



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

1st July 2020

Remote Council Meeting Held Over Webex

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Ted Johnston
Councillor Merle Hunt
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Emma Jones

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Pam Hughes

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk)

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

01-0720 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillor Donald Roberts (personal circumstances) and Davena Davies

02-0720 Declarations of Interest

None

03-0720 Councillor Vacancies

Councillors were aware that Cllr Chris Futcher had resigned his position on the Council prior to the meeting. Councillors expressed thanks to Mr Futcher for his valuable contribution as a Councillor and wished him well for the future. **RBo** informed Councillors that Mr Futcher, although no longer a Councillor, was still happy to provide support with training and technical issues. **SM** had already contacted the Electoral Department at WCBC to advise there is now a vacancy for a new Councillor and had put up a Councillor Vacancy Public Notice.

GB said that the Council needed to appoint a new Vice Chair following the resignation of Cllr Futcher. **EJo** offered to take on the role. **MH proposed EJo** be Vice Chair. **Seconded by RBo. All agreed.**

Prior to the meeting **SM had** informed Councillors that electoral services in WCBC had advised that the Council could now proceed with co-option for the vacancy, following the resignation of Cllr Jools Payne. A Notice of Co-Option had already been displayed on the Council noticeboards and **SM** informed Councillors that an application had been received from Mr Colin Hidden. This was discussed

and **TJ proposed** that Mr Hidden be co-opted onto the Council. **Seconded** by **PH**. **All agreed**. **SM** to advise Mr Hidden.

SM

04-0720 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:

- Crime trends in Wrexham Rural area remain low. However, there have been several thefts of quad bikes in the Valley. In an effort to stop the offences and catch those responsible Police have actively increased their visibility and covert presence in rural areas.
- Due to the relaxation of lockdown there have been cases of youths gathering in public places across the area, contravening the current COVID-19 regulations. The majority are well behaved, respectful and genuine and police urge people to be tolerant. It has been difficult to enforce social distancing regulations but the police are doing what they can to enforce any offences disclosed but, first and foremost, endeavour to educate youths why it is especially important now to maintain those social distancing measures.
- There have been two burglaries and a case of criminal damage in Chirk. Two men had been arrested
- Advised that last month Wrexham Rural officers spent half of their time out of the station and patrolled at least 1300 miles. The rest of the time is used for briefings, writing statements and crime reports, booking people into custody, interviewing and making charges, all of which take time.
- Informed Councillors that Sergeant Katie Davies will be remaining as Neighbourhood Sergeant and will be joined by Sergeant Tom Dewberry, who will be taking over from Luke Hughes. Tom has a wealth of neighbourhood policing experience having once been a PCSO in the area.

MH highlighted the current scam calls when callers claim to be from the NHS Test and Trace service and are asking for bank details. She requested a warning be put on the Community Agent Facebook page. **SM** to also put the warning on the Council's website and Facebook page.

SM

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

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

- 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. A big thanks to Cllr Ted Johnston and Mrs Johnston for doing a fantastic job preparing and cooking over 100 meals each week. Volunteers, including one young person completing a Duke of Edinburgh Award, are helping with food preparation deliveries and this is much appreciated.
- Given the current circumstances nothing is progressing regarding the Pontfadog School site
- There is now a revised bus timetable for the Valley to accommodate school transport to Dinas Bran, but Wrexham Transport has no one available to place the revised timetables in the bus shelters. **TB** has laminated 13 copies and will be putting these up in the bus shelters from Llanarmon to Chirk.

- There will be a part road closure in Pandy due to road works by Openreach between 9.30am and 3.30pm from the 6th July 2020. However, this will not affect school transport to Dinas Bran.
- There have been cases of anti-social behaviour in Glyn Ceiriog involving youths on bikes.

05-0720 Community Agent

DD's report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The report included:

- Only carrying out urgent home entry visits at the moment, adhering to social distancing restrictions and with PPE.
- Carrying out welfare calls each day to check on older or vulnerable members of the Community.
- Increasing requests for garden visits.
- Shopping trips are more structured now and I have to leave the valley less often to do Community members shopping.
- Stan's groceries collections are still working well, with the help of volunteers.
- Prescriptions collection and delivery from Glyn Ceiriog pharmacy is ongoing and Ian Masters continues to collect and deliver prescriptions from Chirk pharmacy.
- Still supplying Sunday lunches to Community members who need them.
- Still working closely with Helping Hands and the Community to try and make sure that residents know help is available
- Still working extended hours over 7 days making welfare calls and visits each day.
- During lockdown as most are aware the oldest and most vulnerable have received a courtesy gift on average every fourth week, I have this time and once again asked **GB** to help me to provide a baked gift for 100 of our Community members. This will be made up of a cheese scone, a pat of butter and three different flavours of Welsh cakes provided in a sealed plastic tub. I would therefore like to ask for a contribution of £25 from Community agent funds towards the cost.
- Have worked with **SM** on the requested New Normal Plan which **SM** has now sent to WCBC. It details how we can move forward to get our clubs and activities up and running again. This is not going to be easy and will certainly be dependent on what and how the Community wants to proceed, and none of this can happen until we receive more information from the Welsh Government.

MH gave a formal "thank you" to **DD** for all her hard work and for going the extra mile and congratulated her on the way she is handling all the issues during the current crisis. **SM** informed Councillors she had received an email from Netty Hewitson (WCBC) advising of the lovely compliments that she had received from a local resident about **DD**, in recognition of her dedication to her role and her hard work in the Glyntraian community.

MH advised Councillors that 'Helping Hands' committee members hold weekly conference calls to update and monitor activities. She reported the system for collecting shopping and prescriptions being provided was running successfully and expressed thanks to all those involved. Welfare calls, including those being made by **RBo**, are successfully supporting residents who are on their own and in need of regular contact.

SM advised she had received an email from Simon Baynes MP confirming a tribute he had made in the House of Commons (on 11th June 2020) in recognition of all the hard work being undertaken during the current crisis by Denbighshire County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council and all the Town and Community Councils across Clwyd South. **SM** had informed him about the relaunch of the lunch club and meal deliveries in the Valley. He responded saying *"this is a wonderful facility and achievement"*. **SM** informed Councillors Mr Baynes would be visiting the Valley on Friday (3rd July 2020) to spend time with the volunteers preparing, cooking and delivering the lunches. Councillors expressed special thanks to **TJ** and Mrs Johnston for all their hard work in the Oliver Jones Community Kitchen.

MH said that Phil and Mandy at the Pontfadog Post Office had raised £600 for the NHS from donations received for the face masks. She asked **SM** to speak to Simon Baynes to ask if he could call in to see them his visit.

SM

06-0720 Correspondence

SM had received:

- A credit-note from Scottish Power confirming the FIT (£816.15) from the solar panels had been credited to the Council's account and which is specifically earmarked for the OJMH.
- An email from WCBC advising the COVID-19 situation has meant it has been unable to arrange the garden competition as planned but still want to recognise and appreciate the efforts of tenants have been making to keep their gardens looking nice. WCBC hope to hold the competition in 2021 if all is well by then. Cllr Trevor Bates has asked to please let him know of any tenants we may wish to get a mention for their efforts.
- An email advising the Electoral Commission has decided to suspend its consultation in relation to its draft proposals for the future electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Wrexham. The Commission had been made aware that WCBC was focusing its resources on the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic and it was unable to respond to the Commission's draft report. WCBC requested that the Commission take steps to enable the Council to respond once its normal operations were restored.
- An invoice from JDH Business Services for the Internal Audit (£180)

07-0720 Approval of the Minutes of the Remote Meeting held via Webex on 3rd June 2020

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2020 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by MH and seconded by EJo. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

Any actions recorded at the June 2020 meeting were discussed at appropriate times during the meeting.

08-0720 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 £372.24 had also been sent out prior to the meeting and these were discussed and approved. **GB** asked for the earmarked reserves for the OJMH be listed separately in the Finance report for future meetings. Credits totalling £1883.34 had been paid into the Council's current account. This included a VAT refund of £1067.19 and a FIT payment of £816.15 from Scottish Power. Due to COVID-19 regulations, **GB** to sign the Finance report at a later date.

SM had notified Councillors before the meeting of **DD's** request for £25 from Community Agent funds towards the cost of providing an afternoon tea for vulnerable residents in the community. Councillors approved the request.

SM informed Councillors that the internal audit had been completed successfully. A recommendation to change the wording in a clause in the Council's Financial Regulations had been noted by the auditor. **RBo proposed** the Council authorise the Clerk to make the amendment. **Seconded by EJ. All agreed.**

SM

The Annual Return was discussed. **RBo proposed** the Council approve the Annual Return. **Seconded by EJ. All agreed.** **GB** to send a signed electronic copy of the Annual Return confirming the Council's approval to **SM**. **SM** to append the minute reference and then forward all necessary documents to the External Auditor.

SM

09-0720 Highways

Following the discussion about getting a speed camera for Pontfadog at the last meeting, **GB** and **EJo** had researched available equipment and how this is being used by volunteer groups. **GB** said prices varied greatly but a speed radar gun could be purchased for around £150. **GB** explained that the equipment only measures the velocity of an approaching car and volunteers record the speed and registration number of the vehicle. The collected data is sent to the Police who then send an informative and educative letter to the offender. Repeated offenders will be visited/prosecuted by the Police.

The speed radar gun is operated by a group of trained volunteers, who work on a rota. Training is provided by the Police. **PH** questioned if it would be an effective deterrent. This was discussed and Councillors agreed having a speed camera would be beneficial. **EJ** asked how the Council would be able to recruit volunteers. **GB** advised a lot of residents are asking about doing something about speeding in the village and said the Council should get the equipment first and someone should start using it after informal training to see whether it attracts any interest. **RBo proposed** the Council purchase a speed radar gun (limit £250). **Seconded by MH. All agreed.**

10-0620 AOB

Following the last Council meeting **MH** had compiled an overview of the benefits and disadvantages of installing CCTV at specific locations in Glyntraian and personally thought the pros outweighed the cons. **GB** told Councillors he would do further research taking into account the information provided by **MH** in time for the Council meeting in September 2020.

GB

The Vice Chair closed the meeting at 7:58pm

Next meeting will be on 2nd September 2020 at 6pm