

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

MINUTES of Meeting on 28th November 2007
 at Hyssington Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

1.0 Attendance, Apologies and Declarations of Members' Interests

Attendance: Cllr E Evans (Chairman), Cllr Mrs B J Davies, Cllr G F Griffiths, Cllr M J Jones, Cllr D H Latimer, Cllr D L Powell, Cllr P A Rees, Cllr Mrs B A Rowley, Cllr Mrs A R Stephens.

The Chairman welcomed members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr D A Paterson.

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

Agenda Number	Item	Councillor	Nature of Declaration
4.4	Planning Applications/Notices	M J Jones	Member of Powys CC Mont. Planning Committee (decision role)

2.0 Minutes of Meetings – to approve and sign the minutes of 24th October 2007 at Churchstoke Community Hall, as a correct record

The minutes of the meeting 24th October 2007 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 24th October 2007 at Churchstoke Community Hall

None.

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
M20070763	The Drewin Farm, Churchstoke	Full planning permission granted
M20070797	Syringas, Churchstoke	Full planning permission refused
M20070901	Bronwen, Churchstoke	Full planning permission granted
M20070938	Jacobs Barn, White Grit	Full planning permission granted

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

4.2.1 Powys County Council – Head of Planning Services

Re: UDP proposed modifications & related documents Nov 2007

Council received a letter and consultation documents on CD, informing that following the Inspector's Report of Inquiry into objections to the UDP, the statutory consultation period runs from 12th November 2007 to 2nd January 2008 on the following documents:

- Proposed modifications to the UDP, including those recommended by the Inspector and accepted by the County Council
- Sustainability appraisal and environmental addendum

- List of inspector's recommendations that the county council does not intend to accept.

Responses relating to the above consultation documents must be made no later than 2nd January in writing using the standard forms. The documents can also be accessed online at www.powys.gov.uk.

Members asked the Clerk to identify where the Inspector's recommendations (accepted or rejected by the County Council) are contrary to CCC's submissions and that these are brought to the December meeting.

Action – for December meeting

4.2.2 Powys County Council – Planning Liaison Officer.

Re: Weekly Planning Register

Council received a letter informing that in the interests of economy, from the beginning of 2008 the paper copy of the register will no longer be issued. The register will be available in electronic form by email or on the Internet at www.powys.gov.uk/planningregisters.
Noted.

4.2.3 Powys County Council – Planning Liaison Officer.

Re: Autumn Planning Liaison Meeting

Council received an invitation to the Autumn Planning Liaison Meeting on 28th November, 7pm, at Neuadd Maldwyn, Welshpool. Members noted the clash of dates with this community council meeting and that CCC would not attend.

4.2.4 Powys County Council – Planning Policy Officer.

Re: Designing Energy Efficient Developments in Powys

Council received an acknowledgement of its response to the draft interim development control guidance 'Designing Energy Efficient Developments', and notification that the implementation date for development control use is 1st January 2008. Noted.

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 –

Declarations of Members' Interests: Members declared interests as follows,

- All applications – Cllr M J Jones, having earlier declared an interest as a member of Powys CC Montgomeryshire Planning Authority (decision role), refrained from discussion or voting.

RESOLVED: *'to respond to consultation on applications as follows':*

Ref.	Applicant	Site	Description	rec.
<i>New Applications</i>				
M20071006	Mr & Mrs S Hayes, Weston Hill, Montgomery	Weston Hill, Montgomery	Erection of a porch and external alterations	S
M20071074	Mr G Griffiths, 23 Cae Camlad, Churchstoke	Quarry Garage, Churchstoke	Erection of dwelling house, installation of septic tank and construction of new access	N*

***M20071074** – CCC reported that although the application is classed as a ‘full application’, there appeared to be an absence of full plans in respect that the application contained a site map but no detailed design drawings and sewerage arrangements. CCC did not feel it had enough information to either support or object, and can only note the application.

CCC also noted that although the application is outside the village development boundary, the applicant has taken commendable effort to overcome the access problems of previous application, and which will enhance the HGV operating centre and the economic and job opportunities it provides.

Action – Clerk to process

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

Ref.	Site	Description
None		

4.6 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
None	Maes Chwarae development site adj. Tudor Rose	Height of raised levels and infilled ditches giving rise to drainage problems

The Clerk reported that CCC is still awaiting a response from Powys CC. Cllr D L Powell reported that the residents of Tudor Rose would like to thank CCC for its correspondence to Powys CC on the matter.

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

5.1 One Voice Wales – Chief Executive

a) AGM translation arrangements

Council received a response to CCC’s comments regarding the inadequate translation arrangements at the AGM. OVW acknowledges the difficulties and frustrations caused by failure of the equipment and assures councils that translation arrangements will be a primary factor when deciding the venue of next year’s conference. CCC agreed that the response was unsatisfactory and

RESOLVED *‘to write to OVW to request that contingency arrangements are set out in advance, and recommended that in the event of failure of translation equipment that the debate / meeting would continue in the language decided by majority’.*

Action – Clerk to process

b) Maldwyn Committee in Churchstoke

Council received an acknowledgement of CCC's invitation to hold a meeting of the Maldwyn Committee in Churchstoke, and that OVW will be in touch to make arrangements.

c) Conference 2007

Council received feedback and papers from the Annual Conference 13th October, where 200 delegates attended and 130 councils were represented. OVW indicates that a larger venue will be sought for next year and that attention will be paid to ensuring translation facilities are provided.

d) 2007-08 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks

Council received notification of that agreement has been reached at National Joint Council for the 2.47% award effective from 1st April 2007. The Clerk will bring forward calculations for the December meeting.

Action – for December meeting

5.2 One Voice Wales – Development Officer

a) Special Meeting on Powys Community Strategy Review

Council received an invitation to a meeting arranged jointly by OVW and Powys CC to present and discuss the review of the Powys Community Strategy, on 21st November, 7pm, Neuadd Maldwyn, Welshpool. Cllr B J Davies attended, deputising for Chairman and Vice-chairman, and reported that:

- The Strategy has not made much progress via the community forums
- Town and Community Councils seemed disillusioned with and disengaged from the process
- There appeared to be are no funds specifically to implement the strategy, even though it is a statutory requirement placed on Unitary Authorities
- Documents were unwieldy and difficult to absorb
- Following the review, that Powys CC will lead.

Noted.

b) Minutes of Maldwyn Committee 10th October 2007

Council received minutes of 10th October. The Clerk brought Members' attention to the fact that for the 1st May elections the minimum age for councillors will be reduced from 21 to 18. Noted.

5.3 Society of Local Council Clerks

- a) The Clerk reported on attendance as a day delegate at the National Annual Conference and AGM at Coventry on Saturday 27th October. The day was felt to be of good benefit to the work of clerks, and recommended that CCC consider funding regular attendance at the national and regional conferences in future.
- b) The Clerk reported on attendance at the Powys Branch meeting on Saturday 10th November where a presentation was given by a guest speaker from AON Insurance.

6.0 BMX Area – to report on demolition, and to discuss the future use of the site.

The Chairman reported that the site has been demolished as requisitioned, and invited Members to consider what future use could be made of the site. Members noted the good demolition work undertaken by Colley Construction as per requisition.

7.0 First Time Sewerage Scheme at White Grit – to report progress by Environment Agency on the survey report and their discussions with Powys CC, and to make arrangements to meet the Agency / PCC to receive feedback.

Members received the summary report from the Environment Agency re. the survey undertaken between November 2006 and July 2007 and commended the clear and straightforward nature of the report. The survey revealed that of 55 properties visited, that 15 had identifiable problems. The most common issue found was septic tank effluent entering a watercourse causing pollution and odour problems. The Clerk reported that officers from both the Agency and Powys CC are able to attend the January meeting to discuss the finding first hand and to advise on Section 101a applications. Members agreed to submit specific questions via the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Action – for January meeting

8.0 Consultation by Welsh Assembly Government on ‘A Shared Community, building charters for unitary authorities and community and town councils’ – to resolve a response, if desired, to the document (previously circulated).

The Chairman reminded Members of the consultation document. Members noted that charters will lay a fundamental platform for working with unitary authorities and other bodies, and may set the terms of reference for many years ahead.

RESOLVED *‘to respond as follows:*

- *The document is to be commended for formalising much of what already happens*
- *Whilst the case studies are interesting, the real substance of the report is the Model Charter*
- *Clustering of small groups of community and town councils needs to be tackled with care and consideration as in practice that may make for slow progress*
- *The emphasis of training for councillors is excellent and attention needs to be given to ensure it actually happens’.*

Action – Clerk to process

9.0 Consultation by Powys CC on draft Open Spaces Strategy 2007-2012 – to resolve a response, if desired, to the draft strategy (previously circulated).

The Chairman reminded Members of the consultation document. Members discussed the draft strategy and noted that there is little reference to the proliferation of small open spaces in villages, nor to registered village greens.

RESOLVED *‘to respond as follows:*

- *CCC welcomes the development of the strategy as means of setting an overarching and standard direction for open spaces*
- *The strategy could be strengthened by including reference to village greens and other wide spaces (wider than the usual road verges)*
- *It is noted that there seems to be limited scope to improve open spaces and that this has to be achieved using existing resources and services*
- *It is noted that there is existing inconsistency in standards applied to various areas and the strategy is a welcome move towards addressing this*

- *It is noted that the main front line public issue identified is dog fouling, but CCC is surprised that there is no reference to public disputes and ways of the resolving disputes around open spaces’.*

Action – Clerk to process

10.0 Consultation by Powys CC on draft Secondary Schools Modernisation Policy – to resolve a response, if desired, to the draft policy and strategic review (previously circulated).

The Chairman reminded Members of the consultation document. Members discussed the draft policy and,

RESOLVED *‘to respond as follows:*

- *CCC notes in particular the references to ‘catchment areas’ in the report and urges that Churchstoke is retained in the Welshpool catchment area*
- *CCC would wish to see the sixth form presence retained at Welshpool*
- *CCC sees the potential for cross border education migration to England if there is a downgrading of provision at Welshpool, and would not wish to see a risk to the future of the Welsh Language locally and Welsh Language education as a result’.*

Action – Clerk to process

11.0 Consultation by Dyfed Powys Police Authority on Annual Policing Plan 2008-2009– to receive and resolve a response on CCC’s view as to suitable local policing priorities (previously circulated).

The Clerk reported on notification that the authority is now setting out the annual policing plan for 2008-2009 and is inviting CCC to submit its top priorities as local objectives for inclusion. Replies requested by 24th November. Members discussed the priorities and,

RESOLVED *‘CCC wishes to request local policing priorities as follows:*

- *To maintain the momentum recently established with the PACT initiative, by ensuring a visible presence and profile in the local community*
- *To maintain the momentum recently established with the PACT initiative, by making use of community support officers as a way of addressing police matters local and in the community*
- *To augment the two local matters above by using local contact numbers direct and dedicated to local police stations as they are an important element in making local policing work’.*

Action – Clerk to process

12.0 Dates of Meetings – to resolve on proposed dates of meetings for 2008 (previously circulated).

The Clerk presented the proposed dates for CCC meetings in 2008.

RESOLVED *‘to set the dates for 2008 as presented (the dates to be set out in the appendix to these minutes)’.*

Action – Clerk to process

13.0 Future Projects – to receive and discuss Members’ ideas and views on possible future projects, and to discuss the way forward with these ideas and views.

The Chairman invited Members to bring forward ideas for future projects for discussion, and indicated that these could set the broad way forward for CCC business. Members were also asked to consider how projects could be managed and funded. Initial ideas included:

- Use of the green space at Cross Likey
- Allotments at the millennium field extension
- Use of existing village greens
- Registration of village greens such as the Hyssington triangle
- Promotion of village events

Action – for December meeting

14.0 Financial Report

14.1 Financial Year 2006-2007 – to report and approve conclusion of external audit

The Clerk reported on conclusion of external audit for financial year 2006-2007, and that there are no matters raised by the auditor. The Notice of Completion of Audit and Annual Return will be displayed on notice boards for a period of 14 days.

RESOLVED *‘to approve and accept the Annual Return following completion of external audit’.*

Action – for notice boards

14.2 Financial Year 2008-2009 – to receive appeals for financial assistance

The Clerk reported on financial appeals received during the year as follows,

- Bobarth Children’s Therapy Centre Wales
- British Heart Foundation
- Childline Cymru
- Dyfed Powys Crime Prevention Trust Bobby Van Scheme
- Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2008 (Cardiff)
- Hope Hose Children’s Hospice
- Powys Citizens Advice Bureau
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru Eisteddfod 2008 (Conwy)

Noted.

14.3 Items received since last meeting – to report.

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

Payer	Description	£
None		Nil

14.4 Items for payment this meeting – to authorise items for payment, including as follows,

cheque	Payee	Description	£ inc. vat
422	Severn Waste Disposal	Emptying soak-away chambers	123.38
423	Colley Construction	Dismantle & take away at BMX	1,410.00
424	E J Humphreys	BT Openworld dial up Jul-Sep’07	5.79
425	Royal British Legion	Poppy Appeal 2007	25.00
St.Ord	E J Humphreys	Clerk’s salary Nov 2007	364.57

Action – Clerk to process

14.5 Consolidated balances at 28th Nov 2007 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	24,213.63	500.00
Less ring-fenced funds	6,127.38	0.00
Net balances available	18,086.25	500.00

15.0 Highways and Rights of Way Reports

15.1 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) speeding traffic through village, and the suggestion of placing more 30mph repeater signs or tarmac markings. Powys CC states that the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Direction 2002 states that repeater signs should not be used within 30mph or street lit area, but that traffic monitoring equipment will be installed as soon as resources allow. Members asked the Clerk to enquire as to the possible use of road reminder markings, and speed activated warning signs

Action – Clerk to process

- b) U2696 Pentrenant to Pen-y-cwm – poor surface with deep potholes making passage of vehicles very difficult. Powys CC states that work orders have been issued to be undertaken within the next two months.
- c) U2708 Stone House lane - poor surface with deep potholes making passage of vehicles very difficult. Powys CC states that work orders have been issued to be undertaken within the next two months
- d) C2151 between Bacheldre and Pentrenant – reminder of CCC's April report and that the various potholes are still not filled. Powys CC states that outstanding works have been completed but another works order has been issued to deal with some minor surface problems.

15.2 Highways and Rights of Way report from CCC to Powys CC – to report

- a) Cllr B J Davies – reported that there are a large number of vehicles being parked at Cross Likey particularly at night, giving rise to concern that emergency vehicles may not be able to gain easy access to manoeuvre to incidents quickly
- b) Cllr P A Rees – B4385 between RVW Pugh and entrance to Mellington Hall: standing water indicating lack of, or blocked, road drainage
- c) Cllr D L Powell – reported information direct from the gully emptying workforce that gullies are emptied where there are sumps, and jetted clear where that are no sumps.

Action – Clerk to process (a-b)

16.0 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:
 - A disappointing budget settlement (1%) from WAG which is likely to have serious implications for funding services, and that Powys CC officers are working on budget calculations.
- b) South Shropshire DC:
 - No report.

17.0 Correspondence – to receive other items of general correspondence.

17.1 Powys County Council – Shire Highways Engineer, Montgomeryshire

Re: Coed Lane, Churchstoke

Council received a letter informing that bags containing dog waste have been dropped down road gullies near Coed Farm and which may have health and safety and flooding implications. Powys CC requests that the issue is raised in whatever way CCC considers appropriate. Members agreed that vigilance and follow up reporting would be appropriate.

17.2 Powys County Council – Principal Officer, Admissions and Transport

Re: Primary School Admissions 2008-09

Council received a letter informing that for the commencement of academic year 2008-09, that the Local Education Authority will be responsible for admissions to primary schools. Information for Parents booklet 2008-09 was also included along with posters for notice boards. Noted

17.3 Powys County Council – Head of Scrutiny, Democratic and Legal services

Re: Community Council Elections 2008

Council received a letter of introductory guidance for the elections in 2008:

- Election day 1st May
- Retirement of existing councillors 5th May
- New councillor come into office 5th May
- Annual Meeting by 19th May
- New code of Conduct is likely to be effective immediately after the elections. Powys CC and One Voice Wales will consider a programme of training
- Costs – approx £1,000 for a contested election, approx £160 uncontested

Noted.

17.4 Welsh Assembly Government – Regeneration Executive

Re: Severn Valley Vision

Council received a letter informing that WAG is working in partnership with Powys CC and Tourism Partnership Mid-Wales and has appointed consultants DTZ to help create a new vision guide to the future prosperity of the Severn valley Town (Llanidloes, Newtown and Welshpool). Views and contributions are welcomed by 21st December. Members agreed that it would be appropriate to raise the matter of the need for a Newtown By-Pass.

17.5 Various correspondences, tabled:

- a) Powys CC – notice of refuse collection dates for Christmas and New Year. Noted.
- b) Powys CC – letter detailing grants paid to village halls by Powys CC for 2007-008, based on contributions by town and community councils in 2006-07. Members asked that the Clerk seek clarity on how the figures had been calculated, as there seemed to be no obvious relationship between the county council grants and the community council contributions.

Action – Clerk to process

- c) Adjudication Panel for Wales – copy of the Annual Report 2006-07. Noted.
- d) Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority – copy of the Risk Reduction Plan 2008-09. Noted.
- e) Montgomeryshire Community Health Council – copy of The Pulse newsletter. Noted.

- f) Bishops Castle & District Community Land Trust – invitation and publicity material for an open meeting of ‘News and Views’ Monday 17th December, 7.30pm, at The Three Tuns, Bishops Castle. Noted.
- g) South Montgomeryshire Volunteer Bureau – survey on voluntary activity undertaken by councillors as part of their CCC work.
Action – Clerk to process
- h) The Ramblers – notice of footpaths training day 1st December, 9:45-15:30, at Plas Dolerw, Newtown. Noted.

18.0 Chairman’s Announcements & Date of Next Meeting

- a) Cllr D L Powell – reported that he has moved to Old Churchstoke and unable to attend to the notice boards at Crosslikey and Tuffins. Cllr B A Rowley volunteered to take on these notice boards.
- b) Clerk – notice that Montgomery Town Council is trying to set up a joint meeting with Churchstoke, Berriew, Abermule and Llandyssil to discuss the cost of community policing. CCC agreed (and in regard to their February decision and the recent PACT initiative) that it does not wish to pursue the matter.

Action – Clerk to reply

Next meeting – Wednesday 19th December 2007, 7:30 p.m. at Churchstoke

Meeting ended 9.45 p.m.

Appendix to Minutes of meeting of CCC on 28th November 2007.

Dates of Community Council Meetings for 2008

Meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Day	Date	Comment
Wed	23/01/2008	at Churchstoke
Wed	27/02/2008	at Churchstoke
Wed	26/03/2008	at Churchstoke
Wed	23/04/2008	at Hyssington
Wed	14/05/2008	at Churchstoke. AGM.
Wed	28/05/2008	at Churchstoke
Wed	25/06/2008	at Churchstoke
Wed	23/07/2008	at Hyssington
Wed	27/08/2008	at Churchstoke. Planning & Finance meeting only
Wed	24/09/2008	at Churchstoke
Wed	29/10/2008	at Churchstoke
Wed	26/11/2008	at Hyssington
Wed	17/12/2008	at Churchstoke

end