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Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

13th April 2022

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

**Present:**

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| Councillor Graham Barrow | Councillor Ted Johnston |
| Councillor Robin Boston | Councillor Sarah Hawkes |
| Councillor Pam Hughes |  |
| Councillor Edith Jones |  |
| Councillor Colin Hidden |  |
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Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk) and Cllr Trevor Bates

Chairman opened the meeting at 6.05pm

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|  | **Action** |
| **1/0422 Apologies for Absence**  Apologies received from Cllr Don Roberts (personal circumstances), Cllr Emma Jones (personal circumstances), Cllr Dave Edwards (personal circumstances) and Community Agent Davena Davies (personal circumstances)  **2/0422 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations**  **(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda**  **EJ** and **CH** declared a personal interest in the donation request for the St. John’s Music Group  **GB**, **PH** and **EJ** declared a personal interest in the decision relating to the Council’s contribution towards the new heating system at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall.  **(b)** **Requests for dispensations**  None  **3/0422 Reports**  **(a) Police Report**  PSCO Martin Griffiths had sent a report to **SM**, and this had been sent out to Councillors prior to the meeting. The report advised:   * that off-road related issues were still ongoing in the area * there had been an incident involving Criminal Damage to a vehicle (wing mirrors)   **(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates**  **TB** reported:   * Informed Councillors that two of the nominations had withdrawn from the elections and did not wish to take up seats on the Council. * There had been a meeting in the Canolfan concerning refugees from the Ukraine and plans to provide accommodation in the area. A married couple and a family of five had already been able to move into properties in Glyn Ceiriog and Dolywern. The Christian Centre was suggested as a hub to help refugees seeking accommodation in the area. * Advised Wrexham Council is currently looking to appoint four independent members of the public to join of its Governance and Audit Committee and if this was of interest to any of the Councillors. * Informed Councillors there had been no further action regarding the double yellow lines in Dolywern. * BT’s plans to switch from copper to fibre are ongoing and by the end of 2025 no one will have an analogue phone line. This is an industry led and not being led by the Government. This means that in the event of a power cut phones would not be able to be used even in an emergency. BT is supposed to be providing one hour battery packs so that phones can be used but only for a limited time. **SM** to contact BT to find out how residents can get a battery pack when lines are changed. It was also noted that personal alarms would have to be changed from analogue to digital leaving vulnerable people at risk. **CH** asked **SM** to find out from those supplying these alarms how they intend to change the alarms from analogue to digital.   **4/0422 Community Agent**  **(a) Community Agent report**  **DD** was not at the meeting and had sent her report to **SM.**  Shereported:   * Craft taster sessions are starting with felting on 12th April 2022 * Looking at starting monthly whist drives * Bingo with Cheshire Home residents and Community members will be trialed from 20th April 2022 at the Oliver Jones Hall * She had written to local businesses to ask if they would be able to support Council in its bid to buy slow cookers to help support community members to make cost effective and nutritious meals * Brunch Club has been suspended for this week due to the rise of COVID-19 in the immediate area * Digital skills club is suspended until 28th April 2022 because of the rise of COVID-19 in the immediate area and the tutor being unavailable for a week.   **(b) Information leaflet regarding the current cost of living crisis and advising residents of organisations offering support**  **DD**, **RBo**, **SM** and **GB** had met to discuss ways of helping residents to cope with the current fuel and poverty crisis and the idea of producing a Council information leaflet advising residents of organisations offering support. These leaflets would be distributed to households in Glyntraian. **GB** had prepared a draft ‘here to help’ leaflet which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. **RBo** thought the leaflet content was too long and should be more concise to encourage residents to read it. **GB** said the Communications Committee would reformat the leaflet but ensure all the relevant information was retained. Ideas to help alleviate the problems were discussed. **RBo proposed** the Council produce an information leaflet. **Seconded** by **SH**. **Unanimously agreed**.  **5/0422 Correspondence**  **SM** had received:   * Information regarding the ‘Wrexham City of Culture’ bid * Adam Salomonson had asked if the Council might consider funding a cabinet and installation for a defibrillator (around £500). The Council can apply for a Welsh Government-funded defibrillator to improve community access to defibrillators. If a successful application was made Mr Salomonson thought a site somewhere on the Old Road might be a suitable location. It was agreed the Council would consider this at a future meeting. * The Communications team from the National Lottery Community Fund want to promote our project has been successful in receiving money raised by National Lottery players. **SM** advised Councillors that Creative Play is making a visit prior to installation at 9:00am on 27th April 2022. Playground Committee to attend the visit and take photos. * Notification that there would be no election in Glyntraian as it had been uncontested. * Notification from RoSPA advising the playground inspection will be in June 2022.   **6/0422 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 2nd March 2022**  **(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2022 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record**.  **PH proposed** the Minutes be approved as a true and correct record. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **Unanimously agreed**. **GB** signed the Minutes.    **(b) Matters Arising**   * **SM** had contacted Nick Adamson and Simon Roberts requesting permission to remove the slide from the Pontfadog school grounds. Permission had not yet been confirmed. * The Environment Committee still to review the raingardens project * **SM** had contacted Groundforce regarding cutting the bank below the war memorial. The details were discussed later in meeting * **RBo** and **SH** had discussed suitable trees to plant in the grounds of the OJM Hall to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. It had been agreed two apple trees would be the best choice. A plaque would be put by the trees to confirm they had been planted to celebrate the Jubilee. * **SM** had notified WCBC that streetlight no.5 below Llangwryd Isa was not working. **TB** offered to check whether it had been repaired. * **SM** confirmed the waste ground behind the houses in Bro Ddewi was owned by WCBC and it was their responsibility to maintain it. **SM** had contacted the Housing Department at WCBC but as yet no plans to clear the area had been made.   **7/0422 Finance Report**  **(a) Finance report and (b) authorisation and signing of payments**  **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 £12940.73 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. The payments included the deposit for the playground. **CH proposed** the payments be authorised. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Unanimously agreed**. All the payments were signed by **GB** and **PH**. Receipts totalling £8436.05 had also been received which included the grant from the National Lottery Fund for the playground. **GB** signed the financial report.  A community bus trip was being planned (taking the COVID-19 regulations into account) and **DD** asked for the £500 contribution which had been previously agreed by the Council before the COVID-19 pandemic. Councillors agreed **SM** pay the approved donation to **DD** so she can book the bus for the trip.  **(c) Decision on Council’s contribution to the new heating system at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall**  Prior to the meeting **GB** had sent the details of a quotation from ARC Energy Reduction Solutions Ltdfor installing a new heating system in the OJM Hall to **SM** and this had been circulated to Councillors. **GB** said the existing heating system installed when the Hall was built was very expensive to run. The new system would be using infrared heating panels which would be more efficient, effective, and cost less to use. The OJM Hall Committee was requesting a donation of £12000 from the Council representing half the cost of the project. Councillors were all in agreement with the idea. **EJ proposed** the Council contribute half the cost of the project (£12000). **Seconded** by **RBo**. **Unanimously agreed**. **SM**, as RFO, said the donation would come from the Council reserves which included money the Council had earmarked for the Hall. **RBo** asked if a date for installation had been made but **GB** said this had not been arranged yet.  **(d) Donation request for St. John’s Music Group**  The St. John’s Music Group in Pontfadog had requested the Council to consider covering the cost of hiring the OJM Hall for the remainder of calendar year after Easter. The Group runs during school term times. **SM** advised Councillors that the Council cannot support applications for revenue expenditure such has venue hire costs and she would advise the Group to contact the Community Foundation Wales as it would be eligible to apply for a grant. Grants can support project costs, small capital items, activities and programmes including room hire and community events. **EJ** said the Group was considering buying new instruments. **SM** confirmed that in this case the group could request a donation and the Council could consider making a section 137 donation. **SM** to notify group and send an application form to the Group.  **(e) Council’s Ground Maintenance contract and Caru’n Pentrefi’s request for the bank below the war memorial to be maintained by the Council’s contractor**  As a result of the Finance Bill last year rebated fuel (red diesel) is no longer permitted for businesses using vehicles/machinery except for agricultural use from April 1st 2022. Businesses will have to use white diesel which is currently 47p more per litre. To cope with the increase in cost Groundforce is having to add 11% to its bills from May. The Council’s ground maintenance contract will cost an extra £21.45 meaning the monthly bill will be £216.45 instead of £195. Other parish councils and schools have accepted change and as other ground maintenance companies would also be affected it was agreed there would be no point changing contractors at the current time.  Caru’n Pentrefi had asked 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** had contacted Groundforce to find out what the additional cost would be, and the contractor had looked at the area on 31st March. **SM** had been advised the cost of strimming the bank three times during June, July and August would be £98.00 per cut excluding VAT. The VAT would be £19.60 so including VAT the cost of each cut would be £117.60. As the area was not part of the original contract it was agreed that costs for the work would be sought from other local businesses and any decision be deferred until the next meeting.  **(f) Increased costs of the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall’s internet contract**  **SM** advised Councillors that One Bill Telecom Ltd was increasing its costs for the OJM Hall internet and these would be changing from 25 April 2022. The cost of the Council’s package will be changing in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate of inflation at 6.2% published in March, plus 3.2%. The Council currently pay £30.59 so with the increase it will cost £33.53.  **(g) Increased costs of Unlimited Webhosting internet service contract**  Unlimited Webhosting (website platform) has increased its annual charge by £3.99. The new cost is £39.90 which is for 10 months as we get two months free of charge. The original cost was £35.91 annually.  **8/0422 Emergency Planning Committee**  **Draft Emergency Plan**  **GB** said the Emergency Plan completed by the Emergency Planning Committee was being structured for the whole Valley but specific information for the individual areas was required. This would be focussed on contacts for emergency situations. The Emergency Planning Committee was meeting on Wednesday 27th April and **GB** and **SH** would attend on behalf of the Council. Carol Dove (North Wales Councils Senior Emergency Planning Officer) would be at the meeting. Further discussion of draft plan deferred.  **9/0422 Planning Applications**  Planning application P2022/0282 for a two-storey extension and single storey rear extension at 6 Tan y Bryn Pontfadog was discussed. **GB** raised concerns that the application stated there would be no changes to the roof and no demolition involved which from the drawings for the application was clearly not the case. As these changes would be part of building the extension its effects on biodiversity and the environment would have to be considered. As the extension of the property may affect bats (a protected species) the planning application requires the submission of a bat survey. This means the owner would need to reapply. Councillors had no other reasons to object to plans. **SM** to notify planning officer.  **10/0422 Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**  **RBo** told Councillors the Celebrations Committee had met to work through the details of the planned community events. It was hoped the event in Potfadog could be in the Ysgol Pontfadog school grounds. **SM** had contacted Nick Adamson (Assets) at WCBC seeking permission to use school field for the party. He had taken the details about the event for consideration, but no final decision had been made.  **EJo** was arranging the raffle the proceeds of which would then help to support the costs of the event.  Providing entertainment for the children was a priority. The Committee had contacted a children’s entertainer and he had agreed the price would be £250. **CH** **proposed** the Council pay £250 for the children’s entertainer. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **Unanimously agreed**.  A quotation for jubilee mugs for the children had been received and the total cost was £518.40 (72 mugs). It was confirmed the mugs would contain the name of the Council. **PH** **proposed** the Council buy the jubilee mugs. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **Unanimously agreed**.  **RBo** confirmed the plan to hold an afternoon tea at the OJM Hall and informed Councillors that the WI had kindly offered to do the food. The St John’s Music Group would be playing at the event. **EJ** said residents of the Cheshire Home should be invited to come. **RBo** informed Councillors that volunteers would be needed to help clear the Hall afterwards ready for the Ceilidh in the evening.  **GB** asked the Committee tomake a timetable of the events for the Council and to share with Glyn Ceiriog and Llanarmon Councils.  **11/0422 Environment Committee**  **River Ceiriog Survey**  **SM** had received a comprehensive, professional proposal from the student conducting the river survey which is now to take place at the end of May 2022. The survey will include photographs and video coverage of the river. The advantage is that the drone can fly below the tree canopy to provide a detailed up-to-date survey instead of using satellite images which are out of date. The final analysis from the survey will comprise of a rating system that will be applied to the images to aid prioritisation based on several factors including erosion, silting, undercutting and revetment condition. The Welsh Dee Trust has expressed an interest in seeing the results from the survey. **GB** said the student should be told to copyright the data to stop others from using it without his permission.  **12/0422 Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**  Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations.  Ground maintenance of the bank below the war memorial  Draft Emergency Plan  **AOB**  **DR** had made the decision to not make a nomination for the elections in May. **RBo** said the Council should recognise DR’s longstanding service to the Council. He had been a Councillor for 50 years. **RBo proposed** the Council give a £200 gift voucher in recognition of DR’s service and commitment to the Council. **Seconded** by **EJ**. **Unanimously agreed**. **SM** to get the voucher.  **EJ** told Councillors that a former paddock by the Mulberry Hotel was being used as a commercial yard and that a new gate and drive had been added. The owner was having bonfires in the evenings which it thought were being used to burn oil and the fumes were having a detrimental effect on the surrounding properties. **SM** contact Jo Last at WCBC to confirm whether the change of use had been a permissive development.  The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:53pm  Next meeting will be the Annual Council Meeting on 11th May 2022 at 6pm | **SM**  **GB RBo SM**  **SM**  **SM**  **GB SH**  **SM**  **RBo CH EJo**  **SM**  **SM** |