



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

7th September 2022

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Sarah Hawkes
Councillor Colin Hidden
Councillor Edith Jones

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

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

A group of residents came at the start of the meeting requesting support from Council to resolve the issue of transport not being available for 6th Form pupils attending Ysgol Morgan Llwyd. WCBC is not prepared to provide the service. The pupils choose to attend the school to be taught in Welsh and rely on lifts from local residents to get to school. It was noted that WCBC are not legally bound to provide transport for children aged over 16. However, children do have a right to learn through the medium of Welsh and should not be prevented from doing so if this is their preferred language choice. **RBo proposed** the Council support the wishes of the parents of Glyntraian whose children are aged over 16 and not getting transport to Ysgol Morgan Llwyd. **Seconded by CH. Unanimously agreed.**

1/0922 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Pam Hughes (personal circumstances) and Cllr Emma Jones (personal circumstances)

2/0922 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

Action

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/0922 Co-Option of New Councillor

SM had received an application for one of the vacant seats on the Council from Laura Bell McMillan. After reviewing the application Councillors agreed to co-opt Mrs McMillan as a Councillor. **Proposed** by **EJ**. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **Unanimously agreed**. **SM** to notify Mrs McMillan

SM

4/0922 Reports

(a) Police Report

No Police report

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Quad bikes have been stolen in the area and owners were being told to put locks on them. The theft of trailers and fuel was also continuing. There had been several cases of Land Rovers being stolen. It is thought these may be being broken up and the parts sold as spares.
- Planning applications for new houses and converted buildings which may cause additional sewage/phosphates being released into the River Dee are currently on hold. The issue is assessed for each application before permission is granted.
- The future use of the Pontfadog School site was being discussed again with two Housing Associations
- **TB** reminded Councillors that the expected increase in electricity charges could be a problem for the use of village halls.

5/0922 Community Agent

DD reported:

- Very successful trip to Llandudno, 104 community members from the whole of the Valley took part.
- Voting for the Tesco community grants is now closed, and it has been indicated we will receive £500 to run one or more events under the heading 'inclusion for all'.
- Brunch club is still popular, and we are seeing more new people attend. Most stay on afterwards for more tea and a chat which is very encouraging. There also seems to be a men's club forming where the majority of gentlemen stop after brunch for a time just to sit and talk.
- Computer club to start again on a Wednesday 14th September at 1.30 pm. We have had some new people making enquiries which is encouraging.

- The fire service has agreed to visit the area soon to provide safety advice to Community members.
- At the last meeting of the Council, **DD** reported the problems faced by some Community members after the power outage on the 22nd June 2022. People's pre-paid meters failed to show any display causing concerns because people could not tell how much credit they had and feared that anymore credit added would not be registered. After problems contacting the various suppliers, we were told the displays would right themselves within a month but not one did this, so contact began again. All companies were helpful and exchanged the faulty meters and have allowed time for people to pay any balance owed for electricity. However, Scottish Power have been most unhelpful. **DD** has resorted to contacting our MP, County Councillor and Community Clerk to ask for any further help that maybe available. To date **DD** still waiting for contact from Simon Baynes MP. However, Scottish Power should, be fitting new meters to some of the properties affected by the problem. These new meters are unlikely to be pre-paid meters which could lead to more problems with affordability to those affected.
- Warm Wales came to the hall to help and advise Community members with concerns about the rising cost of living and agreed to visit a number of people's homes to help them. To date this agreement has not been met so this will need chasing up in the very near future.
- 1st October is International Older Person's Day and we are encouraged to run a coffee morning to celebrate, I have applied for a grant of £50 to help us to achieve this and would be grateful of any help to run the morning. **RBo** had asked WI. It was agreed that the Council offer £100 contingency fund.
- Have Attended various meetings.
- Doctor's drop-in surgery now up and running again and is proving very useful.

DD confirmed that Glyn Ceiriog's Community Agent was retiring from the role it was unclear as to whether a new agent would be appointed. Ceiriog Uchaf Community Council was considering appointing a Community Agent, but as yet no decision had been made.

DD requested the Council buy a new Welsh flag for the OJMH. **SM** to find out costs for next meeting.

SM

6/0922 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Details of Smart River training sessions. **SH**, **SM** and one resident to attend on behalf of the Council.
- Confirmation that the changes to the route of Public Footpath 43 (Glyntraian) had been made. Creation and Extinguishment Orders received.
- SLCC membership renewal notice (subscription £134)
- Wrexham Involvement Strategy 2022-2027 which is aimed at involving the community in discussions about the services WCBC design and deliver and can help shape the future of Wrexham County Borough.
- Notification of section 6 (Environment (Wales) Act 2018) Biodiversity and Ecosystem resilience duty. **SM** advised that a report is required every 3 years detailing the Council's actions to help maintain and enhance biodiversity. Environment Committee to discuss.
- **SM** attended OVW training 'Creating a Community Place Plan' which outlined various approaches to community engagement.

GB SH SM

7/0922 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 6th July 2022

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2022 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by RBo and seconded by SH. Unanimously agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

- **SM** advised Councillors that the hedge along the boundary of the OJMH had been cut by a local resident and the footpath could now be used safely.
- **SM** confirmed the local contractor had now cleared the grass cuttings from the memorial bank in Pontfadog.
- **SM** confirmed an email had been sent to WCBC requesting the litter bin be replaced at the entrance of the OJMH carpark but had received no response.
- **SM** had sent the Council's contribution for the next edition of the Glyn News
- **SM** had contacted HAGS regarding the replacement bolt for the rocker see-saw in Pontfadog playground. The manufacturers could send out a replacement bolt immediately if the Council was prepared to do the repair themselves. Otherwise, if the manufacturer came to do the repair it would cost £194 for the visit and could not be done for 6 to 8 weeks. There was no charge for the bolt. **GB** expressed concerns about affecting the warranty if the Council did the repair. **SM** to confirm details with manufacturer. SM
- **SM** had sent the Annual Return to External Auditors
- A representative from the Woodland Trust had visited Colfryn Wood and was making arrangements for their maintenance team to remove the fallen trees and repair the fences. **EJ** said they had not been to the site yet.
- Jo Last (planning officer from WCBC) had visited Erwallo Ucha and confirmed there were no camping pods at the property. However, there was a wooden building on the site which the owner claimed was an agricultural building for storage. A planning application had not been made.
- **SM** advised Councillors that lottery signs are provided free of charge by the National Lottery Community Fund and can be attached to the play equipment. **SM** to order stainless steel sign. SM

8/0922 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 £20100.58 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** informed Councillors of five other payments which also required approval:

Replacement wireless keyboard and mouse for **SM** - £31.99
 Groundforce - £216.46
 SLCC membership subscription - £130.00
 Clerk's mobile - £59.58 (6 months)
 Cutting of Memorial bank (local contractor) - £220

RBo proposed all the payments be approved. **Seconded** by **CH. Unanimously agreed.** All the payments were signed by **GB** and **EJ**.

Receipts during July and August totalled £6523.53: £1223.53 FIT payment from Scottish Power and £5300 precept from WCBC. The receipt from Scottish Power to be transferred to BMM savings for the OJMH. New reserve figure for the OJMH will be £12627.53.

SM advised that the VAT refund had now been received (£2429.48) and would be included in the next financial report.

GB signed the financial report.

(c) To review bank charges

SM reminded Councillors that a monthly account charge of £5 was now being taken by HSBC from the current account. In July the Council had to pay £7.27 in addition to £5 due to the activity charges made for paying in cash from Jubilee events and a cheque from Kronospan. **SM** provided Councillors with a copy of the breakdown of the charges.

(d) To review One Bill Telecom charges

SM advised that the monthly Hall internet fee had been increased by One Bill Telecom from £36.12 to £64.32 due to increased service costs. **SM** had renegotiated the contract to broadband only as a landline was not required at the Hall. As a result, the monthly charge was now £27.99 for 18 months when the price of the contract will be reviewed again. **SM** advised that One Bill is always willing to review the charge, so that they retain business.

(e) To review s137 application from the Ceiriog Valley Brownies

The Ceiriog Valley Brownies had previously made a s137 application requesting £231.51. This had been discussed at the June Council Meeting when 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. The Brownies had forwarded their request to Llansantffraid Glyn Ceiriog Community Council who had offered to donate £100. **RBo proposed** the Council donate the remaining £131.51. **Seconded** by **CH. Unanimously agreed.**

9/0922 Council Procedures

SM had circulated new training, community engagement and health and safety policies for review and adoption at the meeting. **RBo proposed** the Council adopt the new policies. **Seconded** by **SH. Unanimously agreed.**

SM had circulated a new Glyntraian Community Council Publication Scheme for review and adoption at the meeting. **SM** explained this was a statutory requirement under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and must be posted on Council's website. The ICO template had been used. **CH proposed** the Council adopt the new publication scheme. **Seconded** by **RBo. Unanimously agreed.**

SM to prepare a complaints policy for review and adoption at the next meeting.

SM to start drafting a Council Action Plan for discussion at the next meeting.

10/0922 Planning

Councillors reviewed planning application P/2022//0702 which was to refurbish and reposition the 11KV overhead line at Plas Crogen. As this is essential work for Scottish Power, Councillors had no objections or comments regarding the application. **SM** to notify WCBC Planning.

SM

11/0922 'Here to Help' Scheme

DD, GB, RBo, SM and Sharon Champion (WI representative) had met in August to discuss the 'Here to Help' meals scheme and how to take the project forward. **RBo** said it had been agreed that 240 meals would be prepared and frozen every 3 months and there would be meat, vegetarian and fish meals available.

The Committee was meeting again on 22nd September and the first batch of cooking would be on 3rd October. The first meals would be available on Tuesday 11th October 2022 and Friday 14th October 2022 between 12:00pm and 2:00pm at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall and thereafter on every Tuesday and Friday. In exceptional circumstances delivery may be available but volunteers would be required to help with this.

12/0922 Environment Committee

At the time the guttering is being replaced at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall, rain gardens will be put in place to help reduce the rate of flow of rainwater from the Hall into the River Ceiriog. The Committee is also looking at a larger soakaway behind the Hall to help reduce the flow of storm water coming out of the pipe at Bro Dewi which is scouring under the riverbanks.

The Welsh Dee Trust and Wildfish are running a SmartRivers course at the Oliver Jones Hall next week following the launch of the Ceiriog as a new SmartRivers hub by the Trust. The aim is to train volunteers to help identify and monitor the biodiversity of the Ceiriog using samples taken from the river. Samples are taken and analysed twice a year to provide evidence of any increase or decline of aquatic invertebrates which gives an indication of the health and water quality of the river.

SM SH

SH advised Councillors that the Welsh Government currently has a scheme offering a free tree sapling for every household in Wales. There are hubs where trees can be collected, and we will look at helping provide tree saplings for local people who apply.

13/0922 Items for next agenda:

Complaints Policy

Budget review

Discuss an action plan for the Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:42pm

Next meeting will be on 5^h October 2022 at 6pm