



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

8th January 2020

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrow (Chairman)
Councillor Chris Fatcher (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Jools Payne
Councillor Edith Jones

Councillor Merle Hunt
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Donald Roberts
Councillor Ralph Bennett

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

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

01-0120 Apologies for Absence

No Apologies

02-0120 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

03-0120 Reports

(a) Police Report

PCSO Martin Griffiths was unable to be at the meeting and sent his apologies. He 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:

- 5 x ASB - 3 neighbour disputes and 2 youths
- 2 x Burglaries - 1 electric bike and 1 petrol mower
- 3 x Criminal damage - 1 hedge, 1 in public toilets, and 1 sign damaged
- 1 Theft - Christmas tree lights from the Community Christmas tree

- 1 Off-road related complaint

Problem youths have been issued a number of Police Enforcement cards. One youth has been referred to the Youth Offending Team. Other offences are currently being investigated.

Councillors were informed that Police patrols will continue in Glyntraian and the surrounding areas and will again be carrying out off-road operations over the next month.

CF reminded Councillors of the arrangement made with the previous Police Inspector for reporting speeding traffic in Pontfadog. He had been unable to report an incident and wanted the Council to check about the arrangement. **RB** to ask when he goes to the next Quarterly Police Meeting.

GB wanted to express the Council's thanks to Fiona Fitcher who had admirably helped at the scene of a recent accident at gravel corner on the Valley road.

TB suggested the Council express its thanks to the local PCSOs for their high visibility in the Valley recently. **SM** to send thanks.

SM

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- He had sent various emails to Darren Williams, Chief Officer for Environment and Planning in Wrexham, regarding the potholes on roads in the local area. He informed Councillors that in the last three years Wrexham Council had paid out £39,585 in compensation to drivers after their vehicles had been damaged by potholes. The Council had received 6757 requests to repair potholes over the same period. **CF** said he had received a complaint from a resident who is having a hip replacement and is concerned about having to use a road with a large pothole, which may cause the new joint to dislocate. **TB** asked **CF** to send him the details.
- He had raised the issue of streetlights not working with Street Scene in Wrexham and had reported the 9 not working in Dolywern. He said residents should continue reporting any streetlights which were not working.
- The budget is still an ongoing matter, but a positive 3.5% settlement is better than Wrexham Council expected. It was disappointing though to note that Wrexham fared 19th out of 21 Welsh Counties. This was partly due to the expected increase in the population of the County being less than anticipated by some 1000 people. This is still likely to have some effects as most salaries have been increased, but it is hoped that the touted drop to the Highway Maintenance budget will not happen.
- Advised Councillors that the next meeting of the Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum will be the 30th January 2020 and suggested one of the Councillors attend. He said Mark Pritchard would be at the Forum and that this would be a good opportunity to ask him to explain Wrexham Council's 2020-2021 budget. He explained the Council could ask for specific items for discussion to be put on the agenda in the future, but the deadline for receipt of items for the January meeting had already passed. **GB** said he would attend the Forum.
- Research for the Wrexham Council's Strategic Equalities Plan had identified 20.9% of people in the survey said they were lonely and 12% suffered from mental health issues.

GB

GB congratulated **TB** on arranging the very successful Community Awards event.

04-0120 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- Lunch club starts again on the 9th January and all clubs will continue as usual after this.
- The Community Christmas Lunch held on the 11th December 2019 had been very successful and 100 meals had been prepared. Councillors thanked **DD**, Ted and Anne for their hard work putting on the event.
- Hoping to gather support to put on an event for the whole community for 75th Anniversary VE Day celebrations in May 2020. Ideas and commitment from lots of people would be needed to organise the event. **RBo** offered to discuss ideas with **DD**. **TB** said the Council should work together with those organising the event in Glyn Ceiriog.
- Continue to have contact with the Heating Department at WCBC and pleased to report that although people do still have problems with their heating and hot water, Wrexham Council is finally employing contractors who are familiar with the heating systems to rectify the problems being faced by tenants. This is still ongoing, but the hope is it should be sorted very soon.
- Had been shocked by the poor road conditions throughout the Glyntraian area when delivering leaflets and unless action is taken was concerned most of the roads will only be passable in 4x4s. She would not be prepared to drive on these roads risking damage to her car.
- Knows the state of roads in the area is not the responsibility of the Council but felt it should raise the issue and continue to complain to WCBC. Thought it would be a good idea to have someone to identify where the water washes are along the roads. She said if these were clear there wouldn't be surface water standing on the roads and would therefore reduce the erosion and make driving conditions in rain and ice safer. It was suggested employing retired WCBC staff to identify key drains and gullies and clear them, in order to minimise the rapid deterioration of the roads. **GB** said the Council should identify the drains and gullies and their condition with WCBC first, before looking at a strategy of employing someone locally to do it. **TB** and **SM** to raise issue with WCBC.

**SM &
TB**

05-0120 Correspondence

SM reported the following correspondence had been received:

- An email inviting Councillors to the next QPM (Quarterly Police Meeting) due to take place in January. **RB** offered to represent the Council at the meeting on 14th January 2020.
- A letter from WCBC detailing the forecasted budget for the Wrexham Library Service and enquiring about possible financial support from the Council towards costs of the mobile library service. This was discussed later in the meeting.
- An email from **RB** requesting **SM** to express Jan's and his appreciation for the flowers she received from Council members and **DD** following her operation.

RB

06-0120 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th December 2019 at the OJMH

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2019 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. **Proposed by PH** and **seconded by RBo**. **All agreed**.

(b) Matters Arising

SM had amended the Council's Financial Regulations as agreed at the last meeting.

SM had successfully contacted the Ceiriog Valley Bowls Club secretary regarding the draft Lease and had been told that it had still not been returned to the Council's solicitor. **SM** had notified the Council's solicitor and had asked to be advised when they receive anything from the Bowls Club. The Club secretary had informed **SM** that the Club Chairman planned to come to the Council meeting to speak to Councillors regarding the fees, but **SM** had not heard anything further from him. Councillors agreed the issue had been going on far too long. **CF proposed SM** write to the Club secretary and reiterate that their failure to respond to the Council's solicitor was the reason for the increasing costs and remind them that they are responsible for all costs incurred as agreed at the outset, including those as a consequence of their delay in progressing the lease. **Seconded by MH. All agreed.**

SM

07-0120 Finance Report

A financial report had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting detailing the account balances, receipts and what had been paid. A schedule of items for payment totalling £ 2435.90 had also been sent out prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **JP proposed** all payments be approved. **Seconded by RB. All agreed.** **JP** asked if a financial report could be put on the Council's website. Councillors agreed a quarterly financial report could be made available. **PH** and **GB** signed the payments. **GB** signed the financial report.

A decision on the amount of the Precept had to be made at the meeting so **SM** could notify WCBC by the 10th January 2020. **CF** explained the Council cannot continue holding funds from year to year and the Council needs to decide how to reduce the current surplus. He **proposed** a reduction in the Precept for 2020-2021 from £18900 to £15900 and explained how this amount together with the existing surplus could more than adequately cover the new Council budget. This proposal was **seconded by PH**. However, **JP** said the Council should exercise caution as the Council may take on the stewardship of Pontfadog School or want to support bigger improvements to the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall. **RB proposed** the Precept be reduced by £1500 from £18900 to £17400 but nobody seconded the proposal. After further discussion **CF** again **proposed** the Precept for 2020-2021 be reduced from £18900 to £15900. **Seconded by DR. All agreed. SM** to notify WCBC

SM

During the discussion **RB** suggested the Council make a statement to the treasurer of the OJMH regarding the earmarked funds (£22000) being held by the Council for the improvements to the Hall. Given the fact that the funds have been held for some time, plans needed to be made to use the money. **SM** to notify Hall treasurer. Councillors agreed to earmark funds of £10000 towards the new playground in Dolywern and £1302 for the Ceiriog Connect Dance Programme.

SM

The letter regarding the Wrexham Library Service had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. **GB** advised Councillors that the Mobile Library visits the Glyntraian area for 1% of its time which equates to a cost of £824. It was agreed **SM** should confirm with WCBC if all Community Councils in the Borough would be expected to pay all costs for the service or alternatively what amount of support is required. **CF** said if WCBC was planning to devolve the library service to Community Councils any additional costs incurred would have to be added to the precept. **GB** said more information was needed before the Council could make a decision on whether to contribute funds. Councillors agreed **SM** should invite Steve Bayley, Chief Officer for Housing and Economy to the next Council meeting to discuss the issue. **JP** suggested the possibility of having a library at the Hall run by **DD** as an alternative.

SM

SM

08-0120 Ysgol Pontfadog Consultation

The Communications Committee had held a meeting in December to agree actions, specifically on having a presence at the OJMH on Polling Day. A marquee was erected, thanks to **GB**, and the presence of Councillors was excellent with literally hundreds of valuable conversations held with electorate, the majority of whom are aware of the consultation. The event was attended by **GB, RBo, PH, CF, JP, MH** and **SM**.

Marc Roberts attended the Christmas Lunch in a low-key manner and ran a quiz for attendees. He has conducted a series of 1-2-1 interviews with residents and key stakeholders.

There had been a very disappointing turn out for the family games competition with just one family turning up. There will be two further public meetings about the consultation during January.

An interim meeting with Marc Roberts and Helen Williams from Cadwyn Clwyd has been arranged for 15th January 2020. Marc will be presenting his broad findings from Phase II of the consultation.

JP and **SM** had met with Matthew Masters to discuss migrating project management information relating to the consultation from Holly Payne's workspace into the Council's workspace on Click-Up.

SM

The Communications Committee has taken ownership of the questionnaire survey and **SM** will analyse the data. **JP proposed** the Council express its thanks to **SM**, Ian Masters and Matthew Masters for compiling the questionnaire and putting it into envelopes so it could be sent out. **Seconded** by **MH**. **All agreed**.

SM

A local volunteer had agreed to deliver the household surveys across the community during w/c 6th January 2020 and these had now all been delivered. **JP** proposed a vote of thanks and a £50 token of appreciation for the volunteer. **Seconded** by **MH**. **All agreed**.

09-0120 Communications Committee

JP reported:

- Updates relating to the consultation progress, Hugs & Hampers, Christmas Lunch, Aldi flowers donation and the household survey drop had been posted on Facebook. A bi-lingual 'Merry Christmas' and 'Happy New Year' message had also been added.
- A press release announcing the success of the Hugs & Hampers scheme had been distributed to local regional daily and local weekly press (Wrexham Leader and Oswestry Advertizer).
- The Communications Committee and Clerk had held an extremely worthwhile and productive meeting with newly elected member for Clwyd South Simon Baynes MP on 23rd December at which he offered to support the Council in its ambitions and particularly in holding WCBC to account on its transfer of asset pledge. **SM** had written to Mr Baynes in appreciation of his visit.
- **JP** had asked **SM** if she would be able to devote time to managing the work of the Communications Committee and at the last meeting had asked if the Council is prepared to pay for the extra time. **MH** said a meeting of the Staffing Committee had been arranged for the following week to discuss the issue and would then discuss this further with **SM**. The Committee's recommendations would be presented at the meeting in February and a decision could be made.

MH
CF RB

10-0120 Highways

EJ reminded Councillors about the rotten railings at Tyn-y-Celyn which are extremely dangerous and should be replaced. **SM** had notified WCBC, but no action had been taken. **TB** and **SM** to raise the issue again with WCBC.

TB &
SM

11-0120 AOB

SM had researched suppliers for new Council noticeboards in Bronygarth and Pontfadog. Following **CF's** suggestion, **JP** had spoken to the owners of the shop in Pontfadog to see if the Council could

pay for a designated area of their noticeboard and had offered £100 per annum as a discretionary payment for the exclusive use of one side of the board. They had agreed so a new noticeboard was no longer required for Pontfadog. **SM** presented information from three suppliers detailing the cost of a noticeboard for Bronygarth. The best price was £620+VAT from the Parish Noticeboard Company. **CF proposed** the Council have this one. **Seconded by RBo. All agreed. JP** suggested the Council also have a noticeboard in the Dolywern bus shelter and **PH** said the Council used to have one there. **GB** suggested Caru'n Pentrefi could take on the responsibility to provide one and apply for a s137 donation towards the cost. Further discussion deferred.

Items for next agenda:

- Further discussion about the Wrexham Library Service.
- Next dance programme event

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:52pm

Next meeting will be the on 5th February 2020 at 6pm