Cyngor Cymuned Spittal / Spittal Community Council

Clerk & Treasurer – Mrs Eirian Forrest

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**Minutes of the Community Council held on Tuesday 5th March 2024**

**The meeting was held via Zoom.**

**Minutes No. 400**

**Present:** Community Councillors: W. Oriel. R. Elston, A Jones, Rev. D Rees, County Councillor S Yelland, Clerk & Treasurer: E Forrest

1. **Apologies for Absence:** E Whitby
2. **Read and sign minutes of the last meeting (No 399. 06.02.24):**

The minutes were agreed and will be signed later as a true record by W Oriel (Chairperson).

1. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
2. Bus shelter – repairs to the roof and painting – Jon Whitby has had a look and thinks that the wood could be covered with plastic Fascia instead of replacing the wood which would save painting in the future. He will quote for both options. As per the Standing Orders, will need to get another two quotes. It was suggested to ask Steven Williams and Lee Doncaster.
3. PCC Playground maintenance / Service Level Agreement – Neil McCarthy - one gate has been fixed, the spring on the other gate has broken which stops it being self-closing. Supply and fit will cost £96.40. It was agreed to order the part.
4. Road sinking by Swallow Barn (different to other one that was reported in July) –– PCC has advised that this sink hole is over a Welsh Water service trench. Eirian has sent the details to Rebecca Jones at Welsh Water. A Jones reported another sinkhole opposite Barn Court.
5. Pothole on the road from Spittal Cross towards Spittal – not done.
6. Withyhedge Landfill – Cllr Yelland said that the monitoring equipment is in place and will need analysing. NRW have given them until 5th April to cap the cell which will stop the smell.

The public meeting held on 26th February at Crundale Hall had a good turnout.

RML project team on behalf of Withyhedge Landfill site is offering a meeting with the CC to explain further about the works on site and explore the idea for a community benefit fund.

They will be updating their website ([rml-uk.co.uk](https://rml-uk.co.uk/)) regularly as the works progress. It was agreed to accept the invite for a meeting, and to find out if members of the community can attend.

1. **Planning:**

23/0984/PA – Two storey rear extension and alterations at Springfield, Spittal – No objections to the proposal

1. **Finance:**
* Clerk’s salary & expenses – it was agreed to pay the Clerk her salary and expenses totalling - £621.45.
1. **Appeals:**

Nil.

1. **Casual Vacancy**

No interest.

1. **Audit 2022 – 2023 Conclusion**

Audit opinion: Qualified.

Basis of Qualification:

* The Council’s fixed asset register did not reconcile to the reported figure.
* The Council’s cashbook does not contain sufficient information such as VAT details.
* The Council has not reclaimed any VAT.
* The Council has not published information it is required to publish electronically by the Local Government (Democracy) – (Minutes of March 2019 meeting)
* The Council has adopted template standing orders but has not tailored the financial thresholds to meet the needs of the Council. The standing orders as adopted mean that none of the Council’s expenditure is subject to quotes or tenders. *E Forrest has queried this point with Audit Wales.*
1. **Correspondence:**
2. Paul Davies newsletter dated 14.02.2024.
3. One Voice Wales – Free portrait of his Majesty the King
4. One Voice Wales – D Day 80 Flag of Peace
5. Independent Remuneration Panel of Wales Annual Report February 2024
6. Dafydd Llywelyn Police Crime and commissioners’ response to the school beat programme.
7. Farmers Union of Wales asking the CC to consider the impacts the Sustainable Farming Scheme will have on businesses. Agreed to send a response.
8. **Any other business:**
9. Community Council Website:

The community council website is currently hosted by PCC. Due to changes in legislation the platform is no longer compliant, and PCC will be withdrawing it as they don’t have the resources to redevelop it and the server technology is approaching the end of life and will be decommissioned by no later than 31st March 2025. Town and Community Councils have a duty to meet these Regulations, therefore, the community council will have to run and fund their own website.

1. W Oriel asked about removing the two gate posts on the lane by the play park. A Jones said vehicular access to the village green will be made easier if they are removed.
2. W Oriel asked if an itemised invoice had been received from J Whitby and J Gwillt for the Village Green works. E Forrest said that the invoice wasn’t itemised but the quote that was accepted by members was.
3. W Oriel said that the village green will need reseeding. J Whitby has kept grass seed to redo patches that will need reseeding in the spring/summer
4. W Oriel:
5. Hedge parallel with the park to be strimmed and tidied up (PCC don’t trim hedges during nesting season)
6. Hedges from Spittal Cross to Triffleton Bridge needs attention. up (PCC don’t trim hedges during nesting season)
7. Trees down between Longhedge and Penrhiw. Reported.
8. Large stone loose at Triffleton Bridge. Reported.
9. Sludge opposite Triffleton Bridge and needs clearing up. Reported.
10. The road from Corner Piece to Spittal needs ditching. Reported.
11. Drains needs clearing from the village to Zion Hill Chapel. Reported.
12. Drains are blocked from Spittal Mill up Mill Hill towards Spittal crossroads. Reported.
13. The fence on the approach to Spittal from Spittal Crossroads to the school has fallen. PCC erected the fence when they widened the road years ago. (Fence is responsibility of the landowner not PCC)
14. Has spoken to Mr & Mrs Bateman about the fallen branches on Golden Hill, was told that they will be sorted soon.

NB: ‘MyAccount’ on Pembrokeshire County Council website, enables highway matters, fly tipping, streetlights, and other matters to be reported direct.

1. **Date of AGM and next meeting –** Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7pm via Zoom.

**Signed ………………………………………….….**

**Date………………………………………………….**