



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

4th December 2019

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

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

Councillor Merle Hunt
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Robin Boston

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

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

01-1219 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Councillor Ralph Bennett (personal circumstances) and Councillor Donald Roberts (personal circumstances)

02-1219 Declarations of Interest

GB made a declaration of interest in planning application P/2019/0874 relating to his property.

03-1219 Reports

(a) Police Report

PCSO 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:

- 1 - ASB Youth Related 2 x Yellow Cards issued & subject referred to Youth Justice.
- 1 –Theft Civil Matter.
- 2 – Assaults.
- 1 – Threats to Carry out Criminal Damage.
- 1 - Drugs located at an address.

Councillors were informed that Police patrols will continue in Glyntraian and the surrounding areas and continue targeting off-road issues. Police will also be undertaking speed checks in Pontfadog and Glyn Ceiriog.

Advised Councillors that PACT finances had secured funds for the local Rugby Club (for kit) and for a laptop for Llanarmon Youth Club.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Regarding the problems with heating and hot water systems not working being experienced by Council tenants, **TB** wanted to say huge well done to **DD** for pursuing this matter and holding Wrexham Council Officers to account for not ensuring that the heating contractors were undertaking regular 12 monthly services and not moving faster to make sure the problems were resolved more quickly. This matter is ongoing. **DD** advised Councillors that officials from WCBC had now visited all Council tenants in the Valley to discuss the problem.
- The Community Impact Assessment of July 2018 regarding the closure of Pontfadog School mentioned the recycling facilities located at the site. The report stated that '*provision will have to be made elsewhere*' for facilities. **TB** advised Councillors that to his knowledge nothing has been done in this respect and said the Council suggested other sites to Wrexham CBC. However, **SM** said she had already spoken to WCBC about the issue and had been told all small recycling centres in the Wrexham Borough had or were being closed due to the problem of other large items getting left at the sites and the fact that kerbside refuse collection now offers the same services.
- The election period (purdah) has brought many Council activities to a halt with several meetings being cancelled to avoid any political gain being made from matters discussed. Some Officers are refusing to talk to Councillors which has been very frustrating because it prevents any further progress with any important issues.
- Glyn Ceiriog has now followed Llanarmon DC by installing CCTV and ANPR cameras. Those in Llanarmon DC have helped reduce the 4x4 and motorbike issues by making it easier for the Police to identify offenders.
- The Canolfan also has CCTV which has recently helped the Police identify offenders. If the OJMH or Glyntraian Community Council want to follow suit then the costs are c.£2500 for 3 CCTVs and an ANPR camera, and c.£2000 for the Hall.
- Ceiriog Uchaf Community Council are likely to appoint a Community Agent in the not too distant future.

04-1219 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- Lunch club and fish and chips suppers continue to be well attended.
- Continuing with home visits as usual.
- The craft class held on Wednesday afternoons at the same time as the Community Agent's drop-in session continues to be a success.

- Continuing to attend drop-in sessions at the doctors' surgeries in both the Glyn Ceiriog and Chirk
- The Community Christmas Lunch originally planned for the 12th December 2019 has now been moved to the 11th December due to the General Election and use of OJMH as a polling station. **DD** informed Councillors that 60 residents had now requested meals. **DD** requested help setting up tables at 3:00pm on the day before the lunch and asked Councillors to help with serving and clearing up on the day.
- Had completed the 'Come and Cook' training and was now waiting for her results due in January 2020.
- Had held two separate bus pass renewal days and made 56 applications for new and renewed bus passes. Continuing to encourage people to apply or renew their bus passes before the cut-off date of 31st December 2019.
- Had supported and supplied supper for a dance lesson.
- Had attended hugs and hampers meetings.
- Had attended a Southern Cluster meeting at Llangollen Health Centre.
- **DD** had arranged and attended two successful meetings with officials from the Heating Department at WCBC. She was disappointed that none of the Councillors had attended these meetings, especially as the majority of the issues are being faced by the most vulnerable people in the community. **CF** said he would be willing to attend any further meetings with the officials and **GB** advised **DD** to notify Councillors if help was needed. **JP** asked if WCBC has a hardship fund. **DD** said it does, but support is limited to two fan heaters per household which was inadequate. Furthermore, it is a major concern that some tenants are paying in excess of £10 a day to run the heaters, and even at this cost fails to heat the homes and give hot water. As already discussed earlier in the Council meeting, Council tenants have now been contacted to discuss resolutions to the problem. After the issue is resolved Council tenants would be able to discuss compensation for the inconvenience with WCBC.
- It was brought to her attention that a member of the community is in severe financial difficulty through no fault of their own. She has taken steps to ensure the person is now being supported and will continue to monitor the situation. This will be ongoing as it takes a minimum of 5 weeks for any financial help to be secured.
- Had taken a member of the Community to Wrexham for food shopping as they were unable to get there themselves.
- Had attended a meeting for Llangollen Church Apse Charity.
- Advised Councillors that **EJ** and herself are in the process of applying for a small grant (£550-£1000) from the National Lottery to help fund a summer fête in 2020. They would know if the event is eligible to receive funding on the 19th January 2020.
- Informed Councillors that the Community Kitchen had now been awarded a 5* Hygiene certificate. **GB** thanked Ted and **DD** for completing the necessary forms.

05-1219 Correspondence

SM reported the following correspondence had been received:

- A letter from WCBC relating to shaping the future of the Wrexham Library Service. The letter was being sent to all Community Councils in the Borough to see if they would like to express an interest in funding their local branch library or mobile library and also investigating a way to provide a local library service in communities that do not have them.
- A notification from WCBC of the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, which for Glyntraian will be £5324.80. The maximum sum for 2020 -2021 has increased from £8.12 to £8.32 per elector.
- Letter from WCBC notifying the Council of a tax base of 378 for the Glyntraian area and that requests for the precept should be made by 10th January 2020. This will be discussed further at the Council meeting in January 2020.

06-1219 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th November 2019 at the OJMH

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

(b) Matters Arising

SM had made the Brownie leader aware that if they needed further funds the Council would consider making a further donation.

MH had reviewed the information from the Susie Lamplugh Trust and revised the Lone Worker Policy, as agreed at the Council meeting in November. The revised policy had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Following **JP**'s proposal at the November meeting, **MH** had revised the Council's Environment Policy to include a clause stating that any contractor working for the Council should have their own environment policy.

SM had tried to contact the Ceiriog Valley Bowls Club secretary to confirm the draft lease had been returned to the Council's solicitor but had been unsuccessful. **SM** had contacted the solicitor to check on progress but was advised they had not received anything from the Bowls Club. **SM** to follow up the issue and again confirm with the Club that remind them that they are responsible for all costs incurred as a consequence of their delay in progressing the lease.

SM

07-1219 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 £ 2101.38 had also been sent out prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** advised Councillors credits totalling £6362.23 had been paid into the account, including the final credit of £6300 from the 2019-2020 Precept. **SM** informed Councillors that three payments totalling £32.91 had been made from petty cash. **RBo proposed** all payments be approved. **Seconded by JP**. **All agreed**. **GB** signed the financial and petty cash reports.

CF informed Councillors the Finance Committee had met to review this year's budget and discuss the predicted end of year figures. These figures and a suggested budget for 2020 – 2021 were presented to Councillors. This was discussed and approved as the budget for 2020-2021. It was evident there is still a considerable surplus and the Council need to decide how to reduce it through one or more of the following options: capital expenditure, purchase of equipment or reduction of the Precept for 2020–2021. The Council need to agree the precept at the January meeting. **GB** asked Councillors to prepare proposals for discussion ready for the next meeting.

CF and **SM** had reviewed the clause detailing the proposed disapplication of contract regulations to legal professionals. Their work should now be limited to those acting in disputes only and not general legal work. **MH proposed** the Council adopt the amended clause. **Seconded by PH. All agreed.** **SM** to make the amendments.

SM

08-1219 Ysgol Pontfadog

JP informed Councillors that the Communications Committee had expressed concern in the lack of progress in the school consultation. This issue has now been resolved with Marc Roberts and a satisfactory timeframe for the remaining phases of the study has been established. Marc now sends a weekly report on Mondays and informs the Committee who he has planned to meet during the coming week.

JP advised Councillors of a serious issue with the Forest School Group, arising from their article in this month's Glyn News. **JP** explained the terminology in the article suggests to readers that it is a forgone conclusion that the Forest School/Community Hub idea will be successful in securing the Pontfadog School site. Those who favour alternative solutions could be dissuaded from putting forward their ideas because they feel the decision on the future of the school site has already been determined and could take the view that the consultation is a waste of their time and effort and of public money. **JP** explained it was of upmost importance for the Communications Committee to put out a statement quickly in order to quash any rumours and prevent any undermining of the integrity of the consultation process. She had prepared a draft statement which was reviewed by the Councillors. **MH** proposed the Council approve the statement. **Seconded by JP. All agreed.**

09-1219 Staffing Committee

MH had circulated a copy of **SM's** interim appraisal to Councillors prior to the meeting. She congratulated **SM** on the work she is doing, and all Councillors agreed and offered their thanks for her contribution to the work of the Council.

10-1219 Communications Committee

Prior to the meeting, **JP** had asked **SM** if she would be able to devote time to managing the work of the Communications Committee and asked if the Council is prepared to pay for the extra time. **CF** said **JP** needed to identify the responsibilities she was no longer able to perform and the Council should then decide how to deal with them. It was agreed the Staffing Committee would discuss this further with **SM**.

**MH
CF RB**

It had been confirmed by WCBC that it is acceptable for the Council to have a marquee outside the OJMH on the day of the General Election giving the opportunity for Councillors to meet members of the electorate with the aim of gathering their viewpoints and suggestions relating to the future use of the school site. Councillors discussed who would cover at various times throughout the day.

11-1219 s137 Applications

An application requesting a donation had been received from Caru'n Pentrefi to pay for an insurance premium to cover all activities of the volunteers, to cover the cost of running the group and to fund the lighting of the donated Christmas trees in Dolywern and Pontfadog. The group had requested £300. **JP proposed** the Council donate £300. **Seconded by EJ. All agreed.**

12-1219 Planning

Planning application P/2019 /0828 relating to the conversion of a former chapel, Capel Sion in Pontfadog to a two-bedroom property. Councillors had no objections to this application.

Planning application P/2019/0874 relating to the demolition of an existing garage and erection of a double garage and workshop at **GB's** property. Councillors had no objections to this application.

SM

SM to notify the Planning Department in WCBC.

13-1219 Highways

MH again raised the serious issue of the poor condition of the lane which was being used to move spoil from a building site in Pontfadog to Cae Mor, and which was being made worse by the recent heavy rainfall. She had written a complaint to Gareth Morris Construction Ltd and had received a reply, a copy of which had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. The firm apologised for *'any inconvenience over and above what is normally experienced in the rural area'* and reassured residents that they *'are focussed on keeping inconvenience to the local community to a minimum.'* The firm stressed the *'works are providing much needed affordable homes for local people and providing local jobs and local economic benefits.'*

14-1219 AOB

The provision of a new Council noticeboard in Bronygarth, and a replacement of the one in Pontfadog was discussed. The Council currently displays notices on the noticeboard owned by the shop. **CF** suggested the Council could pay for a designated area of this noticeboard. **EJ proposed** the Council has two new noticeboards. **Seconded** by **MH**. **All agreed**. **SM** to research options in time for the Council's next meeting in January 2019.

SM

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:45pm

Next meeting will be the on 8th January 2020 at 6pm

