



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

3rd November 2021

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Colin Hidden
Councillor Donald Roberts

Councillor Emma Hughes
Councillor Ted Johnston
Councillor Dave Edwards

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent) and Sarah Hawkes (candidate for the Councillor vacancy)

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

01-1121 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Pam Hughes (personal circumstances)

02-1121 Declarations of Interest

GB declared an interest in the selection of a co-opted councillor and abstained from the vote.

SH declared a personal interest in the s137 application from the Ceiriog Valley Wildlife Group

03-1121 Co-Option of New Councillor

RBo and **SM** had interviewed Sarah Hawkes following her application for the Councillor vacancy. **RBo** recommended the Council co-opt Sarah as the new Councillor. **Seconded** by **DE**. **All agreed**. **GB** welcomed Sarah and thanked **RBo** and **SM** for conducting the interview.

04-1121

PC Chris James (Rural Crime Officer for North Wales Police) joined the meeting to inform Councillors about North Wales Community Alert which has been launched by North Wales Police. PC James explained North Wales Community Alert is a community messaging service to give up to date

information about crime, engagement events, appeals, prevention advice and general policing activity in local areas and gives an opportunity for individuals to provide feedback to local neighbourhood police teams. Residents and businesses are being encouraged to sign up so that Alerts and Crime Information can be made accessible to local communities. He explained how the scheme works and the benefits of signing up for the new system. Information can be found on www.northwalescommunityalert.co.uk. The service is not monitored 24/7 and is not for reporting crimes or incidents. In this case North Wales Police should be contacted online or by telephoning 101.

CH asked whether emails could be seen by all individuals via the messaging system, but **PC James** confirmed that everyone is not able to see any emails sent in and that only the Police can send out messages or emails through the system. **CH** also asked if a person's data would be stored securely, and **PC James** confirmed that it is.

GB thanked **PC James** for coming to the meeting.

04-1121 Reports

(a) Police Report

No Police Report.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

- The roofing contractors have removed their containers from Pontfadog School, so if the Council are going to re-site the climbing play frame this should be done sooner rather than later. **GB** advised the side gates to the school were locked so currently it was not possible to remove the play equipment.
- Highways (WCBC) remain under pressure but have undertaken some pothole repairs near PenyGelli.
- Wrexham Council are still short of about 90 carers across the Borough so there is still pressure on Social Services to deliver care to those who need it, and this in turn is adding pressure to families, neighbours, and friends.
- There are issues with transport for those Valley residents without cars to get their COVID vaccinations. Volunteers are helping with this.
- **TB** had chased Kerry Williams (WCBC) about the Tanygarth culvert but not received a reply. Suggested Glyntraian Community Council can also ask questions about when WCBC will actually use the money allocated by Welsh Government for this. **SM** to contact WCBC
- **TB** had also notified WCBC that the platform safety rail is broken around the Bro Dewi culvert.
- A Community event was held at Canolfan Ceiriog on 23rd October. The free event with the bike track, pumpkin carving and musical entertainment went well with lots of families attending from all three Community Council areas. This was attended by Simon Baynes MP, 3 Police Officers, Davena Davies (Community Agent) and Councillors from each of the three Community Councils.
- Wrexham has an opportunity to apply for city status as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. If awarded it would give the opportunity for a range of potential benefits through investment strategies connected to local attributes such as the University, employment, transport infrastructure and cultural attractions. Local people had been asked to share their views on how Wrexham could prosper as a city (closing date 29th October 2021).
- **TB** advised Councillors that Ken Skates MS was coming to the Canolfan in Glyn Ceiriog on 27th November 2021. **GB** asked if there as any information regarding the report from the Local

SM

Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. The proposed modifications mean that Clwyd South would no longer exist as a constituency and the area would form part of Monmouthshire. It was agreed **SM** contact Simon Baynes MP to ask if he would visit to discuss the report's recommendations.

SM

- **EJ** asked **TB** if he knew when the Surgery in Glyn Ceiriog would be reopening. **TB** said no date had been set and there was an issue with not enough staff being available.
- **EJ** asked **TB** about the ongoing issue with potholes in the road past Llwynmawr Farm. As a result, vehicles were going into her wall because drivers were trying to avoid the potholes. **TB** advised making a complaint using Streetscene on WCBC's website because using the system means formal complaints are recorded and must be resolved by the Council. **SH** explained residents along the road between Bronygarth and Penraig had made a formal complaint and Kerry Williams from WCBC had been to visit residents and as a result, potholes had been repaired. **SM** to find out if he would consider meeting with the Council.
- **DE** was concerned about derelict properties in the area and asked **TB** if any action could be taken. **TB** explained in the case of privately owned properties nothing can be done unless the property is a danger to other people. However, some of the properties are currently being sold now the owners have been found. **TB** advised the Council to contact Clive Stannis-Street, the Housing Officer at Wrexham Council regarding the issue.

SM

05-1121 Community Agent

DD reported:

- Two new scams reported this month. The first is phone calls advising those who have recently received vaccinations of needing supplement vitamins which are not available from the doctor but can be supplied by them at a cost. This has been reported to local doctor's surgeries and the police. Secondly, phone contact is made and then followed up with a home visit within a couple of hours but those visiting have no identification cards or paperwork. A firm called UK Home Save Ltd is telling people their radiators are not working properly and they need flushing at a cost. Reported to trading standards and have had a follow up call from the BBC X ray consumer programme as they have had lots of complaints and are about to do an investigation over hard sell tactics and extortionate prices. This is the same company which during the summer claimed they could offer roof insulation and gained access to people's homes and then said they had wasps nesting in the roof space and they would need to remove these, again at a cost. Police had been informed at the time.
- Breakfast club has now started and is being supported by a small number of mainly gentleman at the moment which I believe to be a good sign as in smaller groups people are more able and likely to talk which people are doing. Thank you, Robin, for all your help in starting this club and encouraging people to chat.
- Collections from Sainsbury's will start this week to help support the Community Cupboards now running in Glyn Ceiriog 12 - 1pm on Fridays and in Llanarmon on Tuesday evenings.
- Computer club is now running and being very well supported by residents of the whole Valley.
- Tom Hughes (Community Catalysts) continues to use the hall and is currently helping a gentleman to start his own enterprise. Meetings last for approximately 20 minutes and are held fortnightly.
- A card making workshop with a Christmas theme will run on 1st December.
- Meeting with Jo Seymour from Warm Wales, Trevor Bates and tenants facing fuel poverty caused by the inefficient heating and hot water systems in their homes. Looked at the way

forward and the next course of action to rectify the problems, but also to share the experience and problems faced by families with these over complicated heating systems fitted in their homes so that Jo is able to evidence and report to the Welsh Government on these systems ahead of the new regulations coming into force in 2025, when all new build properties will have to be fitted with some kind of air source heating and hot water systems.

- The continuation of the fish suppers has had to be put on hold as we are getting more requests for bookings of the OJMH on Friday evenings. At the end of this week fish suppers will be cancelled for a month. So, in the long term and with the hope of increased bookings for the hall in the future, we will have to conduct a poll and see if it is viable to carry on with the suppers or if we continue with the support given to regular customers during the restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic. I will attend at the end of this week's lockdown lunch to inform those affected by this, as the cancellation of the last fish supper failed to reach those who relied on it, and they had a wasted journey to the hall.

06-1121 Correspondence

SM had received:

- A s137 application from the Ceiriog Valley Wildlife Group which was discussed later in the meeting.
- An email from the Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership asking for the £250 donation towards the tourist information boards which had been agreed by the Council in March 2019. **SM** to send the donation. **SM**
- **SM** had ordered a poppy wreath from the British Legion which had now been received. **PH** usually lays the wreath on behalf of the Council but if she is unable to do this it was agreed **RBo** would do it.
- Email from the Dee Valley Trust confirming they are now seeking funding for the project to remove and replace the old revetment along the River Ceiriog below Bro Dewi and the neighbouring field.
- An email from a resident about the poor condition of the road between Cae Mor Wood and Bedwlwyn. **SM** had sent an email to WCBC regarding this but had received no response.
- An email from Adam Salomonson thanking the Council for its £300 donation which had enabled him to run seven free 90-minute sessions, teaching a total of 38 people the basics of CPR and how to use a defibrillator. Donations given by people attending the sessions has made it possible for him to organise more free sessions which he will be doing soon.
- Mr Salomonson had advised **SM** that it is now no longer possible for The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust to provide free PADS and batteries for the AEDs at the OJMH, Pontfadog PO and Bronygarth. The money for their replacement (when required) would have to be found by the community. Mr Salomonson said the PADS and batteries in the AEDs in the Glyntraian area would not expire for 2 years unless they are actually used. **GB** said the Council should have funds readily available to replace the PADS and batteries at any time and the Council agreed **SM** could pay for these when required to keep the AEDs in full working order.
- An email from a resident enquiring what is happening about the derelict caravan left in the woods located on the top half of the road between Cae Mor and Craignant. Councillors were advised this can only be removed by the landowner. **SM** to inform resident. **SM**

07-1121 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 6th October 2021

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

(b) Matters Arising

- **SM** had contacted RoSPA to check what information needed to be included on the sign for the Pontfadog playground and had been advised of the requirements. **GB** asked **SM** to contact suppliers to get quotes for the new sign in time for the next meeting. **SM**
- **SM** confirmed she had found a suitable litter bin for Castle Mill and will order one once **GB** has checked the type of fixing kit required.
- **GB** informed Councillors he was still waiting for a response from the Ceiriog Valley Bowling Club regarding the removal of the porta cabin off the OJMH carpark.
- **GB** said he had contacted WCBC about the work being carried out at the Aion Chapel and whether planning permission had been granted. He had been advised that at present the owner does not have any finalised plans for the use of the chapel and are aware that they may require planning permission depending on the proposed final use. The works that have been undertaken so far are the removal of rotten timbers and replacement, levelling of the internal floor, new electrics, and maintenance of the drainage system. These works are classed as maintenance/repair of the building and do not require planning permission. However, the owner of the site will need building regulations approval. The site is being monitored by WCBC.
- **DR** asked whether there had been any response from WCBC regarding the dangerous deep pothole on the bend near Craignant Farm and whether any action had been taken. **SM** confirmed there had not and will chase WCBC again. **SM**
- **SM** confirmed the Council's comments on the amended plans for the free-range organic egg unit at Cae Mor had been noted by the Planning Officer.
- **EJ** said water was still running across the road by the Old School due to a blocked culvert and asked if a letter had been sent to the landowner to resolve the matter. **SM** asked for the owner's details so a letter could be sent. **SM**
- At the last meeting **PH** had said the barrier across the entrance to the OJMH carpark was open and therefore would not prevent any lorries using it. **GB** said barrier would be closed when only necessary, rather than keeping it closed all the time.
- **DR** said he had seen rats by a dustbin along the main road in Pontfadog. **SM** said bait boxes had been put in place within the grounds of the properties in the vicinity. **GB** said the school site should still be monitored, and any evidence of rats should be forwarded to the Public Protection Department at Wrexham Council.

08-1121 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 £1864.52 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **CH** proposed the payments be authorised. **Seconded** by **DR**. **All agreed**. All the payments were signed by **GB** and **PH**.

SM confirmed £380 had been received from the Ceiriog Valley Bowling Club for the annual rent for the green (£150) and for the set annual loan repayment (£230). A FIT payment of £1065.78 had also been received from Scottish Power.

GB signed the financial report.

SM confirmed the Finance Committee had met and prepared a draft budget for the next financial year (2022-2023). This had been circulated to Councillors to review prior to the meeting. **RBo proposed** the Council approve the draft budget. **Seconded by EJo. All agreed.**

An application for a s137 donation had been received from the Ceiriog Valley Wildlife Group. This was to be used to buy a phosphate low range colorimeter needed for the regular testing of the water quality in the River Ceiriog. **DE proposed** the Council give a donation of £70. **Seconded by RBo. All agreed.**

GB said the Council should have an Environment Committee to ensure the Council are made aware of and can act positively upon any environmental issues concerned with its activity, decisions, or funding. The Committee would also ensure the Council set meaningful targets, develop initiatives, and sponsor projects to enhance biodiversity and meet its duties under Environmental and Wellbeing laws. **GB proposed** the Council set up an Environment Committee. **Seconded by RBo. All agreed.** It was agreed **GB, SH** and **SM** should be members of the Environment Committee and meet to discuss aims and objectives before the next meeting.

GB SH SM

SM reminded Councillors the Council had already agreed to buy a new noticeboard for Bronygarth but because of the Covid lockdown this had not been actioned. **GB** said the proposed site was no longer in the ownership of the Dyffryn Ceiriog Riding for the Disabled group. The group had given permission for the Council to use site so the change in ownership could mean finding another suitable location.

09-1121 Dolywern Playground

GB advised Councillors he had received the revised quote (£17,153.00) from Creative Play and reminded Councillors a final decision on the design of the new playground had to be made at the meeting. **CH proposed** the Council accept the revised quote and new design. **Seconded by TJ. All agreed.** **GB** said the design of the playground should be reviewed periodically to assess if the playground would benefit from having any further equipment.

SM informed Councillors a grant may be available from Cadwyn Clwyd through their Green Communities project which is being funded by the Welsh Government's Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing fund. **SM** to research other available grants.

SM

10-1121 Community Christmas Lunch

TJ informed Councillors the free Community Christmas Lunch had been split in to two events to avoid the high risk of having mass numbers at one lunch during the COVID pandemic. He said Glyn Ceiriog and Llanarmon Community Councils were each making a donation towards the cost. He **proposed** the Council donate up to £100 to the Community Kitchen towards the cost of the Community Christmas lunch. **Seconded by RBo. All agreed.** **SH** asked if the Council was using local suppliers for the food. **GB** said the Council has a history of supporting local suppliers, but it still must make it affordable.

RBo and **DD** informed Councillors that there would be a separate free lunch for the residents of Glyntraian, again to avoid putting vulnerable residents at risk. Invitations would be sent out to limit the number of people coming to the event. It would be partially funded by £100 from Community Agent funds which had already been agreed at a previous meeting. The remaining costs would be covered by the money from the Community Agent's Lunch Club.

12-1121 AOB

CH suggested electric vehicle charging points could be made available on the OJMH carpark. **TB** informed Councillors those located at the Canolfan in Glyn Ceiriog had been paid for and installed by Wrexham Council. **TB** advised **SM** to contact Emma Williams at Wrexham Council to discuss further.

SM

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:45pm

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

DRAFT