



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

2nd March 2022

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Emma Jones
Councillor Donald Roberts

Councillor Colin Hidden
Councillor David Edwards

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk) and Cllr Trevor Bates

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

01-0322 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Sarah Hawkes (personal circumstances), Cllr Graham Barrow (personal circumstances) and Davena Davies (Community Agent), (personal circumstances). Cllr Edith Jones offered apologies because she had to leave the meeting early due to other personal commitments.

02-0322 Declarations of Interest

None

03-0322 Reports

(a) Police Report

No Police report

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- The planning application for the poultry unit at Cae Mor is now on hold pending NRW deciding the way forward regarding the level of nitrates and phosphates resulting from the development. There is also quite a backlog of other planning applications waiting for a decision from NRW.

- Reminded Councillors that contributions to the Glyn News out in April had to be sent by the 8th March 2022.
- Advised that the Ceiriog Valley Sheepdog Trials Committee hope to hold the show on 27th August this year. The Trials will be a one-day event instead of being held over two days as in previous years.
- As explained at the last meeting a resident volunteer providing lifts for vulnerable residents so they could attend appointments was retiring from the role and new volunteers were needed in the area. Two new volunteers had come forward, one from Glyn Ceiriog and one from Pandy. Volunteers will be contacted by Edith Kershaw (Edith.kershaw@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or mobile 07795 450807) from the WVRS to complete police checks, training and see what they will be prepared to do as a volunteer. The WRVS oversees volunteers and provides expenses claim forms and volunteers receive 45p/mile for providing transportation. Claims are made to Andrew Mytton at Wrexham CBC (WCBC). An administrator/point of contact is required for the Wrexham area because the existing co-ordinator wants to retire. Any volunteer driver should notify their insurance but should not be charged any additional premium.
- City of Culture: There have been four successful grant applications in the Valley. Grants have been awarded to Ysgol Llanarmon, Ysgol Cynddelw, the Ceiriog Memorial Institute and the Canolfan Ceiriog.
- City Status: Southend has been upgraded to city status and Wrexham has not been successful in its bid.
- There was no progress to report regarding Ysgol Pontfadog. **TB** reminded Councillors that the slide paid for by the Council was still in the grounds and needed to be removed. **DR** confirmed he had suitable machinery to remove the play equipment so arrangements can be made. **TB** advised the Council to contact Simon Roberts, service manager for assets, at Wrexham CBC.
- Wrexham CBC is currently running a consultation on Active Travel to encourage walking and cycling to work but is only looking at settlements of 2000 or more residents. **TB** had expressed concerns about cyclists on the B4500 and the likelihood of an accident occurring sooner or later. He said the Council may wish to comment or pass on concerns to Wrexham CBC.
- Emergency Planning: **TB** told Councillors there is an ongoing campaign by himself and those in Ceiriog Uchaf regarding BT's switch from copper to fibre and the limited call time (one hour battery pack) in the event of a power cut.
- Informed Councillors that Carol Dove (North Wales Councils Senior Emergency Planning Officer) was happy to attend a meeting to discuss emergency plans. (carol.a.dove@nwc-reps.org.uk). A meeting of the Emergency Planning Committee had been arranged for the 9th March but was to be rescheduled to give Councils the opportunity to discuss the draft plan at their next meetings.

SM

PH again raised the issue of the two vehicles which had been parked on the Hall's carpark for a considerable length of time. As it is the Council that owns the site **SM** to contact the Police for advice.

SM

RBo asked if Councillors had signed up for to the North Wales Community Alert website (www.northwalescommunityalert.co.uk). He said he had found all the information very useful and recommended everyone to sign up.

04-0322 Community Agent

DD reported:

- Three new referrals this month

- Interview for research for the Wrexham food poverty network
- OJM Hall kitchen and chillers inspected by FareShare to make sure it meets the required standards for preparation and storage of donated food
- Case study for FareShare regarding food collections and how the food donated by Booker's is used. Bookers have now asked for permission to use **DD's** report in their publications.
- Regular home visits have resumed
- Music club is being very well attended
- Starting on April 12th 2022 there will be monthly craft taster days. Sessions will be alternating between Glyntraian and Glyn Ceiriog.
- Cooking pancakes at the OJM Hall for a pancake and music event for St David's Day

We are working with other organisations to raise awareness of the rising living costs, and are trying to highlight the fact that older members in our communities who are in receipt of pension credit do not qualify for the winter fuel support scheme meaning that people who are already struggling will be plunged into deeper poverty and are at risk of having to choose between heating or eating which would have a massive effect on their health and wellbeing. **RBo** informed Councillors that he, **DD** and **SM** were meeting to discuss what can be done to alleviate the issue and support those most at risk. 'Age Concern' and 'Warm Wales' to be contacted for advice.

SM advised Councillors that the Community Agent scheme was able to continue for another 12 months as funding had now been received from the Welsh Government. Future plans for the scheme were being focussed on Community Agents working from community hubs. The Community Agents in the Valley were concerned they would have to travel to Penley which would mean less time being spent in the community. However, **SM** had been advised by WCBC that as the Community Agents are already working well together, the Valley would be a separate hub on its own so they would not be expected to travel to Penley.

05-0322 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Confirmation that the application for a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund for the new playground had been successful. Creative Play is now scheduling installation, which should be sometime during April or May.
- A request for a donation for the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.
- The Welsh Dee Trust had sent information about suitable containers for the raingardens at the Hall and the costs involved. Council's Environment Committee to review.
- An email from a resident regarding the issue of 4x4 vehicles and scrambling bikes using the track between Tyn Y Mynydd Bach and Ty'n-Twill. He had seen roads and tracks in Wales with road signs banning such traffic while allowing traffic for access only. Councillors agreed that in this case it was best for the resident to contact the Green Lane Association (GLASS) and notify them of the issue.
- Following the emergency planning meeting in February a draft emergency plan for the communities in the Valley had been completed. The Council will review this at the meeting in April and add any further details required for Glyntraian. **TB** said the prime aim was to draw up a basic list of contacts.

**RBo DD
SM**

GB SH SM

- A request from Caru'n Pentrefi asking if the Council would consider allowing Groundforce to extend their remit to cutting the grass on the bank below the Pontfadog memorial. Cuts are required during June, July and August. **SM** to contact Groundforce to find out what the additional cost would be in time for the next meeting.
- An email from the Electoral Department at WCBC advising nominations for the elections in May must be returned by 4pm on Tuesday 5 April 2022.

SM

06-0322 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 2nd February 2022

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2022 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by PH and seconded by EJo. All agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

- **SM** had ordered the litter bin for Castle Mill.
- **SM** said the waste ground behind the houses in Bro Ddewi was owned by WCBC and it was their responsibility to maintain it. **SM** to contact the Housing Department at WCBC.
- **SM** informed Councillors that EE is unable to maintain the service of the wireless telephone mast during power cuts.
- The tree hanging over the B4500 opposite the Chirk Fisheries had been cut back and is no longer a problem.
- **SM** had sent Councillors' comments about planning application P/2022/0046 (Erection of external staircase at Berwyn lodge in Dolywern) to WCBC.
- **SM** had notified WCBC that streetlight no.5 below Llangwryd Isa was not working but it had not been repaired. **SM** to contact WCBC again. **TB** also offered to try and resolve the issue.

SM

SM TB

07-0322 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 £1851.39 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **CH proposed** the payments be authorised. **Seconded** by **PH**. **All agreed**. All the payments were signed by **EJ** and **PH**. No receipts. **RBo** signed the financial report.

Prior to the meeting **GB** had sent an application on behalf of the OJM Hall Committee requesting a donation of £2500 towards buying and installing a permanent cinema capability in the Hall to ensure the Council had a stake in the investment and was positively encouraging increased use of the Hall by the community. **SM** had circulated the details of the proposal prior to the meeting. **RBo** said the upgrade of the facilities at the Hall was worthwhile and would allow for a wider range of events to be held there. Councillors were all in agreement with the idea. **CH** raised concerns that the price for the equipment and work seemed underestimated and wanted to see an itemised specification. **CH** to speak to **GB** to clarify the details. **SM**, as RFO, said the donation should come from the Council reserves which included money the Council had earmarked for the Hall and not directly from the Council's current account because of other commitments. **PH proposed** the Council contribute £2500 to the project but with the caveat agreement of the RFO for the best way of paying it. **Seconded** by **CH**. **All agreed**.

CH

08-0322 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Councillors agreed that a tree should be planted in the grounds of the OJM Hall to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. **RBo** to speak to **SH** about suitable trees and the best planting site.

It was agreed the Council would light its beacon on 2nd June 2022 as part of the historic beacon lighting celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Councillors agreed the event should be held in the grounds of the OJM Hall between 7pm and 8pm and refreshments would be provided.

RBo, **CH**, **EJo** and **CH** had met to discuss plans for community events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. **CH** presented detailed information and costs for a street party in Pontfadog. Funds would be required upfront to arrange some of the activities and the Committee requested £200 to buy prizes for the raffle the proceeds of which would then help to support the costs of the event. **CH proposed** the Council pay £200. **Seconded** by **DR**. **All agreed**. **EJo** to buy the prizes. **CH** requested up to £1500 to be made available for the Jubilee weekend although much of this would be returned following a successful raffle. **SM** confirmed funds were available for the event in the Council's Reserves. Originally the planned event was to take place at Maes Merydydd, but the Committee thought it would be better if the party could be held in the grounds of the school if possible. **SM** to seek permission from WCBC. The event will take place on Friday 3rd June 2022.

It was also agreed the Council hold an afternoon tea and a Ceilidh at the OJM Hall on Saturday 4th June 2022 as part of the celebrations. **RBo** had already booked the band for the Ceilidh.

09-0322 Staffing Committee

RBo informed Councillors that the Staffing Committee had met to review the Clerk's and Community Agent's salaries. **RBo** informed Councillors that the Staffing Committee had met to review the Clerk's and Community Agent's salaries. Last year, Council agreed that the Community Agent's pay level should ultimately be aligned with the Real Living Wage rather than the National Living Wage. This year the Real Living Wage has risen by 4.2% to £9.90/hour. **CH proposed** **DD**'s salary be increased to £9.90/hour. **Seconded** by **DR**. **All agreed**. This new rate to apply from 1 April 2022.

As Clerk, **SM** is currently paid the agreed rate for SCP 15. In accordance with her contract **SM** should move one point to SCP 16. However, it is usual for one SCP to be awarded to a clerk who gains the CiLCA qualification and **RBo** proposed **SM** moves directly to SCP 17 for which the pay level is currently set at £12.73/hour. This is **SM**'s contractual maximum level SCP. This new rate to apply from 1 April 2022.'. However, **RBo** advised Councillors that the union and the employers have not yet reached agreement on the 2022/2023 salary scales and that the union is asking for 10%.

Items for next agenda:

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:31pm

Next meeting will be on 6th April 2022 at 6pm

Councillors agreed to return to the Council room for the next and future meetings.

RBo

EJo

SM

