



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

6th March 2019

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Chris Futcher
Councillor Jools Payne
Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Mike Ingle

Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Ralph Bennett

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

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

CF welcomed Sarah and John who had asked if they could present a statement to the Council following their unsuccessful application for a judicial review of the decision to close Ysgol Pontfadog. After making their statement **CF** said they should be recognised for their achievement and admired for their courage and perseverance to go through with the case. **JP** offered them special thanks for providing the statement and said the clarity was much appreciated. They informed Councillors they needed to raise £1200 to cover Court costs and asked if the Council would consider putting details on the Council Facebook page. **CF** said there was no problem with this, and the use of social media would help to raise the profile and help fundraising. **TB** suggested the idea of having their own separate Facebook page as well which would give even wider exposure and help fundraising further. **JP** to help them with social media and provide guidance and links through the Council Facebook page.

Action

Following the unsuccessful application for a judicial review Councillors agreed it is now of utmost importance to move on quickly with setting up a public consultation. A first meeting will be held on the 11th April 2019 at 7:30pm at the school. Communications Committee to meet on 20th March 2019 to discuss further details.

01-0319 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Merle Hunt (holiday), Donald Roberts (personal circumstances),
Councillor Graham Barrow (personal circumstances),

02-0319 Declarations of Interest:

RB declared interest in the Caru'n Pentrefi planning application.

03-0319 Reports

(a) Police Report

PSCO Martin Griffiths had sent a report to **SM** which summarised the criminal activity in the local area. **SM** had sent it out to Councillors prior to the meeting. Figures included:

- 3 cases of ASB (1 youth and 2 from a neighbourhood dispute);
- 2 cases of criminal damage (1 to a fence line and 1 vehicle damaged);
- Serious issues with off-road vehicles and the associated increasing levels of anti-social behaviour. Growing concerns had been highlighted over the weekend in Llanarmon DC. **TB** gave a detailed account of events on the 24th February 2019 and informed Councillors that any incidents could be reported on the North Wales Police website. PSCO Martin Griffiths joined the meeting to give further information. He advised that there are ongoing Police enquiries in relation to possible offences and are requesting anybody with mobile phone footage or information to contact North Wales Police on 101. **CF** thanked PSCO Martin Griffiths for coming to the meeting.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- The 'Squatter' who was allegedly in the process of clearing the Gwern Y Pale site has been arrested following an allegation of assault. He has not returned since. The site has now been securely fenced by the family of the deceased.
- At the meeting of the WCBC Planning Committee on the 4th March 2019 GMC's application for 6 affordable homes (Pennaf Housing) in Pontfadog was approved subject to conditions. Pennaf Housing has Welsh Government funding in place and aims to have the homes available to rent out by Spring 2020. The properties will be subject to a 'Locals Letting Policy'.
- He will be visiting the Police Control Room at St Asaph with members of the Safeguarding, Communities and Well-being Scrutiny Committee Of WCBC.
- Commented further on the issues of off-road vehicles in the local area. Advised Councillors that the Police & Crime Commissioner would be at meeting being held at The Hand Hotel in Llanarmon at 7:30pm on the 19th March 2019 to discuss the present off-roading problems and illegal use of land in the area. There are similar concerns relating mainly to motorbikes in Glyntraian and Glyn Ceiriog but on a slightly lesser scale. Llanarmon residents are concerned about the length of time it took for a Police response after 999 was called.
- He will be meeting Officers of the Wrexham Council Rights of Way and Highways to discuss the problems in Llanarmon on 18th March 2109. He has also made representations to the AM, MP, Lesley Griffiths Assembly Member who is responsible for the Environment.
- He said as the request for a Judicial Review had been declined by the Cardiff Court the school will close in July 2019. He urged Community Councillors to have meaningful conversations with interested parties as soon as possible. He explained that by the date of closure, we need to have a clear vision for the future use of the site, otherwise the buildings will continue to deteriorate and there will be a heightened threat of squatters/travellers moving onto the site. if no decision has been made on the possible future use by that time, he suggested that a default position of keeping the green play area whilst demolishing the school to build either Council Houses (or the likes of a housing association).

- Due to financial restraints Wrexham Council are not undertaking any non-essential groundwork's, signposts, streetlamp repairs for the time being.

04-0319 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- She had completed training for use of food bank vouchers, which are not time limited, and was now just waiting for them to come.
- Very pleased with the success of the lunch club, now doing at least 24 meals each time. Majority of meals are being eaten at the Hall, but some are taken away.
- The fish and chip suppers are proving very popular. The proceeds from these have now paid for all the required kitchen equipment, so any future profit will be spent on taking the community out on day trips. The first one will be announced shortly.
- Due to the success of the fish and chips suppers, some members of the Hall Committee have suggested a rental increase, or a percentage of the profits made. **DD** wants to meet with members of the Hall Management Committee to discuss this further. **JP** said this proposed rental increase was an issue of extreme concern and commented the OJMH is somehow moving the commercial goalposts simply because something has proved so successful. She asked for this statement to be minuted. **CF** said the OJMH now have an enhanced commercial offering, the infrastructure of which had been provided by the Council and **DD**. **RB** said **DD** should not be treated any differently from anyone else. Rental charges for the Hall are discussed at the AGM of the Hall Committee which is in April so any further details would not be available until after then.
- Attended a Cluster meeting at Llangollen Health Centre with Dr Hughes. In the future the wellbeing of Community Agents is to be considered as most feel they have little support and have to deal with some very unpleasant and upsetting situations. Have been encouraged to email Robert Loudon in WCBC to ask for more support.
- Continuing to attend drop-in sessions at the doctors' surgeries in both the Glyn Ceiriog and Chirk.
- Continuing with home visits to new and existing service users
- Continuing to support dance classes and attend meetings as appropriate.

05-0319 Governance and Compliance Committee

The Governance and Compliance Committee proposed the following amendments to the Council's Standing Orders:

9(b)

Delete in entirety. Replace with:

'No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its subject matter, with as much information as possible as to its intent, to the Proper Officer at least 7 clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting'

9(d)

Delete in entirety. Replace with

'If the Proper Officer considers the information pertaining to a motion received in accordance with standing order 9(b) is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion re-submits it, so that it can be understood, in writing, to the Proper Officer at least 7 clear days before the meeting.

SM

CF proposed the changes be accepted. Seconded by **RB**. **All agreed**. **SM** to make amendments.

06-0319 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th February 2019

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2019 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by **PH** and seconded by **RB**. **All agreed**.

(b) Matters Arising

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

- **RB** had contacted both contractors doing the work on the car park at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall to discuss the order in which the work would be carried out. It had been agreed the height restriction barrier would be erected first before resurfacing the carpark.
- **EJ** reported there had been no meeting of the Llangollen Urban, Llangollen Rural and Glyntraian Welfare Charities and there would probably not be one until later in the year.
- **SM** had forwarded the information on solicitors' fees to Bowls Club secretary. This was discussed later in the meeting.
- As agreed at the last meeting **SM** had written to WCBC to find out if there is a schedule of work for cleaning drains in the area. She had requested a meeting with Kevin Edwards at WCBC for **MI** and **DR** to discuss the issue but had received no response. **RB** noted that given the financial restraints outlined in **TB**'s report Wrexham Council is not undertaking any non-essential groundwork's, signposts, streetlamp repairs for the time being.

07-0319 Correspondence

SM had received:

- A copy of the 'Play Wales' magazine and **SM** said she would leave it in the Committee Room.
- A letter from the Glyn Valley Tramway to thank the Council for the donation towards the new door for the Pontfadog Waiting Room.
- An invoice from One Voice Wales for the renewal of the Council's annual subscription (£123.00)
- An invoice for the external audit from Grant Thornton (£183.75)
- Email from the Calor giving details of their Rural Community Fund. Applications for funding for projects can be made until 29th April 2019. There are 21 grants available for deserving community projects. **SM** to forward the email to Councillors after the meeting.

- An email from Adam Salomonson requesting confirmation of the number of Council meetings that had been held in the annexe room over the last 12 months at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall. **SM** to forward details. **SM**
- WREN survey relating to the Pontfadog playground grant. They follow up and ask for feedback for all grant applications. **SM** to complete the survey online. **SM**
- **CF, MH** and **RBo** had claimed the full amount of councillor expenses and would be donating this to the Community Support Fund. These funds will be held by the Council until required.

08-0319 Finance Report

CF informed Councillors a meeting of the Finance Committee and Oliver Jones Hall Executive Committee had taken place on 13th February 2019 to discuss solar panels income and payment for Council use of Committee Room. The following motions have been proposed following this meeting:

'It is agreed that income from the solar panels must be paid into the Community Council bank account. These funds are to be used for the benefit of the OJMH as authorised by the council.'

MI proposed this motion be accepted which was seconded by **RB**. **All agreed.**

At the meeting The OJMH Executive Committee had accepted the Council do not need to pay for using the Committee Room providing:

'It is agreed that the OJMH may hire out the Committee Room subject to priority being given to the Council and Council related business.'

RB proposed this motion be accepted which was seconded by **RBo**. **6 votes for and 1 against.** Motion passed.

'It is agreed that authority for expenditure of solar panel income up to (£tba) shall be delegated to the finance committee in situations of urgency.'

MI said the Council should agree a figure for emergency funding and a meeting of the Finance Committee called if deemed necessary. **EJ** proposed £500 and this was seconded by **PH**. **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.

09-0319 St John's Churchyard

At the last meeting **SM** had informed Councillors she had received a letter from St John's Church requesting a donation towards the maintenance of the churchyard. **EJ** explained the Church did not receive any financial support from the Church Commissioners and the only income received was from burial charges. **SM** advised Councillors that the Council has a Power which allows the Council to provide financial support for the maintenance of burial grounds and therefore a s137 donation was not necessary. **CF** said before any decision could be taken on the amount of the contribution the Council needed a better understanding of what work is required. **SM** to speak to St John's Church Committee for further information for the next Council meeting. **SM**

10-0319 Bowls Club Lease

SM reported the Ceiriog Valley Bowls Club had decided on the lower fee option for solicitor's costs and had requested a deferred payment of fees over the term of lease. This was discussed but the Council decided this was not acceptable and the Bowls Club should pay the fees from their own funds. **SM** to advise the Bowls Club secretary of the decision. The instruction for the solicitor to proceed with drawing up the lease was signed by **PH** and **CF**. **SM** to take to take document to the solicitors.

SM

11-0319 s137 Donations

SM had received an application from the CCVP requesting a donation towards the refurbishment of information noticeboards in the Valley. This was discussed and a donation of £250 was proposed by **RB** and seconded by **PH**. **All agreed**. **SM** to contact CCVP.

SM

12-0319 Ground Maintenance

The current ground maintenance contract with Greenfingers had only been for one year and was due for renewal in April 2019. **SM** had received their quote and had sent it out to Councillors prior to the meeting. The quote was for a contract for one year and more expensive than the previous year. Councillors agreed it would be best to put the contract out to tender to compare costs. It was also agreed the contract should be for a term of three years. A decision could then be made at the next Council meeting. **SM** to compile the tender document which would be reviewed by **RB** and **CF** before being sent out.

SM

13-0319 Communications Committee

JP reported she had met with **SM** and they had reviewed the new website and started to upload the necessary documents to ensure it is fully compliant in time for the internal audit. **JP** and **SM** presented the website to Councillors and showed examples of documents on the site pages. All agreed the new website was excellent. **JP** explained although the site had been published it had not yet been launched. The Communications Committee would discuss further and set a date for the launch.

14-0319 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** had written to the named Trustees. **SM** said one Trustee had advised the current four Trustees of the OJMH were appointed by Mrs Clemson, the last survivor of the 1990 Lessees. She had signed a deed of appointment and retired from the Trust. **SM** had been unable to find any documents or details from Council files. **PH** and **EJ** who, as two of the Trustees, had signed the document said the Council had not received a copy of the document. It was agreed the issue needs to be discussed further.

15-0319 Planning

As discussed at the previous meeting, planning permission was being sought by Caru'n Pentrefi to site a shipping container for storage of equipment at the Cheshire Home. **SM** had informed Councillors prior to the meeting she had received the planning application. There were no objections from Councillors. **SM** to notify WCBC.

SM

16-0319 Highways

MI said there was nothing further to report.

17-0319 AOB

None

Items for next agenda:

Churchyard maintenance

Council policy on recycling projects

Proposition relating to the next dance programme event being held with a summer fête

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:00pm

Next meeting will be on 3rd April 2019 at 6pm.