



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

1st June 2022

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Emma Jones
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Sarah Hawkes

Councillor Colin Hidden (remote attendance)

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent) and Cllr Trevor Bates

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

1/0622 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Trevor Bates had arranged to join the meeting later

2/0622 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/0622 Reports

(a) Police Report

No Police report

DD/SM had notified PCSO Martin Griffiths of the details of the Council's planned Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration events.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Advised that the Ceiriog Valley Sheepdog Trials were going ahead, and the show will be on 27th August this year.
- Informed Councillors about Cadwyn Clwyd's Green Communities Fund. A grant from the fund is being used to pay for a new bike track in the playground in Glyn Ceiriog.
- UK Government has announced that Wrexham has been successful in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee City Status competition. City status will help attract more inward investment and funding into the town and the surrounding area.
- Wrexham had lost out to Bradford in its bid to become the UK's next City of Culture 2025.
- The Wrexham mobile library service was now back in operation
- It had been noted that there were no safety warnings for cyclists at Castle Mill. It was dangerous for them when joining the B4500 and would be better if the speed limit was reduced at the Castle Mill junction. This would also be of benefit to walkers on the Offa's Dyke Path and those using the bus stop. Wrexham Council's Highways Department was considering options.

4/0622 Community Agent

DD reported:

- She had received a cheque for £200 from Kronospan in Chirk to help the Council buy slow cookers to help most vulnerable Community members to save money but eat well this winter. **SM** to bank cheque
- Prior to the Covid pandemic she had applied and been accepted by Tesco to take part in their community grants scheme. As a result of the pandemic this had been postponed but will now take place between 1st July to 30th September. The scheme offers the possibility of a grant of least £500 which could be used towards hosting groups or events in the hall for everyone. **DD** requested that if anyone shops in Tesco in Cefn Mawr during this period they ask for a blue token and vote for Glyntraian Community Agent.
- Warm Wales has accepted our offer to hold a surgery at the OJM Hall on 12th July and the Community will be invited to come along with their bills to see if there is any help available to reduce the costs. Warm Wales will help people to apply for any benefits they are entitled to and not just for energy bills.
- At brunch club last Tuesday, we had a visit from Harry Jones, Community Development Officer at AVOW. He was very impressed with the number of Community members who attended and has offered to investigate sources of grant funding which may be available to us.
- Angela, a Social Prescriber from the doctors in Llangollen also attended brunch club and explained to Community members what her job involves.
- We have now started the doctor's drop-in sessions again, and we will be available for doctors to make referrals to us straight away.

SM

5/0622 Correspondence

SM had received:

- The licence from WCBC for the Jubilee Grand Picnic event taking place in the grounds of Pontfadog School on 3rd June 2022
- Notification of a 'Celebrating Rural Wales' event on 9th and 10th June 2022. The event is looking back over the achievements of the Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 which was the last EU programme for Wales.
- One Voice Wales has set up a Nature Hub. The hub will be meeting regularly to discuss environmental projects, ideas, and potential funding streams. **SH** is the Council's representative.
- Notification that Wales Nature week is 2nd to 10th July. Part of this is the Keep Wales Tidy packages for 2022/2023 in the Local Places for Nature scheme.
- RoSPA will be carrying out the playground inspections in June. For Dolywern this will be a post installation inspection of the new equipment. The inspection will cost £240 plus VAT
- Email from the production team for the reboot of the classic TV show, 'Cash in the Attic'. They are looking for people in the Wrexham area to take part. Posters had been put up as requested by the team.

6/0622 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 11th May 2022

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2022 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by PH and seconded by RBo. Unanimously agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

- **SM** had registered the Council's participation in the national Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons event
- **SM** had confirmed with WCBC Councillors had no objections to P2022/0282 to the two-storey extension and single storey rear extension at 6 Tan y Bryn in Pontfadog
- **SM** had emailed a formal complaint to the Wildlife Trust regarding the poor maintenance of Colfryn Wood
- **SM** had spoken to Jo Last (WCBC Planning Department) regarding the commercial use of the land close to The Mulberry in Llwynmawr. Arrangements were being made to visit other properties in the Valley and the site would be visited at the same time
- **SM** had requested a new bank signatory mandate form for completion

7/0622 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 £3800.36 had

also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** informed Councillors of six other payments totalling £14,863.09 not listed but which required approval:

- Donation to the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall for new cinema facilities: £2500 (from Council reserves being held for the Hall)
- Donation to the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall for new heating system: £12000 (from Council reserves being held for the Hall)
- Ukraine Flag: £48.77
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Flag: £78.17
- Community Agent National Insurance: £19.69
- Groundforce (May) £216.46

PH proposed all the payments be authorised. **Seconded** by **EJ**. **All agreed**. All the payments were signed by **GB** and **PH**. No receipts. **GB** signed the financial report.

(c) To make a decision on the Ceiriog Valley Brownies s137 application

SM had received a s137 application from the Ceiriog Valley Brownies for sports equipment £31.51, help with their annual capitation fee (£200) and help with the rent of the Canolfan where their meetings are held (£170.75). **SM** advised Councillors that the Council cannot support applications for revenue expenditure such as venue hire costs and so the Council unable to cover the costs of hiring the Canolfan for the Brownies. It was agreed that as members of the Brownies are from all areas of the Valley the other Community Councils should be contributing to the donation requested. **GB** asked **SM** to find out if the group had approached the other Councils. Decision on the s137 application deferred until the July meeting.

SM

8/0622 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

An update on the final arrangements for the community events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was presented by **RBo**, **EJo**, **GB** and **DD**.

EJo said the final preparations for the Grand Garden Party would be completed tomorrow (2nd June 2022). **GB** confirmed the marquee had been put up and he was borrowing a generator from a resident for the music. He advised Councillors the marquee had been given to the Council and the Hall by the Riding for the Disabled group who no longer needed it. **DD** confirmed she had already purchased the food and drinks for the event. **SM** asked if photos could be taken (with permission) to send to Nick Adamson at Wrexham Council, who had requested them to put with Wrexham Council records relating to the event.

GB gave an official thank you to **DD**'s brother for mowing the grass to prepare the school playing field for the event.

RBo presented the schedule for the Ceilidh confirming the times for the raffle and the planned interval for the food. He had been in contact with the band who would be arriving at the event at 6:30pm and start playing at 7:30pm.

RBo had purchased sparkling wine for the beacon lighting event which would start around 9:30pm. The beacon would be lit at 9:45pm to participate in the national Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons event.

9/0622 Environment Committee

SH presented a report on behalf of the Environment Committee detailing feedback from the SmartRiver training, confirmation of arrangements for the river survey and information relating to other environmental issues:

- **River Invertebrate Identification: SM and SH had** attended sessions with the Welsh Dee Trust helping and learning to identify invertebrates sampled from the riverbeds. This had been

a real eyeopener both finding out just how many animals rely on the rivers and the very different communities in different parts of the river. It is a big task and there will be more sorting dates this summer. If anyone wants to spend a couple of hours helping, they are welcome to come along.

- **River Invertebrate Sampling: SM and SH** had attended the Welsh Dee Trust sampling of the Ceiriog fauna at Pontfadog Beach, and the notes there suggested that the community was rather poorer and smaller at that site than at other parts of the Ceiriog. There was speculation about the reasons, but for a definite answer there needs to be a whole lot of additional sampling. There will be opportunities for interested local people to volunteer their help in sorting the Ceiriog samples and find out what is there at a later date. The first samples will be done professionally to get a baseline list of species.
- **Drone Survey of the river:** The survey by Matthew and Peter was taking place this weekend. Neighbouring landowners had been made aware of the survey, but generally the work could be done from the river or the road verges.
- **Rain Gardens at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall:** These should be in place by the autumn if funding and volunteer help can be arranged.
- **Changing Council Mowing Practices - Welsh Government leaflets meeting: SH** had attended an online meeting for councillors from a range of urban and rural communities with Welsh Government workers. The subject was changing council mowing practices to address the increasing nature emergency. The meeting worked through and commented on a leaflet the government will be producing for councils to print and distribute, and signs for areas of concern where residents may be wondering what the changes mean. The leaflets aim to explain and promote the changes which, though small, will make a big difference to the wildlife and help stem the rapid loss of biodiversity caused by loss of habitat. Small changes in 'tidiness' and an appreciation of local native plants can make a big difference in the ability of wildlife to live and breed successfully and re vitalise the natural cycles that we (often unknowingly) rely on.
- **Moth Surveys: SH** informed Councillors that this year she was working on a survey of the North side of the valley between Pontfadog and Chirk Castle. She reported that numbers are down from previous surveys but she had not worked in this area before so she couldn't draw conclusions from this. The aim was to get a good baseline list of species found.
- **General: SH** had been involved in writing up a newly completed 4-year study on work regarding migration of insects across Europe in spring and autumn. The losses over the last 50 years are staggering, some 90% down on 50 years ago. It is vitally important that as a community we rethink how we treat our verges and grass areas, at least in line with the Welsh Government proposals, among other actions and learn to value the wild areas again, because the alternative is unthinkable

Emergency Planning Committee

GB had been unable to attend the Emergency Planning Committee meeting, but **TB** and **SH** participated. The meeting had been attended by Carol Dove (North Wales Councils Senior Emergency Planning Officer) to discuss emergency plans. It was confirmed that the Councils' aims to put an emergency plan in place was commendable. Equipment and emergency packs were suggested by Carol Dove, but it was clear fundraising would be required to cover costs. To be discussed further at the next Emergency Planning Committee meeting.

10/0622 Highways

A Carer had drawn the Council's attention to the very poor state of the lane from Penybryn past Pennant. She had damaged her car as a result and confirmed that another Carer refuses to use the

lane. This is seriously inhibiting the provision of care to two elderly residents and putting them at risk. **GB** and **RBo** had been to review the condition of the lane and confirmed its poor state. It was agreed **SM** send a formal complaint to WCBC requesting urgent repairs.

SM

11/0622 Ground Maintenance

SM informed Councillors that a local contractor had quoted £80 per cut for the grass cutting on the bank below the War Memorial which was cheaper than the quote offered by Groundforce. Given the length of the grass, Councillors agreed the grass cuttings should be collected and removed from the bank after the initial cut. It was agreed there should be a further three cuts over the summer but removal of the cuttings from these would not be required. **SM** to find out any additional costs for the collection and removal of grass cuttings from the initial cut. **RBo proposed** the Council use the local contractor providing arrangements for collecting and removing the grass cuttings from the initial cut were made. **Seconded** by **EJo**. **Unanimously agreed**.

SM

12/06/22 Items for next agenda:

Review of Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations events

'Warm Wales'

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:16pm

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