**Tiers Cross Community Council**

**Cyngor Cymuned A Tiers Cross**

**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 3 September 2015**

**Members present:** Cllrs E Jones, (Chairman), Cllr C George (Vice-Chair), A Thorne, B Bullimore.

**Also present:** Cllr K Rowlands, (County Cllr), G Nicholls (Clerk), S Yates, (resident).

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr M Rawlinson.

**3591.** At the start of the meeting, Mr Peter Anderson from VocalEyes was invited to address the members. Cllr George explained the position regarding the Solar Fund and the geographical composition of the community. Mr Anderson said that he wanted to offer the Council a modern way of contacting and consulting people. Strategies and community plans are often decided in a few meetings and advertised by posters etc. The internet should be used in this process but not to entirely replace face-to-face meetings with residents. Information can be provided on-line before public meetings are held.

His organisation – VocalEyes.org – has been used by St David’s University for two years and the Student Union has used it to gather information for “The Wales We Want” consultation process.

With traditional consultation, people often feel disempowered:

Where is the process going? How is progress to be made? Do priorities get actioned?

Hopes are built up but often with no results.

VocalEyes provides an ongoing conversation that never stops and increases community engagement. A meeting might involve people with laptops or tablets on which to enter information. Any member can make a suggestion and this is debated and rated by the others. For example, the process in The Havens Community produced mostly “green” ideas and various groups emerged. Some matters need input from Community Councils while others do not. Cllr George pointed out that feedback to participants was vital – this would be continuous with a summary of ideas and outcomes at the end of the year. Ideas could produce either “learning” or “tangible” outcomes. Some screening of ideas would be required. Cllr Thorne said that the flow of information between the Council and Tiers Cross residents was poor but this method could change things. But people would need to commit time to it.

Mr Anderson said that the cost of an initial “Engagement Day” would be about £480 including refreshments and then a monthly support charge of around £60. Young people needed to become involved – possibly as digital consultants or entrepreneurs.

After discussion it was agreed by all that the Council would make use of VocalEyes and Cllr Bullimore agreed to liaise with the organisation. Cllr George volunteered to take on the IT/Administration role. It was further agreed that, as discussed in the previous meeting, invitations to a community meeting would be issued with Cllr Thorne making the introductory remarks but this would be discussed with Mr Anderson first and he would set up a website and shortlist of possible ideas. It was confirmed that the hall had been booked for **Friday 9th October.** Cllr George agreed to arrange distribution of invitations while Cllr Thorne will deal with refreshments and posters.

**3592. Minutes of the August 2015 meeting.** It was proposed by Cllr Thorne and seconded by Cllr Jones that these should be signed as a true record and this was agreed.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**3593. Bulford Road.** It was reported that work on making the signage more visible was progressing and that efforts to reduce the lighting on the roundabout would be made. Also, the Police had been very active in stopping speeding motorists near the village recently.

**3594. Aggregate Levy Board.** Cllr Rowlands said that he had been informed that in order to benefit from these grants, a project would have to be identified and the money spent within one year.

**3595. South Hook LNG fund.** Cllr Rowlands said a similar situation applied to grants made from this fund.

**3596. Bolton Hill Quarry.** After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the quarry manager to ask when the next meeting of the Liaison Committee would be held and to suggest that there should be at least one meeting per year. Johnston Community Council should also be informed. Mr Syd Yates said he would be available to act as resident’s representative.

**3597. Speeding in Thornton.**  No response received from the Police but as mentioned above, they have been very active in stopping speeding motorists in the area.

**3598. New notice-board.**  The Clerk apologised that this had not yet been ordered and it was confirmed that payment would be from the Community Council’s account, not from the Solar Fund.

**3599. Revised Code of Conduct.** The Clerk provided members with guidance notes on this.

**3600. Register of Members’ Interests.** The Clerk provided members with guidance notes on this and explained that a form would need to be completed whenever an interest was declared by a member at a meeting. In addition, the Council was now required to publish a Register of Members’ Interests on the website. (Members to supply details to the Clerk in due course).

**3601. Superfast broadband.**  The Clerk reported that he had contacted BT as instructed and the response was read out to the Members. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward a copy of this to everyone.

**3602. Road repairs.** It was stated that these were still to be done and the Clerk said he had not yet heard from Darren Thomas of Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) about this but would remind him. (NOTE: response received after the meeting).

**3603. Defibrillators.** It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the British Heart Foundation to see what support was available.

**3604. Council Vacancy.** It was agreed that the Clerk should commence the process of finding a replacement for the late Cllr Paul Mensink.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**3605. Planning:**

**# 15/0241/PA –** erection of garage, partly in retrospect, Dennant Cottage, 2 Dennant Hill. Permission granted. Noted.

**# 15/0331/PA** - Copy of certificate from PCC regarding high voltage circuit for wind turbine at Hillmoor Field, Portfield Gate. Noted.,

**3606. Letter from UNISON Cymru** –re: Pembrokeshire Ethical Care Charter. Noted.

**3607.**  Letter from PCC – consultation on **Review of Licensing Policy.** Noted.

**3608.** Letter from PCC – consultation on **Review of Gambling Act 2005 policy.** Noted.

**FINANCE**

**3609. Accounts for payment.** It was agreed that the following amounts should be paid:

* £177.72 to the Clerk, September 2015 salary.
* £44.60 to HMRC, September 2015 PAYE.

**MEMBERS’ REQUESTS**

**3610.** Cllr George reminded members that the royal Agricultural benevolent Institution was available to provide help to farmers and others in the industry.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10pm.

**Signed……………………………………………………………….Chairman**

**Date………………………………….**

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2015.**