



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

5th October 2022

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

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

Councillor Laura Bell McMillan
Councillor Pam Hughes

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

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

1/1022 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Edith Jones (personal circumstances) and Cllr Colin Hidden (personal circumstances)

2/1022 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/1022 Co-Option of New Councillor

GB welcomed new Councillor Laura Bell McMillan. She signed a declaration of acceptance of office witnessed by **SM**. The Council still has vacancies for two Councillors and co-option notices are on the Council website and displayed on Council noticeboards.

4/1022 Reports

(a) Police Report

PCSO Gareth Jones came to the meeting and advised Councillors there had been no criminal activity in the area. Off-road trial bikes and 4X4s continue to be the main ongoing issue for the Valley as a whole. The Police want to organise another Off-Road Operation but more reports from the public are required before one can be arranged.

Speeding in the 20mph limit in Pontfadog continues to be a problem. **GB** confirmed the Council had a speed gun, but no residents had come forward to use it because they were worried it could have repercussions in the community. PCSO Jones said he and PCSO Martin Griffiths would come to support residents who wanted to use the speed gun. In the first instance **GB** said the size of the problem needed to be established. PCSO Jones confirmed the statistics from the speed checks could be sent to Go Safe.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Advised Councillors that Councillor Hugh Jones, Kerry Williams and Dave Douglas (from WCBC) had visited the area to look at the condition of the roads and the ongoing issue of 4x4 vehicles using lanes that were unsuitable for this type of use. WCBC is considering a Traffic Regulation Order for one of the lanes. **TB** explained that TROs follow a statutory process, and it takes a long time to put one in place.
- Public are being encouraged to report any problems on the North Wales Community Alert website. The Police can still be contacted by calling 101.
- The painting of double yellow lines in Dolywern was first discussed in October 2021 but the work has not been carried out. This is because a specialist contractor to paint the lines has not been available.
- The signs on bridleway GLY/63 to the north of Plas Onn in Glyntraian were originally installed in 2017 but these had been removed. New signs were now being put in place.
- WCBC participates in the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, which is the joint-committee and decision-making body, responsible for developing the North Wales Growth Deal. There is a focus on improving digital connectivity and infrastructure and enhancing connectivity for the region's businesses and residents. It is also developing and promoting high value projects in the region's key business sectors and developing projects that produce little or no carbon emissions and have a positive impact on biodiversity.
- WCBC is now committed to providing school transport for 6th form pupils. This means transport will now be available for those pupils from the Valley who attend Ysgol Morgan Llwyd.

5/1022 Community Agent

DD reported:

- Following the announcement of the death of HRH the Queen, as per protocol dictates, I lowered the flags at the hall.
- Welfare Rights training undertaken

- Visit to the new Wellbeing hub in Wrexham. This is a multipurpose state of art facility offering everything from meeting rooms with kitchen use, height adjustable work areas height adjustable hobs and ovens, a canteen/ cafe with subsidised food adult changing rooms with showers and hoists and a sensory room with hire costs from as little as £5 for half an hour along with various organisation there to offer help to the whole of Wrexham county's population. An absolutely wonderful facility if you can get to Wrexham but if you live here and have to rely on public transport or a taxi at a cost of £26 one way then it would most likely be unaffordable to most of the population of Glyntraian.
- There are still a number of community members who are affected by the power outage which took place on the 22nd June 2022. I have tried all ways and spoken with lots of organisations to try and get help for these vulnerable Community members who can't even see a display on their meters and have no way of knowing how much they are spending on their electricity. To date I am now waiting to see if Warm Wales can help resolve the problem.
- Meeting undertaken with Warm Wales in the hope of sorting the above problem but was told that they are no longer contracted to look after people over the age of 69 and this now is the responsibility of a contractor by the name of Care and Repair Cymru.
- Contact with Care and Repair Cymru proved of little use as we were told they would only be able to do what I had already done so they could offer nothing more.
- I am now back in contact with Warm Wales, in the hope that they on this occasion can help as much as possible.
- 1st October was International Older Person's Day. We applied for and was successful in securing a grant of £50 to run an afternoon tea and quiz event. Thank you to Graham, Robin and Maggie for all their help in the running of this event and thank you to Merle for producing the quiz.
- AVOW ran a free Emergency First Aid course for us and hired the Hall for the day. AVOW paid me to provide the food for lunch for those who took part. The monies received for the food was donated to the Hall. Certificates for those taking part are to be emailed to me and distributed once printed.
- Attended a meeting of the Llangollen Urban, Llangollen Rural and Glyntraian Welfare Charities with **EJ** and was granted £100 towards a Christmas dinner for pensioners in the Glyntraian community.
- The Christmas dinner will take place Tuesday 20th December 2022 at the Hall with Graham as chef, Robin as chief elf and the ladies from the WI.
- Computer Club now runs fortnightly at the request of those attending.
- Brunch Club has donated towards some of cost of setting up the 'Here to Help' scheme, paying for the store cupboard ingredients, potatoes, vegetables and the food storage containers. We have also swapped freezers at the Hall, so we are able to store more of the ready meals.
- I am hoping to be able to set up a 'warm space' at the Hall. It is hoped this will run during and after Brunch Club on Tuesdays and on Fridays when a light meal and a warm room would be offered when people come to pick up the prepared meals.
- Community Agent funding had been confirmed for the next financial year. Two people had expressed an interest in the Community Agent vacancy in Glyn Ceiriog.

GB thanked **DD** for the idea to prepare ready meals as part of the 'Here to Help' scheme and for all her hard work at the first cooking session. 92 meals had been prepared and frozen and included meat, vegetarian and fish options.

6/1022 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Wildfish had confirmed that the River Ceiriog is now recognised as the newest hub collecting new data for the Smart Rivers project. The Welsh Dee Trust is organising regular identification sessions of the samples taken from the river in the Spring and Autumn. **SH**, **SM** and one other resident have undertaken training and had been invited to register and join the volunteer network with the Welsh Dee Trust.
- Report relating to the LIFE Dee River project which outlined the work being carried out in the River Ceiriog.
- An invite to a conference being run by One Voice Wales regarding the role of Town and Community Councils in creating resilient spaces for nature on October 27th 2022. **SM** to attend.
- A request from the new Clerk in Llanarmon to arrange a meeting to discuss the role and responsibilities of the Council Clerk.
- The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales has published its updated Community Review Guidance. Community Reviews are necessary to ensure that Communities continue to accurately reflect their local area, especially in situations where for example a new housing estate has been built which crosses a current Community boundary. Community Reviews should help Town and Community Councils to undertake their duties to the fullness of their potential.
- Notification that it would be 3-4 weeks before the litter bin ordered from Glasdon would be delivered. Glasdon was waiting for the ground fixing kit from the manufacturer.

SM

7/1022 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 7th September 2022

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2022 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by **RBo** and seconded by **SH**. Unanimously agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

- The Environment Committee was still to meet to discuss the mandatory report detailing the Council's actions to help maintain and enhance biodiversity.
- **SM** had ordered and received the Lottery sign for the new playground.
- **SM** had spoken to the manufacturer of the play equipment in Pontfadog playground, and it had been confirmed that if the Council replaces the bolt on seesaw it does not affect the warranty of the equipment. **SM** had now received the replacement bolt.

8/1022 Finance Report

(a) To review Financial Report and (b) 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 £3249.34 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed.

EJo proposed all the payments be approved. **Seconded** by **SH. Unanimously agreed.** All the payments were signed by **GB** and **PH.**

Receipts totalled £2579.48: a VAT refund (£2429.48) and a donation from Llansantffraid Glyn Ceiriog Community Council towards the Community Bus Trip (£150.00).

(c) To review Council Budget

SM had prepared a review of the Council budget and the expected end of year figures. It was noted that there would be deficits for the Clerk's salary (due to salary increase), the Hall internet (due to increased charges prior to renegotiation of contract), the RoSPA inspection of playgrounds (due to post installation inspection of new Dolywern playground) and ground maintenance contract (due to an increase in the cost of fuel).

New budget figures to be made available at December's Council meeting following a meeting of the Finance Committee. Expenditure on Council events was not included in the review.

(d) Decision on purchase of new Welsh Flag for Council flagpole

Following discussion at the previous meeting the decision was taken to purchase a new Welsh Flag for the Council's flagpole at the OJMH. **Proposed** by **RBo. Seconded** by **SH. Unanimously agreed. SM** to order flag (£139.34 excluding VAT).

SM

(e) Decision on purchase of Queen's Green Canopy Platinum Jubilee plaque

SM informed Councillors that an official Queen's Green Canopy Platinum Jubilee plaque for the two apple trees being planted in the grounds of the OJMH was available in A4, A5 and A6 sizes. Councillors agreed that an A5 plaque was the best choice and **SM** advised the cost would be £85 excluding VAT. **LBM proposed** the Council buy the plaque. **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed. SM** to order plaque.

SM

9/1022 Council Procedures

(a) To adopt new complaints policy

SM had circulated a draft complaints policy for review and adoption at the meeting. **GB** questioned that, as the Clerk was the Complaints Officer, who a complaint about the Clerk should be addressed. **SM** said it should be made directly to the Chairman of the Council. The Council would deal with any complaints about the Clerk internally as an employment matter and, if necessary, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with its internal disciplinary procedure. **GB** said this information should be added to the policy. **RBo proposed** the Council adopt the new policy as amended. **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed.**

(b) To discuss provision of allotments

SM confirmed the Council has a power to provide allotments and has a duty to do so if there is a sufficient demand for them (section 23, Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908). 15 residents in Pontfadog had expressed an interest. However, currently the Council does not own any suitable land.

GB advised Councillors that when faced with a statutory demand, or otherwise wishing to provide allotments, the Council must use its best endeavours to acquire suitable land. It has power to acquire land, freehold or leasehold, by agreement or, if necessary, by compulsion. It may also take a lease or tenancy of land for the same purpose. However, the Council may find it impossible to acquire land on reasonable terms, in which case it cannot meet the demand for allotments. Considering the interests

of the local community as a whole, the provision of allotments on unreasonable terms would not be the best use of the Council's resources.

It was agreed **GB** would speak to the resident who had put forward the request. It was suggested that the Council could ask WCBC whether it would consider the possibility of allowing the use of the school field at Ysgol Pontfadog for allotments. **SM** to forward a question to the WCBC Executive Board for consideration at its meeting on the 8th November 2022.

GB SM

SM informed Councillors that under section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 there is no time limit for provision once it has been established that there is a demand.

(c) To discuss Council Action Plan

SM had prepared an example of a Council Action Plan for Glyntraian Community Council which was discussed. **SM** explained the Plan was a strategic business plan which should include ongoing administrative tasks to maintain good governance of the Council and any one-off projects for the year. **GB** said the provision of allotments should be added to the Plan. It was agreed the Council's Action Plan would be reviewed and a new one adopted in January 2023.

10/1022 Planning

Councillors reviewed retrospective planning application P/2022/0751 (erection of orchard store in field and creation of levelled area (in retrospect) at Erwallo) and expressed concerns regarding the location and style of the building the details of which were not clear from the plans. **SM** to contact WCBC Planning for further information.

SM

11/1022 Highways

Prior to the meeting **EJ** had raised the serious issue of the very fast deterioration of the condition of roads in the area largely as a result of the numerous potholes. She had drawn the Council's attention to the very poor state of the lane past Llwynmawr Farm. **SM** to send an email to WCBC about the issue.

SM

12/1022 Items for next agenda:

GB advised Councillors that he would not be at the meeting on 7th December and gave his apologies in advance.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:40pm

Next meeting will be on 2nd November 2022 at 6pm