**Cyngor Cymuned Spittal/Spittal Community Council**

**Clerk & Treasurer**

Christine Williams

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on Tuesday 1st May 2018**

**Minutes No 346**

1. **Present:**

Councillors: W Oriel, E Whitby, R Elston, D Rees, A Jones

Clerk & Treasurer: C Williams

County Councillor: D Howlett

1. **Apologies:**

There were no apologies.

1. **Minutes:**
* The minutes (345) of the previous meeting held on 3rd April 2018 were read, approved and signed as a true record by W Oriel (Chairperson) with the full agreement of those who had attended the meeting.
1. **Matters Arising:**
* Old Police House – discussion from the AGM recorded in these minutes also, as a separate item below.
* Road to Salem Chapel – Cllr Howlett had spoken to the owner of the field and they would fix the fence in a month or so because they were particularly busy at the moment.
* Lamp posts in Castle Rise – one still not working. Clerk to forward numbers to W Oriel. Clerk drew the attention of the meeting to a recent article in national newspapers relating to replacement LED lights and possible cancer links.
* The rubbish bin outside the Church Hall had been emptied.

**The Old Police House**

This section of the minutes was copied directly from the Annual Public Meeting Minutes which preceded this meeting. Decisions remained the same with one addition -

* The Old Police House – the Community Council solicitor, Mr Stephen Hill, Price & Sons, has looked into this matter. There is disagreement between the owner of the property and the Community Council over damage to the village green because of a disputed right of way into the back of the Old Police House. A letter from Mr Stephen Hill and a letter from the solicitor acting for the owners, Mr Edward Harris, was read to the meeting. The advice from Mr Hill is as follows –
1. ‘It seems to be that there has been a change of character in that we are now dealing with a commercial bed and breakfast operation as opposed to a simple residence. At the end of the day that would be a matter for a judge to decide’.
2. ‘Can the owner establish that the alleged right has been used for a continuous period in excess of 20 years up to today’s date?’
3. ‘There is a question of whether a prescriptive right can be claimed at all over the Village Green. The law on this is complex but essentially a right cannot be claimed over a Village Green by prescription if the exercise of the right causes damage to the green.’

The letter from Mr Edward Harris, acting for the owners of the Old Police House described in great detail the history of the building, included information from a local resident supporting use of this entrance since the 1950’s and stated an intention to proceed to Court if a response was not received within 28 days of receipt of the letter.

After discussion the Community Council restated it position that they do not and never have denied the owner access to the back of the Old Police House. They do however, continue to be concerned at the damage being caused to the village green by the increased vehicular use of the back entrance to the Old Police House. The original sum of £500 set aside to clear up this disagreement had been used in legal fees. A further £2,500 would need to be found to continue to pursue this matter. There are ways of raising this money which were discussed but it was agreed not to proceed with Court proceedings when costs could soar beyond the means available to the Community Council.

As a result of this discussion the following decisions were not taken lightly –

1. A letter to Mr Hill informing him of this decision. Clerk to arrange.
2. A discussion with Mr Roger Barrett-Evans to clarify certain facts. Clerk to arrange.
3. A letter to Mr Harris restating the position of the Community Council in relation to access and damage to the village green and inviting a solution from the owner of the Old Police House. Clerk to arrange.
4. Another attempt would be made to negotiate with the owners to agree a solution which would satisfy everyone. Clerk to arrange.
5. It was suggested that, for safety reasons, enquiries would be made of the Spittal Playground Committee to have one entrance gate to the new playground on the Back Lane side of the area. Clerk to follow up.

The Clerk reported a recent meeting with Mr Jim Dunckley (PCC) at the site and as a result he is pursuing possible grants to pay for improved signage and resurfacing options. The possibility of positioning bollards along the top edge of the Village Green is also being considered.

1. **Election of Officers**

**Chairperson –** it was proposed by Mr Andrew Jones and seconded by Mrs Rachel Elston that Rev David Rees be appointed as Chairperson for 2018-19. This was agreed unanimously.

**Vice-Chairperson** – it was proposed by Mrs Rachel Elston and seconded by Mrs Edith Whitby that Mr David Williams be appointed as Vice-Chairperson for 2018-19. This was agreed unanimously.

**Register of Business Interests** – The Community Councillors present at the meeting reviewed the document in order to make any changes. The document to be forwarded to Mr David Williams for his attention ahead of the next meeting.

Rev David Rees took the Chair and thanked Mrs Wendy Oriel for everything she had done during her year of office.

1. **Correspondence**

**Emails** –

* Price & Sons, Solicitors – in relation to the Old Police House. Forwarded for discussion at the meeting.
* Bridleway on edge of Village Green leading to The Fold – Matt Cloud and Jim Dunckley (PCC) has visited while the work was being carried out. They had no concerns about the work although they stated that permission should have been sought prior to the work starting. It was agreed that no further action to be taken.
* Wales Audit Office – review of Local Authority services. Clerk had replied.
* Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LDP – viewed on [www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales](http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales) Any comments should be sent to devplans@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk This information had been forwarded prior to the meeting. No comments were forthcoming.
* Flooding of the road above Haverhill – Cllr Howlett had made enquiries and these had been circulated.
* Dog Fouling issues – Information received from PCC to support the establishment of a Community Dog Watch Scheme.

 **Hardcopy** –

* Paul Sartori Foundation – receipt of £25 donation.
* Hywel Dda Health Board – Big Change Drop In Events. Information for noticeboard. Clerk to arrange.
* Pembrokeshire Federation of Young Farmers – receipt of £25 donation.
* Zurich Insurance – quotation offered. No action currently.
1. **Finance**
* Budget – statement for 2017-18 was presented, showing a final balance of £1368.65.
* Audit 2017-18. The accounting statement and Annual Governance Statement were discussed and approved.
* First draft budget for 2018-19 was presented.
1. **Planning**
* Nothing received to date.
1. **Appeals**
* Nothing received to date.
1. **Any Other Business**
* The kiosk – clerk to make enquiries about its removal – ongoing from previous meeting.
* Pavements in Southgate Park – moss etc. Cllr Howlett to report.
* Bus shelter – needs cleaning. Mrs Elston to invite pupils to carry out the work.
* Audit notice – the Clerk reported that the audit notice is in the noticeboard for members of the public to inspect the accounts.
1. **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 5th June 2018 – 7.45pm

Signed……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Date………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………