



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

6th July 2022

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Colin Hidden

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

Vice Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

1/0722 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Graham Barrow (personal circumstances), Cllr Sarah Hawkes (personal circumstances) and Cllr Emma Jones (personal circumstances)

2/0722 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/0722 Reports

(a) Police Report

No Police report

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- He had a meeting with Cllr Mark Pritchard at Pontfadog School regarding the future of the site. Cllr Pritchard had confirmed that WCBC's intention was to still build houses on the site. However, WCBC were having a bit of difficulty attracting interest from housing associations for the school site and they might have to resort to putting it up for auction. It had been noted that there were still four gas cylinders on the site originally used for heating the mobile classroom, and which were creating a fire hazard and should be removed from the site. **TB** offered to collect and distribute the cylinders.
- Advised Councillors that the official opening of the bike track in Glyn Ceiriog was on the 19th August 2022.
- Confirmed the Ceiriog Valley Sheepdog Trials would be on 27th August 2022.
- Reported that Huw Jones (WCBC Highways Department) was hoping to visit and review the condition of the lanes in the Valley.
- Reminded **SM** of the deadline for making contributions for the August issue of the Glyn News was 9th July 2022.

SM

EJ asked **TB** if he could ask the Highways Department to repaint the white lanes on the Dolywern bridge for safety.

DD asked **TB** if he could find out any information relating to the subsidence of number 6 in Bro Dewi.

4/0722 Community Agent

DD reported:

- The posters were now out advertising the 'Warm Wales' event coming to the OJMH on the 12th July 2022 to advise on money saving tips for the winter months. The event is open to anyone who feels they may benefit from some help.
- Tesco community grants voting was now open, and voting will take place until the end of September 2022. Please ask for a blue token at the checkout and vote for the Glyntraian Community Agent.
- Had attended a cost of living crisis meeting in Wrexham and had made some good contacts with people who are able to help people manage their money.
- Had met with Rachel Twiss from the Community Falls Prevention Services, who has offered to come and talk at a coffee morning to raise awareness of the service and highlight the dangers which can cause falls as people become less mobile.
- Have had contact with the fire services who would like to visit the area before the winter to check people's fire alarms and also to raise awareness of open fires. This is being done in most areas because the fire service believes that due to energy price increases people will take more risks to be able to stay warm this winter.
- Had now started to plan a subsidised trip to Llandudno and hoped this would take place on the 8th August 2022. It will be open to everyone on a first come first served basis.
- Meeting at Plas Madoc leisure centre with Denise Chadwick (general manager) looking at ways to best support community members facing hardship this winter to make sure people are able

to eat well to keep warm and looking at food projects that would help provide nutritional balanced low-cost meals for people living on their own.

- In the recent power cuts, some people had problems with their electric meters because as a result it had wiped the display feature on the meters and people needed to contact their providers to advise on what could be done to rectify the problem. The worry is that there is no longer an obvious free phone number for people to call. Depending on who the provider is the cost involved in contacting these companies ranges from 15p a minute to the worst costing £3.30 (EDF) a minute from a mobile phone. From her own experience when calling on behalf of a member of the community the call took 1 hour and 40 minutes and then cut off before the problem with the meter could be rectified and so she had to call again. It was agreed that the Council would contact Simon Baynes MP and WCBC about the difficulties associated with the power cut and the problems of the electric meters. **SM** to contact. **SM**
- The Penley Rainbow Centre is holding a series of community drop in events where people can meet their Community Agent and Welfare Rights Officer. The events give an opportunity for older people to find out what benefits they are entitled to. However, the centre is over 12 miles away making it difficult for community members to visit.
- The hedge along the boundary of the OJMH has overgrown onto the footpath making it difficult to use the footpath safely. **CH proposed SM** ask a local contractor for a quote to do the work. **Seconded by EJ. Unanimously agreed.** **SM**

DD asked if she could have her holiday pay for the holidays she had not taken. **SM** to arrange for this to be paid with her August salary.

5/0722 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Email from Calon FM, a community radio station in Wrexham asking for a donation from the Council. As a community interest company, they rely heavily on support through grants and donations to maintain their service to the community. Councillors declined making a donation.
- The RoSPA Play Safety Inspection reports - rocker see-saw bolt in Pontfadog playground needed. **SM** to contact manufacturer. **SM**
- Invitation for two Councillors to attend the Mayor's Civic Visit to St Giles Parish Church in Wrexham on 10th July 2022. No Councillors were interested in attending the event.
- Email from a resident making the Council aware of the litter being left in the new playground. Councillors noted there used to be a litter bin provided by WCBC at the entrance of the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall carpark. **SM** to contact WCBC to request the litter bin be replaced. **SM**
- Email from Simon Baynes congratulating the Council on the events arranged for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Card from a resident thanking the Council for the new playground. Asked if a zip wire could be added sometime in the future. At the time of approving the new playground design the Council did say it would consider expanding the playground in the future if it was getting used.

6/0722 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 1st June 2022

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2022 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by PH and seconded by CH. Unanimously agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

- **SM** had banked the cheque (£200) which had been donated by Kronospan to purchase slow cookers for the 'Here to Help' scheme
- **SM** confirmed the roads by Pennant were currently being repaired by WCBC
- **SM** confirmed that she had arranged for a local contractor to strim the memorial bank in Pontfadog. The charge will be £80 per cut (contractor is not VAT registered) and he will be cutting it monthly over the summer until September. However, **EJ** said he had made the first cut but had not removed the grass cuttings as requested. **SM** to speak to contractor.

SM**7/0722 Finance Report****(a) and (b) Financial Report and Approval 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 £14844.32 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** informed Councillors of another payment for £372.00 (payable to RoSPA for the post installation playground inspection) which was not listed but which also required approval. **CH proposed** all the payments be approved. **Seconded** by **EJ. Unanimously agreed.** All the payments were signed by **RBo** and **PH.**

SM advised that receipts during June totalled £13717.95 - £12,000 from WCBC for the Community Agent, £1517.95 from the Jubilee community events and a £200 donation from Kronospan.

RBo signed the financial report.

(c) Annual Governance Statement

SM explained to Councillors they have a responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of internal controls including the preparation of accounting statements. She advised the Internal Auditor had no concerns and had confirmed that the internal controls in place were satisfactory. Councillors agreed the requirements had been met. **RBo** signed the Annual Governance Statement. **SM** to forward to the External Auditor.

SM**8/07/22 'Here to Help' Scheme**

RBo reminded Councillors that £500 had already been agreed as a crisis fund at a previous meeting and given the current high cost of living requested the Council increase this fund to £1000 to help residents who were struggling. **CH proposed** the crisis fund be increased to £1000 provided it was only used to help residents from Glyntraian. **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed.**

DD presented her idea for a food project plan to support residents who were experiencing difficulties paying for enough food to avoid going hungry. It was evident from her work that some people in the area could not afford to go to any of the nearest Food Banks due to the cost of transport and there was not always enough choice available from the Community Food Cupboard in Glyn Ceiriog. The aim of the project was to provide low-cost nutritious meals. These would be cooked and frozen and would be available to residents for a small donation towards the costs of the meals. It was anticipated that food would be made available from supermarkets etc who already contribute to the Community Food Cupboard. **DD** had looked at the costs of trays for the meals and these worked out at £40 for 100. The cost of using the kitchen at the OJMH was £7 per hour. She explained to Councillors that food poverty grants were available for this type of project.

Cooking demonstrations using food from suppliers and the Community Food Cupboard were also being considered. Those who attended the demonstrations would be made aware that it was much cheaper to use a slow cooker for preparing meals because using a slow cooker costs 32p for 8 hours compared to an oven which costs £5.32. The money donated by Kronospan (£200) would be spent on buying slow cookers to support the scheme. Recipe cards would also be given out at the demonstrations.

PH proposed the Council support both projects. **Seconded by EJ. Unanimously agreed.**

DD, GB, RBo, CH and SM to meet before next meeting to discuss the 'Here to Help' scheme and how to take the project forward.

9/0722 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

All the community events had been very successful and well attended with £1517.95 being made from the three events. **SM** had circulated the costs of the celebrations prior to the meeting which confirmed a surplus of £160.24 after all costs had been accounted for. **DD, CH, RBo** and **EJ** (Jubilee Committee) had met to discuss the figures and asked if the mugs could be paid for by the Council. **SM** explained the money used for the mugs had been paid using funds from the Council reserves which had already been allocated by the Council for the Jubilee celebrations. The Committee had hoped to use the profits from the celebrations to fund a children's Christmas party, but the surplus would not be enough to cover the costs. **SM** said Council support for covering the costs of the party could be discussed once the proposed date for the party was arranged.

After the success of the Jubilee celebrations, ideas for future community events were discussed and holding a Harvest Supper at the OJMH was one of the ideas suggested.

10/07/22 Environment Committee

SM confirmed that only half of the river survey had been completed due to bad weather. However, it will be fully completed over the summer and a report will be available in the Autumn.

11/07/22 Planning

The Planning Officer's report regarding the construction of a free-range organic egg production unit at Cae Mor had recommended permission for the development be refused on the grounds of insufficient information in the application to demonstrate the proposed development would not increase the phosphate levels in the River Ceiriog which would have a significant damaging effect, and that the large scale of the development would cause long term detrimental visual harm to the character of the area. However, the WCBC's Planning Committee discounted the visual impact of the development as a reason for refusing the application but has deferred the application whilst new information to determine whether there will be any significant increase in phosphate levels from the development is collated.

Councillors had no objections to the change of direction of Public Footpath 43 at Penisa'r Glyn Farm in Bronygarth.

SM confirmed that Jo Last (WCBC Planning Department) had visited the land by The Mulberry to investigate the change of use. She had advised the landowner he needed to submit a planning application for the new access and the siting of the storage container on the land. This application must be submitted within 28 days. She said that if pollution being caused by fumes from the fires continues the Council should report the issue to the Public Health Department at WCBC.

**DD RBo
CH GB SM**

12/07/22 Items for next agenda:

Arrangements for the co-option of new Councillors

Discuss an action plan for the Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:46pm

Next meeting will be on 7th September 2022 at 6pm