

**CYNGOR CYMUNED YR YSTOG**  
**CHURCHSTOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
 2 Rows Terrace, Plough Bank, Montgomery, Powys. SY15 6QD

**MINUTES of Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008**  
 at Churchstoke Community Hall at 7.30 p.m.

**1.0 Attendance, Apologies and Declarations of Members' Interests**

Attendance: Cllr D L Powell (Chairman), Cllr B J Davies, Cllr M J Jones, Cllr L D Owen, Cllr D H Payne, Cllr P C Rigg, Cllr B A Rowley, Cllr J Stelmasiak, Cllr V E D Tudor.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr K H J Dowbiggin, Cllr C S Fowles

Declarations of members' interests: Members declared interests as follows:

Agenda Number	Item	Councillor	Nature of Declaration
None			

**2.0 Minutes of Meetings** – to approve and sign the minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Churchstoke Community Hall, as a correct record.

The minutes of the meeting 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**3.0 Matters Arising from Minutes for Information** – to report matters for information arising from minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Churchstoke Community Hall.

**3.1 (6.0) Vacancy in the Office of Community Councillor**

The Clerk reported that the notices of vacancy have been posted to the seven notice boards and to the web site, and that timing and events currently reside with the Deputy Returning Officer.

**3.2 (7.5) Special Responsibility: Green Grants Review Panel**

The Clerk reported that Cllr L D Owen has agreed to serve on the panel.

**3.3 (10.1f) Highways**

Cllr D L Powell reported that on C2193 (Old Churchstoke to Todleth) the overhanging trees have been cut back between Todleth Farm and Rock Ridge.

**3.4 (13a) Cae Camlad Playground bin**

Members thanked Cllr B J Davies for providing the laminated 'no dog waste' sign, which is now in place.

**4.0 Planning Matters:**

**4.1 Powys CC Planning Determinations** – to report recent Powys CC planning determinations

The Clerk reported notification of planning determinations by Powys CC as follows:

Ref.	Site	Powys CC Planning Decision
P20080989	Quarry Garage, Churchstoke	Full planning permission refused

**4.2 Planning Specific Correspondence** – to receive correspondence (if any)

**4.2.1 Planning Portal – Planning Liaison Officer**

The Clerk reported on a letter from Powys CC Planning Services indicating progress towards the electronic planning portal, and requesting information from town and community councils on whether they have email and broadband access, for accessing plans and making comments electronically. Replies are welcomed by 26<sup>th</sup> September. In summary:

- a) Submitting applications on-line – this can already be achieved using the 1APP form (mandatory in Wales from 1<sup>st</sup> October). Applicants may also continue to submit applications in paper form on 1APP form
- b) Viewing plans on-line on – not yet in place. No go-live date set
- c) Consultation on-line – intention to move to on-line consultation only; although it is noted that some means of notifying consultees must be available even if this is not electronic
- d) Submitting consultation comments on-line – can continue on paper form or made electronically, but that all comments will be available for viewing on-line.

Members noted the aims of the portal and expressed concern that:

- e) Powys CC needs to be able to deliver a notice of consultation to consultees who do not have email facilities
- f) If plans are no longer to be circulated in paper form by the county council, it may mean that consultees who wish to circulate plans on paper will need large format printers (which could be expensive in terms of printing equipment). This may not be practical, and defeats one of the points of the exercise
- g) Broadband Internet access will be required in order to view applications and plans, and that ‘dial-up’ access may be too slow to be practical
- h) Consultees (i.e. Members as opposed to the Clerk) will need to have broadband internet access. It would be difficult to view electronic plans actually at a meeting and in the debate. This is accomplished easily under the present arrangements using paper copies
- i) It is not clear in what format the plans will be delivered electronically or what special software is needed.
- j) It may be difficult to deal with plans which arrive on day of a council meeting as electronic plans could not be brought to the meeting for debate
- k) Email
  - o Council: no email account
  - o Members: 9/12 have private email accounts
- l) Broadband Internet
  - o Council: no broadband access, although plan to do so before end of year
  - o Members: 8/12 have private broadband internet access

RESOLVED      *‘that CCC responds to the enquiry with the above points and concerns’*  
Action – Clerk to process

#### 4.3 Planning Appeals – notifications/reports (if any) of Planning Inspectorate Appeals.

The Clerk reported on notification of planning appeals decision as follows:

Plan Ref.	Appeal Ref	Site	Planning Inspectorate Decision
None			

#### 4.4 Planning Applications/Notices – to receive and resolve responses to consultations by Powys CC including –

Ref.	Applicant	Site	Description	rec.
P20081286	Mr & Mrs Shelley, Fishpool Cottage, White Grit	Barn at Fishpool farm, White Grit	Section 73 application for removal of condition no. 9 attached to application M20060531	S
P20081382	Mr R Pugh, RVW Pugh Ltd, Mellington	RVW Pugh Ltd, Mellington	Erection of extension to office/ workshop/ showroom	S

Action – Clerk to process

#### 4.5 Planning Enforcement Appeals – notifications/reports (if any) of Planning Inspectorate Enforcement Appeals.

Ref.	Site	Description
None		

#### 4.5 Planning Enforcement – to report on planning enforcement matters within the community.

The Chairman invited Members to bring forward planning enforcement matters for discussion. Members discussed enforcement matters as follows –

Ref.	Site	Description
M20050963	Land opp. Cwm Chapel, Mellington	The shed erected at the pump is still present although retrospective planning permission had been refused.
The Clerk reported on a reply from Powys CC Planning Enforcement Office stating that the owner had six months to dismantle (which has now expired), and that enforcement section are pursuing removal of the shed.		
M20071240	Middle Alport	Erection of shed at side of property
The Clerk reported on a reply from Powys CC Planning Enforcement Office stating that application M20071240 was withdrawn and that the previous (granted) application M20050565 retains permitted development rights. This means that erection of this particular shed does not need planning permission. Planning officers supplied a useful planning guide booklet which summarises circumstances in which planning applications is (and is not) needed. Members asked the Clerk to endeavour to obtain a copy of the booklet for each member of the council.		
Action – Clerk to process		

#### 5.0 One Voice Wales / Society of Local Council Clerks, Guidance Notes – to receive reports of AGM / conference / area meetings / guidance notes / correspondence.

a) OVW – Conference Update

CCC received, for information, the five motions for debate at the AGM. Noted.

b) Montgomeryshire Area Committee Special Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September

CCC received, formal notice and agenda of the meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm, Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, where the guest speakers were from Powys Local Health Board, and Welsh Ambulance Service. Noted

c) SLCC – One Day Regional Conference 8<sup>th</sup> September

The Clerk reported that due to clash of events, he was unable to attend the one-day conference, and has obtained full refund of conference fees. Noted.

d) SLCC – Powys Branch Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> September

The Clerk reported on attendance at the branch meeting in Brecon. One matter of concern expressed by Clerks present was the move to electronic planning applications (referenced to in item 4.2 above) and that many Clerks would find it difficult to serve their councils effectively unless councils acquired large size printers or all Members have broadband access. Noted.

**6.0 Consultation by Powys CC: Proposed Changes to the Registration Service in Powys**

– to resolve a response, if desired, to the consultation (previously circulated).

The Chairman referred Members to the consultation documents and questionnaire on proposals to combine the eight registration districts onto one district, which will enable members of the public to use any of the registration offices in the county from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. The Clerk indicated that the questionnaire was not easily suitable for making a council collective response as many of the questions are aimed at individuals.

RESOLVED *‘CCC asks the Chairman to make the individual responses, and that CCC adds a collective view that it broadly welcomes the increased flexibility offered by a move to a single registration district, on the proviso that this does NOT result in a closure or downgrading of local offices.’*

Action – Clerk & Chairman  
to process

**7.0 Future Projects**

7.1 Garden Allotments – to further consider whether/how to proceed with a garden allotments project (discussion document previously circulated).

The Chairman reminded Members of earlier commitments to gauge public interest, and of the progress with gathering information for an allotment project undertaken by then Cllr A R Stephens.

RESOLVED *‘that Members with Special Responsibility for Allotments will meet to prepare a draft plan for implementation of allotments, and report to November meeting’.*

Action – Allotments group  
with Clerk

7.2 Village Green at Hyssington – to further consider whether/how to protect the area known as the Village Green at Hyssington.

The Chairman reminded Members of their wish to discuss whether/how to protect the area known as ‘village green’ Hyssington village and on initial enquiries made with the Land Registry on ownership of land. Members were of the view that CCC will proceed to protect the area known as Village Green. The Clerk recommended that a project plan is prepared before committing or embarking on a project, so that Council is aware of the implications (financial and organisational) in advance.

RESOLVED *‘that CCC wishes to proceed to protect the area know as Village Green in Hyssington, contingent on consideration of a draft project plan’.*

Action – Clerk to prepare

7.3 Cross Likey Green Space – to further consider whether/how to pursue a project.

The Chairman reminded Members of their wish to discuss whether/how better use could be made of the Powys CC owned open green space at Cross Likey.

RESOLVED *'that CCC writes to Powys CC to request levelling and maintenance of the land to make it into a useful recreational and play area'.*

Action – Clerk to process

7.4 Affordable Homes Scheme – to further consider whether/how to pursue a project.

The Chairman reminded Members of their wish to discuss whether/how to develop Affordable Housing in the community, and on initial enquiries made with the Land Registry on ownership of land.

RESOLVED *'that CCC does not proceed with this matter at present, and prefers to focus on other projects for allotments, land at Hyssington, and land at Cross Likey'.*

## 8.0 Financial Report:

8.1 Items received since last meeting – to report.

The Clerk reported on income received since the last meeting as follows:

Payer	Description	£
E R D Corfield & Sons	Cemetery burial & excl. right fees (plot 456)	200.00
M&G	Charibond dividend May-Jul 2008	1.90
Powys County Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment precept & recreation grant	6,212.22
Powys County Council	Cemetery NNDR refund	502.70
Powys County Council	Waste recycling proceeds Apr-Jun 2008	824.93

8.2 Items for payment – as follows:

RESOLVED *'CCC authorises payments as follows':*

cheque	Payee	Description	£ inc. vat
<i>To authorise items for payment:</i>			
456	Mr K Newton	Wasp control at bowling club	20.00
457	WPG Ltd	Web site hosting Sept 08-Sept 09	99.88
<i>To report items previously authorised to be paid by direct debit or standing order:</i>			
St.Ord	E J Humphreys	Clerk's salary Sep 2008	373.58

Action – Clerk to process

8.3 Consolidated balances at 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008 after sweep, receipts & payments – to report.

The Clerk reported on gross, ring-fenced funds, & net available balances as follows:

Item	Reserve account £	Current account £
Gross balances	33,265.23	506.54
Less ring-fenced funds	9,925.23	0.00
Net balances available	23,340.00	506.54

## 9.0 Highways and Rights of Way Reports:

9.1 Highways and Rights of Way report from Powys/Shropshire CC to CCC – to report.

The Clerk reported on replies/correspondence from Powys CC/Shropshire CC

- a) C2055 (Hall Bank): trees overhanging onto the carriageway near 'Sunnyside', at the top of hall bank. Powys CC states that it will approach the landowner to ask for attention to be given to the trees.

- b) C2056 (Hyssington Village): village name signs at both ends of the village are damaged. Powys CC states that the matter will be attended to.
- c) C2009/A488 (Llan Turn); missing pointer sign for Hyssington Village. No reply received.

9.2 Highways and Rights of Way report from CCC to Powys CC/Shropshire CC – to report.

- a) Cllr V E D Tudor: C2056 (Hyssington Village) – overhanging trees near Efail Hen and the Methodist Chapel (known as Blacksmith Bank) when entering the village from the south off C2009
- b) Cllr J Stelmasiak: A489 (past near Snead Turn for Heblands) – deep potholes and surface damage
- c) Cllr B J Davies: requested that CCC enquire with Powys CC as to process for dealing with badger or fox carcasses found on the highway

Action – Clerk to process

**10.0 County Council Matters** – to receive and discuss other general Powys CC, Shropshire CC, and South Shropshire DC matters

- a) Powys CC: Cllr M J Jones reported,
  - Street Lighting: that the switch off of 60% lighting in Churchstoke and Hyssington areas will begin around 29<sup>th</sup> October. The measure is intended as a cost saving of £220,000 pa (equivalent to 0.5% of council tax)
  - Budgets: Powys CC has a predicted overspend, but a 0% grant increase from Welsh Assembly Government, giving a budget gap of £5-12m for the current year. Powys CC aims to meet this through efficiencies, which could mean job losses.
- b) South Shropshire DC:
  - No report.

**11.0 Correspondence** – to receive other items of general correspondence.

11.1 Powys CC – Head of Legal, Scrutiny & Democratic Services

Re: Town & Community Council representative to the Community Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee

Council received nomination for election of one Town & Community Council representative to the Community Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee, with ballot papers to be returned by 4pm on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Noted.

11.2 Powys CC – Senior Manager Highways & Transportation

Re: Clarification on recent changes in Street Lighting provision

Council received clarification of earlier correspondence that non-core areas will have 67% of street lighting turned off completely (2 in every 3 lights). Noted.

11.3 Dyfed-Powys police Authority – PR & Marketing Manager Powys CC –

Re: Open day at Headquarters

Council received invitation to attend the open day at police HQ, Llangunmor, Carmarthenshire on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am to 4.00pm. Noted.

11.4 Various other correspondences tabled:

- a) Powys CC – map indicating locations of BT Payphones marked for closure/retention. CCC agreed that it has already given its view on closure (August 2008 meeting) and does not wish to add further comment.
- b) Mick Bates AM – copy of his response to BT Liaison Officer, to the consultation on rationalisation/closure of BT Payphones. Noted.
- c) Montgomeryshire Liberal Democrats – information on open meeting on Wind Farms 11<sup>th</sup> September, Welshpool. Noted.
- d) Powys Provincial Eisteddfod – invitation to join the procession and attend the opening ceremony at the Gorsedd Circle, Severn Road, Welshpool on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 2.15pm. Noted.
- e) Llanidloes 2008 Green Fair publicity information for the Fair 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> October at Llanidloes, where the focus will be on Sustainable Lifestyles & Renewable Energy. Noted.

### **11.0 Chairman’s Announcements & Date of Next Business Meeting**

- a) Chairman – reminded members of the Green Grants and Budget panels that both panels need to meet prior to issue of the October agenda
- b) Cllr V E D Tudor – on behalf of Cllr K H J Dowbiggin asked whether, in the interests of cost savings, the school playground could be included in the CCC request for an annual RoSPA inspection. The Clerk informed that the annual invitation usually comes via the county council at a fixed cost of approx £50.00 per site.
- c) Cllr V E D Tudor – on behalf of Cllr K H J Dowbiggin, informed CCC that a child has suffered a broken arm whilst playing on the ‘monkey bars’ play equipment at Cae Camlad playground. Members noted that RoSPA inspections are undertaken annually to help inform CCC of maintenance needed on play equipment.
- d) Cllr J Stelmasiak – whether CCC can enquire of the county council as to intentions for recycling household food waste (especially in view of the facts that the collections vans pass through Churchstoke village enroute to the Bishops Castle recycling site)  
Action – Clerk to enquire
- e) Cllr B A Rowley – reported that more trade refuse bags are needed for the Cemetery  
Action – Clerk to purchase
- f) Clerk – reminded members that a councillor is needed to post notices to the Snead notice board. Cllr L D Owen volunteered to take responsibility.

Next business meeting: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008, 7:30 p.m. at Churchstoke.

Meeting ended 9.35 p.m.