

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25 June 2008 at Raglan Junior School at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr R Moorby (Chair)

Cllrs N Porter, Mrs S Price, R Watkins, T Phillips, S Thomas, D Watkins, Mrs H Williams, A Crump.

In Attendance: The Clerk and 8 members of the public.

It was noted that The Head Teacher of the school had been unable to attend at short notice due to a problem. It was agreed to ask him to a future meeting.

Before the meeting proper started three issues were considered.

1. Mr Kennedy representing the combined churches in Raglan made a short presentation on the help service that he had been instrumental in starting in the Community for people who needed help with small tasks or getting to appointments etc. He outlined the history of the project and explained who was involved. He then answered members questions and concerns about the risks of the project. After some discussion the members thanked Mr Kennedy for coming to the meeting and expressed the view that they were supportive of the project and their initial concerns were either being addressed or had been addressed.

2. Mr and Mrs Paul Morgan attended the meeting to make members aware of their concerns about the problems of getting their child into Raglan School. They had experienced similar problems to the parent who had attended the public meeting, and were very frustrated about the rigidity of the rules and the failure to acknowledge the needs of local families ahead of families from out of the area. Members agreed that a further letter should be sent to WAG and the MP and AM expressing the Council's concern about the inflexibility of the rules and the perverse outcomes that they were creating.

3. Members considered a report about this year's Raglan Music Festival from Mr Fountain. All concerned were very pleased with the conduct of visitors to the Festival and the content of it. This year had seen more performances and the programme had been very well received. Mr Fountain thanked the Council for their continuing support of the Festival. Members expressed their strong support for the Festival and congratulated Mr Fountain and the Committee on the outcome.

2081. Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs Mrs M Chilcott and R Parry.

2082. The Minutes of the Additional Council Meeting held on 4 June 2008 were received and adopted as a correct record.

2083. Matters Arising.

- a) The Clerk reported that the rental of a new photocopier was now in progress.
- b) It was noted that the potholes at the Graig had been done that day.

2084 Planning Matters

a) County Planning Agenda was received.

b) The following applications were considered:

DC/2008/00544 Certificate of Existing Lawfulness relating to occupation of Brobury, Elms Rd, Raglan, without complying with an agricultural occupancy condition.

Members expressed concern that given the shortage of affordable housing in the area, and given the fact that once the condition is removed it cannot be re-applied, they needed to be consistent in their decisions. Accordingly they recommended this for refusal with one abstention. (Cllr Crump declared an interest in this application and took no part in its discussion)

DC/2008/00630 Proposed "zero carbon" dwelling on site of former tennis court at Hill House, Monmouth Rd, Raglan. Members considered the design of the dwelling was out of keeping with the area and that it was a misleading title given that it made full use of mains drainage. This was recommended for refusal.

(Cllr Crump declared an interest in this application and left the room while it was discussed.)

DC/2008/00678 Double Garage at College Cottage, Kingcoed. Agreed.

DC/2008/ 00716 Amendment to application DC/2007/00038 at Grange Lodge, Old Abergavenny Rd, Raglan .Agreed

DC/2008/00675 Advertisement consent for Old Paper Shop High St, Raglan. It was agreed after discussion that the council would only support illumination of the Road-facing Fascia sign and would not support the projecting sign either.

(Cllr D Watkins declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion)

c) Notice of two Appeals were received.

2085 Finance Matters

a) The following accounts were agreed for payment

Clerk`s Salary £262.50

K Clarkson (Allotment Hedges) £100.00

G H P Jones (Audit of Accounts) £100.00

b) various requests for financial support were referred to the January meeting.

c) Audit of Accounts

The Internal audit of accounts had been completed satisfactorily and it was agreed that The Chair could sign them off with the Clerk. Members went through the statement of governance and agreed the answers to be inserted. The Clerk will advertise the accounts for inspection.

2086. Highway Matters

a) A letter about fences on corners and responsibility for them was noted.

b) Members concerns.

It was noted that the entrance to Pen y Parc Rd was in a poor state and the ditches needed cleaning out. This would be reported.

Cllr D Watkins reported that the road works done in Monmouth Rd were excellent but the damaged part of the pavement where someone had recently fallen had not been included in the renewal works. This would also be reported.

It was also noted that verge cutting in the Community area was still far from complete, and was unlikely to be completed by the end of June as intended.

2087. General Correspondence

A number of items of general correspondence were received and noted.

The Clerk would respond with details of Play Clubs in the community as referred by members, to Ms Kenting, Play Development Worker.

2088. Children and Young People`s Plan

It was noted that consultation on this plan had now ended. Cllr Crump pointed out a potential weakness in that it had no link to family units or the need to develop family units.

2089. Members Reports

a) Cllr Mrs Williams had taken part in the School Litter Pick. Children were impressed with the general lack of litter and it seems that the new litter bins at the play area are being well used.

She had also attended the Village Hall Committee and they were intending to hold a Music Event for young people on 11 August.

Mr D Brown and Cllr Mrs Williams had met Mr Mark Davies from Highways about the Safe Routes to School project which could be resubmitted. They had also talked about flashing signs to control speed as well.

b) Cllr Moorby expressed concern about a tree at the end of Fayre Oaks which needed trimming.

c) Cllr Mrs Price asked that the litter bin outside No 3 High St be moved away. It was pointed out that this had been considered before and refused, but it was agreed that Cllr Phillips would arrange to get the bin fixed into the corner to minimise the impact.

d) Cllr Moorby noted that a number of members and Raglan residents had attended the Local Development Plan workshop in Raglan.

e) Cllr Phillips noted that birds were removing litter from the bin outside the Chip Shop and creating litter in the street. A new bin with a lid was needed. It was agreed that an approach to the proprietor about a new bin should be made.

f) Cllr D Watkins asked if notices of the Council Meeting could be posted in the notice board outside the school. Cllr Mrs Price agreed to put one there if the Clerk sends her one.

g) Cllr D Watkins also questioned if the school development had been cancelled. Cllr Crump explained that a report on re-apportioning land at Brooks Farm was being looked at as the replacement of the Infants School was more urgent than originally thought. Originally there had been a possibility of locating some affordable housing on a small part of the site, but this now seemed unlikely. There is no scrapping of the school development and it is in the County Capital Programme.

Cllr Crump agreed with Cllr Phillips that the weeds on the land need treatment to prevent further spread, and he would speak to Mr Grace about it.

The meeting ended at 9:30pm.