



# Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

## Minutes of Council Meeting

6th September 2023

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

### Present:

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

Councillor Ky Lewis  
Councillor Laura Bell McMillan

Also present: Stephanie Masters (Clerk) and Davena Davies (Community Agent)

Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm

**Action**

### **1/0923 Apologies**

Apology from County Councillor Trevor Bates

### **2/0923 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

#### **(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

**RBo**, **EJ** and **CH** declared an interest in the donation request from St John's Church in Pontfadog.

#### **(b) Requests for dispensations**

None

### **3/0923 Reports**

#### **(a) Police report**

**SM** had received a police report from PCSO Gareth Jones which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that the police had still not reported their conclusions relating to the dog attack incident on a Glyntraian resident. There were no other comments about the report.

**(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates**

**TB** was unable to attend the Council meeting but had informed the Chair of the following:

- Advised of the information recorded in the 2021 Census for the Ceiriog Valley. This had been published in the Glyn News. It was agreed the Council should acknowledge the aging population in the Valley.
- A High Court order has now quashed the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) on the 'Whitstones' track in Glyn Ceiriog, meaning there is once again vehicular access to the road for members of the public. GLASS and the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) both challenged the ETRO and the TRF took the case to the High Court. Among its claims were that Wrexham Council had failed to make the appropriate consultations before issuing its ETRO.
- Advised Councillors that the court case between GLASS and Wrexham Council was being held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Wrexham Courts. GLASS has applied for a section 56 notice (Highways Act 1980) stating that the 'Whitstones' track is 'out of repair' and demanding that Wrexham Council spend money to improve it.
- Informed Councillors of the Prosperous Communities Wrexham Key Fund which was able to provide funds to support eligible community projects. **SM** had circulated the guidance notes about the fund prior to the meeting. **LBM** agreed to study the Prosperous Communities report in detail and advise Councillors about possible options. **RBo** asked Councillors to provide ideas for projects at the Council meeting in October.

LBM

#### **4/0923 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2023 as a true and correct record.**

**EJ proposed** the Minutes be approved as a true and correct record. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Unanimously agreed**. **RBo** signed the Minutes.

**(b) Matters Arising**

- **RBo** reminded Councillors that ways of safeguarding the Community Agent when she was working alone in remote areas had been discussed at the Council meeting in July. He suggested the use of walkie talkies was a possible solution. **SM** to research available products in time for the next Council meeting in October.
- **SM** had sent another email to WCBC requesting a new litter bin at the entrance to the Hall car park but had still received no response. **SM** to chase again.
- **SM** had requested a glass recycling bin for the Hall and WCBC had agreed to supply one at no extra cost. However, to date, WCBC had not provided the glass recycling bin as agreed. **SM** to contact WCBC again.
- Following a local incident, **DD** had suggested at the last meeting that two lightweight wheelchairs should be purchased using the money donated by the Little Learning Company and this had been agreed at the meeting. These would be left at the Hall for use in emergencies. She had spoken to the Hall secretary who had no objection to the wheelchairs being left at the Hall but had said the Council should pay for the wheelchairs and not use the money donated by the Little Learning Company which could be used for alternative community projects. It was

SM

SM

SM

agreed the Council would pay and asked **DD** to get prices for the wheelchairs to discuss at the October Council meeting.

- After promising to remove the portacabin from the Hall car park the Bowls Club had not done this. **DD** informed Councillors a local person was speaking to the Bowls Club to have its permission to remove the portacabin from the site. She said the person had Hiab equipment, but he had confirmed this would not be able to get into the car park without removing part of the height restriction barrier. **EJ** said the person needed to contact the Council once he had discussed the work with the Bowls Club **SM** to contact Graham Barrow to confirm what original agreement had been made at the time the Bowls Club had been allowed to put it on the car park. **SM**
- **EJ** had found an alternative site for the new Council noticeboard. **RBo** and **EJ** to view the site together and assess its suitability as a location. No further information about the cost of the new noticeboard had been received yet from the local carpenter who had been given the opportunity to quote for the work. **EJ RBo**
- **RBo** said the Council should find ways to make its activities more relevant to younger age groups to make it more socially inclusive. He asked **KL** and **LBM** to speak to younger people in Glyntraian to give them the opportunity to express their needs and what they would like to see the Council doing. **KL** and **LBM** to share their finding at the next Council meeting, **KL LBM**
- A resident had asked **EJ** why WCBC had not cut the hedgerows in his area when this had already been done in other areas of Glyntraian. **SM** to ask **TB** about the issue and when the work was likely to be completed. **SM**

### 5/09/23 Correspondence

**SM** had received:

- A letter from Nightingale House Hospice requesting a donation from the Council. **CH** proposed a donation of £500. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Unanimously agreed.**
- An email from Charles Gittins (Senior Forest Manager) advising of proposed tree works along the B4500 between Chirk and Pontfadog. He wanted to contact local communities ahead of time to explain what is planned.
- Gwern y Pale along the Old Road is being auctioned by Bowen Ltd in September, and it appeared from the plans that the bench and small surrounding area maintained by the Council was included in the sale. **SM** had contacted Bowen Ltd, and they had confirmed this is an error on the plans and these have now been revised. The problem had been caused by the original plan not being very clear.
- Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board has now produced its Well-being Plan covering 2023-2028. This plan will be a framework enabling the Board to build strong partnerships across communities, stakeholders and partners and co-produce how long-term improvements to well-being will be delivered.
- Information regarding the Prosperous Communities Wrexham Key Fund (discussed earlier in meeting)
- A young resident had contacted **TB** about whether the Council would allow the community to put up a big net (like ones seen at a golf driving range or cricket ground) along the hedge boundary to the Cheshire Home. **RBo** said more information about the proposed use of the net was required, **DD** to discuss request further with resident in time for the next Council meeting. **DD**

- One planning application (P/2023 /0402) (discussed later in the meeting)

## 6/0923 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- The Community Vintage Vehicle and Craft Show was extremely popular and although the weather was awful, we still managed to raise £758 which has been given to the OJM Hall funds. Thanks to everyone who was involved in the organising of this event and to all who attended. We hope to run this event next year with the beneficiaries of all profits being the church.
- We welcomed Beth Roger to brunch to talk about and to unpaid carers within our community, this was informative and give the chance to unpaid carers to have their voice heard.
- Shopping and preparation for free school meals batch cook.
- Computer club held its last session 12th July for the summer break. This will start again 20th September. Thank you to Chris Futchter for his continuing support to our community members.
- The Task and Finishing group of Community Agents and Clerks met to look at the changing the role of Community Agents. It was our opportunity to tell Commissioning how very different my role as Community Agent is here in the Ceiriog valley to other Community Agents' roles in more central Wrexham. I believe going forward Trevor has now received more details of more information relevant to Community Agents.
- The Little Learning Company had arranged for paper craft sessions to be held at the Hall for Community members. This run over a couple of weeks was free and was enjoyed by members of both communities. We have been promised more sessions very soon.
- Coffee and Cake Club has run fortnightly throughout the summer and has been very well attended by all Community members. This is a free club which I bake and supply the cakes for free and the council pay the rental of the room.
- July led to a very difficult and upsetting time for a vulnerable Community member. Lack of support and unanswered urgent referral requests lead to me becoming the care giver for the Community member. This was over a period in excess of a week and led to many unpaid working hours ending when the Community member was taken into a residential home out of county by a family member. The Community member's neighbours have been wonderful and have been an excellent support to the Community member for a very long time. This was a very emotional situation and I believe highlights how little support there is for Community Agents. I was left in a situation that I couldn't just walk away from and was unable to get help or advice from anyone. The whole situation was for me unacceptable and has led to me making a formal complaint to Adult Social Care. his complaint has been looked at and I was given the result of, calls had been made to the wrong number therefore the calls hadn't been logged or indeed not even been made, since this decision I have now given photo evidence time of calls duration of calls and pointed out to adult social care the number they in fact advertise on the WCBC website is the number that was used for the calls I made and if I was phoning the wrong number for emergency contact then how many other very vulnerable people are being let down by their own misinformation on emergency contact details. They are now looking at the complaint again at a higher level and I await an outcome.  
Thank you to Ky for the support you gave in this very serious situation and for bringing the Defibrillator when requested by the ambulance service.
- Although a great success for some of the Valley's children, no child within Glyntraian benefited from the provision of free school meals. A contributing factor for this I believe was because many of Glyntraian school aged children attend schools out of the Valley, so were left unaware of this provision. Free school meals ran well until the second to last week when it was requested

that 30 meals were made available for one area, so that in the last week there would be no need to arrange the pickup or distribution of the meals. We had availability to fulfil this request and the meals left the Hall at 6.30pm on the Wednesday evening but at 10.40pm that evening I answered a call on my home phone to a very unhappy grandmother who told me that Glyntraian Council, (incorrect), had insisted that meals were delivered in one go and the recipients had no room in the freezer for the meals and they were being delivered back to the Hall at 11.40pm. I then tried to find out since leaving the Hall freezer how they had been kept. What I did find out I found to be unsatisfactory and made the decision at midnight that if the meals were to be returned, they would have to be destroyed as they had been out of the freezer too long to be safe to eat if distributed again. The grandmother didn't want the meals to be binned so took them to be given away as chilled meals with strict instructions that they must be eaten the following day. I did inform **RBo**, **TB** and Christina of my decision by email and heard back from **TB** in support of that decision. We could not take the risk and would certainly have lost our hygiene rating if someone had become ill.

- The Llandudno trip took place on 7th August, the weather was kind to us and 87 of the Valley's Community members had an enjoyable day at the seaside.
- Home visits and meeting attended as normal.
- Attended South Wrexham Health and Social Care workshop along with WCBC, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board looking at opportunities for health and social care hubs within communities. This was a very worthwhile event giving professionals and volunteers the opportunity to discuss and put views forward on the best and most effective way of providing social care and support within our community. Everyone was given the opportunity have a say on what would work best and how support could be delivered in the most rural areas of Wrexham. It was really surprising to me how much support there was for Community Agents and how many professionals actually acknowledge that the Community Agent is very much front line and very often the first point of contact to someone in need of help. They also acknowledge that Community Agents are used by themselves to gain a better understanding of situations needing local support. It was a surprise also how hard it is for them to access the right support services in a timely manner, when making referrals to other agencies. For those who missed or overlooked the invitation there are to be more workshops to gain people views and I would wholeheartedly encourage you to attend it was well worth the time.

### Summary

I think you would have to agree a very busy summer period, with lots of fun activities and time well spent. But also, some very unpleasant situations and many hours of unpaid work due to situations very much out of my control. I understand that I won't get any recompense for the hours worked over my contracted pay, but I would ask that the Council acknowledge and document this time to evidence the hours worked on the Clerk's part of the monitoring forms that now have to be sent monthly to Wrexham.

### 7/0923 Finance

#### (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 £6308.25 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** explained the high level of payments was as a result of the payment of **SM's** and **DD's** salaries for July and August, payment towards the Community Bus Trip and the agreed £500 donation to the Wales Air Ambulance.

**SM** advised the following payments had not yet been paid and were on the payments list for approval:

- One Voice Wales subscription (£148)
- SLCC subscription (£139)

- Groundforce (£222.27)
- Rhys Hughes (£320) for hedge cutting along the boundary of the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall (£50) and maintenance of the war memorial bank (£270)
- Graham Barrow (£31.10) for groceries for Free School Meals project

**CH proposed** all payments be approved. **Seconded** by **RBo**. **Unanimously agreed**. The payments were authorised at the meeting by **EJ** and **PH**.

Receipts totalled £ 7416.67 (Precept from WCBC £7166.67 and £250 from Glyn Ceiriog Community Council towards community bus trip)

**RBo** signed the financial report.

### **(c) s137 Donation**

**RBo** had received a request for a donation from St John's Church in Pontfadog to pay for a multi tool to assist with the maintenance of the churchyard. Currently volunteers were using their own gardening tools. The multi tool would cost £300. **KL proposed** a donation of £300. **Seconded** by **LBM**. **Unanimously agreed**. **SM** to send donation.

**SM**

### **8/09/2023 Planning**

#### **(a) To review planning application P/2023 /0402 - Two storey side extension at 2 Wynfa Old Road Dolywern**

The plan was reviewed, and Councillors had no objections or concerns about this planning application. **SM** to notify WCBC Planning.

**SM**

At the last Council meeting Councillors had expressed concerns about planning application **P/2023/0346** (extension to Arddyn Barn) and wanted more information and floor plans for the proposed extension. **SM** had advised Councillors prior to the meeting that the details had been on the WCBC Planning Portal. She informed Councillors that it was still a pending application. After discussion Councillors agreed they had no objections or concerns about this planning application.

### **9/0923 Playgrounds**

Following a report from RoSPA Play Safety Ltd **KL** looked at ways of resolving the issues with the portable goal post and the net on the fixed goal post in the Dolywern playground. There was the possibility that the net could be fixed to the ground using metal pegs, but it was agreed that this would be a safety risk if the pegs were removed by anyone. **SM** to contact RoSPA for advice and a solution to the problem.

**SM**

The top bar of the plastic goal post was broken beyond repair and would be difficult to fix to the ground. A resident had asked for a quote for a new metal goalpost to replace the plastic one without the Council's consent. Councillors agreed the proposed site for the new goalpost was not acceptable because it was near the boundary against the road and balls being kicked over the boundary presented a serious risk to passing traffic, neighbouring properties and pedestrians.

**SM** had contacted the manufacturer of the Maes Meredydd playground equipment and had arranged for spare parts to be provided for the rocker seat and the rocker seesaw.

**10/0923 Items for next Council meeting (4<sup>th</sup> October 2023)**

Ground fixings for football net

Repairs to the children's roundabout in Dolywern

Ideas for projects that could be eligible for funding from by the Prosperous Communities Wrexham Key Fund for Wrexham.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:59pm

Next meeting will be on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6:30pm