



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

6th December 2023

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

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

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

Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm

1/1223 Apologies

Apologies from Councillor Laura Bell McMillan (personal circumstances)

SM informed Councillors that Councillor Emma Jones had resigned. **SM** to send a letter thanking Cllr Jones for her valuable contribution as a Councillor and on behalf of the Council wish her well for the future.

2/1223 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

Action

3/1223 Reports

(a) Police report

PSCO Martin Griffiths had sent a report to **SM** which summarised the criminal activity in the local area, and this had been sent out to Councillors prior to the meeting.

There were no comments regarding the report. **RBo** said it was kind of them to offer to meet residents to hear their concerns.

DD advised Councillors that the Police had given a PACT donation towards the Community Christmas Lunch and asked **SM** to send a letter of thanks to PSCO Gareth Jones for the donation.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Advised Councillors that the Welsh International Sheepdog Trials would be held locally at Brynkinalt, Chirk on 11th, 12th and 13th September 2025.
- Informed Councillors that Wrexham Council had made the decision not to adopt the Wrexham County Borough 2013-2028 Local Development Plan and it had been submitted to the Welsh Government for approval and following a judicial review it had been deemed fit for purpose.
- Wrexham's proposed County Borough 2013-2028 Local Development Plan was originally drafted to allocate sites for around 8,000 homes and major developments. The Plan had been approved by the Welsh Government earlier in the year but so far Wrexham Council had failed twice to adopt the plan. This had been due to some Wrexham Councillors voting against adoption because there had only been a 0.2% population increase in the Borough and it was felt there was now no need for the 8000 houses in Wrexham as outlined in the Plan. A judicial review has since been held following building developers taking Wrexham Council to court. The outcome will be discussed at an Extraordinary Council meeting to deal with the matter.
- Informed Councillors that Hayley Morgan (WCBC Business Advisor) was coming to Glyn Ceiriog. She is able to advise of what funding may be available for community enterprises.
- He had met with Kevin Edwards and Julie Francis from WCBC to discuss the issue of flooding in Bro Dewi and the poor condition of the culvert causing the problem. **RBo** had also attended the meeting. The meeting had made a positive step forward towards resolving the issue. It was agreed that flood barriers would be added to each property in Bro Dewi. It had also been discovered that there were actually two pipes under the road, but it was clear that the second pipe was not taking any water under the road. It was agreed that WCBC would look at how the pipe could be used in addition to the main culvert. On behalf of Bro Dewi residents **DD** thanked **TB** for arranging the meeting and **RBo** for attending on behalf of the Council.
- Informed Councillors that £900 had been raised for the Poppy Appeal in the Valley.
- He was attending a private workshop with Alwyn Jones to discuss the Community Agent service and get a breakdown of expenditure on the service from Steve Latham White (WCBC Commissioning).
- He confirmed that WCBC Highways would be looking at buffer zones on roads where drivers are entering or leaving 20mph speed limits in built up areas.

- He advised Councillors of the proposal to develop an outreach service in the Valley with the Citizens Advice Bureau. This was discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

4/1223 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 1st November 2023

(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2023 as a true and correct record.

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

(b) Matters Arising

- At the last meeting **RBo** had said the Council should find ways to make its activities more relevant to younger age groups to make it more socially inclusive. He had 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. However, **KL** said he was still gathering information and as **LBM** was not present at the meeting it was agreed to defer discussion until the next Council meeting in January 2024.
- Following a meeting with Commissioning **RBo** told Councillors that it looked like funding would be available for Community Agents for the new financial year 2024-2025. All Community Agents had been asked to provide personal details of those using the service. However, all those community councils involved in the scheme had complained about releasing this data and Wrexham Council has withdrawn their request for the time being. It had been stated by Steve Latham-White that unless people agree to disclose their names and addresses, they would be excluded from using the service. **RBo** said this was of serious concern and that the condition was unacceptable.
- **RBo** had researched the cost of an independent risk assessment of the B4500 and had been told by a consultant this would cost c.£3500. He had been to the last meeting of Glyn Ceiriog Community Council and had presented details of what the assessment would cover and to establish their interest in contributing towards the cost. Whilst acknowledging that having a survey may be of benefit, Glyn Ceiriog Councillors believed, in the first instance WCBC's Highways Department should be involved. This would be with an expectation that a highways officer visits to discuss concerns with Councillors and possibly attend individual Council meetings with their findings/conclusions. It was agreed an independent risk assessment would have to be considered further and if the decision made was to go ahead with the assessment a further two quotes would be required.
- **RBo** advised Councillors that the Helping Hands Committee had met to discuss plans for the Christmas hugs and hampers and arrangements had been made. Some residents had already kindly donated items. A resident was kindly providing potted hyacinths to give with chocolates for the 'hugs'.
- At the last meeting **RBo** had informed Councillors that there were now more events being held at the OJMH and that from an environmental point of view any glass from these should be recycled. **SM** had requested a glass recycling bin for the Hall in June 2023 and WCBC had agreed to supply one at no extra cost. However, to date, WCBC had not provided a glass recycling bin and **SM** had still not received a response about when the Council could expect a bin to be delivered. **TB** offered to follow up the issue with an officer from Wrexham Council.
- **EJ** informed Councillors that further information about the cost of the new noticeboard had still not been received from the carpenter asked to quote for the work. She said the Council should

ask an alternative supplier for a quote and gave **SM** the contact details of another local carpenter.

- Repairs to the surface of the OJMH carpark would be discussed further at the Council meeting in January 2024. **DD** informed Councillors that the portacabin owned by the Ceiriog Valley Bowls Club had been sold and would be removed from the site by Christmas.
- **RBo** had spoken to the Hall Secretary and had confirmed that the flower boxes in front of the OJMH could be planted again. **RBo** asked **DD** to inform the local resident who had done the work previously to start planting the boxes again.
- Councillors had noted at the meeting in November that the boundary hedges at the OJMH were very overgrown and needed cutting. **SM** had contacted Groundforce but they had been unable to come as they had a problem with their machinery. As the boundary hedges at the Hall desperately needed cutting a local contractor had been employed to do the work which had cost £40.
- **PH** informed Councillors that a chain to use across the entrance of the OJMH car park would cost £5 per metre and that 16.4 metres of chain would be required. **DD** said the chain could be used when the Hall was not in use but as some people may require access the chain would not be locked.
- As agreed at the November Council meeting **SM** confirmed she had paid the FIT receipts to the OJMH.

5/12/23 Correspondence

SM had received:

- A revised s137 donation form from the Ceiriog Valley Brownies and Guides asking the Council to consider making a donation towards first aid training for their leaders. (discussed later in the meeting).
- Received a copy of NRW LIFE Dee River (August 2023) providing information about natural revetment works undertaken on the Ceiriog as part of habitat restoration project along the river. In 2022, following approval from the landowner and tenant farmer 600 metres of stock fencing was put along the right-hand bank of the river Ceiriog, near Tregairiog. The aim was to prevent cattle and sheep polluting the river and eroding the bank. Alternative water provision was made through two troughs fed by one solar powered pump in the field.
- An email from the Clerk of Glyn Ceiriog Community Council advising that their Community Agent had contacted the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) with a view to an outreach service being established in the Ceiriog Valley. The CAB had proposed holding monthly 3-hour sessions. The annual cost is £2352 (£196 per session) plus the cost of room hire. It was agreed this would provide a valuable a service to all residents including those in Glyntraian. Glyn Ceiriog Councillors were very keen to provide this service for its residents and given that residents from the whole of the Ceiriog Valley would benefit had asked if the Council would be prepared to contribute to the cost of the service. Based on population the proposal is that Ceiriog Uchaf contributes £352 and Glyntraian and Glyn Ceiriog £1000 each. To be discussed further at the next meeting in January.

6/1223 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- I have received 1 new referral this month and that was a self-referral.

- I have also received a referral from outside Glyntraian from a neighbour of a gentleman reported to have no food. I have spoken with the Community agent in that area who is now supporting.
- I would like to this evening revisit the possibility of buying a wheelchair for the Hall as was agreed by council some months ago but has failed to materialise yet. There is an urgent need for one, so I am hopeful that this will be agreed again this evening. The cost of the wheelchair would be £290. **CH proposed** the payment be approved **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed.** DD
- I would like to ask could I please have the cost of a microwave oven from the Kronospan grant to provide cooking facilities for a vulnerable gentleman from this Community? The cost of this would be £54.99. **CH proposed** the payment be approved **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed.** DD
- The Little Learning Company is coming back on 11th December to hold Christmas paper crafts session for us. I would like to ask for the cost of craft scissors to use at this event and further craft sessions from the money received from the Little Learning Company for holding Brunch Club. The cost of these would be £27. Also, from this money I would like to ask for the cost of a triple slow cooker £49.99 and the cost of a tin opener for brunch club £6. **CH proposed** all the purchases be approved **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed.** DD
- The Community Christmas lunch will be on the 19th December. We have received a £100 donation from the Llangollen Urban, Llangollen Rural and Glyntraian Welfare Charities. and a £150 donation from the Police (PACT fund) towards the cost of the lunch. The remaining cost is being covered by funds received from the Little Learning Company. 70 residents have already booked for the lunch.

Summary

The new frozen meals have been greatly appreciated by Community members.

Warm space with hot homemade soup will begin again this Thursday. This will take over from the coffee and cake sessions.

My Thanks for your support this last year and Happy Christmas.

7/1223 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 £13766.81 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** explained that the payments total was high because the transfer of the FIT receipts had ben paid to the Oliver Jones Hall Committee as agreed at the last Council meeting,

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

- S Masters - Unlimited Webhosting (subscription): £47.48
- Groundforce (November 2023): £227.27
- R Hughes (maintenance of war memorial - final invoice): £90

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

Receipts totalled £2217.62 (£2110.12 FIT from solar panels which will be paid to OJMH; £6.50 refund by **RBo** following payment error; £1 donation to Helping Hands Christmas Hampers by a child resident.

RBo signed the financial report.

(c) To agree Clerk's back pay after new hourly rates confirmed by NALC

SM explained that NALC had been slow in releasing the new rates of pay which had increased from £12.95 to £14.95 per hour and back pay was required from the start of the 2023-2024 Financial Year. Over the 7-month period since April 2023 backpay totalled £760. This amount included the extra 16 hours worked to complete the internal and external audits. Councillors were advised that the Finance Committee had approved the back pay at its meeting in November. All Councillors agreed with the decision.

(c) To discuss the 2024-2025 Council Budget

The Finance Committee had met to review the Council Budget and Council reserves. The Committee had prepared a draft budget for consideration. **SM** advised Councillors that an additional amount to cover the new salaries of the Clerk and Community Agent had been included. An allowance for the road safety risk assessment had been added but this could be removed if the Council made the decision not go ahead. However, in view of the possible contribution towards the cost of the CAB outreach project a £1000 would need to be added to the Budget. The figures and precept calculation were discussed but it was agreed to defer any decision until the January meeting 2024.

(d) To consider s137 application from 1st Ceiriog Valley Brownies and Guides

SM had received a s137 application requesting a Council donation of £150 from the 1st Ceiriog Valley Brownies and Guides to pay for First Aid training for three leaders. After discussion **EJ proposed** the Council give a donation of £150. **Seconded** by **KL. Unanimously agreed.**

8/1223 Items for next Council meeting (3rd January 2024)

Ways to make Council activities more relevant to younger age groups to make it more socially inclusive

Chain for the entrance of the OJMH carpark to prevent vehicular access at night when the Hall is closed

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) with a view to an outreach service being established in the Ceiriog Valley.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:00pm

Next meeting will be on 3rd January 2024 at 6:30pm