



# Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting

11th November 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  
Councillor Dave Edwards

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent) and County Councillor Trevor Bates.

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

At the start of the meeting a two-minute silence was held for Armistice Day.

### **01-1020 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Edith Jones (personal circumstances)

### **02-1020 Declarations of Interest**

None

### **03-1020 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 that the only issue was the incident at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall involving youths who vandalised the hand sanitisers in the playground and climbed on the roof. PCSO Jones had spoken them and passed on their names to the Youth Offending Team for action.

The problems caused by off-road trial bikes and 4X4s continue to be an ongoing issue for the Valley as a whole. Currently relatively quiet but Police are still patrolling the areas.

PCSO Jones had sent **SM** a poster with local PCSO contact details. **SM** had put a copy in Pontfadog PO and on the Council noticeboard.

**Action**

**SM** had received an email from Sgt Katie Davies requesting the Council's social media contacts. **SM** to forward details.

**SM**

**(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates**

**TB** reported:

- The future use of the former Pontfadog school site being discussed by the Corporate Land and Buildings Strategy Group on 17 November 2020. Its recommendation will be put forward to The Executive Board.
- The six North Wales Councils have formally submitted a Growth Bid to the UK and Welsh Governments for the food and tourism industry for approval. The proposal is for £2.4 billion and the creation of 3400 new jobs by 2026.
- Wrexham Council has allocated £470000 to fund improvements at Ysgol Cynddelw.
- Care in the Community: **TB** has been appointed to the task and finish group to review domiciliary care provision in Wrexham borough. He will be involved in meetings over the next 9 months.
- **TB** said the Bro Dewi culvert had flooded again and residents had to clear debris from the drain. **DD**, as a resident of Bro Dewi, said the brick wall of the culvert is in a poor state of repair and there is a major concern as to how safe it is when there is extreme water pressure against it when the gully blocks. There is a fear that the wall may collapse when one of the local residents is standing on top of it trying to clear debris from the grid in an attempt to prevent flooding of properties in Bro Dewi. There is a serious risk of someone being pulled off their feet and under the water into the pipe.

**DD** had met Kevin Edwards from Wrexham Council and discussed the problem, and it was agreed there should be an in-depth inspection to address the issue, but Wrexham Council has made no commitment to when it will be. Building a similar wall structure upstream from the culvert would be an option. Mr Edwards noted the drains in the Square were also blocked and had not been inspected in over 20 years. An extension to the concrete gully by the houses would help to alleviate some of the threat of flooding properties and give better run-off to the river.

- **CH** asked **TB** when the road sweepers/drain cleaners would be in the area again. **TB** advised that there is a new schedule of work, but Glyntraian is fairly low on the list and it could be three months before they visit the area again.

**04-1020 Community Agent**

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

- Small number of garden visits still taking place, but this is limited now due to the weather.
- Use of the Council room for one-to-one confidential meetings is still ongoing.
- Had made a referral to Shropshire County Council's Adult Services and had been pleased with the speed of their response.
- Welfare phone contact is now a priority and will remain a priority for the foreseeable future.
- Had remotely attended Community Agents' meetings

- Still working with Library Services to resume library provision within the valley but this had to be put on hold due to the Wales lockdown. It is proposed that this service will now start on the 23rd November 2020. A copy of public liability insurance had to be supplied together with a risk assessment for the lobby at the OJMH. However, the Library Service has been reminded that it is their responsibility to carry out their own risk assessment.

**DD** informed Councillors that the lack of care provision available within the Ceiriog Valley is of most concern. In Glyntraian there are 5 residents in hospital or care homes unable to return home because care providers are unwilling to support contracts long term within the Valley, citing reasons such as the poor state of the roads, too remote and not enough profit. These residents are some of the most vulnerable within our community and are facing prolonged time away from family and home. **DD** had personally tried to address the issue but had been unsuccessful.

**DD** and **TB** had received a response from Alwyn Jones, Chief Officer for Social Care in Wrexham Council which stated that Wrexham Council has put in a short term fix in the form of a Rapid Response Domiciliary Care Contract across Wrexham which has secured two additional full rounds of care across the borough, providing guaranteed care hours to agencies. In practice this has meant that waits have been substantially reduced although challenges still remain in the Valley. Wrexham Council has committed to piloting a 'block' run in the Glyn Ceiriog area to provide regular care in the area, to provide stability to the care workers and to the people receiving support. Wrexham Council anticipate this will commence no later than 16th November 2020 and expect the care needs of the 5 people waiting to be met within the next 14 days through this structure. Calon Lan Community Care is in the process of recruiting care workers for the contract. An overall review of domiciliary care provision will be undertaken by Wrexham Council in the new year.

## **06-1120 Correspondence**

**SM** had received:

- External Auditors report notifying the Council's Annual Return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention for concern the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.
- A letter from the Ceiriog Valley Bowls Club (discussed later in the meeting).
- Notification of Home-start AGM (24th November via Zoom). Home-Start works with families in communities right across the UK providing compassionate, confidential help and expert support.
- Email from Adrian Leslie (British Legion) advising grants are currently available to Councils from the War Memorial Trust for renovation/conservation of war memorials. It was agreed that currently this is not required for the Ponfadog war memorial.
- Email from Planning Officers' Society for Wales (POSW) advising of a short Town and Community Council survey for the Clerk to complete, The survey is designed to help Local Planning Authorities to improve, and give another perspective on the quality of the planning service in Wales.
- Email from Age Cymru advising it will be holding a number of online focus groups later this month, with an aim of learning more about the issues older people feel are priorities for them, and which matters they feel Age Cymru should focus upon, during the forthcoming Assembly elections. The sessions, which will take place over Zoom, will be available in both English and Welsh. This information is to be put on the Community Agent Facebook page.
- A copy of the review undertaken by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales of the electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Wrexham.

- A card thanking the Council for permitting contractors recently working at the Cheshire Home in Dolywern to put their container on the OJMH car park.

### **07-1120 Approval of the Minutes of the Remote Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 7th October 2020**

**(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by RBo and seconded by PH. All agreed.**

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

**SM** had written to the owner of 'Mellow Mountain' to tell them to take on their responsibility to provide satisfactory refuse collection for visitors to the property.

**SM** had forwarded comments from Councillors regarding the planning application for a change in land use at Cefn Coed to the Planning Officer in Wrexham.

### **08-1120 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 £3650.73 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed and approved. £ 26.23 had been received from Scottish Power (wayleave). **GB** signed the finance report.

**EJo** said that as Christmas will be different this year due to the COVID-19 restrictions, a resident in Pontfadog and herself had decided to make it magical for the children of Glyntraian. The plan is to bring Santa to the villages to give out presents to all the children. They envisage there will be no more than 100 children to each receive a present and were requesting the Council donate funds and support the idea. It was agreed selection boxes would be a suitable present. **MH proposed** the Council donate £100 but **GB** said he thought the donation should be in the region of £250 - £300 given the number of children. **EJo proposed** the Council donate up to £300. **Seconded by MH. All agreed.** It was agreed that any money not spent would be paid back to the Council. **SM** to give **EJo** a boundary map of Glyntraian to ensure all the area outside Pontfadog, Dolywern and Llwynmawr was covered. **SM**

**SM** had received a letter from the Chairman of the Ceiriog Valley Bowls Club requesting help to cover the legal fees (£2248.80) associated with drawing up the new lease. The Bowls Club would only be able to pay £1100 towards the fees because due to COVID-19 the Club had received little in way of income during 2020. Councillors agreed the Club could have a loan to cover the shortfall. **PH** advised Councillors that the Council had done this for the previous lease and the Club had paid the loan back in instalments over the term of the loan (10 years). As the new lease is for 20 years it was agreed there should be a shorter payback period. **TJ proposed** the Council loan the Bowls Club £1150.00 to be paid back in instalments of £230.00 over a period of 5 years. The instalments would be paid annually at the same time as the rent for the bowling green. **Seconded by MH. All agreed. SM** to notify Club. **SM**

The Council's existing risk assessment was reviewed and revised. **RBo** proposed the new risk assessment be adopted. **Seconded by GB. All agreed.**

### **09-1120 s137 Applications**

An application for a s137 donation of £500 had been made by 'Helping Hands' to support the Christmas hampers project. **MH** explained the plans for Christmas this year including the estimated costs, which based on last year's figures could be over £2000. The group receives some generous donations from residents, but further support was needed from the Council. Following discussion **MH proposed** the donation of £500 be accepted. **Seconded by RBo. All agreed.**

In addition, **GB** suggested the Council put a contingency amount of a further £500 to cover any shortfall in donations. He advised Councillors that the Council could do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. Given the nature of the Christmas hampers project, **PH proposed** that 'Helping Hands' receive up to £500 to cover any shortfall in donations. **Seconded by CH. All agreed.**

### **10-1120 CCTV and Hand-Held Radar Speed Gun in Pontfadog**

**GB** reiterated the main benefits and importance of the installation of CCTV in Pontfadog and Dolywern. He reminded Councillors that no final decision has been made. He reported that a limited number of residents had made negative comments on the Council's Facebook page expressing reservations about the use of CCTV. However, the Clerk had received a high number of positive responses strongly supporting the idea. He stressed the legal requirements of the operation of CCTV and informed Councillors that the Council must meet the 12 principles of the CCTV Code of Practice before it can go ahead with the installation of CCTV. Further research and discussion relating to installation to continue.

**CH** said the use of a radar speed gun by volunteers in Pontfadog may have repercussions in the local community and give rise to ill feeling or aggressive behaviour between local residents. **GB** reiterated 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 and is supported by local neighbourhood Police. He also advised Councillors that at the times when speed checks are in operation warning signs to make drivers aware must be placed on the highway. There are already groups operating successfully around the UK. Research and discussion to continue.

### **11-1120 Oliver Jones Memorial Hall**

**GB** informed Councillors that the Constitution of the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall states that 6 Councillors should be nominated as custodian trustees. Currently **PH, EJ** and himself are already on the Committee and due to the resignation of 3 Councillors there were now 3 vacancies. **MH proposed CH, TJ and DE** as custodian trustees. **Seconded by PH. All agreed.**

### **12-1120 AOB**

**SM** had received an email from a resident asking the Council to reconsider funding a themed village sign for Castle Mill on the B4500, like the ones in Pontfadog and Dolywern, in an attempt to alert drivers of the dangerous road junction in the village. The resident's request had been previously rejected by the Council at the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019. **GB** said the Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership in association with the Community Councils had paid for the themed signs. This had not been a Council initiative and the Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership was no longer in operation. It was agreed the Council contact the Highways Department at Wrexham Council requesting a standard village sign to identify the boundaries of the village be put up.

**SM** had received an email from One Voice Wales requesting the contact details for the Council's representative for the Area Committee. As Mr Chris Futchter had resigned, the Council needed to nominate another Councillor. **SM** to send out information about the role and a decision by the Council was deferred until the December meeting.

**DE** said in the past Councillors' photos and contact details had been displayed on the Council noticeboards for residents and felt it would be advantageous for this to be reinstated. **MH** agreed and said Councillors should be promoting themselves and show their willingness to be contacted by residents. **GB** asked Councillors to send photos to **SM** so these could be added to Councillors' contact details on the Council website.

**GB**

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:31pm

Next meeting will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 at 6pm