Minutes of the Community Council meeting held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 in the Village Hall.

Present; Cllr’s Gwyneth Davies, Clare Rooke, Alan Wilkinson, Sheena Duller, Ifan Jones Evans, Christian Pateman.

Also present was County Councillor Wyn Evans and two members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllr Amanda Williams.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record, proposed by Cllr Christian Pateman, seconded by Cllr Alan Wilkinson.

Matters Arising,

Public Footpath, The clerk and Cllr Sheena Duller had received an email from a member of the public regarding the footpath that leads from opposite the school down towards the river road. Cllr Duller had got back in touch and gave the contact details of the Rights of Way Officer for the issue to be reported.

Coffee Morning: Now that the coffee morning is established and well supported, the community council has decided to stop paying for the Village Hall hire from September onwards. Members of the coffee morning had been informed of this and were more than happy with the support given until now. The clerk has been in touch with CAVO to ask if there are any grants available to support the coffee mornings.

Financial Report: The clerk reported that he has sent away the audit for 2021-22 to Audit Wales. There is currently £2490.30 in the Reserve Account and £2103.43 in the Current Account.

Code of Conduct; the clerk reported that following the previous meeting with members of the public to discuss the location of the defibrillator in New Row that Cllr Wyn Evans had received a complaint from one of those present about the conduct of a few councillors in the meeting. Following our complaints procedure Councillor Evans and the clerk met with the complainant to discuss the matter. Concerns were raised about the conduct of three councillors in the meeting and the complainant felt the way they had handled themselves in the meeting was against Ceredigion’s Code of Conduct protocols. The clerk asked the complainant if they wished to take the matter further to contact Ceredigion County Council’s monitoring officer and also the Ombudsman if they felt it necessary. However, the clerk mentioned that he would be making a point of going through the Code of Conduct in the next meeting, which is tonight. Code of Conduct is an Agenda item.

Defibrillator: Cllr Christian Pateman reported that he has now installed the green shield over part of the defibrillator in New Row as promised in the previous meeting. To date there has been no further correspondence from the residents.

Vacant Seat: The clerk reported that he had been in touch with Ceredigion Council and there was no interest in the vacant seat. Now another set of posters is to go up on the noticeboards asking anyone interested to contact the clerk and they can be co-opted on to the community council. The closing date for this is the 5th October.

Defibrillator Training: the clerk had organized some defibrillator training in

the Village Hall. Two sessions were held, one in the evening and the other during the coffee morning. Both were well supported with more than 20 people in attendance at both events.

Community Website: The clerk informed the councillors that he has been in discussion with the current host about setting up the new website on a new server. Work has started and the website should be live by October. The annual cost for hosting will be £45.00.

Community Garden: Due to poor weather during the summer months no work was carried out on the community garden. One proposal was to include a small play area in the garden, the clerk has made enquiries with Zurich Insurance and the premium will increase. Also, the equipment will have to be inspected monthly by a qualified person along with a more detailed annual inspection. It was suggested that we re-apply for the National Lottery Awards for All Grant again as we have more evidence of need following the community consultation. Cllr Gwyneth Davies and the clerk to investigate this.

Telecom Mast: There has been no further correspondence with Ceredigion County Council regarding the siting of the mast in Ysbyty Ystwyth. Cllr Ifan jones Evans confirmed that a new site meeting is going ahead due to the protected trees.

St John’s Church: An email from Michael Plane to Cllr Wyn Evans in August confirmed that the land in question did belong to the church and they are able to put the church on the market. Regarding the new car park being built once the church has been sold, the LMA will decide on this if funds are still available to construct a car park. The community councillors felt that they have done as much as they can to assist with this matter.

The clerk reported that he had met with consultants for the National Trust to discuss the 10-year plan they have for Hafod and what the local community would like to see happen. The clerk has received a questionnaire from the consultants for the councillors to fill in. This was done at the end of this meeting along with two members of the public.

Bus Timetables: Cllr Wyn Evans reported that Ceredigion County Council were reducing their bus services. One of the reasons for this is a shortage of bus drivers, and not many bus companies tendering for the routes.

Cllr Wyn Evans reported that the C115 from Pontrhydygroes will be re-opening on the 3rd of October after repair work has been completed.

Code of Conduct; The clerk gave out new copies of the code of conduct to the councillors and took time to go through the Code and explain in detail what the councilors’ roles and responsibilities were and how to conduct themselves not only in meetings but in public as well.

There was no other business. Next meeting in October