



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

2nd November 2022

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Sarah Hawkes
Councillor Colin Hidden
Councillor Pam Hughes

Councillor Laura Bell McMillan
Councillor Edith Jones

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk), Davena Davies (Community Agent), Cllr Trevor Bates and Miles Matile (Clerk for Ceiriog Uchaf Community Council)

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

1/1122 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Emma Jones (personal circumstances)

2/1122 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/1122 Reports

(a) Police Report

PCSO Gareth Jones reported there had been no crimes in the Glyntraian area.

He advised Councillors that he and PCSO Martin Griffiths would be carrying out a speed check of vehicles going through Pontfadog. Councillors requested that they also do one along the B4500 between Glyn Ceiriog and Dolywern because a resident had reported concerns to the Council about speeding vehicles. **GB** said it was important to first identify the size of the problem of vehicles ignoring the speed limits in the local area and then the data could be sent to Go Safe.

PH asked PCSO Jones if he could check a car parked on the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall carpark because it had been left there for some time.

GB thanked PCSO Jones for his report.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Informed Councillors that Glyn Ceiriog Community Council had appointed Christina Brewin as their new Community Agent, and she was starting on 1st December 2022.
- He had asked for some kind of warning signs for motorists because of the number of cyclists using the B4500. He was meeting Dave Douglas from WCBC who was coming to identify possible locations where 'cycle route ahead' warning signs could be erected. He was also looking at other possibilities of signage to make motorists aware of cyclists on the B4500. **TB** had been advised that this would be more difficult because there was not a dedicated sign to warn of cyclists on the highway.
- The Glyn Ceiriog Community Christmas Lunch was being held on 18th December 2022 at the Canolfan
- A drop-in centre was being held in Glyn Ceiriog on 30th November for Ukrainian residents
- Advised Councillors that Simon Baynes MP was holding a surgery at the Canolfan on 4th November 2022. **TB** had contacted Ken Skates MS asking if he too would consider holding a surgery and Mr Skates had confirmed he would.
- A Steering Group is being set up to carry out a feasibility study to assess the viability of a community energy scheme for the Ceiriog Valley. 10 people are required for the group. The study will be completed by 2023. **GB** asked Councillors to forward their names to **SM** if they were interested in becoming a member of the group.
- Informed Councillors that Pontfadog School and the future use of the site was being discussed by the WCBC Executive Board on the 8th November 2022. The recommendation was to dispose of the site because it was an unused deteriorating asset costing Wrexham Council money to maintain. It is planned to sell the site on the open market by public auction. The two Housing Associations who had expressed an interest in building affordable homes on the site have now withdrawn their proposals because the development has been deemed unviable. The Wrexham Council Housing Department has considered the provision of social housing on the site, but this was deemed to be of low priority as there was currently a limited demand for it in the Ceiriog Valley.

DD informed **TB** that the lane from the Mulberry Hotel going towards Pontfadog had been flooded in the recent heavy rain and had become unpassable to vehicles. **TB** advised that it was best to report it to WCBC via its website requesting signage be put out on the lane.

4/1122 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 5th October 2022

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 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 attended the OVW Biodiversity Conference. Information from the event to be discussed further by the Environment Committee
- The Queen's Green Canopy Jubilee plaque had been ordered by **SM**
- The litter bin to be installed at Castle Mill had been received
- A new Welsh Flag had been delivered and was now in the Council Room at the Hall
- **EJ** drew attention of Councillors to the very poor condition of the lane from The Smithy to Penllwyn. The very deep potholes were causing damage to vehicles using the lane. **EJ** said residents regularly report this but have been told this road had been repaired which is clearly not the case. **SM** to contact WCBC regarding the issue. **SM**
- Mr Matile advised Councillors about the proposed idea of holding a weekend of events to commemorate the centenary of the failure of the plans to flood part of the Ceiriog Valley. He said a meeting was being held on Monday 14th November at 6.00pm in the Centenary Hall, in Llanarmon. A copy of the CCVP sign about the plans was shown at the meeting. **SM** to circulate all the information to Councillors. **SM**
- **GB** had been in contact with the resident requesting the Council provide allotments in Pontfadog. The resident had confirmed he would take on the role of Allotment Manager and had asked about siting the allotments on the playing field behind the old school in Pontfadog. **GB** had explained the site is owned by WCBC and that they had shown no inclination to sell it or develop it separately from the school site. He had suggested the group of residents wanting the allotments may know someone who may own a piece of suitable land which they would be willing to consider leasing, selling or even donating for the purpose of establishing an allotment site.
- It was agreed **PH** should lay the poppy wreath on behalf of the Council.

5/1122 Correspondence

SM had received:

- An invitation to Welsh Dee Trust's Open Evening which gives the opportunity to find out about the challenges facing the River Dee, and how the Trust's work is tackling these challenges.
- Confirmation of the Smart Rivers project for the River Ceiriog. **SM** and **SH** will be attending ID sessions for samples taken from the river in Spring and Autumn (2022). **SM SH**
- Further information relating to the planning application for an orchard store at Erwallo. This was discussed later in the meeting.
- Information about grant funding for 'warm space' projects from Jo Young at AVOW. Two have been applied for so far.

- Confirmation of a successful TESCO community grant application. **DD**'s application for an 'inclusion for all' project came 1st and was chosen by Tesco customers to receive a grant award of £1,500. **SM** had completed the acceptance of offer form for the grant and the money will be received in 20 days.
- After the last meeting, **SM** had received an email from PCSO Gareth Jones about vacancies for volunteers for the Bwlchgwyn ward speed watch group which is run by Brymbo Community Council. He had provided contact details for the Community Councillors and suggested the Council contact them for further information about the scheme.
- An email from WCBC requesting Councillors complete its Climate Change Survey. An online link to the survey had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- A notification of a visit to the area by Simon Baynes MP. Posters had been put in the village shop and on Council noticeboards
- **TB** had forwarded a letter to **SM** from Ysgol Cynddelw requesting support towards transport for juniors to attend swimming lessons. The cost per child is £20. Llansantffraid Glyn Ceiriog Community Council had donated £520 for the 26 pupils from Glyn Ceiriog. 14 children attend the school from Glyntraian and therefore the cost would be £280. As the request for a donation had not been received directly from the school it was agreed **SM** contact the school to advise it could make an application for a donation from the Council.

SM

6/1122 Community Agent

DD reported:

- An increase in the number of home visits.
- Bereavement support
- The profits from Brunch club this month have paid for store cupboard ingredients to start the 'Here to Help' ready-made meal scheme and paid for the ingredients needed for soup and custard which we donated for the harvest supper held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall. We have also this month given our entire taking from one week's Brunch club, which amounted to £66.30, to the breast cancer charity. Any profits made from now until our Community Christmas lunch will of course be donated to help pay the cost of hosting this event. My thanks to **RBo** for his continued support with Brunch club.
- As of today, 2nd November, the last member of the Community who had faced problems with Scottish Power since the power outage of 22nd June 2022 should have had their new meter. The others affected by this have finally had the meters renewed but only one has received back the credit they had accumulated. So, I am now working to help them get the money they are owed back from Scottish Power.
- Cooked and served the harvest supper with support from **RBo** and Zoe.
- Thanks to members of St John's church who donated the food collected at the harvest festival to our hugs and hampers Christmas scheme. Thanks also to Redwoods Centre in Shrewsbury whose social work department did a collection of food and toiletries and donated these to hugs and hampers and to Morton Hall School who has promised their support in the form of a collection box at school for us.
- Attended meeting both in person and via zoom/teams for training and information events.
- The certificates for the Emergency First Aid course run in partnership with AVOW have not been received. I am chasing this up as Harry Jones who organised the trainer for the course has now left AVOW and did not send the certificates prior to leaving.

- Looking at starting the warm space mid-November. A warm space is a place where people can meet have a drink, maybe something to eat and keep warm. Details are to be finalised, but it is my hope to run the warm space two days weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays allowing people to come to the Hall to keep warm whilst having someone to chat to. **LBM** offered to assist with the project.

7/1122 Finance Report

(a) To review Financial Report and (b) to authorise and sign 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 £3436.62 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed.

SM advised there were two further payments to be made: Groundforce: £216.46 and RBL poppy wreath £23.98.

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

Receipts totalled £430.00. These were the annual subscription payment from Ceiriog Valley Bowls Club (£380) and an inclusion grant for an afternoon tea for Older Person's Day (£50.00).

SM provided separate bank reconciliation figures.

(c) To authorise increase in Community Agent's salary

GB informed Councillors that **DD** regularly works over 20 hours a week and that the Council should consider a salary increase for her. It was agreed the Finance Committee meet to confirm a viable amount and present the details at the next meeting. **RBo** reminded Councillors that **DD** is paid the Real Living Wage rate which will be increasing by 10% in April 2023. **CH** said expenses should also be considered.

RBo CH
SM GB

8/1122 Council Procedures

(a) To adopt new safeguarding policy

SM had circulated a draft safeguarding policy for review and adoption at the meeting. **SM** explained that as the Council arranges events and has facilities for children and vulnerable adults it is good practice for those Councillors involved to have a DBS check. These can be arranged with AVOW. **LBM proposed** the Council adopt the new policy. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **Unanimously agreed**.

(b) To adopt Council Training Plan 2022

SM advised that there is a statutory requirement under s.67 of Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for the Council to have a training plan in place by November 2022. She had circulated a draft training plan for review and explained it is designed to ensure that collectively, Councillors and staff, possess the knowledge and awareness needed for the Council to operate effectively. The training plan would be reviewed annually. Following discussion **LBM proposed** the Council adopt the new training plan. **Seconded** by **EJ**. **Unanimously agreed**.

9/1122 Planning

To receive information relating to retrospective planning application P/2022/0751

At the last meeting Councillors had reviewed the retrospective planning application P/2022/0751 (for the erection of an orchard store and creation of a levelled area at Erwallo) and had expressed concerns regarding the location and style of the building, the details of which were not clear from the plans. **SM** had contacted the WCBC Planning Officer for further information and was advised that the applicant had tried alternative locations for the building, but due to the topography of the land and other issues these sites had not been suitable and therefore the existing building would remain in situ. However, the 'porch' at the front of the building would be boarded in using the same cladding as the existing building to make it less domestic in appearance. A condition had been imposed which restricted the building to workshop/storage use in connection with agriculture or forestry. The applicant had now planted a number of 5-year-old fruit trees in the orchard area next to the store and had also planted some hedging saplings along the edge of the building to aid with screening once they have matured.

WCBC's Planning Enforcement Officer had viewed the composting toilet on site which is not sited adjacent to the orchard store but is within the curtilage of the main dwelling. Due to its size and location, it is considered to be permitted development and does not require planning permission.

No planning permission is required for the boreholes that have been drilled on the site. Landowners have a right to access any water beneath their ground. This means there is no need to acquire planning permission to drill a water borehole, thus making it easy for a developer to install a borehole during a property build process. Once the installation work is completed, accessing, and utilising this water is completely free. A licence from the Environment Agency is only required if it is planned to pump more than 20 m³/day.

10/1122 Items for next agenda:

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

Arrangements for the removal of the portacabin from Oliver Jones Memorial Hall by the Bowls Club

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:40pm

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