

CYNGOR CYMUNED DINAS POWYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Full Council

Minutes of Meeting

Virtual Meeting

01 January 2021, at 6.30pm

Present:

Cllr R Grigg (Chair)
Cllr R Crowley (Vice Chair)
Cllr S Griffiths
Cllr A Asbrey
Cllr J Fanshaw
Cllr K Hatton
Cllr M Pratt

Cllr V Driscoll
Cllr C Franks
Cllr S Kear-Smith
Cllr S Thomas
Cllr E Jenkins
Cllr A Robertson
Cllr R Williams

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr M Hartrey

Cllr J Barker

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr S Griffiths declared an interest as his home was impacted by the flood;
Cllr R Crowley declared an interest as his daughter's home was impacted by the flood.

3. Also in attendance

Jane Hutt MS
Tim Marshall (NRW)

Alun Cairns MP
Members of the Public

4. To Consider the Provision of Support to Victims of the Recent Flooding in Dinas Powys

Cllr R Grigg opened the meeting, thanking everybody for attending, particularly as it was a bank holiday.
He went on to provide an introduction to the situation and read out a letter from County Cllr L Burnett, who was unable to attend the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to seek approval from Council to set up a fund to assist recovery. He went on to propose that the Chairman's Allowance for this year (2020-21) be put into the fund as well as the remainder of this year's grant allocation.

There was also the suggestion that the Just Giving page, set up by a local resident, may be added to the recovery fund.

It is understood that the Dinas Powys Rotary Club and the SDPW group may make a donation to the fund.

The fund would be administered by Dinas Powys Community Council.

Support

Both Jane Hutt MS and Alun Cairns MP stated that they would assist in any way they could, ensuring organisations such as NRW, Welsh Water and Vale of Glamorgan Council investigate the causes of the flooding which were felt to be unusual in the speed of which the waters arrived and receded.

They also offered to assist and supporting individuals in navigating the bureaucracy of receiving support from other organisations.

There was particular concern for those that had no contents insurance.

Tim Marshall (NRW) echoed the sentiments of Jane Hutt & Alun Cairns, stating that NRW stands ready to support.

Public Participation

- a) Members of the public were invited to contribute. Salient points are identified as:
- b) There is no Local Flood management Plan; there was no help on the day from bodies that should be able to assist;
- c) Sand bags were very limited in availability; getting out by car to collect them was impossible;
- d) There are pockets within the affected community where there is a high proportion of elderly and vulnerable individuals;
- e) Lots of development has taken place in recent years without the equivalent capacity being built into infrastructure;
- f) Any flood prevention scheme needs to consider the wider area – all roads around Dinas Powys were affected and it was impossible to get into the village.
- g) The flood alert warning was too short to enable most people to respond effectively;
- h) The speed with which the water built up and then receded surprised many, leaving them questioning if there was an outlet blocked, or a barricade in the river downstream;
- i) There are concerns that the level of risk vs cost to solve flooding problem will lead to inaction;
- j) The river bank in the vicinity of St Lythan's Close is collapsing. This was reported some months ago and there has been no remedial action undertaken to date.
- k) It was suggested that a report produced by a group of 4 local retired civil engineers looking at Natural Flood Defences be considered by NRW;

A number of questions were put forward by residents:-

- a) Can the river be dredged?
- b) Can drains, culverts and gullies be checked by camera for defects?
- c) The build-up of leaves around drains adds to the problem of water escape.
- d) Can they be cleared?
- e) Can the Community get involved with clearing / dredging the watercourses?

Identified actions

- a) NRW will provide a weather prediction.
- b) NRW have agreed to provide feedback on historic activity relating to maintenance (dredging etc) on the rivers; look at outfall and hydrology.
- c) Residents Committee to be formed which would liaise with Dinas Powys Community Council. Both Jane Hutt and Alun Cairns wished to be included.
- d) Sandbags to be made available locally;
- e) It was suggested that an investigation into the causes of this unusual event be undertaken by the authorities.
- f) Flood Recovery Fund to be established by DPCC
- g) Guidance, Criteria and application documents to be produced by DPCC and made available;
- h) Thanks was expressed to the individuals who had volunteered to assist affected homeowners with clearing debris and filling skips provided by Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The **PROPOSAL** to set up a Flood Recovery Fund was tabled by Cllr Grigg, seconded by Cllr A Robertson and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**.

Cllr R Grigg thanked the members of the community for their input.

Signature: Date: