



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

4th October 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) and Davena Davies (Community Agent) Cllr Trevor Bates

Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm

Action

1/1023 Apologies

Apologies from Councillor Emma Jones (personal circumstances) and Councillor Laura Bell McMillan (personal circumstances)

2/1023 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/1023 Public Session – Safety on the B4500

Residents voiced their concerns over safety and speeding vehicles on the B4500 and the danger it causes for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists. Coming in or out of Pontfadog the speed limit increases from 20mph straight to 50mph. Councillors and residents agreed that a 'buffer zone' would be beneficial with a short stretch at 30mph helping to ensure that a driver is travelling more slowly on the approach to the lower limit. **TB** said WCBC is looking further at the idea of using these. **TB** said the safety of cyclists must also be considered and he had asked WCBC for cyclist warning signs where a cycle route crosses the main road at Castle Mill but to date no further action had been taken.

RBo outlined possible actions the Council would be able to take to help with the issue. These were:

- Get an independent risk assessment from road safety company (if possible) and obtain backing of the Police.
- Consider CCTV cameras and back with publicity and Police support.
- Investigate vehicle activated signs and investigate possible grants. Check details with Chirk Town Council about their vehicle activated signs.
- **TB** to make model of children to display to remind drivers to slow down when driving in areas where children are present and be extra cautious.
- Consider how best to use of the Council's radar gun in conjunction with Police to gather evidence.

RBo thanked people for coming and confirmed the Council would keep people advised of progress.

4/1023 Reports

(a) Police report

SM had received a police report from PCSO Gareth Jones which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. **SM** advised Councillors that the Police had still not reported their conclusions relating to the dog attack incident on a Glyntraian resident. The resident involved had spoken to the Police on 22nd September and had been assured that he and the owners of the do would be contacted as soon as possible. However, the resident had received no further contact. There were no other comments about the report.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is leading a project evaluating the case for a new National Park based on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As part of the evaluation process consultation events are being held and there is a drop-in session between 1:00pm and 7:00pm at the Canolfan on 11th October.
- NRW's Flood Risk Management Plan consultation will be available online on 15th October 2023.
- The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site has been named as the most beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Site in the world. It was agreed that WCBC could make more of this to engage people with the rich heritage of the area.
- The ESTYN inspection reports for Ysgol Cynddelw and Ysgol Llanarmon DC were now available. The Mayor of Wrexham will be visiting the schools on 6th November.
- The Conalfon Christmas Lunch will be on 17th December 2023.
- WCBC Councillors ultimately voted to reject the proposed LDP, leaving Wrexham as the only Council out of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales that is still without one. They were not in agreement with certain aspects relating to housing, phosphates and infrastructure. A new draft is being prepared.

- **TB** asked **DD** if any work had been carried out on the handrails and steps to one of the properties in Maes Meredydd after they had been declared unsafe. **DD** advised that WCBC and the contractors were looking at ways of making access to the property safer and had repaired the handrails.
- Following the improvements to the Springhill wireless mast there was now a mobile phone signal in Llanarmon.
- He had raised residents' complaints with WCBC's Environment and Technical Team about the lack of maintenance of grass verges and hedge cutting not being carried out. It had not been confirmed when this work would likely to be undertaken,
- The report from the Community Agent workshop is being reviewed by WCBC's Scrutiny Committee in November.

5/1023 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 6th September 2023

(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2023 as a true and correct record.

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

(b) Matters Arising

- **LBM** had completed a detailed summary of the Prosperous Communities Wrexham - Key Fund which **SM** had circulated prior to the meeting. **RBo** said the Key Fund offered an opportunity to improve connectivity in the community in the long term. **He** asked Councillors to bring ideas for discussion to the Council meeting in November. **LBM** would be asked if she will lead the project.
- **RBo** reminded Councillors that ways of safeguarding the Community Agent when she was working alone in remote areas had been discussed at the last Council meeting. Walkie talkies had been discussed as a possible solution. However, **DD** and **SM** said that these were not necessary and that it would be better for **DD** to text **SM** to give the details of where she was going, and a time agreed when she would expect to be back. **DD** would text **SM** to confirm she was safe on her return. However, if the agreed time had passed and nothing had been heard from **DD** the Police would be notified. It was agreed **SM** would text **CH** and **RBo** to make them also aware of where **DD** was going and the time she was expected to be back. **SM** would confirm with them if it was necessary to contact the Police.
- Following a request from a young resident for a fence to be put along the hedge boundary with the Cheshire Home it was agreed that further information about the proposed use of a fence was needed. **DD** had spoken to the resident and said that the fence only needed to be the height of the hedge. Its purpose was to prevent footballs going over the hedge into the Cheshire Home's garden. Currently children were having to go through a hole in the blackthorn hedge to retrieve their footballs. Putting a short stretch of fencing either side of the goalpost would help resolve the problem. **SM** to check the who owns the hedge, and the fence will be discussed again at the next meeting. **SM**
- **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**
- **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. **SM** waiting for a response.

- **EJ** had found an alternative site for the new Council noticeboard. **RBo** and **EJ** had viewed the site together and agreed the location would be a suitable site. **SM** advised that the permission of WCBC Highways was necessary before the Council went ahead to buy a noticeboard. No 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. Another two quotes would be needed.
- 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** if he and **LBM** could gather information to present at the Council meeting in December. **KL LBM**
- **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.
- **PH** informed Councillors that dogs were still being exercised on the playing field at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall. The Council had purchased 'no dogs allowed' signs and **CH** said he would fix these to the fences either of the entrance the Hall car park as agreed. **CH**
- Wrexham is amongst 55 towns across the UK and four in Wales to receive a share of a £1.1 billion levelling up investment. It will be broken down into £2 million each year for the next 10 years. **EJ** asked **TB** whether any of this funding would be used to benefit rural areas. **TB** said this levelling up funding was only available for projects in Wrexham.

6/10/23 Correspondence

SM had received:

- An email from the Brownies and Guides asking the Council to consider making a s137 donation towards their art and craft activities. **SM** had sent the link to the application form on the Council website.
- A letter from Nightingale Hospice thanking the Council for its donation.
- An email from the External Auditor confirming the Council's external audit had been successfully completed.
- An email from The Regeneration Team at WCBC (Economy and Planning Department) advising that the online expression of interest application process for the 4 UK Shared Prosperity Keyfund Grant Schemes was now open.
- An email from One Voice Wales advising dates of available training courses.
- An email from the Community Liaison Officer at London Hearts, the leading heart charity dealing with the funding, procurement and supply of life-saving defibrillators throughout the entire of the UK and outlining available charity funding towards the cost of each defibrillator. Councillors agreed this funding could be reviewed if the Council made a decision in the future to get an additional defibrillator.
- An email from Anthony Appleton (Church Warden) thanking the Council for its donation for the multi tool for the maintenance of St John's churchyard.

- An email from Charles Gittins confirming Scottish Woodlands is in the process of discussing traffic management systems with Wrexham CBC and the contractor to allow specific roadside trees on the B4500 between Chirk and Pontfadog to be removed. Information on the work programme and associated timescale has not been released yet but SM will be informed when the details will be available.
- One planning application (P/2023 /0603) (discussed later in the meeting).
- A query from the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall Committee regarding the FIT payments from the solar panels which are sent to the Council. **DD** explained the Committee wanted to confirm the total money available because the money was needed to help pay the Hall's electricity bills which are paid monthly. **SM** confirmed the funds were held in the Council's savings account. and advised the FIT receipts were available and that these credits were shown in the Council accounts. She will advise the Hall Committee of the money available and it was agreed that **SM** would notify the Hall Committee when any FITs payments are claimed.

SM

7/1023 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- An increase in referrals from occupational therapy and also self-referral.
- It is now time to fill in the project completion report for the Tesco grant we received; this will allow the release of the remaining 25% of the award. We will need to include photos and invoices/receipts that total £1000 and above. This needs to be done online. If we don't evidence that this grant has been spent it will have to be paid back. We have until 15th of October to complete the forms, so it is essential that this is high priority. **DD** said the grant had been delayed due to the COVID pandemic and although only received last December could be used for the events held for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee held in June 2022. **DD, RBo** and **SM** to discuss.
- Whilst on annual leave I received a request for September's monitoring forms from Commissioning at Wrexham. Despite being on holiday I still had to fill them in and return them, if this was not completed and returned, we have been told we will be named and shamed. I presume this will be in the form of a complaint to you as my employer, and you may have already received that complaint. Along with this I still answered urgent calls and emails and referred on or made appointments for my return to work. I think you should bear in mind that this was my first approved time off since before COVID and that should be taken into account by the Council when drafting a reply to Commissioning. We have now received the shared documents from the Community Agent Task and Finish group, which I believe have also been sent to Clerks who had requested to be part of that meeting. **SM** therefore would be able to discuss further with the Council as we have been told we cannot share these documents. However, **SM** had already checked with Commissioning and had been told not to share this report as this was a only draft document and the final report would be sent for circulation to Councillors in due course.
- I was unable to attend the St Thomas's charity meeting with **EJ** due to my leave, but **EJ** has said we have received a donation of £100 towards our Christmas lunch. Thank you, **EJ**.
- We will need to discuss the arrangements and date for Christmas lunch this year. Bookers Wrexham have already donated two large Turkey crowns for this.
- We are looking at holding afternoon Tea for the Community this month so would be grateful for anyone wishing to volunteer on the day or with baking.

DD RBo
SM

Summary

We are noticing a sharp increase in self-referral to our service fuelled we think by the change in the benefits system. People are worried about the impact on their financial wellbeing and how they will manage the change over to a new benefit.

Along with these changes we are getting more people asking for help with social housing exchanges to move from our area due to the fact that we have no means of transport, making it almost impossible for the older members of the Community to leave the valley for even essential services and groceries shopping. However, WCBC said that these people were already housed in suitable properties and rehousing them was not a priority.

8/1023 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 £4415.05 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** explained the higher level of payments was mainly as a result of the agreed donations to St John's Church in Pontfadog (£300) and to the Nightingale House Hospice (£500).

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

- SLCC subscription (£146)
- Groundforce (£222.27)
- Graham Barrow (£89.82) for beer for Coronation Ceilidh

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

There were no receipts.

RBo signed the financial report.

(c) October Council Budget Review

SM presented a review of the Council's budget and the estimated end of year figures. Estimated overspend was minimal and would be covered by contingency funds if necessary. It is likely there would be a surplus at the end of the financial year.

9/10/2023 Planning

To review planning application P/2023/0603 (Craignant Wood House – Request for a Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of the dwelling without compliance with agricultural occupancy condition).

A request for a Lawful Development Certificate had been made in June but the removal of the agricultural occupancy condition had been refused because of the lack of information supporting the request. The applicant had been given the opportunity to provide further information to support their request which had now been received by WCBC. Councillors had no further comments about the application and it was agreed that it was WCBC Planning making the final decision as to whether to issue a Lawful Development Certificate. **SM** to confirm details with Planning Officer.

SM

10/1023 Oliver Jones Memorial Hall Car Park

It was agreed that repairs to the car park at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall were a priority. The original two quotes would need to be revised as these were done in May and now out of date. Another quote would be required before choosing a contractor.

11/1023 Items for next Council meeting (1st November 2023)

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

Repairs to the children's roundabout in Dolywern

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:26pm

Next meeting will be on 1st November 2023 at 6:30pm

DRAFT