

CYNGOR CYMUNED DINAS POWYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COSAC Committee

Minutes of Meeting
17 February 2021, at 6.30pm (ZOOM)

Present:

Cllr A Robertson (Chair)
Cllr V Driscoll
Cllr C Franks
S Davies (Footpaths Warden)

Cllr A Asbrey
Cllr E Jenkins
Cllr R Williams
N Gaskell (Allotments Rep)

Also in attendance:

E Shaw (Local Nature Partnership)

C Cheeseman (VOG Conservation)

166. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr M Hartrey

Cllr S Kear-Smith

167. Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest

168. To Confirm Minutes of Meeting held on 22 October 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on **22 October 2020** were taken as read, and on the Motion of Cllr. E Jenkins and seconded by Cllr A Asbrey, it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be **APPROVED**

169. Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising.

170. To Receive Footpaths Report / Update

An increased usage of footpaths was reported.

Organised summer walks were able to go ahead for a short period, in accordance with restrictions in force at the time.

It has been reported that a number of stiles in the vicinity of St Andrews are in a very poor condition and require attention. Details to be passed to the Clerk, who will follow-up with VOG.

171. Local Nature Partnership (LNP) – for discussion and consideration

E Shaw introduced the LNP and explained that they had been contacted by Wild About Nature Dinas Powys (WANDP) regarding the management of grassland on the Common, specifically to aid improving wildlife and bio-diversity. LNP can provide assistance through access to equipment, tools, seeds and grant funding.

For some years a section of the Common has been dedicated to a hay-meadow, with the hay being used as fodder. Recently, this area has been invaded by ragwort, which renders the hay useless (poisonous) as animal feed. The Council had agreed to take mitigating action, involving cutting the hay-meadow area on a regular basis for 3-4 years, which would eventually obliterate the ragwort and then enable the hay meadow to re-establish.

Committee have agreed to discuss establishing a wildflower meadow on another part of the Common, following a site visit – to be arranged.

172. To Receive Allotments Report / Update

a) Update from Allotments Representative

- There has been another break in at the Allotment site, with sheds broken into.
- It would be helpful to install a fence between the new section of the cemetery and the allotments.
- Plot 22 – action needed to repair, remove or replace shed.
- Plot 3a) – Plot has not been worked.
- Requests for Poly tunnels. Decision to be made after members site visit – to be arranged.

b) Allotments Waiting List

There are currently 42 people on the waiting list for an allotment. Should there be additional allotments provided on the old St Cyres Site, this is still some way off.

c) Request – allotment 27b

The matter was discussed by Committee and in view of the size of the waiting list, the decision was made not to invite the tenant to renew their tenancy for 2021-22, but to keep them at the top of the waiting list for a period of up to 2 years.

d) Update – allotment 5c

Members were informed that the tenancy for plot 5c will not be renewed.

e) Proposed Increase of New Tenancy deposits

It was unanimously agreed that the deposits for new tenants be increased to £50.

173. To Receive Cemetery Update / Report

a) To consider costs associated with checking of grave depth

It was unanimously agreed that the charging for this service should remain unchanged.

b) To consider requests for the installation of Commemorative Benches.

It was agreed to grant permission for the installation of the benches requested, pending a view from the grounds maintenance contractor and the stipulation of a minimum quality expectation.

174. Caerleon Rd Play Area – Amended Draft Lease

An amended draft lease has been provided, which addresses our requests for a more relevant and simpler document. Thanks to Mr C Asbrey for guidance.

Once VOG have indicated their acceptance of the break-clauses, the document will be passed to our legal representative to complete the process.

175. Progress Update – Tree works

Work on the trees at Cross Common has been completed and the felling works (priority 1 and 2 trees) has been completed. Works on Dinas Powys Common Trees to be undertaken shortly.

176. To Consider Signs for Dinas Powys Rotary Club

The proposed sign graphics and location were not felt to be appropriate. Clerk to contact Rotary Club.

177. Request by Cardiff University to use DP Common for fieldwork

As part of their studies, Civil Engineering students at Cardiff University undertake practical surveying activities – usually in Devon. Due to current restriction, it is not possible to facilitate this and tutors are looking for suitable sites closer to the college to undertake levelling / surveying activities.

This would include putting wooden pegs into the grass for the period of the exercise. No structures would need to be erected, and there should be no significant damage caused or obstructions to other users. A full risk assessment prior to the trip(s), would be undertaken.

The area to be used is the lower part of the Common, facing Southra and near the Athletic Club; none of the sports pitches will be used.

It was unanimously **AGREED** that permission is granted.

178. Urgent Items from the Chairman

There were no urgent items from the Chair.

179. Matters Members wish to bring before Council

- a) Commemorative Trees are to be replaced as all but one have perished. Plaques also to be installed.
- b) A member of WANDP applied for and was successful in obtaining a place on the Eden Project Virtual Community Camp. It is a 'learning experience' designed for people who want to develop ideas, activities or projects to help improve their neighbourhood and community.
- c) Murch Playground is proving to be very popular and well used by the community

Date of Next Meeting

To be decided

Signature: Date: