



# Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting

7th October 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  
Councillor Colin Hidden

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent) and County Councillor Trevor Bates. Mr Dave Edwards (Candidate for the Councillor vacancy)

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

### 01-1020 Apologies for Absence

No apologies

### 02-1020 Declarations of Interest

None

### 03-1020 Councillor Vacancy

**SM** had circulated the application from Mr Dave Edwards for the Councillor vacancy to Councillors. Mr Edwards was formally co-opted onto the Council.

### 04-1020 Reports

#### (a) Police Report

PSCO Martin Griffiths had sent a short report to **SM** which summarised the criminal activity in the local area. He reported that a case of ASB was currently being investigated. The problems caused by off-road trial bikes and 4X4s continue to be an ongoing issue for the Valley as a whole.

Action

**(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates**

**TB** reported:

- Informed Councillors that the Assets Team at WCBC was currently in discussion regarding the future use of the Ysgol Pontfadog site. He advised a request had been put forward independently by the Forest School group. A final decision is expected to be in 2 to 3months time.
- Kerry Williams from The Highways Department WCBC had visited the Valley to look at the condition of the roads. The resurfacing work is being focussed on the B4500. The patching of potholes in some areas is being undertaken but offers no significant improvement. There are no other plans for repairs at the current time.
- The some of the road markings had been repainted in Pontfadog. **PH** asked if the road markings on the Dolywern bridge could be repainted as well as these were also in poor condition. **TB** had already requested this be carried out. **MH** said the debris that had been washed down from Llwynmawr Farm to The Mulberry had covered the road markings at the road junction and was dangerous.

**05-1020 Community Agent**

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

- Garden visits still taking place when the weather allows.
- Council Room being used for one-to-one confidential meetings. PPE always worn by all present.
- Adult Services referrals made and now ongoing.
- Training sessions attended remotely on Zoom.
- Community Agents meetings taking place remotely on Zoom.
- Lockdown lunches continue with the help of community volunteers to prepare vegetables, serve and deliver meals and wash up afterwards. Many thanks to all those involved. Glyntraian community members account for 36 of the meals which tallies with our own provision at Lunch Club prior to lockdown.
- The fish and chip suppers will no longer start again on the 10th October 2020. The decision was made late last week after the latest lockdown restrictions were announced. This has now taken away the last chance of fund raising by the Community Agent for the community this year.
- Working with Library Services, the Glyn Ceiriog and Llanarmon Community Agents are to resume library provision within the Valley. Books are to be ordered over the 'phone. The community centres will be used as the order and collection points for library books. **DD** will be helping. It is proposed that this service will begin on the 9th November 2020.
- A Quarterly report had been submitted to Wrexham Adult Services and sent a copy to **SM** for Council records. There has been a large rise in referrals mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated concerns/anxieties.
- Welfare calls to continue as a priority during the coming winter months.

**MH** advised Councillors that the Staffing Committee had met with **DD** to review her priorities in view of the way the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically affected the way in which she now operates. The changes were to help and support her more effectively in her role and ensure her safety as a lone worker.

It is planned that some of the support will be provided by the 'Helping Hands' volunteers acting as 'buddies' for vulnerable residents. Volunteers will liaise with Davena.

**EJo** put forward the idea of a pumpkin competition for Halloween. The pumpkins would be displayed in front of the village shop on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and judged by **GB**. The shop would provide sweets for the prizes. **EJo proposed** the Council donate £30 to pay for the prizes. **Seconded by MH. All agreed.**

## **06-1020 Correspondence**

**SM** had received:

- A planning application for a change of use of land at Cefn Coed to provide tourist accommodation had been received by **SM**. **EJ** said the area was a very suitable site with good access. **GB** asked Councillors to review the plans and send **SM** their comments to forward to WCBC.
- The new Bowls Club Lease. **SM** informed Councillors that **GB** and **RBo** had already signed the Lease prior to the meeting. The Council seal was embossed onto the document at the meeting witnessed by Councillors.
- The memorial plaque for the defibrillator at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall.
- An email from Adam Shillcock, the Area Manager for Post Office Ltd, wishing to thank everybody on behalf of Pontfadog and Glyn Ceiriog Post Offices and their fantastic teams for everyone's support and understanding throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He requested residents show their support and forward their feedback either online or alternatively by 'phone. **SM** had put the details on the Council's Facebook page and a local resident had kindly left the information in the Pontfadog Post Office.

**SM**

## **07-1020 Approval of the Minutes of the Remote Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**

**(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by MH and seconded by PH. All agreed.**

### **(b) Matters Arising**

At the previous meeting **GB** had asked the Staffing Committee to find out whether the iLCA or CiLCA qualifications are reflected in some form of qualification supplement or bonus. **RBo** explained he had found out that there is no hard and fast rule, and it is up to the individual Council to decide. The custom however is for the Clerk to be awarded 1 SCP usually from the date of qualification. The number of SCP points are reflected in the pay scales for Clerks.

## **08-1020 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 £2733.56 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed and approved. **GB** signed the finance report.

**SM** advised Councillors **DD** was eligible to be enrolled in a pension scheme and she would like to do this. Currently the Council does not have a pension scheme. **SM** was in contact with the Pension Advisory Service to discuss options.

**SM** told Councillors that the Council, as her employer, should be funding PPE for **DD** and costs incurred so far should be reimbursed. This was agreed.

**DD** advised Councillors that as a result of COVID-19 there had been no opportunity for fundraising this year. These funds were generally used to support vulnerable residents in financial difficulty. As a result, no funds were available to help a resident in an emergency. Given the high balance in the Community Agent Account, **DD** asked if funds could be made available from this account. **GB** reminded Councillors that a hardship fund had been discussed previously by the Council and funds made available. **SM** to check back in the Minutes to confirm the amount.

**SM**

**SM** informed Councillors the Finance Committee had met to discuss the Council Budget for 2021-2022. Following a review of expenditure and estimated year-end figures for the current financial year, a draft budget had been prepared for discussion. **SM** presented these figures to the Councillors for review at the meeting. **RBo proposed** the Council approve the draft budget. **Seconded** by **PH**. **All agreed**.

#### **09-1020 Speed Camera in Pontfadog**

**GB** stated that the use of a speed radar gun is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour but is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. He explained that this is a national initiative (Community Speedwatch) which aims to increase public awareness of inappropriate speed. Discussion to continue.

#### **10-1020 CCTV in Pontfadog**

**GB** reiterated the main benefits and importance of the installation of CCTV in Pontfadog and Dolywern. He had forwarded the regulations controlling the use of CCTV to a local resident who had expressed reservations about the use of CCTV, but he had received no further response. He stressed the legal requirements of the operation of CCTV. Discussion relating to installation to continue.

#### **11-1020 AOB**

**EJ** informed Councillors that visitors to 'Mellow Mount' cottage holiday accommodation were leaving bags of rubbish at the side of the road and in the bins at the church, village shop and The Swan. **SM** to write to the owner of the property to tell them to take on their responsibility to provide satisfactory refuse collection for visitors to the property.

**SM**

**GB** reminded Councillors that the requirement for a Council to hold an AGM in each year has been disapplied under the COVID-19 regulations. He also informed Councillors that the existing rule for a Councillor who is absent from all meetings of the Council and any committees of which they are a member for a period of six months automatically ceases to be a member of the Council has been disapplied under the current COVID-19 regulations.

**DR** asked **TB** to arrange for the 'phone number for the Llangollen Clinic to be put in the Glyn News.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:08pm

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

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTE**

A vigilant resident reported the Council meeting to the Police as it was taking place indoors at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall (OJMH) with more than six people. This resulted in PCSO Gareth Jones coming to the OJMH to investigate. He was told that the Council had taken advice from Wrexham County

Borough Council and the Society of Local Council Clerks prior to the meeting and had been advised that under the COVID-19 regulations the work of the Council is considered to be business and therefore holding a meeting of more than 6 people indoors was within the law.

The Council and would like to thank the resident for their vigilance and would encourage all residents to remain vigilant and act in a similar way if they believe the COVID-19 regulations are being breached.