**Notes from a Meeting held with the Chapel Deacons on Thursday 19th March 2015 at the Community Centre to discuss the Three Crosses Village Biodiversity Implementation Plan**

**Trustees Present:** Paxton Hood-Williams

Belinda Hansford

Nigel Aubrey

Daniel Pugh Jones

Warren Smart [part-time]

**Chapel Deacons Present:** Leighton Evans

Henry Arthur

Beryl Prosser

**Secretary to the Trust:** Ian Donaldson

**Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with Paxton Hood-Williams as chairman**.

The Chairman welcomed the deacons to the meeting expressing gratitude on behalf of the trust that they had come along. It gave the trust an opportunity to explain the publication of parts of the biodiversity report in the January community newsletter. He explained that the report had been funded by a grant from Environment Wales and had involved volunteers of all ages from the village in evidence gathering. He said that the recommendations from the Wildlife Trust consultants, when implemented, would secure and improve the flora and fauna in our village for future generations.

Mr Evans however stated quite clearly several times that the Chapel would not allow any barn-owl nest boxes to be located in the trees inside the Chapel grounds. He stated that they would encourage children to enter the graveyard area to see the bird boxes and birds. Even accompanied visits to the ‘meadow land’ organised by the school were ruled out. The reasons for this were safety issues involving gravestones and the insurance conditions the Chapel have to meet.

However, Mr Evans, who had previously thanked the Community Council for their kind grant donations over the last few years, and did explain that if the Trust wished to re–roof the ‘Old Stable/ School room’ and install bat roosts the Chapel would not object. He also asked the trust to check with C&CS and or CADW to see if the building was listed.

The secretary expressed disappointment with the stance of the deacons. He explained that it was the intention of the Trust to apply for a project grant to implement these recommendations in their totality and it would weaken the case if some important ‘educational’ ones were left out.

Mr Arthur suggested that perhaps the barn-owl nesting boxes could be positioned on the side of the trees facing the roadway [Pant y Dwr]. It was agreed that this could be looked into.

The chairman thanked the deacons for coming to meet with the trust and the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Ian Donaldson

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