



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

2nd September 2020

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

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

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Donald Roberts

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk) and County Councillor Trevor Bates

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

01-0920 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Colin Hidden (personal circumstances) and Community Agent Davena Davies. Cllr Edith Jones asked to leave the meeting at 7.00pm (personal commitments – left at 6:57pm)

02-0920 Declarations of Interest

None

03-0920 Councillor Vacancy

SM informed Councillors that Electoral Services in WCBC had advised that the Council could now proceed with co-option for the Councillor vacancy. A Notice of Co-Option had been displayed on the Council noticeboards.

04-0920 Reports

(a) Police Report

No Police report had been received. However, PCSO Gareth Jones had advised there had been several incidents of bogus callers/scam phone calls and scam visits to properties in Flintshire and Wrexham. He asked residents to be vigilant and pass on information about the incidents to those who

are elderly or vulnerable. **MH** said a resident had been visited by a group of 5 youths asking if he wanted 'a virus test'. **SM** had reported the incident to PCSO Martin Griffiths.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Advised Councillors of a visit made by ITV to the OJMH at the time of the meal deliveries to cover the successful relaunch of the lunch club. **DD** had been interviewed. This is due to be broadcast sometime over the next couple of weeks.
- Congratulated Cllr Ted Johnston and Mrs Johnston on their COVID-19 award from AVOW in recognition of their hard work preparing and cooking over 100 meals each week for residents. Advised Councillors that the Community Agents had all received a COVID-19 Award in recognition of the hard work they have all done during the pandemic.
- Advised that with effect from 1st September 2020 the bus timetable for service 64 in the Valley will revert back to the original frequency and timetable operated pre lockdown. Wrexham Transport has no one available to place the revised timetables in the bus shelters. **TB** has laminated copies and will be putting these up in the bus shelters from Llanarmon to Chirk. The revised bus timetable can also be found on WCBC's website.
- Advised that repair work to the Pontfadog bridge is programmed to start on 14th September 2020. Evans Construction (contractor) is expecting to complete the work within 3 weeks.
- Had asked WCBC if there had been any progress on work shoring up the road near Tyn y Ddol, Pontfadog, where the river has eroded the riverbank and the safety barrier had buckled next to the existing gabions. WCBC had advised the work is on its to do list when funding is available. It is on its inspection calendar and is being monitored. If it starts to affect the carriageway it will be prioritised.
- Maintenance work on the B4500 between Pontfadog and Dolywern and on the road to Bronygarth off the B4500 near Herber Cottage is designated for this financial year.
- Residents have expressed concern over vehicles speeding through Pontfadog and the poor state of the road markings in the village. A speed camera had been used for a period of time in the village and speeds of up to 48mph had been recorded in the 20mph zone. **TB** had been told by WCBC the condition of the existing road markings will not have any bearing on the enforcement of the existing speed limit if the terminal signs are correct and are positioned to the Road Traffic Regulation Order. However, WCBC has proposed carrying out the required work on the road markings commencing on 21st September 2020 at the same time as the resurfacing of the carriageway in Glyn Ceiriog.
- A caravan had been dumped off the road in some trees near Bryniau Farm. The Police have been notified.

PH and **EJ** raised the issue of the poor condition of the roads and how this was causing serious problems with access to properties. **TB** provided a contact at WCBC so **SM** could follow up this issue with WCBC.

SM

MH asked if there was any possibility of WCBC providing dog waste bins in the area. **TB** said the Council should seek advice from Streetscene at WCBC.

05-0920 Community Agent

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

- Continue to support community members with shopping and prescriptions.
- Working with other agencies and the police to help community members struggling with the effects COVID-19 has had on their mental health.
- Continue with garden visits to isolated community members.
- Have made several referrals to occupational therapy team for people having mobility issues within the home, most needing grab rails, and adaptations to help retain independence.
- Continue welfare phone calls daily.
- Now using the Council room as an office on a regular basis, freeing up more time, as working from home was becoming problematic with people calling at the house for support.
- Continue to help with the preparation of vegetables for lockdown lunches.
- Fish and Chip suppers will start on the Saturday 10th October and run fortnightly. This will be returned to a Friday after Christmas and the New Year.
- Wrexham Council staff are still working from home or on a much-reduced timetable, making it exceedingly difficult to make contact and almost impossible to get them to visit even the very most vulnerable members of our community.

06-0920 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Community Engagement information from One Voice Wales
- SLCC subscription invoice (£126)
- Playground Inspection Report (discussed later in meeting)
- External Audit - Time and Notice for Elector's Rights (20 days). **SM** had put the notice on the Council's website as requested by the External Auditors. Notice also put on Council noticeboards.

07-0920 Approval of the Minutes of the Remote Meeting held via Webex on 1st July 2020

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2020 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by PH and seconded by RBo. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

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

08-0920 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 £7475.48 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed and approved. Payments were signed by **PH** and **GB**. **SM** advised there would be two further payments, one for £188.00 for the memorial plaque for the defibrillator at the OJMH and the other for £126.00 for the SLCC membership subscription for **SM**. A credit for £5300.00 (precept) had been paid into the Council's current account. Two payments

totalling £20 had been made from petty cash for top-ups for the Community Agent's mobile phone. **GB** signed the finance report together with those from the previous remote meetings.

The Council had previously agreed to give a donation of £500 from Community Agent funds towards the costs of the meals being provided by the lunch club, once the grant funding finished. **DD** had informed **TB** that there are 42 regular recipients of lunches in Glyntraian and based on this information **TB** asked if the Council would agree to release £420 to cover the meals for the month of September (£2.50 per meal). This was approved by Councillors.

09-0920 Staffing Committee

SM informed Councillors she had completed the iLCA qualification (Introduction to Local Council Administration) and had been awarded a bursary to cover the cost of completing the CiLCA course, the next qualification for local council clerks.

RBo reminded Councillors that, as a result of the COVID-19 regulations, the Council had not been able to hold its Annual Council Meeting and the Clerk's salary had not been reviewed. He had received a copy of the new pay scales for clerks for 2020-21. He advised Councillors that the revised pay scale applies from 1st April 2020 and therefore **SM** would be due a level of back pay if the Council apply the new rate from 1st October 2020. Councillors approved the Clerk's new salary would be £12.00p/hr (SCP14) and **SM** would be due £177.84 back pay, to be paid on 1st October 2020. **GB** asked if there were any implications of the Clerk's qualifications and whether this would be reflected in some form of qualification supplement or bonus. Staffing Committee to report back at next meeting. **SM** thanked Councillors.

10-0920 RoSPA Playground Inspection Report

SM had sent out the playground inspection reports prior to the meeting. Findings:

Dolywern Playground

The inspection had identified shrinkage/separation of the surface surrounding the roundabout which may give a trip hazard. The report recommended the Council remove the timber edging and fill the gaps with topsoil to promote grass growth.

Maes Meredydd Play Area in Pontfadog

The items and surfacing (where applicable) meet with the requirements of the relevant standards. The inspection had found some chain wear on the swings and advised the Council monitor for any further deterioration and replace the chains before 40% wear.

GB

GB is to continue to carry out regular playground inspections.

MH reminded Councillors of the fact that the playground notice in Maes Meredydd Play Area had been removed by WCBC as the Council is responsible for the new installations. **GB** said he would act on this.

GB

11-0920 Speed Camera in Pontfadog

Following the decision taken at the meeting in July **GB** had purchased a speed radar gun which accurately, if used properly, records the speed of approach or departure of a vehicle. A pair of operators record the speed and registration number of the vehicle and any data collected is passed on to the Police who then send an informative and educative letter to the offender. Repeated offenders will be visited/prosecuted by the Police.

GB said that the speed radar gun would need to be operated by a group of trained volunteers, (not just Councillors) who work on a rota. **GB** had spoken to residents who had expressed concern about their and their children's safety from speeding vehicles in the village. **GB** to inform residents about the proposed operation of the speed radar gun and request volunteers in the next issue of Glyn News.

GB

12-0920 CCTV in Pontfadog

The installation of CCTV with 'Automatic Number Plate Recognition' (APNR) in Pontfadog and Dolywern had been discussed at previous meetings. **GB** said the main benefits of enabling CCTV would be to deter/monitor illegal or antisocial activity in the villages and add to any evidence concerning people or vehicles to other information that had been collected in Glyn Ceiriog and Llanarmon, where CCTV had already been installed. Councillors agreed it was of utmost importance that the opinions of residents about the proposal contributed to the discussion and the decision to install CCTV. **GB** to invite residents to contact the Clerk to give their views in the next issue of the Glyn News.

GB**13-0920 Planning**

SM advised Councillors that a further planning application had been made for Capel Sion in Pontfadog detailing the proposed doors, windows and roof for the property. **GB** noted that the visibility splay shown on the plans may be a problem with vehicles turning out onto the lane by the property.

14-0920 Flooding at Maes Meredydd in Pontfadog.

Following torrential rain, properties in Maes Meredydd in Pontfadog had been flooded. **GB** commended resident Martin Jones for publicising the situation and taking up the issue with WCBC. As a result of his action the culverts and gullies had been cleaned out the next day.

MH said debris had been washed down from Llynmawr Farm to The Mulberry and was a potential risk for vehicles skidding on the road. **DR** said the blocked culverts along the lane between Pen Llwyn and Cae Mor were also causing a problem. **SM** to raise issue again with WCBC.

SM**15-0920 AOB**

PH reported that a cherry tree at 2 Valley View in Dolywern is now very overgrown and covering the pavement. The roots of the tree are also damaging the pavement. **GB** to investigate.

GB

EJo asked what is now happening with the Pontfadog School site because since closure the site had become very untidy. **SM** to contact Cllr Mark Pritchard (WCBC) to find out any details.

SM

Community Engagement to be discussed at next Council meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:25pm

Next meeting will be on 7th October 2020 at 6pm