hall | £1,000 | | New lights for Christmas tree and replacement batteries | £250 | | Reynoldston Village Newsletter | £150 | | Friends of Gower | £100 | | Air Ambulance | £500 |   Other grant requests received, discussed and agreed were:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Reynoldston Village Graveyard Maintenance | £2,000 | | Knelston School | £750 | | St Georges Church for refreshments for their “Search of Christmas family event” | £120 | | North Gower Fundraising Committee for the Urdd Eisteddfod | £250 |   Cllr. Clarke proposed offering all the above grants and donations and this was seconded by Cllr. Ashelby. All present were in agreement. |
| **8.** | **Village greens and highways**  At the last meeting it was agreed to ask City & County of Swansea to install speed monitoring strips outside the Post Office. To date they have not been installed but are due to be installed any day now. The Clerk will chase Highways on the matter.  The condition of the parking areas on the upper green were discussed and it was agreed the Clerk will make contact with the Commoners and NRP to ascertain suggestions for improvements. He will report back as soon as he has spoken to them. |
| **9.** | **Planning applications**  There were no new planning applications since the last meeting |
| **10.** | **Training**  Cllr. Spacie has completed her initial training with One Voice Wales |
| **11.** | **Website/Social media/Village Newsletter**  Cllr. Ashelby will report in the next issue of the Village Magazine on the Boundary Commission changes,  The recommendations for a Community Council Facebook page will be carried over to January meeting. |
| **12.** | **Clerk’s update**  The Clerk reported he had heard back from the Auditors with no issues noted. The Clerk had omitted to send the Councillor’s “opt out” declarations for 2023/2024 and he would arrange for these to be sent asap.  The Clerk stated that all Councillors are entitled to £156 allowance this year and £52 for consumables. The Clerk will bring to the January meeting the application forms for those who wish to claim the allowances or for those who wish to “opt out”  Details of the new pay levels for 2024/2025 had been received by the Clerk. The band the Clerk is currently on has an increase to £15.08 per hour. The Clerk is also entitled to a band increase in the pay scales but he wished not to accept this increase and just rely on the rate increase.  Cllr. Clarke proposed accepting this new increase rate of pay and Cllr. Twitchett seconded the proposal. All present were in agreement. The Clerk thanked the Councillors.  Since the last meeting, the Clerk had paid:   * RVH £15.00 * One Voice Wales £40.00 * Interest had been received of £34.04   The bank account currently stands at £24,440 before any grants and donations are made.  Future payments to be made:  Village Hall for the meeting held in November  Clerks’ salary circa £872 to include an adjustment for the pay increase backdated to April 2024.  HMRC circa £220  All the grants and donations as detailed above.  The Clerk reported the Council’s bankers, Lloyds were to start charging for the bank accounts from January. Although the amount was minimal the Clerk had investigated other banks and Nat West Bank were very happy to accept the Council’s bank accounts and offer on-line payments etc free of charge for two years. It was agreed that the Council should move the bank account over to Nat West Bank as soon as possible. The current signatories of the Clerk and Cllrs. Clarke and Ashelby will remain.  The Clerk asked that when the new bank account is opened, the Council change the Financial Regulations to now be two out of three required to make payments. It was agreed that the Clerk will initiate all payments and either Cllrs. Clarke or Ashelby will counter agree the payments on-line.  The Clerk reminded all present that January is the Budget meeting and any suggestions should be sent to him to be included.  A discussion was held regarding possibly offering small grants to organisations in Reynoldston to assist with their operations. A figure would be placed in the budget and the matter discussed in full in January.  The Clerk issued suggested meeting dates for 2025. |
| **13.** | **AOB**  There was no AoB |
| **14.** | **Date of next meeting**  The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 14th January 2025 |
|  | The meeting closed at 9.30 |