



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

4th March 2020

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

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

Councillor Merle Hunt
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Robin Boston

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent) and County Councillor Trevor Bates. Councillor Mark Pritchard (Leader WCBC), Marc Roberts (Cynlas Cyf) and Helen Williams (Cadwyn Clwyd) also present for the discussion relating to Ysgol Pontfadog

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm and welcomed Cllr Mark Pritchard, Helen Williams and members of the public for coming to the meeting.

GB introduced Marc Roberts of Cynlas Cyf to present the findings of his report and the reasons for his recommendation to develop a small number of low-cost starter homes, firmly tied into a local lettings policy and with a community benefit embedded into any development, on the former school site. The response to the consultation process had been immense and very wide ranging in all respects **GB** thanked Marc for his professional, balanced and extremely detailed report, which had been thoroughly researched, soundly evidenced and which pays due regard to the desires of many in the community.

GB then invited Angela Baines to make her personal statement and Kirsty Williams to speak on behalf of the Forest School Committee. In her statement, Angela Baines made a case for the site being used as a community facility but said if housing was the only option for the site it should be for sheltered housing for the elderly instead of low-cost starter homes. Kirsty Williams read out a statement for the Forest School Committee in support of their proposals to retain the school building and to use the site as a forest school and community hub.

Each Councillor presented a personal statement regarding the recommendation in the final report. **JP proposed** that *"Glyntraian Community Council supports the findings and recommendation of this report. This will be the decision we will put forward to Wrexham County Borough Council."* **Seconded** by **CF**. **Vote** at 18:47: **7 in favour and 1 against**.

GB summarised the discussion and confirmed the recommendation would now be forwarded for consideration by Wrexham CBC's Executive Board, who will then make the final decision. He did

Action

explain that residents could still make direct contact with Wrexham CBC to put forward a proposal for consideration if they wished to do so. He explained the Council has a duty to represent its electorate and it supported the clear and unequivocal result of the feasibility study report.

GB then invited Cllr Mark Pritchard to comment on the decision taken by the Council. Cllr Pritchard thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and congratulated the Council on the very successful consultation and questionnaire survey. He said he will be taking the endorsed recommendation, which is clearly perceived by local residents to be of high benefit, back for consideration by Wrexham CBC.

01-0320 Apologies for Absence

GB announced that **RB** had resigned his position as a Councillor. He said **RB** had made a valuable contribution as a Councillor and expressed regret at his decision. **SM** to contact the Electoral Department at WCBC to advise there is now a vacancy for a new Councillor.

02-0320 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

03-0320 Reports

(a) Police Report

SM had not received a Police report. However, she had received an email from Katie Davies giving details from the Quarterly Police meeting which had been sent out to Councillors prior to the meeting. It had been agreed at that meeting that 2 hrs would be spent in each ward conducting speed checks.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- During the storms of February, the resulting floods and fallen trees have increased the workload of the Environment Department at WCBC and the Police. **TB** expressed his thanks to those agencies and the public-spirited residents who helped others through this period.
- Made Councillors aware that a new Connectivity Officer had been appointed at Wrexham CBC, part of whose role is to promote a wider broadband and mobile phone network in the Valley.
- During February he had attended 8 meetings in Wrexham and spent a great deal of time out and about the Ceiriog Valley. On 19th Feb he gave Simon Baynes MP a quick tour of some of the hotspots and met him again at Castle Mill on Saturday morning where residents are concerned about the junction and speeding traffic. They plan to get together to ask to reduce the speed limit along the B4500 and it would be good if their Community Council would support them with this issue. Simon Baynes MP has advised them to first get a petition of walkers, and speak to the National Trust, Wrexham Rights of Way, Wrexham Tourism and the Offa's Dyke Society in order to gain widespread support.
- On Wednesday 26th February 2020 the Full Council at Wrexham CBC agreed a budget for 2020/2021 with the following key points:
 - Council Tax to increase by 6.95% which will give the Council £ 65,828,834. The amount from the Welsh Government is £184,295,758, giving a total of £250,124,592. Of this, £7 million of will go to fund the Fire Service.

- In the settlement from the Welsh Government Wrexham CBC received an increase of 3.5% (Wales average was 4.3%). WCBC received less mainly due to the population not increasing as anticipated.
- Increased funding was put into the Education and Social Services budgets and notably £1m was earmarked for potholes.
- Noted the Community Council Precepts in the Ceiriog Valley vary greatly:
 - Ceiriog Uchaf adding £12.42 to Council tax by setting a precept of £2000
 - Glyntraian adding £55.09 by setting a precept of £15,900
 - Glyn Ceiriog adding £65.60 by setting a precept of £30,000
- The Police are funded through Council tax but not the Ambulance Service.

04-0320 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- No new referrals.
- Continuing with home visits
- Lunch club and fish suppers have continued, and both have been very busy.
- On-going training for all Community Agents to ensure are all trained to the same level and able to offer the right support.
- Flooding at Bro Dewi: **DD** informed Councillors that over the weekend of 15th and 16th February 2020 **RB** had helped to clear the culvert of about 8 tons of stones and rubbish.
- Had met with Simon Baynes MP, and **TB**, regarding residents' concerns about the culvert at Bro Dewi, and the state of roads throughout the Community.
- **DD** advised Councillors of a planned Community trip to the Smallholders and Countryside Festival at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells on the 17th May 2020. She requested £500 from Community Agent funds to cover the cost of transport. **CF** proposed £500. Seconded by **PH**. **All agreed.**

05-0320 Correspondence

SM reported the following correspondence had been received:

- An email from Keep Wales Tidy advising of the launch of its Local Places for Nature scheme, being funded by the Welsh Government. Community groups and organisations can choose from different designed 'packages' to make it easier for people to be involved. Deadline for first application round is 6th March 2020.
- Confirmation of funds for the Community Agent for the next 12 months
- One Voice Wales membership subscription (£128)
- Next dates for One Voice Wales training courses received

- Notification of the Wrexham Climate Change Event on the 24th March 2020.

06-0320 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th February 2020 at the OJMH

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2020 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. **Proposed by EJ** and **seconded by PH**. **All agreed**.

(b) Matters Arising

SM had received the details and wording for one of the memorial plaques for the defibrillator at the OJMH from **EJ** and was waiting for details from Mr Hidden. A decision on the style of the plaques will be made at the next meeting. **SM**

GB had spoken to the Ceiriog Valley RDA regarding a site for the new Council noticeboard in Bronygarth where the group has storage facilities. The group is making a decision at their meeting this evening and **SM** would be advised of the outcome.

07-0320 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 £ 1836.05 had also been sent out prior to the meeting and these were discussed. A cheque for £128.00 had been signed by **EJ** and **PH** to pay the One Voice Wales membership subscription prior to the meeting. Councillors approved all payments. A payment of £20.00 had been made from petty cash for credit to the Clerk's mobile 'phone. **GB** signed the financial and petty cash reports.

08-0320 Council Procedures

MH had said at the last Council meeting the Council should have a strategy in place for attracting potential new Councillors to ensure there is proper representation from the various villages/hamlets in Glyntraian at the Local Elections in 2021. **CF** said Wrexham CBC already have a procedure in place and reminded Councillors of the process. He said existing Councillors should talk to more residents and assess their interest in becoming a Councillor.

09-0220 Council Support for Vulnerable Residents

MH informed Councillors that the 'Hugs and Hampers' Committee is planning a strategy to support those local residents experiencing financial difficulty throughout the year and not just at Christmas. The Committee is meeting on 11th March 2020. It was agreed the Committee should discuss the possible ways to help residents to get advice on financial issues, some of which may be able to be addressed by **DD** as Community Agent. The outcome of the Committee's meeting will be discussed at the next Council meeting. **MH**
RBo
CF DD
SM

10-0320 s137 Applications

A s137 donation of £100 had been agreed at the last meeting for Eisteddfod Dyffryn Ceiriog. **SM** is still waiting for bank details of group, so the payment had not yet been made. **SM**

11-0320 Planning Applications

P2020/0067 (Erection of garage Llwyn Onn, Llwynmawr)

SM informed Councillors revised plans had been resubmitted. **GB** said the application had been improved but the area being used was around 45sq metres and thought as this exceeded 40sq metres it would not meet Wrexham CBC's planning criteria. **SM** to send comments to Wrexham CBC. **SM**

12-0320 Highways

Since there had been very little support from Wrexham CBC during the flooding in Bro Dewi, **DD** said a local resident had cleared a large number of water washes and these were now open on the main Valley road. **DR** said Wrexham CBC should be clearing gullies and drains more regularly to prevent further damage to the road surfaces and asked **SM** to write again to Wrexham CBC.

SM

Councillors again raised concerns about the deteriorating condition of the lanes in the area being caused by potholes. **PH** informed Councillors that £2.3 million had been written off by Wrexham CBC for unpaid rents and council tax and asked why the Council wasn't spending it on roads in the Borough. **TB** explained any funds would be ring-fenced for housing and would be used to build more houses and therefore be unavailable for highway maintenance. However, some potholes had been repaired following his meeting with Simon Baynes MP.

13-0320 AOB

MH confirmed the noticeboard at the Pontfadog Post Office was not visible because of cars parked in front of it. The Post Office had offered to put Council information in the window, but **MH** felt these would be lost among other notices. **JP proposed** the Council reinstate a noticeboard in the style as it was before at the site of the Council's original noticeboard in the centre of the village. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **All agreed**.

TB informed Councillors Glyn Ceiriog Community Council has contributed £300 towards the 75th VE celebrations event and were happy for the event to take place at the OJMH. Ideas are still being discussed.

As noted in the Quarterly Police Meeting report, **CF** suggested the Council should consider the possibility of funding a speed camera to get a community speed watch running in the ward and installing CCTV at the OJMH. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

JP said now the recommendation for starter homes from the public consultation had been endorsed, the Council should contact Wrexham CBC to find out the next steps in the process. She said the recommendation was not conclusive and could be potentially challenged. **SM** to write to Mark Pritchard, Leader of Wrexham Council. **TB** to request the school bell and possible other features of the school building be incorporated into any development.

SM

JP said that as **DD** is in contact with vulnerable elderly residents, the Council has a duty of care to protect her from the coronavirus. **SM** to advise **DD** of Government and NHS guidelines. **MH** suggested **DD** also seeks formal guidance from Wrexham CBC.

SM
DD

Items for next agenda:

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:58pm

Next meeting will be the on 1st April 2020 at 6pm