



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

2nd June 2021

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Merle Hunt
Councillor Donald Roberts

Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Ted Johnston
Councillor Emma Jones

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

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

01-0621 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Colin Hidden (personal circumstances) and Cllr Dave Edwards (personal circumstances)

02-0621 Declarations of Interest

None

03-0621 Reports

(a) Police Report

PSCO Martin Griffiths had sent a report to **SM** which summarised the criminal activity in the local area. **SM** had sent it out to Councillors prior to the meeting.

- Off Road Related issues have increased as the Lockdown has eased. There had been an increased number of motorbikes and 4x4s in the area.
- Officers are looking to organise another Off-Road Operation in the next few weeks.
- Police are currently investigating ASB and criminal damage within the community.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Cllr Ronnie Prince had been elected as the new Mayor of Wrexham on 25th May 2021.
- A local resident had made a complaint about the condition of the roads in the area which had been published in the local press. As a result, WCBC has started to repair some of the potholes.
- Had been notified that PC Mark Sayer had been appointed as the new CBM. **TB** had arranged a meeting with him in Glyn Ceiriog for 4th June 2021. **GB** to attend on behalf of Council.
- The Ceiriog Valley Sheepdog Trials have been cancelled.
- Funds have been applied for from the Welsh Government to replace the culvert at Tanygarth following the recent flooding.
- The Glyn Ceiriog surgery is still closed. There are carpeted floors in the surgery and the carpets will need removing before the surgery can re-open to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Contacting Tessa Orton at the Health Centre in Llangollen for further details.
- Wrexham Council's budget for 2021-2022 confirms £4.9 million has been allocated to school travel. Costs are higher for the Ceiriog Valley because children travel to Dinas Bran in Llangollen.

04-0621 Community Agent

DD reported:

- Has completed CAIS training. This more in-depth course leads to a level two qualification. The course has given **DD** access to a lot of helpful information and numbers enabling her to refer anyone who may need this intervention.
- Meeting with all area Community Agents.
- Prescription collection and delivery has now slowed.
- The Ceiriog Valley Community Cupboard is now running on both a Wednesday and Friday and continues to be well-used.
- Welfare contacts by phone and garden visits continue but finding more people are asking for a visit rather than a phone call and they are happy to be able to chat again, with less restrictions.
- Continue to work with the Heating Department at WCBC. SM has sent an email from the Council, but still waiting for a reply. The best outcome would be to improve the service received by tenants but also to help those that have suffered from these issues to build back trust with the workmen employed by Wrexham Council. There will be a meeting between the Heating Department and the tenants as a number of those affected will not allow access to workmen as they feel threatened by them, which is totally understandable given the very poor attitude of the Liberty heating engineers.

- The first Lunch Club since lockdown will be held on Thursday (3rd June 2021 in the main hall with social distancing. There are 19 residents who are looking forward to getting back. Home deliveries will carry on for those people who are not ready to mix with others, this will also continue with the support of those living in the rest of the Ceiriog community.
- An elderly lady had an accident at her home and is still in hospital. I spent time supporting the family on the day of the fall and afterwards. I have also helped them with making sure the right people are kept informed and have given them all the information needed to move forward and have the right support in place for the elderly lady for the best outcome for her and her family.
- Continuing with the plans to offer a 'picnic in the park' for the older generation and for those who care for them. The aim is to encourage mixing with others in the hope that by doing this it will slowly get them back into the community in a safe, friendly environment.
- Fish and chip suppers with access to inside dining in the main hall will begin again on Friday evening 4th June 2021.

05-0621 Correspondence

TB had sent **SM** a request on behalf of a resident for a litter bin be placed at the bus stop in Castle Mill due to the number of walkers who head along Offa's Dyke. **TB** said if the Council decide to purchase one then it might be cheaper through Craig Youens at WCBC. **SM** should confirm that Streetscene will empty it first. **TB** to notify resident that the Council is considering his request.

06-0621 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 5th May 2021

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2021 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by RBo and seconded by DR. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

GB had asked the owner of the site of the old Pontfadog oak whether he would like to plant a sapling from the original tree on the site. He said he would like to take up the offer. A sapling had previously been offered to the Council by a local resident. **SM** to check when the sapling would be available.

GB reported the Council's speed gun had been given to a local resident following her request to use it to check the speed of traffic passing through Pontfadog. **GB** had stressed to the resident the speed gun could only be used to collect data and not to identify individual drivers/vehicles or provide information to the Police.

GB had ordered a football net for the goal posts in Dolywern park as agreed at the last meeting.

The issue of dog fouling raised by **CH** at the last meeting was discussed further. Councillors asked whether the Council could put up signs to discourage those who were not cleaning up after their dogs. **SM** to source information in time for the next Council meeting.

07-0621 Finance Report

SM had sent a copy of the financial report to Councillors prior to the meeting detailing the account balances, receipts and what had been paid. A schedule of items for payment totalling £2857.75 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** informed Councillors there

were also two further payments for approval: Webex £15.00 and JDH Business Services £192.52 for the cost of the internal audit. All the payments were authorised at the meeting by **GB** and **PH**. **SM** advised Councillors a credit of £1620.30 had been received from Scottish Power (FIT payment). **GB** signed the financial report.

An invoice had been received from St John's Church in Pontfadog for work on some of the gravestones, which had become unsafe in the churchyard. **PH** said repairs to these had been made by some families and asked why the others had not been done. **GB** advised it had not been possible to locate all the families or there were no longer any descendants and it had therefore been necessary for the church to pay for the repairs. The payment was for £245. **RBo proposed** the Council make the payment. **Seconded** by **MH**. **All agreed**.

SM advised Councillors that the VAT for 2020-2021 amounted to £799.12 and could be reclaimed. Appropriate forms had been completed and sent to HMRC.

SM advised Councillors the internal audit had been completed successfully. The auditor had noted however, the risk of supplier fraud for organisations has increased substantially and that the Council's Risk Assessment should be updated to include supplier (procurement) fraud including the adequacy of supplier onboarding controls. Councillors agreed **SM** revise the Council's Risk Assessment for approval at the next Council meeting.

The Annual Governance Statement on the Annual Return was discussed and completed. **SM**, as RFO, had already certified the document on 12th May 2021. **GB**, as Chair of meeting, signed the document to confirm the Council had approved the Accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement at the meeting,

SM advised Councillors that **DD** must be paid for untaken holidays between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021. During this time **DD** only took 4 days holiday out of 28 days and therefore pay for the other 24 days was required (£615.45).

SM informed Councillors that £745 had been claimed for **DD** from the Welsh Government NHS and social care financial recognition payment scheme. Community Agents are entitled to the payment in recognition of the services they provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.

08-0621 Council Procedures

As agreed at the last Council meeting **MH**, **GB** and **SM** had reviewed the existing Council policies and Standing Orders. **MH** had newly dated the revised policies and reminded Councillors they are legally obliged to adhere to these. A hard copy of the documents to be kept in the Council Committee Room. **MH proposed** the Council approve the revised policies and Standing Orders. **Seconded** by **TJo**. **All agreed**.

09-0621 Dolywern Playground

GB, **TJo** and **CH** had looked at the quotes for the new playground in detail and had agreed Creative Play offered the best design and equipment. **GB** told Councillors the equipment offered by the company was constructed from wood and set in metal post shoes.

The design for the children's playground covered the existing area and retained the roundabout. No fencing would be required because the playground was away from the road. The adult equipment would be located on the opposite side of the Hall carpark along the hedge at the side of the road. **GB** informed Councillors there would be a lead time of 6 to 8 weeks and it would take a further two weeks to install the new equipment.

The quote from Creative Play was £33858. The children's playground design was £23808, including a 'jigsaw' tower costing £ 9960. **GB, TJo** and **CH** had considered excluding the tower from the design to reduce the overall cost. However, it was felt this would be an unfair limitation given the original aim was to provide a more extensive, better equipped children's playground. **TJo** suggested a single tower rather than a triple tower could be considered as an alternative. **TJo** told Councillors that the wooden slide at Pontfadog School, which had been bought by the Council, was in good condition and could be incorporated into the new playground.

SM confirmed the Council had £10000 available towards the playground and adult gym equipment, but any shortfall would have to be covered by a grant. **GB, SM** and the Finance Committee to research suitable grants. **GB** said the total quote should be used as a working model for the purpose of grant applications. **TJo proposed** the Council use the design and quote from Creative Play with a view to getting grant funding for the total amounts. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **All agreed**. Any modifications to the overall design could still be made if deemed necessary.

10-0621 Summer Fête

The original plans for a large summer fête had been regarded as being too ambitious and a family fun day was being discussed as an alternative by the Committee. The fun day would form part of a sequence of events which included a picnic in the park and an outdoor cinema run by 'Flicks in the Sticks'.

It is planned a bouncy castle and assault course would be included in the activities on the day. **DD** had confirmed a price of £255 for the equipment. Charging a nominal fee at the event for using the bouncy castle and assault course would recoup the cost. To give assurance to the supplier **MH proposed** the Council make £500 available to cover the cost of the equipment if the event could not go ahead for any reason. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **All agreed**.

SM said the Council held public liability and associated costs under its insurance policy but needed to confirm whether there would be any implications in view of COVID-19 restrictions. **GB** advised a 'Go/No Go' decision would have to be made some weeks before the planned event.

11-0621 AOB

MH informed Councillors that the WI wanted to buy a tree to plant by the millennium oak in Pontfadog in the memory of a member of the Institute. Given the Council's new biodiversity policy **MH** wanted to know which type of tree would be the most suitable. **GB** to ask members of the Ceiriog Valley Wildlife Group.

DD told Councillors a resident had seen Groundforce using weedkiller along the hedges surrounding the grounds of the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall. **GB** said the company is certified to use these products, but he would ask the company for its COSSH statement.

DR had left the meeting at 7:19pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:50pm

Next meeting will be on 7th July 2021 at 6pm