**Tiers Cross Community Council**

**Cyngor Cymuned A Tiers Cross**

**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 2 October 2014.**

**Members present:** Cllrs E Jones, (Chairman), M Rawlinson, (Vice-Chair), P Mensink, C George, A Thorne.

**Also present:** Cllr K Rowlands, (County Councillor), and G Nicholls (Clerk).

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr Y Nicholas. (At this point the Clerk said that Cllr Nicholas had contacted him to say that she wished to resign from the Council due to various personal reasons. With regret, the members accepted this decision and it was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks for her past service to the community. It was also agreed that the Clerk should begin the process of co-option for a new councillor.)

**3335. Minutes of the September 2014 meeting.** It was proposed by Cllr Rawlinson and seconded by Cllr Thorne that these should be signed as a true record and this was agreed.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**3336. Community Fund.** The Clerk said that he had now received from Price & Kelway, Solicitors, a copy of the Community Benefit Agreement, signed by a director of the company, i.e. Tiers Cross Solar Ltd. Cllr Thorne reported that the plant had briefly been in operation but a number of problems had been experienced; some repairs and rebuilding was required and the expected start date was now 20 October. It was also reported that subcontractors were doing some remedial work but it was now too late to sow grass. No work was being done on clearing litter, plastic etc.

The Clerk said that he had spoken to Barclays Bank regarding a new account for the Community Fund. It had been suggested that there should be a new deposit account and a new current account with the same signatories as the existing bank accounts. After discussion it was agreed that the accounts should be under the name of “Tiers Cross Community Solar Fund”. It was further agreed that the Clerk should set-up the accounts with the bank and let Tiers Cross Solar Ltd have details in due course.

**3337. Bulford Road.** The Clerk said he was awaiting a response from Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd regarding a new date for a site visit by councillors from Tiers Cross and Johnston.

**3338. Bank signatories.** The Chairman confirmed that he had contacted the bank and the change was being processed.

**3339. January 2015 meeting date.** The clerk confirmed that he had contacted Mr Thomas to accept the revised date of Friday 9th January 2015.

**3340. Planning query – Quarry Hall House.** The Clerk reported that Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) had replied saying that the landowner had stated that it was an agricultural building to replace an existing one. No prior notification had been received by PCC and a retrospective application had been requested.

**3341. Annual Return.** The Clerk said that the Return had been received from the Auditors and this was presented to the Members who then approved and accepted it. The only issue arising related to the failure to review the Risk Assessment during the year. The Risk Assessments for a number of Community Councils in Wales, (as shown on websites), had been reviewed and these were all in a similar format with small variations reflecting the differing circumstances of the communities. A revised Risk Assessment for Tiers Cross had been prepared and copies were given to Members to read and consider if any changes were needed. It was agreed that the matter would be reviewed again at a future meeting.

**3342. Flooding in village.** The clerk said that as requested at the last meeting, he had contacted PCC to ask that the drains near Park House should be cleared and the matter was now in hand.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**3343. Planning.**

* **14/0410/PA –** erection of wind turbine, (height to tip 74 m), and ancillary works, Woodson, Lower Thornton. After discussion, it was agreed that although the application met with the Local Development Plan guidelines, the proposal should be objected to on the grounds that it was out of scale with the surrounding area and would have a detrimental effect on the local landscape. (Note: Cllrs Rawlinson and Thorne each declared an interest in the matter and took no part in the discussions).

**3344. Commercial emails:**

* **Vehicle activated speed signs from messagemaker.co.uk**
* **Litter picking equipment etc. from helpinghand.co.uk**

It was agreed that these were matters that could be considered in the future in connection with the Community Fund.

**3345. Letter from PCC – review of Polling Stations.** The Council felt that no change was needed to the existing arrangements – i.e. the United Reformed Church schoolroom.

**3346. email from Welsh Government – Review of designated landscapes in Wales.** Cllr George pointed out that the suggestion was to combine the existing National Parks and the Areas of Natural Beauty (AONBs), under one designation. This would mean that Pembrokeshire might lose its unique position as the only coastal national park in Britain. In addition, currently, different rules regarding such matters as planning, development etc. applied to National Parks and AONBs. Would the standards be raised everywhere to match the highest presently being applied or reduced to a lower level? It was agreed that the Clerk should respond along these lines.

**3347. Letter from PCC –“Ageing Well In Wales”** - Invitation to attend event in Johnston on 10 October 2014. Cllr Rowlands said he would attend and represent both Tiers Cross and Johnston councils.

**FINANCE**

**3348.** It was agreed that the following amounts should be paid:

* £171.69 to the clerk, October salary.
* £42.80 to HMRC, October PAYE.
* £96.00 to BDO, audit fee.

**MEMBERS’REQUESTS**

**3349.** Cllr Mensink queried why the temporary **traffic lights at Ratford Bridge** were still operating over the weekends when no work was being done. Cllr Rowlands said he would make enquiries with PCC.

**3350.** Cllr George said that she had recently attended a **Pembrokeshire Community Forum** organised by PLANED. There had been many interesting discussions and the Council could gain from attending such meetings.

**3351.** Cllr George said that PCC would soon be organising meetings for Community Councils on the subject of **budgeting.** This was important because PCC needed to cut-back on services provided and these may need to be taken up by communities through increased Precepts. It was agreed that although Tiers Cross might not be severely affected, everyone should be encouraged to attend. Invitations are to be issued in due course.

**3352.** Cllr George queried the position with the **Community Council website.** The Clerk said that Minutes for April 2014 and later had now been uploaded. It was agreed that there was no need for earlier Minutes to be added. The Clerk said he would arrange for the webpage heading to show a photograph relevant to the village. It was also agreed that in due course, a list of Councillors should be added with their email addresses. The new vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Nicholas would also be added.

**3353.** Cllr Thorne asked that, before the next Precept meeting, the Clerk should calculate his **additional hours of work** that might be needed in connection with the Community Fund.

**3354.** Cllr Thorne said that former Councillor Dave Howarth had agreed to keep a record of the hours that he and his wife spent on maintaining the **Memorial Garden.** This was needed so that if, in future, it became necessary to employ someone to carry out the work, the council would have a basis for producing a contract.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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

**Date…………………………………………**