MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2020.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this meeting was held remotely.

Present; Cllr, Sheena Duller, Gwyneth Davies, Clare Rooke, Ifan Jones Evans and Christian Pateman.

Also present were Cllr Ifan Davies and PCSO John Evans who joined via telephone.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record.

The clerk informed councillors that he had received an email from Cllr Peter White handing in his resignation as a community councillor. Peter is moving away from the area and their house has been sold. They will be moving away from the area at the end of this month. Councillors wished him well and he will be greatly missed.

The clerk informed the councillors that PCSO John Evans has joined the meeting via telephone to the clerk. It was agreed to listen to PCSO Evans’s report.

PCSO Evans reported that the police had received numerous calls during lockdown regarding visitors coming to the area especially a group from Liverpool who were caught off-roading in the Teifi Pools/Strata Florida area. Councillors informed PCSO Evans that off-road vehicles especially motorcycles had increased in our area also, some being seen on common land beyond Pantglas. PCSO Evans informed the councillors that a team of officers had been set up to deal with illegal off road, he informed the councillors that 4x4 and motorcycles could use green lanes legally but not allowed to use common land. On another note PCSO Evans informed the council that Anti-Social behaviour in the area was extremely low and he had nothing to report from this community.

**Hafod Lower Lodge.**

Councilors asked PCSO Evans if he was aware of the issues at Hafod Lower Lodge, Pontrhydygroes regarding the closure of the gates with chain and padlock. PCSO Evans was aware of the matter but had not had any dealings himself with the problem. The clerk informed PCSO Evans and the councillors that he had received an email from MR Jim Ralph of Natural Resources Wales, (NRW) updating us on the matter. The clerk had forwarded the email to councillors and sent a copy to PCSO Evans and Cllr Ifan Davies also.

There have been issues with access to Hafod through the gate at Hafod Lower Lodge since the Covid-19 lockdown began in March. The gate has been chained and padlocked by the residents of Lower Lodge denying access to the public. The track past the Lower Lodge is also part of the Sustrans cycle routes and a gateway to open access land. There is a dispute over ownership of the track with both NRW and the owners of Lower Lodge claiming it to be theirs. NRW have Land Registry documentation showing the track to be in their ownership.

The residents of Lower Lodge have also parked their car on the track and recently have put barbed wire on to the gate along with other obstructions. They have also moved the Sustrans cycle route sign diverting bicycles up the B4343 to another access to the Hafod Estate. The son of Lower Lodge has also been aggressive towards members of the public who wish to use the track.

The community council have asked NRW to keep them informed with matters as members of the community keep enquiring about the situation.

The latest email was received on the 21/09/2020 from NRW stating that Dyfed Powys Police had been in attendance to assist with the removal of all obstructions to the track.

However, a relation of the owner of Lower Lodge has been in contact with NRW stating that he is the owner of the track. NRW have sent the deed files to him and await a response. Since then the obstructions have been put back and the car is parked on the track restricting access. Currently Ceredigion County Council have been approached about the obstructions, and under CROW and dedicated land they are the responsible authority to deal with this type of issue. NRW solicitors are also dealing with the matter.

**Vacant Seat**

The clerk informed the councillors that Electoral Services Department of Ceredigion Council had said that the community council could now co-opt members of the public on to the council. The clerk was told that Mr Adam Lionel had shown interest in coming back as a councillor. The clerk will approach Mr Lionel before the next meeting. There are still two more seats to fill. Councillors to think of names by the next meeting.

**Bwlchyblaen & Glannant**

Concerns have been raised about the erection of fence posts on the verge between Glannant and Bwlchyblaen. There was a recent incident when the Fire Service were called to a location nearby and had difficulty negotiating through the narrow section of road between the two properties, made narrower with the siting of these posts. Ceredigion County Council are aware of the issue and are dealing with it.

There was no other business, the next meeting will be held in November.