



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

1st November 2023

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Colin Hidden
Councillor Ky Lewis
Councillor Laura Bell McMillan

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

Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm

Action

1/1123 Apologies

Apologies from Councillor Emma Jones (personal circumstances)

2/1123 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/1123 Reports

(a) Police report

PCSO Gareth Jones was at the meeting and presented a report of crimes in the local area which **SM** had circulated a copy of the report to Councillors prior to the meeting.

He informed Councillors that were now to new sergeants in the local policing team, Sgt Stuart Roberts for the Ceiriog Valley area, and Sgt Emma Watts for the northern area.

He advised Councillors that the damage to the hedge/gate noted in the report had been caused by 4x4 vehicles. He reported that 4x4s and scrambling bikes were still a problem in the area and asked Councillors to continue calling 101 and reporting any problems involving 4x4s.

CH asked PCSO Jones about road safety issues on the B4500. PCSO Jones said a speed gun had been used to collect information and the figures then sent to Go Safe, the Wales Road Casualty Reduction Partnership.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- The bin strike by staff at WCBC was now over and waste collections would now be carried out as usual.
- **TB** had spoken to Kevin Edwards and Dave Douglas at WCBC about the uncut roadside verges in the Valley. He had been told they didn't know when it was going to be done.
- The pothole on the B4500 by Tyn y Ddol had been repaired.
- Remembrance services were being held in Pontfadog and Glyn Ceiriog on 12th November.
- WCBC's Scrutiny Committee was meeting on 8th November and would be discussing the Community Agent scheme. There were concerns that the funding for the scheme may be withdrawn April 2024. **RBo** said Glyntraian and Glyn Ceiriog Community Councils should discuss how the Community Agents service in the Valley could be supported in the event of funding being withdrawn. **SM** to arrange meeting.
- During Storm Babet properties in Bro Dewi were flooded as a result of the blocked culvert. As the Council are already aware the Bro Dewi culvert is clearly inadequate for the volumes of water experienced during heavy rainfall and the frequency of drainage clearance and maintenance is inadequate. **TB** advised Councillors that he and Eifion Owen had met with Kevin Edwards, Dave Douglas and Catherine Hughes from WCBC and they had visited different sites where problems of flooding occur mainly due to blocked culverts resulting from lack of maintenance. A meeting is being arranged with Darren Williams (Chief Officer Environment & Technical WCBC) and Julie Francis (Chief Housing Officer) to discuss the issue with a view of developing a plan of action. **KL** asked if it was possible for residents to claim for flood damage to WCBC council properties like those in Bro Dewi. **TB** said this would be a lengthy process and would require legal backing for making a claim. **LBM** suggested the Council could go to the Press to highlight the issues. **TB** said the Council should also encourage residents to complain to WCBC and give the opportunity for them to attend a Council meeting to discuss the problem so their opinions could be forwarded to WCBC.

SM

4/1123 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 4th October 2023

(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2023 as a true and correct record.

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

(b) Matters Arising

- **RBo** thanked **LBM** for completing a detailed summary of the Prosperous Communities Wrexham - Key Fund. **He** asked Councillors to bring ideas for discussion to the Council meeting in December. **SM** to confirm when applications end.
- 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. **RBo** asked **KL** and **LBM** if they could gather information to present at the Council meeting in December.
- **RBo** had researched the cost of an independent risk assessment of the B4500, and he had spoken to a consultant about costs. The assessment would cost £3500, and a report would highlight areas of concern. The assessment would cover the whole Valley and **RBo** suggested that Glyn Ceiriog and Llanarmon Community Councils may be prepared to give a contribution to the cost of the assessment. **TB** to raise the issue at the next meeting of Glyn Ceiriog Community Council.
- **RBo** said the Council's radar gun should be used to gather evidence of speeding along the B4500 and the results sent to GoSafe. PCSO Jones said the speed gun would need to be calibrated before use. He confirmed that he and PCSO Griffiths had already carried out one speed check in Pontfadog and were planning to carry out another one. They would be able to support residents using the Council's radar gun to carry out a community speed watch session.
- Following the last meeting **SM** had contacted the Clerk of Chirk Town Council to find out about their vehicle activated signs. Chirk Town Council had paid for two signs using funds from their precept. Each sign cost c.£3000 but in addition there was the cost of installation. Chirk Council did collect information on the cars going through Chirk to establish the need to install vehicle activated signs. These signs have proved effective but there are still some drivers who disregard them. It was agreed that the Council would have to consider increasing its precept to buy vehicle activated signs or apply for a suitable grant.
- **TB** had made a model of children for the roadside verge, and this was now on display to remind drivers to slow down when driving in areas where children are present and be extra cautious.
- **RBo** advised Councillors that the Helping Hands Committee would be meeting to discuss plans for the Christmas hampers.
- Currently children were having to go through a hole in the blackthorn hedge behind the goalpost to retrieve their footballs from the Cheshire Home's garden. At the last meeting it had been agreed a short stretch of fencing, which only needed to be the height of the hedge, could be put either side of the goalpost to help prevent footballs going over the hedge. **SM** had been unable to establish who owns the hedge and will contact the Cheshire Home to confirm ownership in time for the next meeting.
- **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** had requested a glass recycling bin for the Hall in June and WCBC had agreed to supply one at no extra cost. However, to date, WCBC had not provided the glass recycling bin. **SM** had sent a further email asking for a date when the Council could expect the bin to be delivered and had still not received a response. **RBo** informed Councillors that there were more events being held at the OJMH and that from an environmental point of view any glass from these should be being recycled. **CH** suggested the Council could ask WCBC if it would let a Councillor fetch a bin from its depot and, if so, would they be prepared to empty it. **SM** to make enquiry.

KL LBM

TB

SM RBo
DD CH

SM

- **EJ** informed Councillors that further information about the cost of the new noticeboard had still not been received from the local carpenter who had been given the opportunity to quote for the work. It was agreed that alternative suppliers should be found to provide quotes.
- **CH** and a resident had put up the 'no dogs allowed' signs to the fences either of the entrance the Hall car park as agreed.
- Repairs to the surface of the OJMH carpark to be discussed further at the Council meeting in December. Councillors agreed it would be best to wait until the portacabin was removed from the site by the Bowls Club. **RBo** to also speak to the secretary of the Hall Committee to discuss the proposed path from the Cheshire Home's garden to the Hall. **RBo**
- **DD** said the flower boxes in front of the OJMH had not been planted because the rain gardens had not been placed below the downpipes as planned. **SM** explained these had been left because the guttering around the Hall was being replaced. However, there was no reason why the flower boxes could not be used as they did not interfere with the location of the rain gardens. **RBo** to speak to the Hall Secretary to ask if the flower boxes could be planted. **RBo**
- Councillors noted that the boundary hedges at the OJMH were very overgrown and desperately need cutting. It was now November and the hedge has not been cut since March. It was usually cut again at the beginning of September. **SM** to contact Groundforce to confirm when they will be coming to do the work. **SM**

5/11/23 Correspondence

SM had received:

- A completed s137 donation form from the Brownies and Guides asking the Council to consider making a s137 donation towards their art and craft activities. (discussed later in the meeting).
- One planning application (P/2023/0668) (discussed later in the meeting).
- Following the recent flooding in the area **SM** had received an email from a resident suggesting the idea of a local Civic Response Team with emergency back-up communications to help in the event of a significant weather or disaster event. This would need a local action plan. Concerns were expressed about whether there would be enough resources available if there was an emergency in more than one area.
- Confirmation of Clerk's membership of the SLCC following payment in October.

6/11/23 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- I have received 2 referrals this month and both of these are people who have needed to use the service before and through no fault of their own find themselves again in need.
- **RBo**, **KL** and I met to complete the forms needed to claim the rest of the grant from Tesco and Groundwork. The remaining money has now been received. **SM** confirmed the money had been transferred to the Community Agent account.
- Commissioning is now carrying out an audit on all Community agents. They are looking at quarter one and two of the financial year 23 to 24 and are needing information and case studies on Community members we have been supporting, checking on how we hold people personal information and how long it is held. I personally only hold information for the time I am working with someone. As soon as the case has been resolved or referred all personal information is

the destroyed. This is what we were advised to do from the start of the Community Agent service and this I believe, is the safest way to keep Community members details confidential.

- **EJ** now has the money from the St Thomas's charity to help with our Community Christmas dinner. I would like to ask that a letter of thanks be sent to the charity in acknowledgement of the very kind donation. The Community Christmas dinner will be held on 19th December.
- The Little Learning Company is coming back in 11th December to hold Christmas paper crafts sessions for us. These sessions will be free to anyone that would like to attend. Following **DD**'s request, Councillors agreed she could by pairs of scissors for use at the session.
- A free Community Afternoon Tea to be held at the OJMH on 18th November from 3pm.

Summary

As we move towards winter and the long dark nights it is important that we remain mindful that some of our community members will be starting to struggle both financially and with mental health, suggesting we need to keep engaging as much as possible.

7/1123 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 £2293.80 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed.

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

- Council's poppy wreath (£23.98)
- Website domain renewal £7.19 (Unlimited Webhosting)
- Groundforce (October) £227.27

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

A receipt of £375 which was the remaining amount of the Tesco/Groundwork grant payable to the Council. **SM** thanked **DD**, **RBo** and **KL** for successfully submitting the report to claim the outstanding amount.

RBo signed the financial report.

(c) October Council Budget Review

At the October meeting it had been agreed that the Council's budget be discussed further at the November meeting. However, it was agreed that the Finance Committee would meet to review the budget and council reserves and present the information at the December meeting.

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

SM had received a s137 application requesting a Council donation of £301.73 from the 1st Ceiriog Valley Brownies and Guides to pay for art materials for craft activities and First Aid training for three leaders. However, Councillors agreed further clarification of the information on the application form was

required before a decision could be made. Concerns were raised about the fact that other funding (£300) was being applied for and that £161 from their own fundraising was already available. Combined these would more than cover costs.

(e) To review payment of FIT credits to the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall Committee

The Council had paid £6308.22 to the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall Committee in November 2018 which was the total income received from the solar panels to that date. Since November 2018 the Council had received further FIT credits totalling £10907.05 from Scottish Power. These funds were being held as allocated funds in the Council's General Reserves. **CH proposed** the total amount be paid to the Hall Committee and any future FIT credits to the Council's account be transferred when received. **Seconded** by PH. **Unanimously agreed.**

SM

10/1123 Planning

To review planning application P/2023 /0668 for a single storey rear extension at 5 Castle Mill.

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

SM

11/1123 Items for next Council meeting (6th December 2023)

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:26pm

Next meeting will be on 6th December 2023 at 6:30pm