**Minutes of Open Meeting 12th July, 2017 at 6.00pm – Discuss the future of the Swimming Pool Site**

**Present:** Janet Thomas, Liz Bowen, Betty Rees, Bill Rees, Ray Lewis, Val Thomas, Chris Mulholland, David Strachan, Joni Hughes, Marc Williams, Dana Williams, Gwyn Morgan, Darren Rogers, Tracy Lewis, Wayne Bowen, Gail Bennett (Clerk), Geoff Morgan, Cllr Rachel Powell

An Open Meeting was held 12/7/17 at 6pm to discuss the future of the swimming pool site.

Joni Hughes gave an overview/brief history of the site:-

It initially started with the YFC wanting extra storage and space for their events. They approached PCC with a thought of recreating the swimming pool building into an area of storage/useful space. In the meantime this was put on hold due to the possible closure of the school. Following this Joni enquired with the Council (School Service – Gareth Jones), asking what was happening with the site. Joni Hughes discussed the possibility of a Community Project which was looked on very favourably to develop the swimming pool site. It was then brought to the Community Council, involving all groups in the Community to have a representation (WI, playgroup, YFC, TIAG) and agreed that a shared project could be done with the site and possible the Council could transfer the asset over in order that the land could be looked at and possible planning permission sought. The Hall Committee agreed that they would be the management arrangement for any development as the swimming pool could lie comfortably in the existing lease agreement of the hall and associated land which is due for renewal should the school service and council agree the community asset transfer. This would involve a Community Asset transfer back to join the Hall Committee lease (the school has current ownership of the swimming pool site). PCC has confirmed funding is available to apply for over 2 years (2 rounds) £15,000 year one and £15,000 year two, but would have to be match funded. Other funding avenues are available, RES community money and local groups to match fund. A report has gone through the first Property Panel at PCC who are favourable. A business case is currently being drawn up for removing asbestos (Joni getting quotes for removal) and available services.

Discussion was held with the following points raised:-

1. Asbestos:-

The asbestos panels were discussed and members expressed concerns over the health risk of the damaged asbestos. With the current state of it in mind, members were keen that the council contribute towards the removal of the asbestos because in its current state it is causing a health risk and is located next to residential housing and a school. Whilst the community are keen to include the removal of it in the business case to form part of the funding requirements, there is still a duty on the council to make buildings safe. Joni agreed to go back to the council to discuss the possibilities of a joint removal scheme.

2. Height of the building:-

Members discussed the possibilities around making the building bigger. It was agreed that if the building was made wider the roof would have to become higher but there were possibilities to look at making it longer by an extra panel. Ray Thomas has agreed to look into developing stage 1 of designs to submit with the business case. Residents were not keen for it to go up in height but very keen for the development.

3. Long term sustainability

Members agreed that any development needs to be low maintenance and long standing. Initial design thoughts are to be in keeping with the hall using brick on the inside walls which does not require painting. Members also agreed that there needs to be a toilet. It has also been agreed that the building needs to be more than storage. There are thoughts around early years provision in the future being held in the building. Ray Thomas is going to look at simple designs around these thoughts.

4. Applications for funding:-

Applications for a community grant will be made to Powys in year one. There will be an application to RES for £15k and an application to Powys for £15k match funding. The application for the money needs to be submitted in the next 6 weeks when RES open the application process. Pavo are keen to work on this project with the community council to move it forward. Pauline Chapman is the PAVO representative working on this project.

Any further comments may be put in writing to Joni Hughes.