

# Skenfrith Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Ynysgynwraidd

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### Unapproved Minutes of the Council Meeting 17 July 2023 Cross Ash Hall 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr. D. Hughes-Jones      Cllr. A. Phillips      Cllr. K. Rockach  
                 Cllr. V. Hepburn John      Cllr. J. Beavan      Cllr. I. Chandler

**In Attendance:** Mr L. Taylor (Clerk)

No members of the public were present.

**1. To accept apologies for absence.**

Cllr. S. Dickins

**2. To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items listed below.**

None

**3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2023.**

The minutes had been circulated before the meeting. **Resolution** To approve the minutes.  
Proposed Cllr. D. Hughes-Jones Seconded Cllr. J. Beavan

**4. Matters arising**

- Litter bin in Skenfrith. The bin is due to be installed in the near future. The site by the bus shelter is the preferred option. The cost of the bin is £450 with the community council's share £150. The county council will install the bin at no additional charge and will empty it on a weekly basis (currently on a Thursday) at no charge to the community council.
- The highway issue in Skenfrith has been attended to by the county council. The road has recently been hot potholed, sweeper lorry attended on 12 July and debris washed out of private drive.
- Monmouthshire County Council has assured the council that the implementation of the 20mph zone in Cross Ash will be completed by 17 September.
- Job vacancy for clerk has been posted. Cllr. D. Hughes-Jones reported that one application has been received. Members suggested waiting until receiving more applications before short-listing candidates for interview.
- Cllr. D. Hughes-Jones reported on action to recover funds from Llangattock Vibon Avel Community. The county council are unable to assist the council. Both he and the chair of Whitecastle Community Council have emailed and phoned the former clerk with no response. Cllr. I. Chandler offered to email a former Llangattock Vibon Avel councillor in an attempt to resolve the matter. Further action will be taken if a response is not received.

## 5. To consider the development of the council's website.

Items of information received by the council which are intended for residents will be added to the news page of the website. Councillors are encouraged to share council news on local social networks. Community police reports have also been added to the news page.

## 6. Correspondence

- **Keep Wales Tidy** are keen to learn what environmental training and services are of interest to community councils. The organisation works with communities in a number of ways including assisting in the creation of litter free zones. Cross Ash School is one of these zones.
- **Monmouthshire County Council** are running a consultation on the 20mph changes in Llanvetherine, Cross Ash and Skenfrith. Any representations in respect of this proposal should be made not later than 5pm on Wednesday 26 July 2023.
- **Ordnance Survey** The council has access to Ordnance Survey data via the Parish Online website and a Public Sector Geospatial Agreement licence number has been received.
- **One Voice Wales** and Friends of the Earth Cymru have published a new guide 'Tackling Climate Chaos' for local Councils. This has been circulated to councillors.
- **Monmouthshire County Council** are looking for people who would like to become a Governor in the new King Henry VIII 3-19 School.

## 7. Councillor reports

- Cllr. S. Dickins submitted her response following circulation of the guide from One Voice Wales and Friends of the Earth Cymru. She suggested the best way to showcase biodiversity in the community council area is to collect evidence and record what the community council has. Food security was also highlighted and she suggested the council investigate a community growing scheme involving the school and the wider community. She also discussed public transport and suggested the council looks into an online way of people arranging lift shares and a community electric vehicle share. Cllr. S. Dickins said she was happy to look into the viability of these proposals and suggested sources of funding which might be able to help the council. Members discussed the response from Cllr. S. Dickins and talked about community growing patches and allotments. The clerk pointed out that the council has a duty to provide allotments if the council considers that there is demand for them from local residents and it is reasonable to do so. Cllr. V. Hepburn John said 'small steps' could be made in supporting biodiversity and the environment. Cllr. K. Rockach pointed out that companies may wish to involve themselves in any community projects as part of their outreach work. Cllr. I. Chandler reported on plans by the county council to change the ways in which Grass Routes services are used.
- Cllr. K. Rockach reported concerns about the lack of maintenance of the war memorial in Skenfrith. The council is aware of its responsibilities and will endeavour to rectify the situation.
- Cllr. V. Hepburn John and Cllr. K. Rockach have been updating local notice boards.

## 8. To consider a policy for awarding grants.

The clerk prepared and circulated a draft policy before the meeting. The clerk explained that the council has the power to fund community groups through the precept. Members were supportive of doing this but were concerned about how it was done. Cllr. D. Hughes-Jones was concerned about the effect of raising the precept. Cllr. I. Chandler suggested the council could ask for expressions of interest to enable it to set priorities. Cllr. A. Phillips highlighted the importance of engaging with the community. The council decided to discuss this matter further when preparing the budget for 24/25.

**9. To consider planning matters.**

**DM/2023/00873** 13 July 2023 Planning Permission Change of use and erection of mixed agricultural and stable building with improved access. Plas-ifor Wood B4521 Hill House To Trebella Farm Cross Ash.

Cllr. A. Phillips was aware of this application and pointed out the importance of creating safe access to the site from the highway. Cllr. K. Rockach raised the issue of noise levels and the proximity of two properties. The clerk was asked to contact the planning department to ask for further information.

**10. To consider highways matters**

Cllr. A. Phillips reported problems with hedgerows on the side of the road adjacent to the road above Cross Ash School. There was some uncertainty as to whose responsibility this was.

Cllr. J. Beavan asked when work on Caggle Street will be completed. Cllr. D. Hughes-Jones reported that the county council is aiming to do the work in the near future.

**11. To consider policing matters.**

No comments from members.

**12. To consider financial matters.**

The clerk present a copy of the accounts, a bank reconciliation and a budget report for approval.

**Resolution** To approve and sign the documents Proposed Cllr. D. Hughes-Jones  
Seconded Cllr. I. Chandler

**Payments for approval**

L Taylor	Secretarial duties June 23	£353.85
L Taylor	Secretarial duties July 23	£349.80
HMRC	Income tax June - July 23	£167.40
Cross Ash Hall	Use of hall x5	£125.00

**Resolution** To approve the payments. Proposed Cllr. D. Hughes-Jones Seconded Cllr. I. Chandler

**13. Date of the next meeting.**

18 September 7.30pm Cross Ash Hall

**14. Any other business.**

None

Meeting closed at 9.15pm