



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

3rd February 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) and County Councillor Trevor Bates

Chairman opened the meeting at 6:00pm

Action

01-0221 Apologies for Absence

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

02-0221 Declarations of Interest

None

03-0221 Reports

(a) Police Report

PCSO Martin Griffiths had sent a short report to **SM** which summarised the criminal activity in the local area and this had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. He reported:

- Online Fraud has seen an increase but there were no other details in the report. **DD** said she had been advised by the Police that fraudsters were taking money from people's accounts via the PlayStation app. The fraudsters only take small amounts daily but over the month this has been as much as £90 in some cases.

- 4X4 vehicles and off-road related issues are continuing to cause concern. However, where appropriate the Police have issued fines for breach of COVID-19 regulations.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- The final decision regarding the future use of the Pontfadog school site is being made by the Wrexham Council Executive Board on 9th February 2021.
- A skip had been provided by the WCBC Housing Department following the flooding in Maes Merydydd. Other information regarding flood management was discussed later in the meeting.

04-0221 Community Agent

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

- There had been an increase in the number of positive Covid 19 cases within Glyntraian.
- Welfare calls both by phone and in person (socially distanced) still taking place.
- Psychological first aid training undertaken.
- Virtual CA's meetings attended.
- In the past fortnight had issued two food boxes to people who have struggled because of changes to universal credit and the way in which payments are calculated. These have both been to working couples who, because of Christmas, had been paid twice in one benefit period meaning that they were not entitled to any benefit.
- Supporting people who have tested positive for Covid-19. This support is shopping and phone calls to make sure they are able to manage and that they are remaining well enough to stay at home. Also being asked to pick up and post the home testing kits used for people who are unable to get to test centres.
- Still supplying Sunday lunches and fish suppers to people so that I have regular contact with them. These are free to the people I am supporting as find this the best way to maintain contact. One gentleman does pay me £2.50 for a Sunday lunch as he insists that it's in line with the cost of a lockdown lunch.
- Has had some contact with family of people affected by the flooding in Pontfadog and are looking at support in the long term.
- **DD, TB** and Simon Baynes MP had attended a short virtual meeting with Alwyn Jones (Chief Officer WCBC Social Care) to raise the issues and concerns caused by the failure in the care and wellbeing support for a resident over the Christmas period. Alwyn Jones said he would investigate the case and arrange for Ruth Davies (manager in charge of social workers) to contact **DD**, which she did but no further action was taken. **DD** explained that WCBC is currently reviewing the provision of domiciliary care in the Borough and has invited care agencies, (including Calon Lan) to tender for new Adult Social Care Contracts. The review will not be completed until March 2021 so the issue will not be resolved until after this date. Calon Lan is currently responsible for domiciliary care in the Valley. There have been no complaints about the carers themselves and the difficulties are being caused by poor, disorganised management by the agency.

05-0221 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Weekly updates on COVID-19 information and figures from Lawrence Isted at WCBC. Links have been put on the Council's website and Facebook page.
- Email from Sherry Weedall (Commissioning and Contracts Team WCBC) inviting to the Clerk and Chairman to a Zoom meeting to discuss proposed new arrangements for Community Agents. **SM** and **GB** to attend.
- Email from Kirsty Williams questioning the validity of the figures from the survey of residents undertaken at the time of the feasibility study, now the recommendation for social housing has been put forward to the WCBC Executive Board. **SM** reminded Councillors that the purpose of the feasibility study was to determine whether a financially sustainable and viable proposition for the future use of the school site could be identified. Based on the two business plans presented at the time of the feasibility study, the Forest School and Community Hub was not considered to be an economically viable or sustainable proposition. As far as the survey was concerned it should be noted the questionnaire was to gauge residents' perceived benefit of and not popularity of the different ideas and this was clearly stated on the questionnaire. **GB** informed Councillors that the group had made a complaint to Cadwyn Clwyd which had been dismissed. **EJo** informed Councillors that the group's complaint had been in relation to the organisation and process of the feasibility study. Councillors agreed no further action was required.
- Email from Sarah Hawkes to ask if the Council could help to initiate a farm group to consider ideas around long-term flood management through cultivation methods, working with farmers and others towards building a Ceiriog River Trust along the lines of the umbrella group 'Welsh Rivers Trust' and the 'Wye and Usk Foundation'. Debris carried in the flood water is causing excessive damage to the riverbanks and adjacent fields.
- In her email, Sarah Hawkes also noted her interest in the environmental value of diversity. **SM** advised Councillors that the Council must have a Biodiversity Action plan as stipulated under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Sarah has expressed interest to be involved. **MH** to draft a Biodiversity policy. Further discussion about a plan will be at the next Council meeting.

06-0221 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 6th January 2021

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2021 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by MH and seconded by RBo. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

MH asked whether the formal letter regarding the unacceptable condition of the roads and drains had been sent to WCBC after the last meeting. **SM** said it had not. The issue was discussed further later in the meeting.

07-0221 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 £2145.36 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed and approved. **GB** to sign the Finance report at a later date.

A s137 application had been received from the Dyffryn Ceiriog Riding for the Disabled Group requesting a donation towards looking after the RDA ponies because fundraising had not been possible due to

COVID-19 restrictions. The Clwyd Special Riding Centre had been closed for the time being and local volunteers were looking after the ponies over the winter. **MH** questioned whether this application met the criteria for a donation and the fact that a specific amount had not been included. **GB** said that this was an emergency situation, and the Council should consider a donation to cover the fundraising shortfall. **RBo proposed** the Council make a donation of £500 on the condition that the donation was not used for maintenance purposes. **Seconded** by **MH**. All agreed. **SM** to contact group asking for further information. To be discussed further at next meeting.

SM

08-0221 Dolywern Playground

The visit to the Dolywern playground by Sovereign Ltd had taken place. **TJ, DE** and Ralph Bennett (resident) had attended the appointment. **SM** now waiting for the design and quote from Sovereign Ltd.

SM

SM informed Councillors she was looking at alternative suppliers so other site visits could be arranged and was investigating what grant funding might be available for the project.

09-0221 Flood Risk Management

TB said flooding from the culvert in Bro Dewi had been prevented following WCBC council workers clearing the culvert during storm Christoph at **DD**'s request. The problem has occurred regularly in the past when there has been heavy rain, but there had been no assistance provided and residents had to attempt to clear the culvert, putting themselves at serious risk. The culvert has now been cleared but the whole structure is in danger of collapsing and is in need of serious attention. **TB** is Kerry Williams from WCBC to discuss the issue.

WCBC is currently discussing installing flood doors to council housing in the Borough which is deemed it be a good idea. **TB** has suggested the houses in Bro Dewi could be used as a trial, given that the culvert at Bro Dewi has quite a history of blocking and causing floods.

TB advised Councillors that WCBC has now received the criteria from Welsh Government to enable householders to claim if they have suffered flooding to property or had been evacuated due to flooding because of storm Christoph. Forms are now available and can be used by residents of Maes Meredydd in Pontfadog.

It was agreed that lack of maintenance of culverts and storm drains in the area was the primary cause of flooding and in order to help prevent the problem WCBC needed to regularly clean the drains. **GB** said that volunteers should not be putting themselves at serious risk to clear the culverts and WCBC has a responsibility to maintain drainage systems. **TB** informed Councillors that WCBC currently has no Flood Officer but a list of culverts is being made by James Davies (WCBC). **DD** reminded Councillors of the idea of asking retired WCBC workers to identify the water washes along the lanes, so these could be cleared and would provide natural runoff for water over the fields.

It is evident a full risk assessment is required by WCBC to identify the areas at risk of flooding. The damage being caused along the riverbanks should also be taken into account. At least two areas of the B4500 in Glyntraian are at risk of collapsing because the riverbanks have been severely undercut. **TB** to bring to the attention of Kerry Williams.

SM

It was agreed **SM** make a list of important emergency phone numbers that may be required by residents if flooding occurs and put these on the Council website and Facebook page.

10-0221 Highways

MH said all the roads in Glyntraian need resurfacing due to numerous potholes and regular cleaning to remove debris, especially after periods of heavy rainfall. **TB** has already made WCBC aware all the roads need clearing of debris following the recent storms. It is felt that complaints from rural residents are ignored. **GB** said WCBC has limited resources and the Council would have to look at finding a solution that WCBC is realistically able to carry out. Currently WCBC has a very rough and ready approach to filling the potholes which is not acceptable for the long-term. **SM** to send a formal letter to WCBC.

SM
GB

11-0221 Council Committees

SM advised Councillors that new members were required for the Finance and Communications Committees now Chris Futcher and Jools Payne had both resigned. **RBo** offered to be on the Finance Committee. **DD** offered to be on the Communications Committee as Community Agent. However, a Councillor is also needed. **GB** asked **SM** to send out a list of the members for all the Council Committees so these can be reviewed at the next meeting.

SM

12-0221 AOB

MH told Councillors that a virtual meeting of the Helping Hands committee was being arranged to discuss what the group could do for Easter. **DD** said she had thought about arranging afternoon teas for St David's day to engage with residents who don't receive lockdown lunches and who she does not necessarily have regular contact. Helping Hands to support idea.

RBo informed Councillors that following the last meeting a quote (£300) for the works and repairs to the gravestones in the churchyard at St John's Church in Pontfadog had been received. As the Council has a Power to offer financial assistance for the maintenance of burial grounds and churchyards it was agreed the Council would be prepared to make a donation. **MH proposed** this should be considered once the invoice for the work had been paid. **Seconded** by **CH**. **All agreed**.

Meeting closed at 7:41pm

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