



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

3rd June 2020

Remote Council Meeting Held Over Webex

Present:

Councillor Chris Fatcher
Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Merle Hunt
Councillor Edith Jones (phone)
Council Emma Jones

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Pam Hughes (phone)
Councillor Ted Johnston

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent)

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

01-0620 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillor Donald Roberts (personal circumstances)

02-0620 Declarations of Interest

RBo, PH and **EJ** declared an interest in the donation being made to St John's Church, Pontfadog.

03-0620 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 COVID-19 regulations are being supported by residents and there is only a small minority that persistently breach the regulations and cause issues.
- The Police are working alongside the Wrexham Trading Standards department and they have deployed dedicated patrols across the Wrexham Rural area looking for unscrupulous traders. Some of these traders were canvassing in 'no cold caller' zones and others were in breach of the COVID-19 regulations relating to length of and unnecessary journeys.

- Underlined the changes to the fines for COVID19 lockdown breaches made by the Welsh Assembly. He provided a hyperlink for further information.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB had contacted **SM** prior to the meeting and advised:

- The Wrexham Council News page provides the best summary of the actions being undertaken by WCBC during the COVID-19 crisis and he provided details of the hyperlink to Councillors.
- He thanked the North Wales Police for their high visibility in the Valley and the continuation of monitoring of 4x4 vehicles and motorbikes.
- Following the success of the relaunch of the Lunch Club, another grant application had been made by the Ceiriog Christian Centre to try to continue providing free lunches for another 8 or 9 weeks. The application was for a Wrexham Community Inclusion Grant for £2500.
- The recycling centres are now open in Wrexham Borough, but long queues are expected.
- WCBC is now holding remote meetings. Councillors asked **SM** to find out whether the Ysgol Pontfadog school site was being discussed by WCBC's Executive Board at its meeting in June 2020 as originally planned.

SM

04-0620 Community Agent

A general discussion took place about Community Agent duties and activities. **DD** expressed concerns that, despite an agreement at a previous meeting that all requests or concerns should be made through **SM**, she was still being contacted directly by Councillors requesting her time and continually asking for updates on what she was doing, which she found upsetting and disruptive. **GB** confirmed it had already been agreed and reiterated the fact that any official contact with **DD** should be directed to **SM**, who as **DD**'s Line Manger, would deal with Councillors' questions or requests.

DD asked if the Council would donate £500 from Community Agent funds towards food for the lunches if the inclusion grant application noted in **TB**'s report was not successful. **GB** said as this scheme covered the whole valley the Council's donation should be pro-rata to the number of meals provided for each area. This was discussed. **TJ proposed** £500 should be released from Community Agent funds if the grant application was unsuccessful. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **All in favour**. **DD** thanked the Council for its support.

SM and **DD** reported the system for collecting shopping and prescriptions being provided by 'Helping Hands' was running successfully. Volunteers are supporting residents who are on their own and in need of regular contact. A plan to cover **DD**'s activities during her isolation had been put in place. Some difficulties had been caused because the Council's statement advising she was still working and taking calls from home had only appeared on the Council's website and not on the Community Agent Facebook page as well. In future **SM** will be managing the Community Agent Facebook page and ensure any Council statements are posted.

05-0620 Correspondence

SM had received:

- An email from Gary Crossley in Pontfadog advising the Council that a group of residents in Pontfadog had applied to WCBC requesting that part of the old school playing field be set aside for allotments.

- Confirmation from Scottish Power that a solar panel meter reading from the OJMH had been submitted. **SM** waiting for confirmation of amount to be credited to the Council's account.
- Confirmation of the new insurance policy from Came and Company Ltd. A quote of £644.33 had been received from Zurich Insurance, but as this was more expensive than the quote from Came and Company Ltd, **SM** had gone ahead and renewed the Council insurance for 2020-2021 with Came and Company Ltd, as agreed at the last meeting.

06-0620 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th May2020 at the OJMH.

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2020 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by MH and seconded by RBo. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

On behalf of the Council **SM** had written a letter of thanks to the NHS in the local area, as **MH** had requested.

SM had sent out Register of Interest forms to **EJo, MH, PH, DR** and **TJ**. **EJo** had already returned her form.

MH TJ
PH DR

07-0620 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 £2527.90 had also been sent out prior to the meeting and these were discussed and approved. Due to COVID-19 regulations, **GB** to sign the Finance report at a later date.

MH asked if the ground maintenance work was being carried out satisfactorily by Groundforce. **GB** confirmed everything is being completed as expected.

CF informed Councillors that the Broadband 2-year contract with Onebill Ltd for the OJMH was finishing at the end of June and this gave the opportunity to source a cheaper provider. **CF** to research options.

CF

SM reminded Councillors of the decision to make an annual donation of £300 to St John's Church in Pontfadog towards the maintenance of the churchyard under its Council Power to financially support maintenance of burial grounds. **CF** proposed the Council make the donation. **Seconded by MH. All in favour.**

08-0620 Highways

At the last meeting **CF** had reminded Councillors of a previous discussion about the Council funding a speed camera in Pontfadog, and had requested this be put on the agenda. **GB** informed Councillors that speed camera equipment had to be calibrated on a regular basis and that training was compulsory for operators of the camera which would have associated costs. He advised Councillors it would be necessary for the Council to provide insurance for the operators. **CF** said no person should be working on their own and a risk assessment would be required. **GB** explained there were regulations for the use of a speed camera and the Council would only be able to record information and then pass it to the Police. **CF** advised the equipment could be bought or leased. **EJo** to research available equipment and liaise with **GB**. This information will be presented at the next meeting. **EJo** proposed the Council discuss procurement of a speed camera for use in Pontfadog. **Seconded by TJ. All in favour.**

EJo GB

09-0620 AOB

GB told Councillors that due to the success of the current CCTV systems in and around Chirk, LLanarmon DC and Glyn Ceiriog, the Police have suggested it would be beneficial to install CCTV in Pontfadog. He explained the carpark belonging to Gareth Morris Construction was being used by vehicles ferrying trial bikes to the area and one of the main reasons for the camera was to provide information for the Police. Locating a camera at the Post Office looking towards the war memorial would allow coverage in both directions and the carpark. The camera would also add some reassurance to the staff at the Post Office and The Swan. The carpark at the OJMH, the crossroads by The Mulberry in Llwynmawr, and the Cheshire Home carpark in Dolywern were discussed as other possible sites for CCTV. **CF** said the pros and cons of installing CCTV would need to be assessed before a decision could be made. **MH** to compile an overview of the benefits and disadvantages of installing CCTV at specific locations in Glyntraian. **MH proposed** the Council investigate the provision of CCTV further. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **All in favour**.

MH

SM had already informed Councillors of the details of an application to WCBC for the provision of allotments made by a group of residents in Pontfadog. **GB** explained that under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908 it is the duty of Councils to provide sufficient allotments if requested in writing by any six electors in the local community. The Council would receive rent from the individuals using the allotments. From personal experience, **GB** said the proposed area would only be suitable for 4 to 6 plots. If approved the Council would have the responsibility to manage the set of plots. However, there would be also be a separate management committee with allotment holders and one or more Councillors as members. The Council would be able to stipulate rules regarding sheds, fences etc. in the lease. **PH** pointed out that a decision on the future use of the school site had not yet been agreed and if the allotments are approved the provision of suitable access to the plots would be required.

CF said in the event the application is declined by WCBC the Council should have a contingency plan and be able to offer alternative sites for allotments. The grounds of the OJMH and behind the bus shelter in Pontfadog were suggested as possible locations. **MH** said there may be other people wanting an allotment other than those in the existing group of residents. **GB** advised Councillors that if there are more people wanting an allotment than the available plots a selection process via a ballot or lottery is used. It was agreed that the provision of allotments be a future agenda item.

EJ had been asked by a resident for the location of the fire hydrants in Pontfadog. **GB** said there is one on the bank by the war memorial and **TJ** said there is a new one located by the houses being built behind The Swan.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:22pm

Next meeting will be on 1st July 2020 at 6pm