



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

4th April 2023

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrow
Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Laura Bell McMillan

Councillor Sarah Hawkes

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

Chairman opened the meeting at 6pm

Action

1/0423 Apologies for Absence

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

2/0423 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/0423 Reports

(a) Police Report

A Police report had not been received prior to the meeting. However, Councillors knew that a van

had been broken into on The Swan Inn car park.

During March PCSO Gareth Jones had made Councillors aware that heating oil had been taken from a property in Dolywern.

GB reported that there was evidence that the 4 water containers which had been dumped in the river may have been used for kerosene. Those responsible had still not yet been identified.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

He reported:

- The court case between WCBC and GLASS had been adjourned until 9th May 2023.
- He had been informed that the work on 6 Bro Dewi should be completed by 17th April 2023. A new tenant could then move into the property. **TB** informed Councillors that for council housing the average void was 222 days and the average spend to bring an empty property to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard was £25000.
- A skip day had been arranged for the 27th April 2023 in Glyn Ceiriog. Technically this was for council tenants only, but other residents could use it.
- As the British Legion was no longer in Glyn Ceiriog there had been no poppy boxes locally last year. **TB** said he would be distributing these this year.
- There had been 190 responses (10% of the electorate) to an online questionnaire relating to energy from renewable resources and their suitability for a community energy scheme in the Ceiriog Valley. Most responses were from residents in Glyntraian. Results had shown respondents were favourable to wind turbines but not a wind farm and to solar panels but not a solar farm. Generating hydro power from the River Ceiriog would be depend on NRW who may not be in favour of this. The project is ongoing, and some are willing to invest in the scheme. The information would be reviewed by the Steering Group to help assess the viability of a community renewable energy scheme for the Ceiriog Valley.
- The Glyn Ceiriog Community Agent was now working additional hours to cover Llanarmon.

4/0423 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 1st March 2023

(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2023 were reviewed and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed by PH and seconded by RBo. Unanimously agreed.

(b) Matters Arising

- **SM** had contacted WCBC Highways requesting permission to put the new Council noticeboard on the roadside verge at the chosen location. They had advised that from a highways perspective, their main concern would be that it does not provide a significant distraction for drivers. They had requested whether there may be an alternative location which is not directly opposite a junction, or at least would require reassurance that the board would not be lit to avoid further distraction. It was agreed possible alternative locations would be explored.
- **SM** reminded Councillors that the price of the new noticeboard including fitting from the Parish Notice Board Company would be £1344. Councillors agreed this was too expensive and it was suggested that local suppliers could be approached for an alternative price. **LBM**

to make enquiries. To be discussed again at the next meeting.

- Following the last meeting, **SM** had spoken to the Wrexham Youth and Play Partnership about what activities were available at street play sessions. They had advised the emphasis is on free, unstructured play and they provide hula hoops, bubble making, chalks and much more equipment suitable for all ages to enjoy. In past play street sessions, people usually bring out their own toys such as skipping ropes, bikes and scooters which helps build the sessions for the community to call their own. Children are simply given the space and permission to play in the street, whilst adults have the opportunity to meet and get to know their neighbours better and experience a car-free street.
- **EJ** had noticed that the fence opposite Tyncelyn had fallen down again and was now broken into several pieces and was on the grass by the stream. It was agreed to make good the damaged fence.
- As agreed at the last meeting **GB** had put an article in Glyn News asking residents to make suggestions on how the Council can encourage others to protect and improve the environment. So far, no suggestions had been received.

5/0423 Correspondence

SM had received:

- An email from Mr Leck at the Mulberry advising of a huge pothole at the entrance of the hotel carpark. **SM** had already sent an email to Dave Douglas at WCBC asking him to call Mr Leck directly.
- Notification of the date for the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Champions, Community & Town, Local Members Forum (June 2023).
- An s137 application from the Ceiriog Valley Garden Society. This was discussed later in the meeting.
- Notification from Audit Wales that the Council had successfully passed its external audit.
- Information from WCBC regarding the Council's Placemaking Plan and a link to a survey which allows members of the public to submit their thoughts and feedback. The Placemaking Plan is about improving the centre of Wrexham and encouraging people to re-imagine and influence how it should look, feel, and function.
- A copy of the latest flyer from Creative Play. It uses a photograph of Dolywern Playground and acknowledges the Council's review of the work.

6/0423 Community Agent

DD reported:

- The warm space is now over for the summer. We have run for 12 weeks and have had approximately 120 engagements over that time. Going forward we are hoping to be able to continue with the club but run it as outside space so that Community members can still engage.
- **EJ** and I attended the Llangollen, Llangollen Rural and Glyntraian St Thomas's welfare charity meeting and they have shown great support for our vulnerable Community member.
- A cost-of-living event was held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall with various organisations attending including welfare rights and energy companies. Community engagement was disappointing, but 3 Community members did receive the help they needed, and that help is

ongoing.

- Computer club will run fortnightly from 5th April until July.
- The Community freezer has now been replenished with various nutritional balanced ready meals. Thank you Graham, for having done all the cooking.
- We have been successful in our bid to win funding from the National Lottery Community fund totalling £2850.00 which will pay the costs of our Coronation celebrations.
- We continue to see week on week growth with attendance at Brunch Club and now have new members and also the return of residents from the Leonard Cheshire. We regularly cook between 25 and 30 breakfasts between the hours of 11am and 1pm each Tuesday.
- Damion from the Little Learning Company had now finalised the end of year paperwork and it had been confirmed we will receive a total of £2811.33 from them as the money earned from the Brunch Club and the Warm Space.
- We now have a new Commissioning Officer at Wrexham, Vicki Lindley-Jones, who currently seems very keen to be involved with the work of Community Agents. This is something that has been lacking in recent months and we are all looking forward to her input.
- On the 27th May a cake stall and tombola is being held to raise funds for the Llandudno Community trip. With the kind permission of Julian Morris (GMC) this is taking place between 10am and 12pm outside the chapel in Pontfadog. The community trip is being arranged for 7th August 2023. **GB** said if the weather made it unsuitable to hold the event outside then he could ask Ralph Bennet if the Pontfadog waiting room could be used instead.
- Continuing with home visits helping Community members with issues they are facing and signposting them to any help that is available.
- Wrexham.com and WCBC have started sharing the information that is advertised on the Community Agent's Facebook page and posting it on their own social media platforms.

DD summarised the grants that had been received over the last twelve months to support the work of the Community Agent. These totalled £8611.33. Councillors thanked and congratulated **DD** for her work.

7/0423 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 £3305.92 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed.

SM advised there was one further payment of £200 to Audit Wales to be made which was not listed on the payment schedule circulated prior to the meeting.

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

Receipts totalled £3611.44 (Lottery grant for Coronation events £2850 and Scottish Power (solar panels) £761.44).

A transfer of £1743.49 had been made from the BMM savings account to the current account to cover **DD's** salary. This will be replenished once the Community Agent funding received. The money left in

the Community Agent Account is allocated funds (£5009.02):

- Coronation Lottery Grant: £2850
- Warm Space Grant: £1125
- WCBC Warm Space Grant: £697
- Here to Help: £200
- Helping Hands: £137.02

GB signed the financial report.

(c) To authorise the Council's Reserve Policy

SM advised that the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires a council to maintain financial reserves sufficient to meet the needs of the organisation. The Council's Internal and External Auditors review the Council's Reserves and their justification annually. The policy sets out the Council's strategy for managing and maintaining financial reserves. After discussion **LBM proposed** the General Reserves Policy be adopted. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **Unanimously agreed.**

(d) To review s137 donation application from the Ceiriog Valley Garden Society

SM had circulated the details of a s137 donation application from the Ceiriog Valley Garden Society. To raise the profile of the Society locally and increase membership further they had invited Bob Flowerdew, well known from his appearances on Gardener's Question Time on Radio 4, to speak at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 5th June 2023. They had requested a donation of £200 towards the costs of the event. **EJ proposed** the Council donate £200. **Seconded** by **SH**. **Unanimously agreed.**

8/0423 Celebrations for King's Coronation

RBo confirmed the details for the Ceilidh and informed Councillors posters had been printed for display at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall and the village shop in Pontfadog.

RBo and **DD** said a Royal Afternoon Tea Party was being arranged at the Hall on Saturday afternoon before the Ceilidh in the evening. **RBo** had asked **EJo** for ideas for entertaining the children but nothing had been arranged yet. **DD** explained entertainment for the children was a condition of the lottery grant.

RBo DD

GB suggested that now there were the cinema facilities at the Hall the Coronation ceremony could be played from the BBC iPlayer during the afternoon tea party.

9/0423 Planning

Planning application P/2023/0086 (single storey rear extension at Bedlwyn, Bedlwyn Road, Llwynmawr) was discussed and there were no comments or objections to the proposed building. **SM** to inform Planning Officer.

SM

10/04/2023 Environment Committee

SM presented a selection of photographs and three short drone videos from the Ceiriog River survey. Due to bad weather on the second day of the survey last year filming of the stretch of the river between the St John's Church in Pontfadog and Dolywern Bridge using the drone was still to be completed. Plans have been made to complete the work by the end of May, weather and river depth permitting. The survey had identified areas that may be suitable for habitat restoration by the Welsh Dee Trust and NRW.

11/04/2023 Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

GB and **DD** were in the process of reviewing what additional equipment was needed to expand the kitchen facilities at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall due to increased monthly use. The Council had previously contributed to the original improvements to the kitchen and had more recently made donations towards the new cinema facilities and new heating system at the Hall. **GB proposed** the Council should continue to back the Hall Committee and support further improvements to the Hall. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Unanimously agreed.**

DD GB

12/0423 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Review prices from local suppliers for the new Council noticeboard

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:22pm

Next meeting will be on 3rd May 2023 at 6pm