**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

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

**Tuesday 14th January 2025**

**Present:** Cllrs. Clarke, Twitchett, Ashelby, Thomas, Cousins, Aimee Dyer Internal Auditor and the Clerk Paul Sizer

**Apologies:** Cllr.Spacie

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

Councillor Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting

There were two members of the public present and the Chair recommended changing the agenda to bring item 4 to the start of the meeting. This was agreed by all present.

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| **4.** | **Questions from members of the public (limited to 15 minutes)**  Member of the public Heather Falconer of Cilibion addressed the council regarding the death and injury to animals around Gower. She asked if any measures could be taken to restrict the speed of traffic on Gower. The Clerk mentioned that the boundary of Reynoldston Community Council only went as far as the edge of the car park on Cefn Bryn and the Council do not hold powers to alter traffic speed or flows. The Clerk suggested Ms Falconer contact Cllr. R Lewis of City & County of Swansea, the Highways at City & County of Swansea and also Llanrhidian Lower Community Council as Cilibion is in their area. The Clerk offered to supply Ms Falconer with contact details if she wanted them.  Also present was Rob Vine of Reynoldston who asked the Community Council to consider two items:   1. To consider setting aside funds to make permanent repairs to the culvert by the Post Office as it regularly fills with stone and floods the area. A suggestion was to ask for professional advice on the matter. 2. The stream running down Robins Lane has several small trees fallen down into it and general debris affecting the water flow. Mr Vine suggested the Council arrange a suitable weekend in the spring to hold a “stream clearing” and general clearance of damage from trees around the Village. Possibly a skip could be arranged to remove the debris afterwards.   The Chair thanked both for their input and attending the meeting.  Ms Falconer and Mr Vine left the meeting at this stage |
| **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. Twitchett. 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 Audit. He had heard nothing from the auditors after supplying the extra evidence they requested despite numerous emails to them asking for the outcome of the Audit. Cllr. Clarke mentioned that at the One Voice Wales meeting held on the previous evening, several other Councils commented they were waiting for an Auditor’s report, some for several years. |
| **5.** | **Co-option of new Councillor**  Despite a notice appearing on the notice bords no members of the public had come forward so it was suggested an article be placed in the Village Magazine asking for suggestions for a new Councillor. |
| **6.** | **To set and agree Budget for 2025/2026**  The Clerk offered two budgets to the Council, both with the same expenditure but one based on a precept of £8,000 and the other based on a precept of £12,500. The members agreed to the budget with a couple of minor alterations which the Clerk will amend in the budget and resend to all members. It was proposed by Cllr. Clarke and seconded by Cllr. Thomas to accept a precept of £8,000 for 2025/2026 as the Council still holds a strong funds balance. The Clerk agreed to contact City & County of Swansea to request the revised precept funds. |
| **7.** | **Update on Boundary Changes**  The changes to the boundary changes have now been agreed and will be adopted as of 31st March 2027. One Voice Wales have agreed to offer support during the hand over period. |
| **8.** | **Grants**  A request has been received from Reynoldston Village Hall to assist with funding for a new projector which will be used by several groups of people attending the Hall.  Cllr. Ashelby made it known that she was a member of the Film Club that use the current projector at the Hall and would not make any comment or vote on the matter in hand.  A discussion was held regarding the request and it was agreed to pay for the projector in full at £3720. Cllr. Twitchett proposed the grant which was seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All present agreed the proposition. The Clerk was asked to contact the Village Hall stating they will fund the application on receipt of the new grant form. Two quotes had been received and the request for £3720 was for the lower of the two quotes.  Discussion was also held as to how the Community Council could possibly assist other smaller groups in the Village. The Clerk has written into the 2025/2026 a budget of £3,000 for these smaller grants. A fuller discussion will be held at the next meeting as to how and under what headings the Council will allow requests. |
| **9.** | **Village greens and highways**  There was still no sign of the speed monitoring at the Post Office and the Clerk was asked to chase the matter up.  The Clerk had also contacted Highways about the state of the Culvert and they had agreed to send a “Gully team” to open the manholes down Robin’s Lane and remove stones from there.  Following on from the request by Mr Vine, it was agreed that funds would be put aside in the 2025/2026 budget to investigate how to make permanent improvements to the culvert at the post office, especially to ensure it operates after 2027 after the changes to the Community Councils.  Cllr. Ashelby mentioned the condition of the fence between the Fire Station and Castle Ditty Lane. It was agreed that the fence had been installed by a member of the public due to a need at his home but they had now moved out. It was agreed that this could be looked at possibly when the work is completed on the stream in the Spring.  The Clerk had received an email from Mike and Lucy Charlton regarding the state of Stouthall lane with regard to Potholes. The Clerk had written to Highways and had received a response which included ”  *With regard to the lane itself, as you say we have carried out previous remedial works there with the jet patcher (2022) and have re-visited to assess and fill pot holes on several occasions follow both routine inspections and public reports. An inspector visited on the  3/12/24 following your enquiry. It was noted that various pot holes have been repaired and nothing currently breached safety intervention levels. The road was to be monitored on our monthly driven inspection. No work was added to our system.*    *With regard to the overall condition of the road it is assessed as being in poor condition and has been placed in the list of scheme waiting for funding. There are currently  268 schemes ahead of it in the queue totalling around £17m worth of work, therefore it is unlikely to be included in the next 3 year programme. As above we will continue to monitor and should there be concern over an individual specific pot hole, these can be reported via the web page and will be filled. “*  The Clerk had also kept Cllr. Lewis updated as to the comments.  It was mentioned that there are three culverts on the lane and possibly these have not been attended to. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways and ask for the culverts to be looked at to assist with possible reduction in water in the lane.  A second request from the Charlton’s regarding the A4118 just below Stouthall heading towards Knelston. It was agreed that this area is in the remit of Reynoldston Community Council and the request regarded the roadside and verge by the field where the bank has washed away. The Clerk was again asked to contact Highways on this matter. |
| **10.** | **Planning applications**  There was one planning application for the property **Maidens Fancy** in Robins Lane. The application calls for the installation of roof lights and solar panels. The Council agreed there was nothing that could be objected to and agreed the application. |
| **11.** | **Training**  The Clerk reported he had one final training session on his CILCA qualification and had started to submit evidence required, however, it was extremely time consuming and the Clerk did question the benefit of the qualification as the Council will no longer exist after 2027. |
| **12.** | **Website/Social media/Village Newsletter**  Despite the Clerk showing a figure for the new Website in the proposed budget, it was agreed that as the Council will not exist after 2027, there was no need to spend funds updating the Website. The Clerk will remove this from the budget.  It was agreed that a Reynoldston Community Council Facebook page would be generated to operate from the 1st march 2025 where the Council could place Agendas, Minutes and general notices etc. It would be a closed account and Councillors would all have access to monitor the comments etc. Cllrs. Thomas and Cousins agreed to set the Facebook page up.  The Village Newsletter would be updated with discussion from the meeting including the state of Stouthall Lane, the Facebook page, a request for a new Councillor and mentioning that Rhossili Community Councill were looking for a new Clerk. Cllr. Ashelby will write the article for the Newsletter. |
| **13.** | **Clerk’s update**  The Clerk stated the balance at the bank stood at £23319 and since the last meeting he had paid:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Reynoldston Village Hall grant | £1,000.00 | | Reynoldston Newsletter | £150.00 | | Friends of Gower | £100.00 | | Welsh Air Ambulance | £500.00 | | Village Graveyard via St Georges Church | £2,000.00 | | St Georges Church – Stable Trail | £120.00 | | Knelston School | £750.00 | | Clerk’s salary & PAYE | £11134.94 | | Cymrui Urdd | £250.00 | | Paul Valerio – Xmas lights | £78.24 | | Reynoldston Village Hall – Hall use | £15.00 | | Gower Timber co for Xmas tree | £204.00 | |  |  |   Receipts since the last meeting:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Bank Interest November | £17.84 | | Bank Interest December | £13.94 | | Precept payment | £4166.66 | |  |  |   New payments required to be made include:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Reynoldston Village Hall for this meeting | £18.00 | | Reynoldston Village Hall – emails for Clerk and Chair | £50.00 | | Reynoldston Village Hall – email undercharged in 2023/2024 | £20.00 | | Village Durabunnies – batteries used for Xmas decorations | To be advised c£50.00 |   At the meeting in November, the Clerk reminded all Councillors they were entitled to an allowance and expenses to cover home usage.  The Clerk supplied a declaration to all Councillors to allow him to make payments in the sum of £156 for a Councillor Allowance and home expenses in the sum of £52. All present completed the declarations and the Clerk will make payments as soon as possible.  All the proposed payments were agreed by a proposal from Cllr. Clarke and seconded by Cllr. Twitchett and agreed by all present.  The Clerk had completed the application with Nat West Bank and both Cllrs. Clarke and Ashelby had completed their sections and were just waiting for the accounts to be approved. The Clerk suggested that he would transfer a small amount, c£1,000 into the new current account and the same into the deposit account when opened but use the Lloyds Bank accounts until the end of March to coincide with the end of the financial year and then arrange to close the Lloyds Bank accounts. This would cause two months bank charges but these would be minimal. This suggestion was agreed by all present.  The Clerk advised the Council that Rhossili Community Clerk were losing their Clerk and have asked if Reynoldston Community Council could assist with advertising the position. |
| **13.** | **AOB**  Cllr. Clarke suggested that meetings could be held at 7.00 rather than 7.30 and this matter would be discussed at the next meeting. |
| **14.** | **Date of next meeting**  The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 11th March 2025 |
|  | The meeting closed at 10.00 |