



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

7th July 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 Dave Edwards

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent) and Sarah Hawkes (resident)

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

01-0721 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Colin Hidden (personal circumstances), Cllr Emma Jones (personal circumstances) and County Councillor Trevor Bates.

02-0721 Declarations of Interest

None

03-0721 Biodiversity Action Plan

GB formally welcomed Sarah who been invited to join the discussion.

SM informed Councillors that under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 all local authorities have a section 6 duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience of ecosystems. **SM** explained the Welsh Government had set up a capital funding programme, (Local Places for Nature) to halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity in Wales.

SM advised Councillors a meeting had taken place with the Welsh Dee Trust who had offered to work in partnership with the Council to help improve and protect the Ceiriog River through community projects. Details were presented by **SM** and Sarah and then discussed. (*See précis of the discussion attached to the Minutes*).

Action

SM

04-0621 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. The report listed the following issues:

- 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.
- Liaising with Community Agents regarding vulnerable residents
- Meeting with Council Officials, local MP and local Community Officials regarding off-road tracks in the Ceiriog Valley.

MH asked **SM** to find out more detailed information to support the general statements in the report.

SM

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

SM had received the following information from **TB**:

- Advised Councillors WCBC's financial year ending 2021 report had been completed.
- Concerns have been expressed by residents about the boundary hedge against the road at the front of the OJMH because it is growing over the pavement and is a risk to safety as pedestrians are having to walk in the road. **SM** to contact Groundforce to resolve the issue.

PH also raised the issue of the overgrown boundary hedge between the OJMH and Council properties in Bro Dewi. and the fact that WCBC had always maintained this hedgerow in the past. **DD** commented that WCBC had said maintenance was the tenants' responsibility, but informed Councillors the tenants are elderly, and some are disabled and not able to manage this. **SM** to contact the WCBC Housing Department directly about the issue.

SM

05-0721 Community Agent

DD reported:

- Lunch club has made a return to the hall, is very well attended and is once again being enjoyed by the community.
- Meeting with all area community agents, and with Sherry Weedall from WCBC looking at the new monitoring system and forms to record and account for our time and support within the community. This new way of monitoring is to be introduced in the hope that both the community and the agents who work within them are supported by regular supervision and reporting to ensure each area is covered to a high standard.
- Preparations are underway for an afternoon tea with music to take place on Saturday 17th July, 3pm-5pm at the OJMH. **DD** had received a donation for £50 from the Glyntraian and Llangollen Charity to help towards the cost of the event and she expressed her special thanks to Edith and Alma for their generosity.

- This event is to be by invitation and will be for 30 community members due to the current COVID-19 restrictions. It is hoped that it will be possible to repeat this in August 2021 and be able to invite different or more people next time.
- Have supported a family with the help of the Community Cupboard to supply food to them.
- More and more community members are now asking for a visit as they are now feeling far more comfortable having had their two COVID-19 vaccines.
- Work with WCBC regarding the problems with heating systems in the area is still ongoing and I have attended and spoken to several tenants in both community areas in the hope of getting problems resolved before winter. Meeting with the heating department and other officials has been organised for 21st July 2021 at the OJMH, and I have invited County Councillor Trevor Bates to also attend.
- Fish and chips suppers have now restarted but so far have not been well attended. This is a not-for-profit club and income will be monitored to make sure costs are covered.
- Has been working with the PCSOs and Trading Standards after several community members raised concerns about a company working in this area who had claimed to be working on behalf of WCBC to replace insulation in lofts. They were targeting private houses and had gained access to look at the loft but had left before carrying out work claiming, work couldn't be done as the lofts had wasps' nests in them making it impossible for workmen to enter. I did investigate the named firm and spoke to the head office, who told me that they do indeed carry out this type of work, but not for WCBC or in this area. Both the PCSOs and I revisited those who had been targeted and warned them to refuse access and phone the police to report any contact. This was also reported on the Community Agent and Ceiriog Community Facebook pages to raise awareness.
- Met with Tom Hughes from Community Catalysts, who is keen to be in touch with anyone interested in starting small enterprises, offering various care and support to older people in the community. He is coming to lunch club on August 12th to speak to members to explain what is offered by these enterprises and will be available afterwards to speak anyone who is interested in hearing more about the scheme.

06-0721 Correspondence

- Email from WCBC confirming they would be prepared to empty a litter bin at Castle Mill at the same time as refuse collections in the Valley. **GB** asked **SM** to check with WCBC if a specific design of litter bin was necessary before the Council agreed to purchase one.
- Nigel Davies (AVOW) had sent information on AVOW and Funding Wales who both offer sources of funding that might be appropriate for the new playground in Dolywern. He had suggested the Council also contact Cadwyn Clwyd.
- s137 Application from Adam Salomonson (First Responder) requesting funding to enable him to provide free defibrillator training sessions for residents at the OJMH.
- Playground reports from RoSPA

SM

07-0721 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 2nd June 2021

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2021 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by DR and seconded by TJo. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

MH reported the culvert by the Mulberry was overgrown and blocked by silt and therefore could cause flooding. **SM** to raise issue with WCBC. **SM**

GB advised the order for the football net for the goalposts in Dolywern park had now been confirmed.

MH asked when the Bowls Club would be moving the portacabin from the OJMH car park. **GB** to contact Bowls Club secretary. **GB**

EJ asked if the speed gun had been used in Pontfadog. **GB** confirmed that it had not, and that any data collected would come to the Council. The exercise was only to count the total number of vehicles that were speeding. **RBo** asked if a sign should be displayed advising drivers that speeds were being monitored, but **GB** said this was not necessary because the aim was to only count vehicles and not to identify individual drivers/vehicles or provide information to the Police.

MH confirmed that the WI had chosen to plant a rowan tree in memory of a member of the Institute and this would be planted by the millennium oak in Pontfadog in the Autumn (2021).

08-0721 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 £2436.91 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. All the payments were authorised at the meeting by **GB** and **PH**. **SM** informed Councillors receipts totalled £10623.57: £8204.15 Community Agent funding from WCBC; £799.12 VAT reclaim from HMRC and £1620.30 Scottish Power (FIT payment). **GB** signed the financial report.

A s137 application had been received from Adam Salomonson (First Responder) requesting support to allow him to provide several free Basic Life Support and Defibrillator awareness sessions in the OJMH, for members of the local community. **SM** explained that a s137 donation cannot be made to an individual, but as the planned sessions promote social well-being in its area, the Council could make a donation. **MH proposed** the Council donate £300. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **All agreed**.

Following the last meeting **SM** had revised the Council's Risk Assessment to include supplier (procurement) fraud including the adequacy of supplier onboarding controls. **MH proposed** the Council adopt the revised Risk Assessment on condition the appropriate information from the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations is also added to the document. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **All agreed**. **SM**

09-0721 Dolywern Playground

GB advised Councillors that there were concerns about the complexity of the playground design. **GB** explained he had written to Creative Play asking them to amend their design to incorporate a basketball hoop, a double rather than a triple 'jigsaw' tower and only one set of swings. He was waiting for the new quote.

GB went on to say that there had been no response from the residents of Dolywern and Llwynmawr to the project. Given there was a relatively low number of children in this area it was questionable how much the new playground would be used and if it would warrant the expenditure of the large amount of public money required for the project. **DD** reminded Councillors that there had been interest at the Council's visioning event three years ago when ideas for the playground were discussed with children from the area. **MH** suggested the Council market the idea and invite comments from residents. It was agreed details should be put on the Council's Facebook page. **GB** and **SM** to arrange.

GB SM

SM advised Councillors the playground inspection had been completed by RoSPA and had highlighted necessary actions:

Pontfadog playground

- Recommended dog ban and ownership signs be displayed
- Monitor chain wear on swings.

SM to find out from WCBC what had happened to the original signs which had been removed it at the time the new playground was installed.

SM

Dolywern playground

- Maintenance of surface by roundabout
- Make good ground surface by goalposts
- Take swings off while not in use.

10-0721 AOB

MH asked if there had been any progress on the planning application for the free-range egg unit at Cae Mor. **GB** advised NRW had raised concerns about the development and Simon Greenland (Planning Officer) had not yet closed the consultation.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:15pm

Next meeting will be on 1st September 2021 at 6pm