**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

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

**Tuesday 11th January 2025**

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Clarke, Twitchett (post operative convalescence)

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

As the Chair and Vice Chair were not available for the meeting, the Clerk suggested Cllr. Ashelby stand as the Chair for the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Cousins. Cllr. Ashelby thanked the Councillors and agreed to act as the Chair for the meeting.

Cllr. Ashelby thanked all for attending

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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. Ashelby 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 majority of items in the minutes appeared on the agenda for this meeting, however he had been in contact with Ms Falconer and had directed her to the County Councillor for Gower and the Llanrhidian CC. Ms Falconer had acknowledged the assistance of the Reynoldston CC.  The Clerk had still not heard from the Audit office regarding the 23/24 accounts and he would chase them again on the matter. He had also not received any invoice from them for their services.  **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**  The Clerk had submitted the precept request for 25/26 and this had been acknowledged by City & County of Swansea. |
| **4.** | **Questions from members of the public (limited to 15 minutes)**  There were no members of the public present |
| **5.** | **Co-option of new Councillor**  An article had appeared in the Reynoldston News but there had been no response. Cllr. Thomas agreed to write an article to appear in the May Reynoldston News about being a Councillor and would also place this article on the new RCC Facebook page. One Voice Wales were publishing details of the role of a Councillor and it is hoped to be able to incorporate this into the article. **ACTION POINT Cllr. Thomas** |
| **6.** | **Update on Boundary Changes**  There had been no further news regarding the merger and boundary changed set for 31st March 2027. One Voice Wales have agreed to offer support during the hand over period. |
| **8.** | **Grants**  In the 25/26 budget a grant had been allowed for the Reynoldston Community Shop and Post Office (RCS) for repairs to the door and possibly windows. The Clerk had requested possibly using the grant in this financial year but as yet he had not received the application from the Reynoldston Community Shop and Post Office (RCS). The Clerk asked the Councillors present if any had “shares” in the Reynoldston Community Shop and Post Office (RCS) and Cllrs. Ashelby and Spacie agreed they held shares; however, the Clerk had asked other Councillors this question before the meeting and Cllr. Twitchett had stated he also held the shares but they were “held for social and community use” rather than for “financial benefit”. The matter was discussed in full and it was agreed there was no potential Conflict of Interest. The Clerk requested permission to pay the Village Shop up to £1,000 once the necessary paperwork had been received. This was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Cousins.  **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**  A request had been received from St Georges Church for assistance in rewiring the power supply to the lower village green which was used to power the Christmas tree and to offer power for events on the green. An estimation had been forwarded to the Clerk and he requested a budget be approved of £300 maximum to cover the cost of rewiring the meter etc. This was proposed by Cllr. Ashelby and seconded by Cllr. Spacie. The Clerk is to contact St. Georges Church to receive a full quotation and the grant approval forms. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**  The Clerk advised the Councillors that he had received an email from the Reynoldston Village Hall acknowledging the grant awarded to them at the last meeting and the payment for the new digital projector. They thanked the Councillors for the grant.  The Clerk had received a request from Marie Curie towards their Great Daffodil Appeal asking for a donation. The Councillors felt there was not enough connection to the Community and refused the request for a donation. The Clerk was asked to contact Marie Curie.  **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**  A discussion was held as to how the Community Council could possibly assist other smaller groups in the Village. It was suggested that any organisation based within the Reynoldston Community could apply for the grant with a maximum of £500 on a “first come first served basis”. Cllr. Cousins will write an article for the April Reynoldston News and place on the new Facebook page asking for any organisation interested to apply via the email address. The request would have to come under one of three “headings” of:  *Social Inclusion*  *Mental Health Styles*  *Healthy Lifestyles*  It was felt that almost all of the organisations in the Community might be able to come under one of these titles, however, any funds payable should go into a bank account of that organisations name rather than to a personal bank account. This would be discussed in more detail as and when the applications are received. Cllr. Thomas proposed the grants and this was seconded by Cllr. Ashelby.  **ACTION POINT Cllr. Cousins** |
| **8.** | **Village greens and highways**  There was still no sign of the speed monitoring at the Reynoldston Community Shop and Post Office (RCS) and the Clerk has chased the matter up but as yet had heard nothing. At a previous meeting it had been agreed that the Community Council would pay for the service by City & County of Swansea had offered the service free so the budget allowance had not been taken up. It was agreed that a request be made to ensure the speed monitoring was in place for the Easter holiday period and if required, the Clerk be permitted to pay for the service as previously agreed. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**  Before the Clerk had contacted City & County of Swansea regarding the culverts and gullies in Stouthall Lane, Cllr. Richard Lewis had become involved and the Council had arranged to clear these and the surface water had disappeared. The potholes had not been repaired and as previously reported, this might be completed in three years’ time. The Council thanked Cllr. Lewis for arranging the work. The Clerk reminded the Councillors that any resident can report the state of the potholes to City & County of Swansea and they should come out and repair them as soon as possible.  The Clerk had met with Anthony Griffiths, the secretary to the Commoners regarding the parking are on the Upper Green and also the Culvert at the Reynoldston Community Shop and Post Office (RCS). Mr. Griffiths would report back to the Commoners about the proposed works and asked to be updated once discussions had been held with any contractors. Mr. Griffiths also offered to act on the Council’s behalf with the land agents.  **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**  The Clerk had received communications from an organisation called Elite Haven based in Llansteffen asking to be allowed to quote on any landscaping etc. It was agreed to ask them to also quote on the works.  At the January meeting, it had been asked by a member of the public to arrange for the stream in Robin’s Lane to be cleared mostly of fallen tree debris and generally clear fallen storm damage around the Village.  Cllr. Thomas also asked about general litter picking and it was agreed to hold a “Love Reynoldston” day on Saturday 21st June where a team could clear the debris in the stream. Others could litter pick around the Village etc. The Council asked Cllr. Ashelby if the Chapel was available on that date as it could be used as a base for drinks for all the volunteers. **ACTION POINT Cllr. Ashelby**  The Clerk would liaise with local companies about the removal of the debris etc. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer**  It was agreed to write an article in the Village Reynoldston News as soon as possible and following months to allow residents to “put the date in their diaries”. **ACTION POINT Cllr. Ashelby**  Cllr. Thomas also asked if the Council would purchase some “litter pickers” and hoped residents would accept these and use them as they walked around the Village. The Clerk agreed to investigate the cost which was felt to be minimal and arrange their supply. It was asked to also look for a “child” size picker as it would be good for the children of the Village to be involved. **ACTION POINT Mr P Sizer** |
| **9.** | **Planning applications**  There was one planning application for the property Heathfield to fell some trees on their land**.**  The Council agreed not to object to the application.  The Clerk advised the Council that the LDP2 planning had been published and there were no demands on the Reynoldston Community although there would be some development in Pennard, Ilston and Llanrhidian. |
| **10.** | **Training**  There were no requests for training. |
| **11.** | **Website/Social media/Village Reynoldston News**    The Village Reynoldston News would have details about the grants to small organisations placed in the April issue along with notification of the Love Reynoldston day to reserve the date. |
| **12.** | **Operation of the new Facebook page**  The new Facebook page had been set up by Cllrs. Thomas and Cousins and the Councillors thanked them for their time and efforts. It was agreed to host the agenda on the Facebook page prior to each meeting and a link to the minutes on the website. The Clerk would post the Agendas and the link to the minutes himself after training.  It was agreed that in March, details of grants awarded during 24/25 would be noted on the page.  In April details of the grants for small organisations in the Community would be listed.  In May an article about becoming a Councillor would be posted  In June more details about the Love Reynoldston day would be posted.  **ACTION POINT Cllrs. Cousins and Thomas** |
| **13.** | **Clerk’s update**  The Clerk stated the balance at the bank stood at £17403 and since the last meeting he had paid:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Reynoldston Village Hall for the January meeting | £19.00 | | Mrs Bond (Durabunnies) for the batteries used for the Christmas lights | £96.94 | | Reynoldston Village Hall for the new projector | £3720.00 | | Reynoldston Village Hall for the emails for the Chair and the Clerk for 25/26 | £50.00 | | Reynoldston Village Hall for the Chair’s email address for 24/25 | £20.00 | | Expenses and attendance allowances had been paid to all Councillors (apart from Cllr. Spacie) in the sum of £208.00 each for 24/25 | £1040.00 | |  |  | | Bank Interest received | £14.87 | |  |  |   New payments required to be made include:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Reynoldston Village Hall for this meeting | £19.00 | | One Voice Wales membership for 25/26 | £87.00 | | Clerk’s salary (not yet processed) | C£836.00 | | HMRC for Clerks PAYE & NI (not yet processed)  Clerk’s expenses | C£220.00  C£30.00 |   The Clerk arranged with Cllr. Spacie to pay her expenses and attendance allowance as she was not present at the January meeting. This would be paid as 10/12 of the full year to reflect the period she has been a Councillor.  All the proposed payments were agreed by a proposal from Cllr. Cousins and seconded by Cllr. Thomas  The Clerk had been notified on the morning of the meeting that the new bank accounts had been opened with Nat west Bank and proposed to use these from April onwards.  The Clerk advised that Cllr. Clarke had suggested starting the meetings at 7pm rather than 7.30 but Cllr. Ashelby recommended carrying this to the May meeting when more Councillors would be present.  The Clerk recommended altering the layout of the minutes slightly by adding after each minute point and **ACTION POINT** and adding the name of the Councillor or Clerk to complete the action. This would aid Councillors to ensure they had completed any tasks they had been assigned.  The Clerk advised that Clydach CC had a new Clerk who was very active in contacting other Clerks and was arranging forming a group to assist each other. The Clerk had offered to join this group. |
| **13.** | **AOB**  There was no any other business. |
| **14.** | **Date of next meeting**  The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 13th May 2025 |
|  | The meeting closed at 9.10 |