**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 5th January 2021**

**Minutes No 372**

The meeting took place via Zoom.

1. **Present:**

Community Councillors: R Elston, E Whitby, W Oriel, D Williams, A Jones.

County Councillor: D Howlett.

Clerk & Treasurer: C Williams

1. **Apologies:**

Rev D Rees who was unable to access the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st December 2020 (371) were read, approved and agreed at the meeting. To be signed by R Elston, Chairperson – Clerk to arrange.

1. **Matters Arising**

* Potholes on road from Spittal Cross to Corner Piece. D Howlett had forwarded an email from Gavin Pritchard, PCC, Highways Asset Management. Temporary repairs have been carried out and will be monitored and re-done as and when required. The email stated that “we can confirm that the deterioration has been observed during routine inspection and a works order has been issued for permanent repair. Unfortunately, our ability to respond is limited by available resources and we therefore have to base our response times on a ‘triage’ system where repairs are prioritised by severity, traffic speeds and traffic volumes. For example, this will mean that smaller defects on quieter minor roads will not be repaired as quickly as potholes on A-roads or trip hazards in the busier town centre streets. We will however endeavour to repair all defects as quickly as available budgets and resources permit”.
* Grant application for playground equipment – David Thomas who had intended to make this application has been unable to do so in the time frame but will look again when a future application might be possible. The community council thanked him for his interest and the time he had spent to date.

1. **Correspondence**

**Emails:**

* Police & Crime Commissioner – Police priorities 2010/22 – survey. It was agreed to forward this email. Clerk to arrange.
* PCC – Transformation Project Officer – transfer of financial responsibility for Spittal play area from 1st April 2021. Offer of a Service Level Agreement for single annual fee of £615 or undertake own regular safety inspections and detailed quarterly and annual inspections by a qualified person. This was discussed in detail and all options were considered. It was agreed to accept the SLA offered by PCC although this would mean a substantial increase in the precept to cover the extra costs incurred. Clerk to complete the paperwork.
* Audit Wales – new audit arrangements under 3-year audit cycle were tabled as follows – 2020-21 = basic, 2021-22 = full, 2022-23 = basic.
* Office of National Statistics – census 2021 – press release for the noticeboard. Clerk to arrange.
* Local resident had queried where responsibility lay for trees damaged by ash die-back. Clerk to contact Richard Staden, PCC for information.

1. **Finance**

* PCC – Remittance Advice for December has been received - £906.00.
* Income & Expenditure Account – update was tabled to show the final precept payment of this financial year.
* Budget update – update showing final precept payment.
* Audit Wales – Invoice for payment of £285.25 to cover the cost of the 2019/20 audit. Cheque issued – clerk to arrange.
* PCC – Council Tax Base for Financial Year 2021-22. This was discussed in detail because there would need to be a substantial increase in order to cover the cost of the SLA for the playground. Other responsibilities might be devolved to the community council in the future e.g. grass cutting. The precept has been increased previously to cover possible election costs.

The Zoom session finished at this point. The discussions and decisions which follow were taken using email.

A table showing the current precept monthly band payments and proposed increases was circulated. Increases of 2%, 5% and 10% were immediately discounted because they fell short of the required sum. Increases of 20%, 25% and 33% were considered and community councillors decided on a 33% increase (4 votes). One vote for 25% and one for 20%. The community councillors were mindful of the burden an increase (of any amount) would place on the community. However, it was agreed that the responsibility for the provision of a safe play area was important.

1. **Planning**

* PCC – Scolton stables – erection of free-standing canopy and change of use – withdrawn. Information only.
* PCC – Scolton Manor – eco explorer woodland village – approved. Information only.

1. **Appeals**

* Wales Air Ambulance – emergency appeal. The request was considered via email and it was agreed to pay £50. Clerk to arrange.

1. **Any Other Business** (all the following business was reported via email) -

* Potholes were reported outside Meadow Bank, from Spittal Cross towards the first corner.
* Subsidence outside Swallow Barn (reported previously) and also between Lower House Farm and Spittal Church.
* A drain on Triffleton Bridge is overflowing.
* A branch is down on the road between Triffleton Bridge and Spittal Corn Mill.
* The road has been washed away on the side of the road at Spittal Mill Hill between poles 12 and 14.

1. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 2nd February 2021

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

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