

CYNGOR CYMUNED DINAS POWYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COSAC Committee

Minutes of Meeting, held in the Old Library
Wednesday, 11 October 2023 at 6.30pm

Register of those Present:

Cllr A Asbrey (Chair)
Cllr D Evans
Cllr K Shaw
Cllr C Franks

Cllr M Phillips
Cllr C Asbrey
Cllr V Driscoll
N Gaskell (Allotments Rep)

Also in attendance – Cllr S Griffiths

31. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr K Hatton

32. Declaration of Interests

Cllr D Evans declared an interest in item 36 on the Agenda – matters to do with Allotments.

33. To Confirm Minutes of Meeting held on 5 July 2023

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2023 were taken as read, and on the Motion of Cllr K Shaw and seconded by Cllr M Phillips it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be **APPROVED**.

34. Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising

35. To receive Footpaths Report / update (verbal reports)

Most matters reported to the Vale have been dealt with, apart from Brookside, where the ownership is unclear and Seel Park.

36. To Receive Allotments Report / Update (verbal reports)

a. Feedback from Allotments Inspection (1 July)

It was generally felt that the Allotment Inspections have been useful in reducing the level of unkempt plots, and speeding up the turnover of plot holders.
The next inspections are scheduled for Saturday 21 October.

b. Update on Pest Control

The current contract has now come to an end and was felt by allotment holders to be successful.

The Allotments Rep has undertaken a straw poll amongst allotment holders on the WhatsApp group and the majority have indicated that they would be happy to pay to maintain the service.

c. To consider progressing fencing installation between Cemetery & Allotments

There has been an element of concern regarding the installation of a corrugated metal fence, as it would be a target for theft.

Previously this Committee were in support of the installation of a wooden stock fence, but the proposal was brought to Full Council – 18 May 2023, item 130 – but deferred back to COSAC for further discussion.

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the tree along the boundary between the Allotments and the Cemetery extension is removed as this currently hinders the use of space for burials;

It was also **AGREED** that a fresh quote (or costs re-confirmed) is obtained for the installation of the fence and presented to the Finance Committee for support

d. Removal of an ornamental Cherry Tree

It was **AGREED** that the Tree on plot 19B be removed – possible at the same time as the tree in the boundary line – in order to rationalise costs.

37. Replacement of Defib Boxes at Castle Drive and Nisa

It was proposed that the matter is deferred to the Finance Committee and it was suggested that a budget is allocated to the maintenance of the DPCC managed defibrillators.

38. Playground Repairs – DP Common (verbal)

A quote for the repairs to the Log Travers play equipment on the Common has been received from Dragonplay. This is felt to be extremely high. Wicksteeds (original installers) were approached to provide a quote back in July, but we are still chasing.

ACTION

Members requested that Wicksteeds are pressed to provide a quote. Clerk also to explore the cost of installing a new / alternative piece of equipment instead.

39. Caerleon Rd, Criminal Damage – Action to be decided.

This matter is to do with the damage done to the benches in the playground. The matter was reported to the police and a perpetrator was identified by the Police, using CCTV footage. As the victim of this act, DPCC have a number of options on how to proceed. Cllr A Asbrey outlined what these options were and it was **AGREED** that the option providing the Restorative Justice will be pursued.

It was also proposed and **AGREED** that a communication is drafted to members of the community in the vicinity of the playground.

40. To consider additional Notice Boards (and locations) for the Village

This matter has been previously discussed, but not pursued due to lack of time and funds.

Committee would now like to see this progressed, providing new Notice Boards at Murch Rd / Castle Drive and at Scholars Park.
Permissions from landowners will be required.

ACTION

Permissions to be sought.

41. Review of Benches Policy

The Benches Policy was devised to provide a methodology for the gradual replacement of benches on the Common, utilising requests for memorial benches as the vehicle. As all the DPCC owned benches on the common are now to be replaced, utilising s.106 funding this nullifies the need for the policy.

As it is perceived that there will still be requests for 'memorial benches', the proposal is to permit plaques to be placed on the new benches.

There will need to be some consideration given to the style, size and type of plaque permitted and how this will be administered.

ACTION

Clerk's Office to consider plaques, perhaps drawing on experiences elsewhere. Some haste is required as there is an outstanding request that needs a response.

42. CRUZ Site Update

The Chair provided an update from VOG Officer regarding the current situation. Testing of the site is currently underway. Completion anticipated late autumn.

ACTION

To be discussed after surveys results are published.

43. Xmas Tree(s) – Twyn & Murch

It has been **AGREED** that only one big tree (as in previous years) be installed on the Twyn. Installation to be undertaken by JDW, with supervision from DPCC's Maintenance Manager.

There is now probably insufficient time to progress the installation of a tree and all the required infrastructure on the Murch. Cllr K Hatton previously offered to take the lead on this, collaborating with VOG and others in preparation.

44. Correspondence from WANDP

WANDP have requested the installation of a hedge on the northern boundary of the Scout Field & the erection of a sign explaining hay meadow management on the Common.

Existing posts to be used for the signs. Access to the river needed by NRW and others for maintenance purposes.

Members are happy to grant permission for the hay meadow for another year.

45. Ash Path

A petition was presented to VOG recently regarding safety along the path. Some concerns that horse riders are using the path. There is a reluctance within the Committee to support the re-installation of kissing gates as this would prevent access by wheel-chair users, pushchairs and the like.

46. Future Projects for consideration as part of the budget setting process

Members were asked to consider projects to put forward to the budget preparation process ahead of the Finance Cttee meeting in mid-November.

47. Any items which the Chairman has decided are urgent

The Xmas Window competition is to be revived.

Member consultations by email indicated support for the internment of the late Robert Walker in St Andrew's Cemetery.

Member consultations via email indicated majority support for the allocation of an Allotment to HF. It was requested that the T&C be amended so that only DPCC residents can become tenants.

48. Items Members would like to bring to the attention of the Committee

There were no items from members

49. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 10 January 2024

Signature: Date: