



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

6th October 2021

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

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

Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Ted Johnston
Councillor Dave Edwards

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent)

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

01-1021 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Emma Jones (personal circumstances) and County Councillor Trevor Bates

02-1021 Declarations of Interest

None

03-1021 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 this out to Councillors prior to the meeting. He reported:

- North Wales Community Alert has been launched by North Wales Police. All information is currently on the internet (www.northwalescommunityalert.co.uk). Residents and businesses are being encouraged to sign up so that Alerts and Crime Information can be made accessible to local communities.
- Off-road related issues are still ongoing in the area.

- Ongoing reports that delivery drivers are still causing concerns by parking and turning across the road on a blind bend in Dolywern. Residents are concerned that another serious accident will occur if not addressed. The Police, Cllr Bates and a Highways officer from Wrexham Council have held a meeting at the location to try and address the issues.
- Complaints of speeding along the length of the B4500 have been brought to the attention of the Police and are being reviewed.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB had advised **SM** that he had emailed Paul Rogers at WCBC to find out further details about streetlight 2 outside the Cheshire Home which was not working. This fault had originally been reported on 12th November 2019 but was still marked red on the Wrexham Council's "Report It" page. When visiting the site, it had been pointed out to him that the light fitting is completely missing. No further information had been received in time for the Council meeting.

At the meeting relating to the parking and turning of delivery vehicles in Dolywern, **TB** advised that using double yellow lines to improve the situation had been discussed.

04-1021 Community Agent

DD reported:

- Review of performance undertaken with Staffing Committee.
- I have now been accepted for collections from Bookers, and Sainsbury's to help the supply of food to the Community Cupboard held in Glyn Ceiriog. This is on top of the collections already undertaken from Tesco. These collections are made on a voluntary basis and has no impact on my contracted 20 hours of work as Community Agent.
- Computer Club will start again tomorrow at the OJ hall. We have been successful in winning a grant of £750 to help with the set up and the running costs of the club.
- Continuing to work with Tom Hughes (Community Catalysts) to support new enterprises in the valley. This is done by attendance at meetings held in the hall with the permission of the Chair of both the Council and the OJ Hall Committee. This again has no impact on my contracted hours as Community Agent.
- My involvement with the setting up and running of the Community Agent's lunch club has always been on a voluntary basis and has been very well supported by community members and managing to run and make a small profit each week which was then given back to community members in the shape of a free, three course Christmas lunch. My thanks firstly to Graham for helping me in the design and purchasing of the equipment needed to set up a fully equipped commercial kitchen and then thanks to Ted and Anne for the support given to me in the running of the lunch club. It is my hope to once again this year with monies remaining from pre-lockdown lunches and with Covid restrictions allowing, to supply another Christmas lunch for Glyntraian community members, but I am stepping away from what now has become lockdown lunches. This decision will free up more of my time to explore other things and help me to engage with different community members.
- As my time is limited and with road conditions throughout Glyntraian not good, my hope is to encourage and engage with as many community members as possible at events and surgeries in the OJ hall and, with this in mind, we have the idea to start a breakfast club with the hope of attracting new community members and making it easier to engage with more people. I hope this will start on Tuesday 19th October 2021 and will run in the annex room at the hall between

11am and 1pm on a once weekly basis. Once this is established, we will then look at other events utilising the hall. Volunteers are always welcome.

- Attended a meeting of the Trustees of the Llangollen Urban, Llangollen Rural and Glyntraian Welfare Charities with Councillor Edith Jones.
- Continuation of fish suppers, with the profits being saved to fund the subsidised Community trips, which I hope will be able to restart in April next year.

05-1021 Correspondence

SM had received:

- A s137 application from the Oliver Jones Film Club (discussed later in meeting)
- Draft Annual Report 2022 to 2023 from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales
- WCBC had confirmed the Council can proceed with co-option for the Councillor vacancy. **SM** had put notices advertising the vacancy on the Council noticeboards, website and Facebook page. Interest had been expressed by one resident.
- A letter from Merle Hunt thanking Councillors for the flowers.
- An email from Audit Wales advising a number of unforeseen circumstances had resulted in some delays to the audit work and auditors have instructed Clerks to publish the Annual Return if an Audit Certificate is not received before the 30th of September. The Audit Certificate had not been received so **SM** had published the Council's Annual Return on the council website and noticeboards as instructed.
- Two residents have asked if they can come to the next meeting to share their concerns over the issues of speeding on the B4500 between Dolywern to Glyn Ceiriog. They would like the Council to add weight to their request for at least monitoring the speed of cars along this section of the B4500. They are willing to be involved in training and using the Council's speed gun. **SM** had invited them to the November meeting.
- A resident has raised concerns over the substantial works taking place at the Aion Chapel in Dolywern which indicate that the chapel is being converted to residential use. Questions have been asked about the planning application for this site and asked the Council to clarify the works being carried out because they have no recollection of any contact having been made or a planning notice being displayed. **GB** to contact Planning Department at WCBC. **GB**
- Meeting with Welsh Dee Trust relating to the serious erosion of the riverbanks below Bro Dewi and along neighbouring fields. The Trust is arranging for contractors to visit the site to provide a better indication of costs for works. The project would be funded by external bodies.
- The Pontfadog and Castle Mill WI has asked whereabouts they would be able to plant their rowan tree on the bank below the war memorial in Pontfadog. **GB** to advise the WI to speak to Caru'n Pentrefi. **GB**

06-1021 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 **RBo** and seconded by **PH**. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

- After the discussion at the last meeting **SM** had contacted Wrexham Council about the information notice they had removed by from the play area in Pontfadog. **SM** had been advised that as the play area was no longer the responsibility of Wrexham Council the sign had been removed because it provided wrong information and details. The sign was produced and paid for by WCBC and reused on another WCBC site. **SM** had been sent information to assist the Council in producing their own signage. **GB** asked **SM** to contact RoSPA to check what information needed to be included on the sign. **SM**
- **GB** informed Councillors he had emailed the secretary of the Ceiriog Valley Bowling Club asking they remove the porta cabin off the OJMH carpark but had received no response. **GB** to chase again. The porta cabin should have been removed by 31st August 2021. **GB**
- The signs along the verge in Pontfadog regarding the demolition of Pontfadog school building had been removed. No permission had been given by WCBC for these to be put up by the Forest School and Community Hub Committee.
- At the last meeting **PH** had raised concerns about the flags put on the verge by the Tan-y-Garth Hall Retreat. **GB** trying to speak to the owner about removing these.
- **SM** had confirmed with WCBC that the Councillors had no concerns about the plans for the erection of a roofed slurry storage and associated works at Llwydiarth, Dolywern.
- **RBo** informed Councillors that no minister had been found for the Remembrance service at St John's church in Pontfadog yet.
- **DR** asked about the dangerous deep pothole on the bend near Craignant farm and whether any action had been taken by WCBC. **SM** confirmed there had not and will chase WCBC again. **EJ** said residents had reported the poor condition of Stryt Pentre in Llwynmawr and had been told repairs would be made within 90 days.
- **PH** said the barrier across the entrance to the OJMH carpark was open and therefore would not prevent any lorries using it. **GB** to close barrier. **GB**

07-1021 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 £3065.95 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **RBo proposed** the payments be authorised. **Seconded** by **EJ. All agreed.** All the payments were signed at the meeting by **GB** and **PH. GB** signed the financial report.

RBo proposed the remaining £1302 from the Ceiriog Connect grant being held in the Council's reserves be reallocated to fund a community event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. **Seconded** by **PH. All agreed.**

SM confirmed a bill had been sent to the bowling club for the annual rent for the green (£150) and for the set annual loan repayment (£230).

SM informed Councillors that the prices of suitable litter bins for Castle Mill ranged between £200 and £500. **DR proposed** a purchase price of £350. **Seconded** by **CH. All agreed.**

SM had prepared a review of the Council budget and circulated this to Councillors prior to the meeting. Generally, expenditure was within and unlikely to exceed the allocated budget. However, it was noted

the cost of the Council insurance was over budget and a larger amount to cover the cost would be necessary in next year's budget. Finance Committee to meet to prepare a draft budget for the next financial year ready for discussion at November's Council meeting.

08-1021 Council Policies

SM explained that at a recent meeting with the manager of the Community Agents scheme in WCBC Clerks were told that Councils needs to adopt a modern slavery statement (required under the Modern Slavery Act 2015) covering recruitment and treatment of employees and due diligence when working with subcontractors and suppliers. **SM** had already circulated a draft statement for approval at the meeting. **CH proposed** the Council adopt the statement. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Vote: 8 for and 1 against** (GB). **Resolved**.

09-1021 Staffing Committee

RBo told Councillors that the Staffing Committee had met with **DD** for an appraisal, and to discuss future priorities/actions to enhance performance. It was agreed **DD** makes a very considerable and valuable contribution to the community through her varied and various activities.

As all clients associated with **DD** must remain confidential it is not possible to determine how well the process is working. At the Staffing Committee meeting it was agreed a simple questionnaire be designed for clients to complete. This would be given to four different clients each quarter.

Training is provided for Community Agents. **DD** has had some basic training in dealing with mental health issues. However, with the growing numbers of clients with mental health problems some further training would be useful, and costs could be considered for funding by the Council.

10-1021 Dolywern Playground

GB advised Councillors he was still waiting for the revised quote from Creative Play for the requested amendments to the playground design.

SM and **GB** are looking at available grants, including those from Awards for All (Wales) and Cadwyn Clwyd.

GB SM

11-1021 Planning

Planning application P/2021/0077 Organic free-range egg production unit at Cae Mor

Councillors reviewed the revised plans submitted for the free-range egg production unit at Cae Mor and agreed that the amendments do very little to address the detrimental visual impact of the proposed development. The amended plans show additional planting of trees to the north and west of the proposed building to provide visual screening. However, it was agreed that planting young trees would not contribute anything of significance in the foreseeable future because it would take several years before the trees were mature enough to provide an effective visual barrier. The loss of visual amenity remains a major concern. **SM** to send comments to WCBC.

SM

12-1021 AOB

GB informed Councillors a s137 application had been received from the Oliver Jones Film Club requesting £75 as seed funding to cover the cost of an initial site inspection and a written technical specification for the materials, equipment, and installation costs for the proposed installation of a permanent film screen and associated technical equipment at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall. **RBo proposed** the Council donate £75. **Seconded** by **TJ**. **All agreed**.

EJ informed Councillors that a considerable amount of water was still running across the road, above the old school, to the parking ground for St John's Church in Pontfadog as a result of a blocked culvert. **GB** and **EJ** had visited the site and found a sharp turn in the gully which needed to be reinforced to help improve the situation. **SM** to contact landowner to resolve the issue.

SM

RBo suggested the idea of a speaker coming to a Council meeting to advise on the future shape of local government in Wales and how this will affect community councils.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:25pm

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