

Aberedw Community Council

Clerk Mr G E Jones, Bracken Lodge, Aberedw, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SQ
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held via Zoom on Monday 15th March 2021.

1. **Present :-** Cllr's R Samuel (Chair), P Hope, G Jones (Acting Clerk)
2. **In Attendance :-** None
3. **Apologies for Absence –** Cllr M. MacKenzie, Cllr A Lewis
4. **Minutes of Meeting held on 16th November 2020 –** were accepted as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising from last meeting:-** No Matters arising were raised by members.
6. **Planning Issues:-** The Clerk reported that no planning issues had been raised or were outstanding for the council area.
7. **Fibre broadband Pilot project.** Members noted and supported the content of the draft letter to be sent to the households and businesses in the Aberedw and Glaschw areas in respect to Aberedw being chosen to be a pilot area for the roll out of superfast fibre broadband in the area.

It was noted that many households and businesses in the area currently had extremely limited internet connection and members supported the proposal that all households should be encouraged to initially sign up to the project, to ensure accessibility for all.
8. **Other Correspondence & Meetings attended**
 - a. **Letter received re revised external audit cycle to be followed by Audit Wales.** The Clerk informed members that the responsibility for the external audits had been taken over by Audit Wales and they would be undertaking a full audit every three years. He informed members that Aberedw CC would be subject to a full audit for the 2021-22 Accounts in 2022.
 - b. **Code of Conduct for Members of Local Councils –** The members agreed to adopt the modal Code of Conduct policies and procedures.
 - c. **Dog mess in Village –** The members noted that the Clerk had placed some notices along the road in the village, following the receipt of complaints about dog mess not being cleaned up, by their owners, in the village.

The Clerk informed members that he had reported this issues to Powys CC and is now in the hands of the Environmental Health Officers of the County Council.
 - d. **Road leading up to Upper Blaenmilo –** Members considered and discussed the communication the Clerk had received from Powys County Council in respect to the road running from the village up to Upper Blaenmilo. The following comments and required actions were agreed:-

- i. Members welcomed the work that had already been undertaken and that planned for the next month by the County Council. **It was also agreed that the condition of the road surface should be further reviewed before the next meeting.**
 - ii. Members noted the comment by the Highways engineer that the road from the junction with the “B” road as not being suitable for a lorry, members also commented that clearly lorry’s will have to travel up both the roads running up the respective valley’s from the junction by the phone box to service the many farms. Members expressed concerns in respect to the H&S issues arising from the drops in the verge either side of the road just past the turn for the Rhysgog. **It was agreed that the Clerk should discuss this issue with Cllr MacKenzie and representatives from Powys CC, if required, and report back to the next council meeting.**

- e. **Governance and accountability, a practitioners guide.** The Clerk informed members that he has an electronic copy of this document if any members wished to be sent a copy.
- f. **Summary of Key provisions of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for the Community and Town Council Sector.** The members noted the receipt of this document.
- g. **One voice Wales Finance and Legal Training** – The Clerk informed members that he had attended 3 on-line training sessions in respect to Finance and Legal responsibilities of Town and Community Councils.
- h. **Various planning List Notifications** – The Clerk informed members that he had received several lists of planning decisions made since the last meeting. It was noted that there were no decisions made affecting our community.
- i. **Review of the remuneration framework for Community and Town Councils** – The receipt of this document was noted.
- j. **Section 137 letter to Community Councils** – The clerk explained to members that this document outlined the level of expenditure that the council could spend on any agreed area has been set at £8.41 per elector on the electoral roll for 2021-22. With just over 200 voters on the register, this would allow the Council to spend up to £1,700 to be spent under this section per annum.
- k. **Various notifications received from Powys CC, Welsh Government and Powys Teaching Health Board re the COVID-19 Pandemic and actions taken.** Members noted the receipt of relevant documents circulated by the clerk over the last 4 months.

9. Finance Issues

- a. **Update re audit of accounts** – The clerk informed members that the Council had received a **Qualified Audit in respect of the 2019-20**, due to some shoddy reporting on his part. He apologised to the members for this and assured them that this would not happen for the audit of the 2020-21 accounts.
- b. **Risk Register & Public Liability Insurance** – Following a discussion Members agreed that the council had an exceptionally low level of risk which amounted to:
 - i. personal Injury while attending meetings on behalf of the Council,
 - ii. members of the public being injured while attending meetings of the Council,
 - iii. personal injury caused by accidents caused by one of the three notice boards,
 - iv. and potential theft of monies from the account.

The clerk also informed members that following his attendance at a One Voice Wales Finance Training course, where he was informed that all Council's must have public liability Insurance that he had taken out a Public Liability Insurance Policy on behalf of the Council through Caleb Roberts. **Members supported the clerk in his actions around arranging the policy.**

- c. **To consider a request from the Aberedw Church Hall for Financial Support.** Members were informed by the Clerk that the Church Hall, due to not being on the NNDR list or run as a separate charity / company, had not received any COVID – 19 related grants from the County Council or Welsh Government and that he had received an e-mail from the Treasurer of the Church Hall asking if the Community Council would consider providing some financial support to the hall. **It was agreed that the council should provide a grant of £300 to the running costs of the Hall.**
- d. **Proposal to establish a specific reserve in respect of Election expenses of £2,500.** Members noted that the 2019-20 Audit report had stated that the level of general reserves held by the council were excessive, it was also noted that this level was being held due to the potential cost (up to £2,500 or above) that would be incurred if the council had a contested election at or prior to the 2022 Local Government Elections. Members were informed by the Clerk that the Council could split its reserves into General and Specific reserves. **Following a discussion members agreed that the Clerk and SFO should establish a Specific Reserve in the Accounts in relation to Election Costs in the 2020-21 accounts and that the reserve should initially be set at the level of £2,500.**
- e. **To receive the draft outturn position for the 2020-21 year and to discuss the 2021-22 draft budget** - Following a discussion members approved the draft outturn figures for 2020-21 and the three year budget plan commencing 1st April 2021. Members noted that the plan included a proposed increase in the planned precept of £300 per annum commencing in the year beginning on 1st April 2022.

Members also authorised the clerk to pay the 2021-22 One Voice Wales Subscription Fee of £44.

- f. **To agree the roles and responsibilities for the Internal Auditor** – Members approved the draft letter to Miss D Rees, Internal Auditor, outlining the required roles and responsibilities the council wished her to undertake for the current years internal Audit.

10. Any other business. – No other business was raised by members.

11. Members confirmed the following dates for the Council's meetings for the 2021-22 year:-

- a. **Monday 10th May 2021 at 7pm (AGM)**
- b. **Monday 14th June 2021 at 7pm**
- c. **Monday 26th July 2021 at 7pm**
- d. **Monday 27th September 2021 at 7pm**
- e. **Monday 29th November 2021 at 7pm**
- f. **Monday 28th February 2022 at 7pm**

All meetings to be held in or outside the Church Hall

The chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.