



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

7th December 2022

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

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

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

Vice Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

1/1222 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Graham Barrow (holiday), Councillor Sarah Hawkes (personal circumstances), Cllr Laura Bell McMillan (holiday) and Cllr Emma Jones (personal circumstances)

2/1222 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/12/22 Community Catalysts Project

A presentation was given by Jennifer Naylor (Community Enterprise Facilitator (Wrexham)) to raise awareness of Community Catalysts who help people and communities across the country to use their talents to start and run small enterprises and community businesses that support and care for other local people. She told Councillors the existing social care enterprises in the area were already

oversubscribed and they were looking for more people who were able to offer domiciliary care services. She explained £250 grants were available to help cover start-up costs and insurance for members of the Care Association. She was speaking to residents at various locations in the Valley to encourage interest in the scheme with the aim of developing strong networks of support across the area. She explained that the scheme was UK wide and that there were four catalysts across Wales. The project was already being successful in Wrexham Borough where 40 new micro care enterprises had been set up. **RBo** thanked Jennifer for her presentation.

3/1222 Reports

(a) Police Report

PCSO Gareth Jones presented his report. There were problems with 4x4 vehicles and trial bikes in the area again and patrols were being conducted by the Police.

He advised Councillors that he and PCSO Martin Griffiths had carried out a visual awareness session to monitor the speed of vehicles going through Pontfadog. The highest speed they had recorded had been 37mph. He said the Police would be carrying out monthly speed checks in Pontfadog and along the B4500 between Glyn Ceiriog and Dolywern.

PCSO Jones presented a cheque for £150 to **DD** from the NW Police and Community Trust (PACT) towards the Community Christmas Lunch which was taking place on 20th December. Councillors thanked the PCSO Jones for the donation.

PH advised PCSO Jones of an incident at the Hall by a group of youths which had taken place on 2nd December at around 10:15pm. PCSO Jones advised residents should always call the Police when anything like this occurs.

RBo thanked PCSO Jones for his report.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- 4x4 vehicles are still a serious problem in Tregiorg and Llanarmon. **TB** has arranged for Ken Skates AM to come to a meeting with the Police and WCBC Highways. GLASS has now taken WCBC to court regarding the non-maintenance of a track they use.
- He had raised the issue with WCBC of how many elderly and vulnerable residents were not able to access information or complete forms online and that alternative ways to get information to these people was required. Applying for new blue badges was a particular problem as these can only be applied for online. **RBo** said the Council should send a letter to Ian Bancroft about the issue.
- He was concerned that it was not known how many people were struggling with the cost-of-living crisis in the local area. He had designed a short questionnaire in an attempt to get a better understanding of the situation. The questionnaires were being given out at the schools. He said the Council should raise awareness of the warm spaces located in the Valley.
- A Dementia Day was being held in Chirk in January with Caroline from the Rainbow Centre in Penley. A minibus is being provided for residents in the Valley should they wish to attend.
- The Glyn Ceiriog Community Christmas Lunch was being held on 18th December 2022 at the Canolfan
- Informed Councillors that the Community Awards were being held again this year. Any nominations for an award should be sent to him.

- A meeting relating to the viability of a community energy scheme for the Ceiriog Valley was being held on 6th January 2023
- Informed Councillors that the WCBC Executive Board had confirmed that Pontfadog School would be sold on the open market by public auction.

PH informed **TB** that the sides of the old road had sunk and were becoming very dangerous. **TB** said he had taken a Highways Officer (WCBC) to view the site.

4/1122 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 2nd November 2022

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2022 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by CH and seconded by EJ. Unanimously agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

- The Queen's Green Canopy Jubilee plaque had been received by **SM**. The two apple trees were being delivered and once planted arrangements would be made to put up the plaque
- The litter bin had been installed at Castle Mill by **GB**
- **CH** advised Councillors Gareth Morris had requested information from the Council about the siting of bins, and a salt bin placed on his land without permission after his insurance company had expressed concerns over the siting of these items and the possibility of claims for personal injury as a result. **SM** to inform Mr Morris that WCBC is responsible for these items and advise he contact them directly to resolve the problem. **SM**
- Following the last meeting **SM** had contacted Ysgol Cynddlw and had advised it could make an application for a donation towards the cost of the bus to take the children for swimming lessons. **SM** had sent a s137 application form but as yet had received no response.
- **SM** had attended the Welsh Dee Trust Open Evening. The discharge of phosphates and pollution from the Pontfadog sewage pipe had been highlighted as being very serious and fungus was growing below the soil pipe in the river. The Trust had drawn this issue to the attention of Hafren Dyfrdwy and the problem had improved recently but is still being monitored.
- **GB** had told **SM** a complaint had been made about rubbish from Mellow Mountain being left again in the bins at The Swan. **SM** to send another letter. **SM**
- **SM** had declared an expression of interest for the Council in the Warm Spaces Grant (WCBC). She was also applying for an Adult Social Services inclusion grant but the next round of funding was not until the New Year.
- **RBo**, **SM** and **DD** were arranging the Christmas 'Hugs and Hampers' for vulnerable residents in the Glyntraian community. The money being held for 'Helping Hands' in the Community Agent account would be used to fund the groceries for the hampers. **SM DD RBo**

5/1122 Correspondence

SM had received:

- An email from Alan at The Mulberry regarding blocked storm drains and the near flooding of

the hotel in the recent heavy rain. Flooding was only prevented by a builder who is currently on site. **SM** had notified WCBC of the issue.

- Information about the availability of warm spaces grants from WCBC. **SM** had declared the Council's interest and an application form had been received today. **RBo**, **DD** and **SM** to meet to complete the form which had to be returned by 13th December.
- The new salary scales for Council Clerks from the SLCC. To be reviewed by the Staffing Committee.
- An email from the Wales Air Ambulance requesting a donation and support to prevent the closure of the service from Welshpool airport. It was agreed that discussion of the request would be deferred until the Council meeting in January 2023.

SM DD
RBo

6/1122 Community Agent

DD reported:

- Our Warm Space has now started and has had a few people attending. We provide a bowl of soup with bread roll and butter, tea and coffee at no cost
- Attended a meeting in Glyn Ceiriog with **RBo** to hear about the plans for warm spaces to run throughout the valley over the winter period
- There had been a cost-of-living crisis meeting in Plas Madoc. A number of organisations had attended to offer advice and support to people struggling to pay the increased price in household costs.
- There was only one person now waiting to be reimbursed £200 by Scottish Power. Simon Baynes MP has taken up the case and is in the process of talking to Scottish Power in the hope of getting this final amount refunded.
- It has taken me 5 months to get the meters replaced and have monies totalling over £1500 repaid to those affected by the power outage in June, so I am very happy to hand this over to Simon Baynes MP to hopefully bring this problem to its conclusion.
- As reported at the last meeting after being successful in the Community vote with Tesco and Groundwork UK, it has now been confirmed that the inclusion for all bid I submitted won 1st place and we have been awarded £1500.
- Tesco has donated a 32" TV with DVD player, 2 gallons of paint and 2 boxes of chocolates to help us set up a dedicated warm space within the hall for the Community to use. This is likely to be in the back room and **CH** has offered to install the TV for us meaning we only have to pay for materials needed and not the work.
- Hugs and Hampers will be happening again this year and it has been decided that we will support members of the Community with 20 hampers and 20 hugs. Pontfadog Post Office has kindly agreed to have a basket for donations again this year, Gayle and Moreton Hall School have a collection point for us, and we have had the donations from the harvest festival at St John's in Pontfadog. Sioned Hughes who runs the monthly flower demonstrations at the Hall has donated 20 pots of hyacinths which she will gift wrap for us to give out as part of our 'hugs' for Community members. Thank you to Phil, Mandy, Gayle, the congregation of St John's, Sioned and Community members for all your support.

RBo thanked **DD** for her report and commended her in particular for the diligence, determination and success of her efforts in dealing with the very difficult problem involving Scottish Power and the payment meters.

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 £2196.43 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed.

SM advised there were six further payments to be made which were not listed on the payment schedule circulated prior to the meeting. These were:

- Groundforce: £216.46
- Unlimited webhosting: £47.88 (Website hosting)
- HSBC: Account charges: £5.80 (80p for cheque paid in)
- NEST: £37.18
- Unlimited webhosting: £7.19 (Domain Renewal)
- SLCC Training (Power of Competence): £30.00

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

Receipts totalled £5449.23. These were the final Precept payment (£5300); the Scottish Power Wayleave (£26.23) and the donations given for the 'Here to Help' meals (£123.00).

SM had circulated separate bank reconciliation figures prior to the meeting.

RBo signed the financial report.

SM had received notification of the 2023-2024 s137 limit which was £9.93 per elector. There are 660 electors in Glyntraian and therefore the limit for donations will be £6553.80.

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

RBo informed Councillors that the Finance Committee had met to discuss increased pay for **DD** who regularly works overtime. The Committee had agreed the Council was unable to increase her contract hours but would be able to offer 8 hours overtime each week until the end of the financial year. Her contract would be reviewed again in April 2023 and any future salary increase would depend on the funding received from WCBC. **CH proposed** that the Council pay **DD** an additional 8 hours overtime each week. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Unanimously agreed**.

10/1122 Items for next agenda:

Discuss putting a Council noticeboard on the lane towards Selattyn to ensure residents living in that remote area are made aware of the Council's activities.

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 7:40pm

Next meeting will be on 4th January 2023 at 6pm

DRAFT