



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

6th February 2019

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Chris Fatcher
Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Jools Payne
Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Mike Ingle

Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Ralph Bennett
Councillor Merle Hunt
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Donald Roberts

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent) and County Councillor Trevor Bates.

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

01-0219 Apologies for Absence

None

02-0219 Declarations of Interest:

RB declared interest for the New Glyn Valley Tramway and Industrial Heritage Trust s137 application.

03-0219 Reports

(a) Police Report

SM informed Councillors that no report had been received. However, **DD** reported there had been several serious break-ins in the local area targeting the elderly and cited an example of an incident in Chirk. **CF** suggested this information should be put on the Council's website to advise residents to be vigilant. **MH** added there had been cases where young girls had asked to use people's house phones, making excuses that their own mobile phone wasn't working, meaning they could 'case the joint'.

TB informed Councillors there had been further issues with 4x4 vehicles in the area and discussed this further in his report to Councillors.

Action

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Both Openreach and Wrexham Council refused to reduce the height of a silver birch tree in Bro Dewi which was damaging the telephone lines to residents' houses. In the end decided to do the job myself with help from some of the residents.
- Was disappointed to see the verge cutter in Nantyr on 17th January when some side roads still don't have any grit piles and so raised the issue. The same person was putting out salt piles in Nantyr the next day as snow fell. He had then been sent out again on the 28th January, despite protesting to his manager. **TB** said his messages had finally been noted and has been assured it will not happen again. The roads in the area are continuing to deteriorate and suggested Councillors keep reporting the issues.
- Reported that although there are none in Glyntraian, there are some outstanding appeals to open up some footpaths (three in Ceiriog Uchaf, one in Nantyr as well as other adjoining paths in Denbighshire) to allow vehicular traffic. These date back to 2005 and have yet to be dealt with.

TB is asking the AM, MP, and Police to object to these applications because of the increasing levels of anti-social behaviour of those presently using the 'Greenlanes' in the area. He reported he is getting an increasing number of complaints from cyclists, walkers and horse riders who find tracks damaged to the extreme by 4x4s and motorbikes. A discussion with Sgt Luke Hughes had been planned for a meeting of the Ceiriog Uchaf Community Council. However, Sgt Hughes had not been able to make the meeting at the last minute. **TB** informed Councillors he has spoken to Police Crime Commissioner Afron Jones who had confirmed he will support us in objecting to the applications as and when they are determined.

- Planning: Informed Councillors that the proposal for 6 houses to the rear of the Swan is being held back by two things. Firstly, there is a tree which either needs to be felled or maintained regularly. Secondly, the Highways Officer needs to again visit the site in light of a speed survey conducted one Friday some time ago. It had recorded average speeds of 15 - 17 mph with approximately 40 vehicles passing over a 2½ hour period (2pm – 4:30pm).
- An officer of Wrexham Council was concerned about litter picking outside the 20/30 mph areas as he thinks it dangerous to undertake on B4500 outside these areas without traffic control. Please be careful.
- For 2019/2020 it looks like Council Tax will rise by 5.5 % but the Police are asking for a 4.55% increase which will add £8.84 to a Band D Property.
- Hoping to visit the Police call centre at St Asaph in the next month along with other County Councillors on the Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee.
- Susan Elan Jones MP and Ken Skates AM are holding a surgery in Chirk from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on Friday 15th February 2019 and at the same times at the Stiwt in Rhos on 15th March 2019.

04-0219 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- Had received very positive feedback from people who received hampers and/or 'hugs' in December 2018 and shared some of the comments received.

- A need for the use of food vouchers for some people within Glyntraian has been identified. **DD** had been in touch with the food bank in Wrexham and applied for the training to become a referral agent, meaning she will be able to issue vouchers. These vouchers entitle people to receive a food box to feed them for three days. Boxes can be picked up for distribution by the Community Agent
- Continuing to attend drop-in sessions at the doctors' surgeries in both the Glyn Ceiriog and Chirk.
- Had attended a Facebook training session arranged by **JP**
- Continuing with home visits to new and existing service users
- Attended a Community Agent joint meeting in Wrexham
- Visited the Virtual dementia bus tour which had been a real eye-opener of what people with dementia have to endure.
- Luncheon Club successfully launched with 14 attending the first lunch and 20 attending the second.
- There had been two Fish and Chip suppers which were very well attended. Currently buying things needed to run this as a self-sufficient club, with the hope of it making enough profit for us to be able to run more greatly subsidised trips to various places for the whole community.
- Providing dance class suppers.
- Glyntraian Community Agent has now been accepted on the Tesco 'bags of help scheme' and the Tesco 'food save' scheme. Must be registered with the WCBC and environmental health to receive this help. Currently not registered because the kitchen is not finished. **GB** said the OJMH Committee was arranging completion of the work required so it could be inspected.
- Has two very committed volunteers who help to run the lunch and fish supper clubs. Both are trained in food safety to level 2 and both hold hygiene rate level 5 certificates to store, prepare, cook and serve food in their own home.
- Vicky Bolton from Tesco, Cefn Mawr, has invited all the Community Agents in this area to meet with her to discuss ways she is able to help our fund-raising efforts in our communities. Will give a brief update at the next Council meeting

SM had sent out a copy of the Draft Strategy for the Wrexham Community Agent service to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was only briefly reviewed. **CF** asked Councillors to send any comments to **SM** so she could forward these to WCBC by the 6th March 2019.

SM informed Councillors she had spoken to Vera Heath at the Llangollen Urban, Llangollen Rural and Glyntraian Welfare Charities and had been advised some funds may be available before April 2019. However, **EJ** who is the Trustee of the Glyntraian Welfare Charity, informed Councillors that these funds would only be available to the Llangollen Urban and Llangollen Rural Charities because the one in Glyntraian is managed separately. **EJ** explained £10 donations were given out once a year on the 21st December from funds collected as a land tax (tithes) from local farms. The charity dates back to the 1700s and is associated with the Church. Following **SM**'s conversation with Vera Heath, **EJ** to find out if any of the other funds are available for Glyntraian and report back at the next meeting.

EJ

05-0219 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd January 2019

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd January 2019 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by **RB** and seconded by **MH**. **All agreed.**

(b) Matters Arising

There was a review of the actions from the last meeting:

1. **TB** had followed up the issue of the displaced grid near the Mulberry Inn after the meeting in January. He had found that the grid had already been replaced.
2. **JP** reported the abandoned vehicle in Dolywern had been removed by the Police.
3. **SM** had sent emails to the Clerks of Chirk Town Council and Glyn Ceiriog Community Council to assess the interest in bespoke One Voice Wales' training courses being held at a local venue and sharing the costs. However, **SM** had received no replies. The Clerk of Ceiriog Uchaf Community Council agreed to raise the subject at the next Council meeting and report back to **SM**.
4. **SM** confirmed that bursaries are available for the One Voice Wales Councillor Training Programme. Councils with an annual budget of less than £40,000, like Glyntraian, could claim up to 50% with a maximum limit of £50 of the cost for bespoke courses not specifically covered in the standard modules of the training programme.
5. **SM** had already sent out a list of the available the available training courses to assess Councillors' interest and identify the most popular courses. **RBo** confirmed his interest in the Devolution of Services/Community Asset Transfer course. **CF** asked Councillors to let **SM** know which courses would be of interest to them.
6. **SM** had, as agreed, contacted three contactors and obtained three quotations for the work to resurface the OJMH car park. These were discussed and one costing £2090 + VAT was chosen. **EJ** proposed this choice which was seconded by **PH**. **All agreed.** **SM** to notify contractors of the decision. **SM**
7. **RB** had investigated ideas and costs to prevent heavy vehicles turning in the OJMH car park to minimise damage to the surface. He had obtained a quotation from Brad Jones who suggested the car park entrance should be narrowed and a height restriction 3.6 metres should be put in place. His quote for the work was £1600. This was discussed. **GB** proposed the quote be accepted by the Council. Seconded by **MH**. **All agreed.** **RB** to contact both contractors to determine the order in which the work should be undertaken. **RB**
8. **SM** had contacted Cadwyn Clwyd to discuss the possibility of their support for a feasibility study relating to the Ysgol Pontfadog consultation exercise. **SM** informed Councillors that support can be given to Community Council projects but applications for funding of feasibility studies being undertaken by Cadwyn Clwyd are only considered on a quarterly basis. She had been advised that the next funding of projects would not be until April 2019. It was agreed to put the public consultation on hold for the time being.
9. **SM** had sent out new Standing Orders document to Councillors following the meeting.

06-0219 Correspondence

SM had received:

- An email from the Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership relating to the poor state of the information boards in the Valley. The Partnership is requesting donations from the Community Councils to help fund refurbishment. **GB** to get further details and report back at the next Council meeting.

- The Internal Audit Letter from JDH Business Services requesting the date by which the Council's audit would be available and the date of the Council meeting in June. **SM** explained the external audit needed to be sent by 30th June 2019 and the Council needed to have discussed and approved the Annual Statement at the meeting in June before being sent to the External Auditor, **SM** requested the date of the June meeting be changed from the 5th to the 12th because she would be away on holiday the first week of June. This was agreed by Councillors.
- A letter from WCBC confirming the Community Council Precept (£18900) for 2019/2020.
- A letter from Lanyon Bowdler enclosing a work schedule and two pricing options for the Council to review for drawing up the new lease for the Bowls Club in Dolywern had been received. **CF** said as it had been agreed the Bowls Club would be paying the fees it should be their decision. **SM** to forward information to Bowls Club secretary. **SM** reported the Bowls Club is happy to accept the increased rent for the bowling green.
- **SM** reported that when looking back through the accounts she noticed the Council had not received an invoice from Grant Thornton for last year's External Audit. She had contacted Grant Thornton who advised an invoice had been overlooked and had not been sent. They agreed to send out the invoice for payment.
- Details of a Community Transport Event being held at Plas Madoc on March 29th 2019 had been sent out to Councillors. There was no interest in attending the event.
- A letter from Carer Trust North Wales requesting a donation towards their work. As it had been previously agreed to only support local charities the Council decided not to give a donation.

SM

07-0219 Finance Report

CF informed Councillors a meeting of the Finance Committee had taken place to discuss the 2019-2020 budget in more detail and had prepared a draft budget. This had been circulated to Councillors by **SM** prior to the meeting. The draft was reviewed at the meeting and Councillors agreed with the proposed figures. **CF** explained the Finance Committee had not included a figure for the Communications Committee and had agreed that this should be referred to **JP** at the meeting. **JP** asked for a £1000 to be made available in the budget. This was proposed by **GB** and seconded by **MI**. **All agreed.**

A financial report had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting detailing the account balances, receipts and what had been paid. A list of items for payment had also been sent out prior to the meeting and these were discussed. The payments were authorised at the meeting by **PH** and **EJ**. **CF** signed the financial report.

08-0219 s137 Donations

SM had received an application for a donation from the New Glyn Valley Tramway and Industrial Heritage Trust. A decision had been taken by the Trust to replace the door of the tramway waiting room in Pontfadog, which was in a very poor condition. The funding (£300) was being requested towards providing and fitting a water-resistant plate to the door, which is required because of water being constantly splashed up by cars when it's raining. The waiting room had been used by the Council for the World War 1 exhibition and by the Community Agent for a cake stall. **JP** said it added to the aesthetics of village. **MH** proposed £300 and this was seconded by **RB**. **All agreed.**

SM had received a letter sent on behalf of St John's Church in Pontfadog, asking the Council to consider making a contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyard. There is concern that the grave space in the churchyard is almost at full capacity and in an effort to locate and secure more grave space for the community in future, an area at the bottom of the churchyard is being cleared and trees have been reduced in size. The tree work already done had cost £200 and the quotation for the ground work,

which includes the use of two diggers for a day, amounts to £600. The churchyard is normally maintained by volunteers so a contribution towards the cost of the works would be much appreciated. An s137 was briefly discussed but no decision was made at the meeting. This will be reviewed at the next meeting in March 2019.

09-0219 Communications Committee

JP reported:

- A total of 46 people attended the second OJ Film Club screening on Friday 1st February 2019 (delayed from 25th Jan). Feedback from attendees who completed the feedback form was extremely good.

Bar sales at the event were good. The project is in profit. Approximately £550 worth of retail sales stock remains.

The date for the final screening in this pilot project is Friday 1st March 2019. We will be showing the Welsh film *Dark Horse - the incredible true story of Dream Alliance* (cert PG) alongside a traditional Welsh Cawl supper, provided by Davena, Ann and Ted to celebrate St David's Day.

- **JP** has established a MailChimp email newsletter for the Council and the OJ Film Club. To date, two newsletters have been sent to OJ Film Club subscribers. Open rates are good.

No GCC newsletter has been sent to GCC subscribers to date. **SM** to advise on Council's privacy policy

- **JP** and **SM** to arrange a meeting to jointly review the new website and co-manage required document uploads for compliance.
- A training session, led by **JP**, on Facebook marketing was held on Monday 14th January 2019 for the Communications Committee and Community Agent.

SM

JP SM

10-0219 Government and Compliance Committee

CF said it was necessary to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Community Council, OJMH Management Committee and named Trustees in relation to the land, OJMH and charities. **SM** to write to the named Trustees requesting copies or loan of relevant documents. **SM** to also check documents from the Council's files

SM

11-0219 Planning

CF reminded Councillors to personally review the LDP Notice of Submission on the WCBC website and forward any comments.

12-0219 Highways

MI reported no further progress had been made to resolve the issue of the poor condition of the roads and wants Councillors to advise him of any roads that are particularly bad so he can take some photos. **DR** said part of the problem is being caused by blocked culverts and field drains. **SM** to write to WCBC to find out if there is a schedule of work for cleaning drains in the area. **SM** to request a meeting with Kevin Edwards at WCBC for **MI** and **DR** to discuss issue.

SM

JP highlighted the issue of the damage being caused by heavy wide vehicles through the roadworks between Pontfadog and Dolywern, where water mains were being replaced. **TB** confirmed that

following his request the barriers have been moved back to provide a wider carriageway for traffic. He stressed the need to keep on top of the issue given the work is been carried out over 9 months.

13-0219 AOB

RB informed Councillors that Caru'n Pentrefi had been given a container to store equipment. The Cheshire Home has a licence and have offered to provide a site for the container. However, Caru'n Pentrefi has been advised by WCBC it requires planning permission for this. **RB** asked if the container could stay on the OJMH car park. **GB** said it could be put on stands so damage to the grass would be minimal. This was proposed by **RB** and seconded by **PH**. **All agreed.**

MH said she had received complaints about the molehills on the playground in Pontfadog. Councillors were informed Caru'n Pentrefi would deal with these.

RB asked if he could put up the Welsh flag up on the OJMH carpark on St David's day. This was agreed.

Items for next agenda:

Churchyard maintenance

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:03pm

Next meeting will be on 6th March 2019 at 6pm.