



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

6th January 2021

Remote Council Meeting Held Over Webex

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Merle Hunt
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Emma Jones

Councillor Dave Edwards
Councillor Colin Hidden

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

Chairman opened the meeting at 6:15pm

Action

01-0121 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillor Donald Roberts (personal circumstances).
Councillor Pam Hughes (personal circumstances).
Councillor Ted Johnston (personal circumstances)
County Councillor Trevor Bates (personal circumstances)

02-0121 Declarations of Interest

None

03-0121 Reports

(a) Police Report

PCSO Gareth Jones had sent a short report to **SM** which summarised the criminal activity in the local area. He reported:

- An Incident in Dolywern which is being investigated. The incident Involved damage to an oil tank and a car had been set on fire. 4x4 vehicles had been in the area.
- An incident in Dolywern with a 4X4 vehicle late one evening with the people in the vehicle claiming they had 'broken down'. Police had issued COVID-19 fines for breaking lockdown rules.

- Still reports of 4X4 vehicles over the weekend but unfortunately, the Police had been unable to trace the offenders.

MH reminded Councillors of the existence of certain scams, principally over the phone and called for extra vigilance. **SM** said the Dyfed-Powys Police had issued a warning about fraudsters taking advantage of the vaccine rollout and making cold calls regarding the vaccine. The criminals are asking people to pay for it over the phone. Police are advising that everyone must remember that the vaccine is free of charge and there is no way to jump the queue by paying for a 'priority slot'.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB had sent a report to **SM** prior to the meeting. He reported:

- After discussing the future use of the Pontfadog School site, the Corporate Land and Building Strategy Group had put forward a recommendation to Wrexham Council's Executive Board that the site be used for housing by a Housing Association. **GB** commented the Council had taken responsibility for the feasibility study and had successfully completed the consultation.
- In discussion with Adult Social Services and Calon Lan about the issue of poor domiciliary care provision in the Valley.
- Wanted to draw the Council's attention that he had been approached by a resident about the provision of allotments locally. He had advised that there are some allotments available in Glyn Ceiriog. He asked if the Council had considered locating any allotments in the grounds of the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall.
- Requested nominations for the Valley's Community Awards
- Continually discussing issue of potholes with WCBC and recommends Councillors encourage all residents to write to WCBC about the issue.

MH said the roads are in a dreadful state, causing damage to vehicles and becoming impassable in some areas. **DR** had informed **SM** prior to the meeting that the ditch at the side of the road coming down from Cae Mor towards the Mulberry needs clearing out to prevent water running down road and also advised of a 1ft deep pothole in road near the Mulberry. It was agreed **GB**, **SM** and **DD** contact Simon Baynes MP to discuss the problem.

04-0121 Community Agent

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

- December saw a big increase in contact from people in the community needing a little extra support.
- Has made an Increased number of welfare calls both by phone and in person and these remain a priority.
- Virtual Community Agents' meetings attended, and training undertaken.
- Oswestry and Borders food bank donated 3 family Christmas hampers to our Christmas hamper appeal and had been thanked for their support. **TB** had visited the Wrexham food bank to see how it operates. A small committee, comprising of the vicar, community agents, county councillor, centre manager and two well connected volunteers took the decision to introduce a 'Community Cupboard' in Glyn Ceiriog for the use of the whole valley community. This was set up before Christmas, staffed by volunteers and stocked by surplus food supermarket donations along with any items left over from the Christmas hampers. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve donations were received from Given to Shine, Tesco (Cefn

Mawr) and Aldi. The amount donated was unbelievable and was distributed to people in need from the whole valley. This venture has been very worthwhile and has had great support with people donating both food and gifts.

- **GB** had seen an advert on Facebook by Craig Roberts butchers in Cefn Mawr with an offer to community kitchens of minced beef to feed a community. I applied, and they have gifted 12kg of mince for the Lockdown Lunches. These begin again on the 8th January 2021 and will run to at least to the end of April.
- 3 Christmas lunches had been cooked and delivered on Christmas Day to residents who had expected to be joining family for Christmas but were unable to do so because of COVID-19 restrictions.
- New Year's Eve was spent engaging with mental health services to help a resident. Good outcome achieved.
- Raised the ongoing issue of the poor domiciliary care provision in the Valley citing one very serious case where services had failed. Had met with Simon Baynes MP regarding these concerns and he is happy to give his support to hopefully improve the provision of care. **TB**, **DD** and Mr Baynes are meeting the Head of Social Care in Wrexham via Zoom on 15th January 2021.

MH said the Council should send a formal letter to Wrexham Council regarding the unacceptable provision of care. **GB**, **SM** and **DD** to draft letter.

GB SM
DD

GB informed Councillors that he had emailed Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to offer the use of the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall as a location for a COVID-19 vaccination centre for less able residents in the Valley and was waiting for their response.

DD told Councillors that the first resident in Pontfadog had received their first vaccination today.

MH reported the Christmas hampers had been successful and feedback from recipients thanking Helping Hands, Community Agent and the Council for their generosity. This had all been possible with the help of volunteers and donations from residents, local supermarkets, businesses and the willingness of the community to support the scheme. **MH** thanked **DD** for managing the whole project. **MH** told Councillors the hampers had been packed ready to be delivered in one day by volunteers. Simon Baynes MP had visited the volunteers on the day hampers were being delivered and congratulated them on their 'incredible' achievement and added that the Ceiriog Valley is a fine example of community spirit in these challenging times. **RBo** advised Councillors that Helping Hands would be meeting to discuss a more targeted approach for activities for the rest of the year.

05-0121 Correspondence

SM had received:

- A complaint from resident about dog fouling along Stryt Pentre between LLwynmawr Farm to Pentre Cilgwyn. (Discussed later in meeting)
- Email from One Voice Wales detailing training dates for January, which had been circulated to Councillors.
- Email from a resident expressing concerns about the proposed new development of an organic free-range egg production unit at Cae Mor
- Email from Lanyon Bowdler advising they are still waiting for the Bowls Club to pay their share of the fees. Confirmed they will proceed with Lease once payment is received.
- Email from Wales Audit Office advising of new External Audit arrangements.

- Thank you card from two residents, thanking Helping Hands, Community Agent and the Council for their Christmas hamper.

06-0121 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 2nd December 2020

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2020 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by RBo and seconded by CH. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

- **DD** informed Councillors that Storm Bella and the associated heavy rainfall had caused the Bro Dewi culvert to become blocked and flood again on Boxing Day. Nobody was available to come from WCBC to resolve the situation which had left residents, including one elderly man, having to put themselves at risk to clear the culvert. Between 5:30am on Boxing Day and 5:30am the following day the culvert had to be cleared four times. This issue has been raised with WCBC on numerous occasions but has still not been resolved. **GB** said the Council should keep complaining to WCBC and Simon Baynes MP should be copied in on any emails.

07-0121 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 £3343.03 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed and approved. A credit of £5300 (precept) had been received from WCBC.

SM had circulated estimated year-end figures for expenditure from the 2020-2021 budget and it was evident there was likely to be a large surplus of funds. The 2021-2022 budget approved in October 2020 was again reviewed and the Precept for the new financial year was discussed. **GB** suggested in view of the large surplus of funds the Precept remain at £15900 for the coming year. **MH** raised concerns about the uncertain consequences following Brexit and said the Council should be in a position to support any vulnerable resident who may experience any difficulties as a result, and that the Council should consider raising the Precept. However, **GB proposed** the Precept remain the same at £15900 and knowing that the Council has surplus funds, accepts it would be able to look at contingencies if necessary. **Seconded by RBo. 5 in favour 1 abstention.**

08-0121 Dolywern Playground

The new appointment for the site visit to the playground by Sovereign Ltd had been arranged for 13th January 2021 and **SM** confirmed the meeting would be going ahead. **TJ** and **GB** would be present at the appointment, but **CH** would be unable to attend. **SM** to contact Ralph Bennett to invite him to the meeting.

09-0121 CCTV in Pontfadog and Dolywern

Research is still ongoing. A number of residents have expressed interest and are in favour of installing CCTV.

10-0121 Planning

P/2020/0803 - Installation of 4 conservation style roof lights at Llangwryd Uchaf, Llwynmawr.

The property is a listed building, and any final decision will be made by CADW. Councillors had no objection to the plans and **CH** commented the building (barn conversion) was being used as holiday lets which were beneficial for local tourism and businesses.

SM advised Councillors that no formal planning application for the new organic free-range egg production unit at Cae Mor had been submitted as yet.

EJ asked all Councillors to visit the site of the proposed development. She pointed out that the proposal was claiming to be organic, but the site had not been previously farmed organically and DEFRA stipulate 36 months before a first organic harvest can be claimed.

11-0121 AOB

SM had received a complaint from a resident about dog fouling along Stryt Pentre in Llwynmawr and had asked what action the Council could take. **CH** informed Councillors that although generally it is the responsibility of the dog owner, there are exemptions depending on location where a dog owner is not necessarily obliged to clean up after their dog. **SM** to check this with the dog warden in Wrexham and confirm what action could be taken. **GB** said residents witnessing an incident also had a responsibility to report it.

RBo informed Councillors that works and repairs to St John's Church in Pontfadog were estimated to be in the region of £4500. He told Councillors that a grant is available, but this would not cover all costs and asked if the Council would consider making a donation towards maintenance work in the churchyard. **SM** confirmed the Council is prohibited from donating funds for the repair of Church buildings (1894 Local Government Administration Act) but does have a Power to offer financial assistance for the maintenance of burial grounds and churchyards (1972 Local Government Administration Act). Councillors suggested a s137 donation, but **SM** said this was not an option.

Meeting closed at 7:34pm

Next meeting will be on 3rd February 2021 at 6pm