



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

6th May 2020

Remote Council Meeting Held Over Webex

Present:

Councillor Chris Fatcher
Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Merle Hunt
Councillor Edith Jones (no video)

Councillor Robin Boston

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Miss Emma Jones (candidate for one of the Councillor vacancies)

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

01-0520 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillor Pam Hughes (personal circumstances) Councillor Donald Roberts (personal circumstances) and Community Agent Davena Davies. Edward (Ted) Johnson was unable to join the meeting due to technical issues.

02-0220 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

03-0520 Co-Option of New Councillors

There were two candidates for the two Councillor vacancies, Mr Edward (Ted) Johnson and Miss Emma Jones. **SM** explained the co-option procedure and had already sent out The Good Councillor Guide to both candidates prior to the meeting. **MH proposed TJ and EJo** be co-opted as Councillors. **Seconded by? All agreed.** **SM** explained to **EJo** that as a newly elected Councillor she would have to sign a declaration form, witnessed by the her. In view of the current COVID-19 regulations this would have to be completed at a later date. **GB** formally welcomed **EJo** as a Councillor. **SM** to advise **TJ** of the Council's decision to also co-opt him as a Councillor. **SM** to send the Code of Conduct to **TJ** and **EJo**.

GB explained **SM** was currently reviewing the Register of Members Interest for the Council website and told **EJo** she would have to provide this information. **SM** to inform **TJ** and to advise other Councillors if they needed update their details.

Action

SM

SM

04-0520 Reports

(a) Police Report

SM had forwarded an email from PCSO Luke Hughes to Councillors prior to the meeting which summarised criminal activity in local area. In the email he advised:

- The installation off CCTV (including number plate recognition) in Llanarmon had made a significant difference to monitoring 4x4 vehicles and off-road motorbikes. A recent incident had seen a large number of illegal motor bikes on the road in the area He reported they had all been stopped within an hour of the footage being recorded. All were reprimanded for breaching of the COVID-19 regulations. They were advised fixed penalties would be issued.
- The Bank Holiday weekend had proved eventful across the whole of the Wrexham rural area, sadly most of which was down to individuals carrying on with a total disregard for the COVID-19 restrictions regarding unnecessary travel.
- Crime across the rural areas of Wrexham continues to be low. Thefts in rural areas noted previously appear to have ceased. However, the Police are still monitoring the situation.
- The Police have also commenced some of the speed enforcement measures noted in previous reports.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

SM had forwarded a report from **TB** to Councillors prior to the meeting which included:

- An edited report from the Chief Executive of WCBC outlining issues relating to COVID-19 and measures being taken by WCBC.
- Advised the Council Recycling plants remain closed at present due to Welsh Office instructions. Councillors are lobbying to allow them to re-open.
- There are no planning meetings, so any applications are presently on hold.
- WCBC is not holding any meetings at present
- There is a current scam where vans are circulating Wrexham offering to disinfect driveways to protect against COVID-19.
- Noted community groups are likely to suffer in present circumstances and may be looking for help from Community Councils in order to continue. Pointed out village halls still have insurance, water & electricity costs to pay but have no income.
- Glyn Ceiriog Community Council is applying for a grant (£1000) from Adult Social Services to relaunch the Lunch Club as a delivery service during the current lockdown. Meals will be prepared at the OJMH and delivered by volunteers. The service will cover the whole Valley.

06-0520 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Emails from WLGA, SLCC and OVW with information on the COVID-19 regulations and how these affect Community Councils.
- A renewal quote for the Council's insurance from Came and Company Ltd (see Matters Arising)

06-0520 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th March 2020 at the OJMH.

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2020 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by MH and seconded by RBo. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

MH suggested the Council send a letter of thanks to the NHS in the local area, similar to the one already sent by the local WI. She suggested the Council send the letter via County Councillor Trevor Bates. **SM** to write letter.

SM

SM advised Councillors that the Council Insurance was due on 1st June 2020. She had received a renewal quote from Came and Company Ltd and had requested a quote from Zurich Insurance to compare costs. Came and Company Ltd had provided quotes for a 1 year (£565.44) and 3 years insurance policy (£539.67). It was agreed there was no real benefit having a 3-year policy and a 1-year policy was the preferred option. Once received, **SM** to send quote from Zurich Insurance to Councillors to compare the policies. However, it was agreed to renew Council insurance with Came and Company Ltd for 2020-2021 unless the quote from Zurich Insurance cost less in which case both quotes would be reviewed. **MH proposed** that the Council should renew its insurance with Came and Company Ltd. **Seconded by RBo. 5 Votes for and 1 abstention (EJ).**

CF reminded Councillors of a previous discussion about the Council funding a speed camera in Pontfadog. **EJo** also expressed serious concerns about speeding traffic in the village. **CF** requested this be put on a future agenda for discussion.

SM

07-0520 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 £ 1879.02 had also been sent out prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **MH proposed** all payments be approved. **Seconded by EJo. All agreed.** **SM** reported the first precept (£5300) had been received together with further Community Agent funding (£2883). **SM** explained the Community Agent funding was to cover **DD**'s expenses and other Community Agent activities. **SM** advised Councillors that **DD** is being paid for an extra 8 hours per week in April and May 2020 to cover the extra time being spent working during the COVID-19 crisis. This is being separately funded by WCBC. Due to COVID-19 regulations, **GB** to sign the Finance report at a later date.

CF said there were two vacancies on the Finance Committee and asked **EJo** if she would consider becoming a member of the Committee. **EJo** said she would accept the position. **CF proposed EJo** become a member of the Finance Committee. **Seconded by MH. All agreed.**

08-0520 COVID-19

DD's Community Agent report had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. The report outlined the work she is currently doing during the COVID-19 crisis. This was reviewed at the meeting. **MH** and **RBo** informed Councillors that the work being covered by Helping Hands volunteers was progressing well and was supporting **DD** with some of her work. **MH** explained loneliness was becoming more of an issue. **EJo** asked if volunteers could help address this by phoning people and

said she was doing this for some of the residents in Pontfadog. **RBo** explained this was already been done and **DD** makes referrals of those needing support. **EJo** said she would liaise with **DD** about supporting any resident in Pontfadog who needed regular contact.

EJo

GB summarised the remote VE Day celebrations which were being managed by **DD**. As part of the event, celebration cup-cakes are being made by **DD** and **GB** and being delivered to residents by Helping Hands volunteers. **GB** informed Councillors that Steve Kennedy from The Swan in Pontfadog had agreed to make 100 Woolton pies from the original WWII recipe. These were being given to local residents aged over 70.

CF explained his objective has been to identify individuals, families and groups that he could assist using IT to connect during the COVID-19 lockdown. He had also researched opportunities for people to learn basic skills and participate in leisure related activities such as virtual tours of museums, tourist sites etc. He would like to be doing a lot more but has a problem of identifying people, particularly individuals who would clearly benefit from this type of support and in need of further referrals.

He informed Councillors he has had some success with helping people he is already in contact with, introducing them to Houseparty and/or Zoom. They are using these to communicate with friends and family and he is hoping the people they contact will go on to connect with others in their own social networks. He holds a successful weekly session with the Cheshire Home (Chris's Greasy Spoon Virtual Café) which is well attended by residents.

He had made some progress with setting up a virtual Computer Club session. A number of people are now on Zoom, which he has used for one-to-one sessions, but getting them together at the same time was proving difficult.

09-0520 AOB

MH said given the fact that during the current crisis remote Council meetings were being held via Webex video conferencing it was essential everyone joins the meeting. **GB** said this would be difficult to mandate and not all Councillors had access to suitable computers although a mobile phone could be used to join the video conference. **SM** had said earlier in the meeting that members could join a merged landline phone call to take part in a meeting as an alternative. It was suggested the Council could possibly purchase IT equipment as a solution, but no decision was taken.

GB, as Chairman, proffered thanks to Helping Hands for what they are doing in the community during the COVID-19 crisis. He wanted to formally record the Council's thanks to members and volunteers of Helping Hands for acting on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:10pm

Next meeting will be on 3rd June 2020 at 6pm