



# Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

## Minutes of Council Meeting

3rd January 2024

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

### Present:

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

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

Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm

**Action**

### **1/0124 Apologies**

Apologies from Councillor Laura Bell McMillan (personal circumstances) and Councillor Colin Hidden (personal circumstances)

### **2/0124 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

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

None

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

None

### **3/0124 Reports**

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

Wrexham Rural Inspector Matthew Subacchi had sent a report to **SM** and this had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The report advised that overall crime in the Wrexham Rural area had reduced by approximately 700 incidents and a total of 12.3% reduction in crime. There had been an increase in only two crime types – theft and criminal damage. Cases of theft were predominantly cases

of theft from shops and leaving petrol stations without payment (fuel) which is a problem being seen across the UK.

There were no comments regarding the report. However, **RBo** said the Council had not received any further information about the calibration of the Council speed gun which had been originally discussed with PCSO Gareth Jones. **SM** was asked to find out further information from the Police.

**SM**

**(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates**

**TB** reported:

- **TB** informed Councillors that Wrexham Council had voted to adopt the Wrexham County Borough 2013-2028 Local Development Plan (LDP) following the outcome of the judicial review of the case brought by building developers against Wrexham Council. It declared that Wrexham Council had failed to perform its statutory duty by not adopting a LDP.
- **TB** advised Councillors that there had been no update on the use of a camera to investigate the pipes under Bro Dewi or under the B4500 at the Swan in Pontfadog as discussed at the meeting with Kevin Edwards and Julie Francis from WCBC. However, there had been some flood barriers provided for properties in Bro Dewi, but **DD** said these had not been properly fitted.
- The Santa Run between Glyntraian and Glyn Ceiriog had collected £315 for the Wales Air Ambulance. Ceiriog Uchaf Community Council had raised approximately £300 for the Wales Air Ambulance and over £100 towards their 2025 Christmas party. **EJ** confirmed another £400 had been collected making the total donation to the Wales Air Ambulance from the Valley £1015.
- The Welsh Government settlement for Wrexham is 3.2% (£232 million) in comparison to the Wales average being 3.1%. Settlements for other authorities in Wales are Newport 4.7%; Cardiff 4.1%; Swansea 3.8%; Conwy 2%; Gwynedd 2% and Flintshire 2.2%. Various grants amounting to 1.4 million have been cut by the Welsh Government. This may affect Social Services.
- The Community Agent Grant, used to cover the costs of the service, from the Welsh Government looked secure for at least another 12 months. There would be however, some changes to ensure Community Agents get appropriate training particularly on the issue of safeguarding. **DD** expressed concerns about the Community Agent scheme and the position of Community Agents. **RBo** suggested Alwyn Jones could be invited to a Council meeting to talk about the issue.
- Advised that more foster parents are needed in Wrexham as this would ease pressure on Social Services. Currently 332 children are cared for by WCBC.
- The Ceiriog Valley Sheepdog Association AGM was being held on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Glyn Owens and Jonathan Davies were arranging a fundraising event for The International Sheepdog Society on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**EJ** said that the roads in Glyntraian were in an extremely poor condition caused by lack of maintenance by WCBC and that vehicles were being seriously damaged as a result. She suggested the Council invite the Head of WCBC Highways to discuss the issue. **RBo** asked **EJ** and **DD** to send a list of the current highways issues to **SM** so they could be submitted to the Environmental and Technical department who are responsible for road maintenance at WCBC. **EJ** had been asked by a resident how much was currently budgeted for roads by WCBC. **TB** said it was in the region of £7 million.

#### 4/0124 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 as a true and correct record.

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

#### (b) Matters Arising

- **DD** informed Councillors there had been a very high risk of flooding again from the Bro Dewi culvert during the recent heavy rain on 1<sup>st</sup> January. She explained that **TB** had called WCBC to clear the culvert and they had come out and cleared it within the hour, which proves they do have the resources to do it. She told Councillors that in the past she and other residents in Bro Dewi had tried unsuccessfully to get help from WCBC when the culvert had been blocked during heavy rain. She said an arrangement was needed with **TB** to ensure there was a quick response to the situation and immediate action taken.
- **RBo** confirmed his intention to step down as Chair of the Council following the Council meeting in February. The appointment of a new Chair would be made at that meeting.
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- **SM** had sent a letter thanking Cllr Jones for her valuable contribution as a Councillor on behalf of the Council.
- **SM** had sent a letter of thanks to PSCO Gareth Jones for the PACT donation towards the Community Christmas Lunch.
- **RBo** confirmed that the Helping Hands Committee had successfully made up and distributed 11 Christmas hampers and 10 'hugs' to members of the Community. The Committee wanted to express their special thanks to local residents for grocery donations and to Morrissons (Oswestry) who had again generously supported the project.
- Repairs to the surface of the Hall carpark to be discussed further at the Council meeting in February 2024 once the portacabin owned by the Ceiriog Valley Bowls Club had been removed from the site.
- **EJ** informed Councillors that as she had not received any further information about the cost of the new noticeboard from the carpenter asked to quote for the work. **SM** to contact a different two local carpenters to quote for the work. **SM**
- **EJ** advised Councillors that refuse from visitors to Mellow Mountain (holiday rental property) was again causing problems in Pontfadog with rubbish being put into bins at the Church and Village shop. Visitors to the property are informed there is a £200 refundable litter bond to ensure rubbish removal. This is clearly having an adverse effect with visitors dumping their rubbish in Pontfadog on leaving. **SM** to contact WCBC about this fly-tipping. **SM**
- **RBo** raised the issue of recruiting new Councillors for the five vacancies. Councillors to speak to people they thought might be interested in becoming a Councillor. **SM** to arrange for vacancy details to be printed in the Glyn News. **SM**
- **RBo** said the Council should consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan. He advised Councillors that Neighbourhood Plans are aimed at giving communities more control over the type of location, size, pace and design of development in the area to help shape their local area. They usually set out a vision for an area and require the approval of the Local Authority. **SM** to research further details for the Council meeting in February. **SM**

## 5/0124 Correspondence

**SM** had received:

- Email from Decarbonisation Team at WCBC advising they were updating the Carbon Contacts list in line with data protection regulations to ensure that their communications with the Council are relevant and timely. Councils have been given the option to opt out from the contacts list. WCBC has declared a climate emergency and as part of their work to achieve the changes needed, they were to arrange quarterly ideas and discussion sessions as well as sharing other information and WCBC public surveys.
- Notification of course training dates from One Voice Wales
- Notification from the Council's insurers advising that BHIB is now trading as Clear Councils which has introduced a brand-new look and feel and strengthened partnerships with both Aviva and NALC. Besides this, very little has changed.
- Email from Emma Wynn at WCBC confirming that the contact information and the locations of food cupboards throughout the County Borough has recently been updated and advised the links (English and Welsh) to the WCBC's cost of living web page. **DD** suggested similar information be put onto the Council's website. **DD** and **SM** to meet to discuss details.
- Email from Matthew Subacchi, Wrexham Rural Police Inspector informing Council that Sergeant Nathan Harvey is now his support sergeant and overall crime in Wrexham Rural has reduced by approximately 700 incidents and a total of 12.3% reduction in crime.
- Email from Jo Last (Planning Enforcement Officer) advising that following the Council's complaint regarding the new access and change of use of the site for the land behind the Mulberry, the planning application had now been approved and therefore the breach had been resolved.

**DD SM**

## 6/0124 Community Agent Report

**DD** reported:

- The Community Christmas Lunch was very well attended and we served 57 meals that were eaten at the Hall plus a further 10 meals taken away or delivered to people unable to attend due to limited mobility or ill health.
- At the end of the meal and without my knowledge a collection was taken, and I was given £159. This donation has been forwarded to North East Wales MIND. I am now waiting for them to email a receipt and certificate to display at the Hall. Thank you to everyone who donated.
- Thanks to the donation received from Kronospan, we were able to purchase a microwave for a vulnerable Community member and this was delivered to them in a timely manner just before Christmas.
- After agreement at the last meeting to fund the cost of a wheelchair for the Hall, we were able to allow a member of the Community the use of it to attend a funeral and they have expressed thanks to Council for its use.
- My grateful thanks to Mr and Mrs Middleton for the donation of a Christmas Day food hamper containing a turkey crown, vegetables, sweet treats and a bottle of bubbly. This was given to me for the use of the Community just before Christmas. The vegetables have been prepared and frozen along with the turkey crown and will be used at our next batch cook and the treats and bottle of bubbly will be used as raffle prizes to raise funds. Thank you both.

- The Little Learning Company came on 11th December and held a Christmas craft session at the Hall. This was attended by 14 Community members and was well received, especially as the session was totally free.
- Helping Hands, with the help of donations from the Community and local supermarkets, delivered 10 individual Christmas hampers, one family hamper and 15 'hugs' consisting of chocolates and flowers to nominated members of the Community. Thank you to everyone who donated.
- PCSO Gareth Jones has given me the cheque of £150 (PACT donation) towards the cost of the Community Christmas lunch which I will pass this on to **SM**. Thank you to Gareth for thinking of us.

Summary:

December was a very busy month, made better by the many members of the Community who gave freely of their time along with donations to help support the less able of our Community. My grateful thanks to you all.

## 7/0124 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 £5930.56 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 been paid to the Oliver Jones Hall Committee and payment of the Clerk's backpay as agreed at the last meeting.

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

- Audit Wales – External Audit: £200.00
- Cheque payable to D & E Owen and Sons for the cutting of the boundary against the road at the Hall. This payment had already been approved at the last meeting. **EJ** and **PH** signed the cheque at meeting.

**SM** advised Councillors that not all transfers had been made from the allocated funds held in the Community Agent account to cover the Community Christmas Lunch and Helping Hands payments. A total of £247.59 was still to be transferred.

**EJ proposed** all payments be approved. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Unanimously agreed**. The payments were authorised at the meeting by **EJ** and **PH**. **EJ proposed** the Finance Report be accepted. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Unanimously agreed**. **RBo** signed the financial report. Receipts: £7166.67 (final Precept payment to the Council from WCBC)

### (c) To discuss the 2024-2025 Council Budget

The Finance Committee had met in November to review the Council Budget and Council reserves and had prepared a draft budget for consideration. The figures and precept calculation had been discussed at the December meeting, but any decision had been deferred until the January meeting 2024.

**SM** advised Councillors of the changes between the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 budgets which confirmed that additional amounts to cover the new salaries of the Clerk and Community Agent and the increased limit to s137 donations had been added. The allowance for the road safety risk assessment which had originally been included in the 2024-2025 budget had been removed because it was now unlikely the assessment would go ahead. However, in view of the possible contribution towards the cost of the Citizens Advice Bureau outreach project, a £1000 had been added to the 2024-2025 budget.

The allowance for repairs and maintenance had also been increased from £1500 to £3500 to make allowance for the repairs the Hall carpark during the next Financial Year. **EJ proposed** the Council adopt the new 2024-2025 Council Budget and set a Precept of £26,000. **Seconded** by **KL**. **Unanimously agreed**. The **SM** to send precept request to WCBC.

**SM**

### **8/0124 Young People in the Community**

At the last meeting **RBo** had reiterated the Council should find ways to make its activities more relevant to younger age groups to make it more socially inclusive. He had previously 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** 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 February 2024. Councillors suggested ideas for possible activities/events for younger people in the community.

**KL LBM**

### **9/0124 Items for next Council meeting (7<sup>th</sup> February 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

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:59pm

Next meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> February January 2024 at 6:30pm