



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

7th February 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), County Cllr Trevor Bates and Richard Evans (Resident)

Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm

Action

1/0224 Apologies

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

2/0224 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/0224 Reports

(a) Police report

PCSO Martin Griffiths had sent a report summarising crime in the local area to **SM** and this had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. There were no comments on the report.

Following the previous meeting **SM** had contacted the Police for further information about the calibration of the Council speed gun. PCSO Gareth Jones had confirmed that calibration of the gun was a high priority, and that the Council would be contacted soon.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Most of my time is now being spent in budget discussions for 2024/25 and ongoing discussions surrounding planning and the Local Development Plan. This has become quite contentious after Councillors were threatened with prison or having assets seized if they voted against adopting the Plan. As yet I don't think that the full Court Judgement from November 2023 has been released but Councillors were instructed to vote before Christmas which is not acceptable.
- The Welsh Government settlement for Wrexham is 3.2% (£232 million) in comparison to the Wales average of 3.1%. However, Welsh Government grants have been withdrawn which will put some WCBC services at risk.
- The Cae Mor Organic Egg Production Facility planning application was deferred by the WCBC Planning Committee once again 5th February. The application hinges on recycling the chicken manure and whether Planning Officers feel they are able to monitor any conditions applied to the applicant not to allow waste to be spread within the River Dee catchment area. The application is now over three years old. If the planning application is approved by WCBC then the Welsh Government will carry out an inspection.
- I still have no update regarding cameras being used in the Bro Dewi culvert, but the pavement opposite The Swan will be lowered next week so that any floodwater can be diverted into the river in the event that The Swan culvert fails.
- I have been asking for salt piles again for roads in the Valley, but it would be good if the Glyntraian Community Council could highlight any areas that don't have their usual supply.
- The work at Gypsy Corner is being undertaken by WCBC who will send their bill to Kronospan (as landowners.) Currently the water keeps coming so it might take a while to rectify. If anyone has information regarding watercourses being diverted then please let me know. At present we are unaware as to why this water has suddenly started appearing out of the ground at this particular point.
- Glyn Ceiriog Community Council are inviting Police & Crime Commissioner Andrew Dunbobbin to open the new Pavilion at the Rugby pitch on Sunday 18th February. Councillors might like to attend if they have any issues to raise like off-roading etc. It's not confirmed yet but hopefully he will be there at 11am before a youth rugby match takes place.
- The building Commissioned by Glyn Ceiriog Community Council benefited from a £10,000 Proceeds of Crime grant which contributed part of the costs and will benefit children from the whole of the Valley using the playground, and those rugby club members along with those that attend the weekly youth club on Tuesdays.
- WCBC had received a planning application to install an EV charger at MacDonalds on the A483 but the WCBC Planning Committee had voted against it.
- WCBC will be making improvements in Child Social Services.
- 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.

4/0224 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 3rd January 2023

(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 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

- At the January meeting **RBo** had confirmed his intention to step down as Chair of the Council following the Council meeting in February. However, he agreed to carry on as Chair for the time being given that the Council still has Councillor vacancies.
- Repairs to the surface of the Hall carpark were not discussed at the Council meeting and any further discussion was deferred until the portacabin owned by the Ceiriog Valley Bowls Club had been removed from the site.
- **SM** informed Councillors that as she had not received any further information about the cost of a new noticeboard from the carpenters asked to quote for the work. However, she had found out prices from three other suppliers online: Parish Noticeboard Company £685+VAT; Parish Noticeboards £1231.54 and Notice Me £839.95 – £989.95 +VAT. **SM** reminded Councillors that installation cost must also be considered. **RBo** said based on these quotes an agreed amount should be set to cover the cost of the new noticeboard excluding the installation cost. **PH proposed** the noticeboard should cost no more than £750.00. **Seconded** by **KL**. **Unanimously agreed**. **SM** to get an estimate of the cost of installation from a local contractor to discuss at the Council meeting in March. SM
- At the last meeting **EJ** had drawn attention to the extremely poor condition of the roads in Glyntraian caused by lack of maintenance by WCBC and that vehicles were being seriously damaged as a result. She had suggested the Council invite the Head of WCBC Highways to discuss the issue. **RBo** had asked **EJ** and **DD** to make a list of the current highways' issues in parts of Glyntraian for **SM** to submit to the Environmental and Technical department who are responsible for road maintenance at WCBC. **EJ** had given **SM** a comprehensive list (with photographs) of the issues and **DD** was looking at other roads in the local area.
- **SM** advised Councillors that she had contacted WCBC regarding the refuse from visitors to Mellow Mountain (holiday rental property) being put into bins in Pontfadog. They had confirmed that this would be treated as fly tipping and dealt with by an WCBC Environment Officer. **SM** to check with WCBC if this matter has been dealt with. SM
- **SM** had been advised the Councillors of Ceiriog Uchaf Community Council were keen to set up a regular joint meeting of the three Community Councils in the Valley. **RBo** said this would be useful because there were shared issues across the Valley as a whole and a joint meeting would enable a coherent approach to these issues. Suitable dates to be confirmed.
- After the recent update of WCBC's 'help with the cost of living' page of its website **SM** and **DD** to meet to discuss what similar information could be put on the Council website and Facebook page.
- **SM** informed Councillors that the Council should have a Strategic Development Plan (SDP). She explained that an SDP sets out the Council's long-term vision and priorities and ideas for short, medium, and long-term projects. It evolves through community engagement and would assist in the Council's decision-making process. It will also provide the Community with a better understanding of the Council's activities and responsibilities. **RBo** said firstly the Council should identify topics which the Council can or want to influence for further discussion.

- The discussion regarding a Neighbourhood Plan was deferred for the time being.
- **EJ** asked if the post with the speed sign on it opposite St John's Church in Pontfadog had originally been a streetlight. Councillors did not know if this was the case, and it was agreed the Council should find out because the pavement in that area was dark and concerns were raised about the safety of pedestrians.
- **TB** informed Councillors that individuals claiming to be from Eco generation UK Ltd (renewable energy provider) were going door to door in the area offering deals on roof insulation, However, apart from this they were asking the person for personal details about their finances and health. The Police had been informed about the issue.

5/0224 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Invitation to attend a session on the 8th February to learn more about Community Speedwatch **SM** attending. **SM**
- Notification from Planning Aid Wales of four online training seminars on Strategic Development Plans. **SM** booked to attend on 28th February. **SM**
- New planning application P/2024/0050 for single storey front and rear extensions at Wernlas in Dolywern. Councillors reviewed the application and had no objections to it. **SM** to advise Planning Officer. **SM**
- WCBC had sent a copy of the Wrexham Placemaking Plan. **SM** advised that this only covers Wrexham and no other areas within the Borough.
- Invitation from WCBC to join The Mayor of Wrexham, Cllr. Andy Williams to take part in the St David's Day celebration parade to be held on Friday 1st March 2024.
- A copy of the Adoption Notice for the Wrexham Local Development Plan 2013 – 2028 from WCBC.
- A s137 donation request from the Oliver Jones Hall Committee to pay costs of delivery of the new piano. (Discussed later in meeting).

6/0224 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- Blue badge renewal application on behalf of a community member with no internet access.
- The new wheelchair is out on loan at the moment as per an arrangement made between Ralph and the family of the person needing the use of it. I do have more details of this loan but am unable to record them here due to GPDR.
- St David's Day Friday 1st March will be celebrated in collaboration with the whole of the valley's Communities, along with the police. PCSO Gareth Jones will be organising an Op Cinnamon event, which is an event to provide the Community with advice and reassurance. This event will give information to help prevent the Community becoming victims of crime or scams. Other agencies would also be invited to attend to give help and advice where needed. Example of those invited to attend are Red Cross, Care and Repair, North Wales Fire and Rescue, Age Connect, Alzheimer's Society, BCUT Falls Prevention Services and Hafren Dyfrdwy. Our contribution to this event would be to supply a buffet style meal with hot drinks for the

Community and someone to lead the singing of the Welsh National Anthem. PCSO Jones has indicated that he may be able to apply for some PACT funding to help with the cost to run this event and we also have money left over from the various grants awarded last year. Both Community Agent's will be involved in the setting up and running of this event and this will create an inclusive environment for all. We will also need volunteers to help with the preparation of the Hall and food.

- I have been asked by the Chair of the Hall Committee if the Council would be able to fund the cost of a cylinder of gas for the kitchen. This would help cover the outlay by the Hall to provide the Community Christmas dinner. **KL proposed** the Council pay for the gas. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Unanimously agreed.**
- To cut the cost to council for travel and to preserve the wellbeing of my car, I am trying to encourage more people to meet with me at the Hall. There will still be occasions when a visit to a community member is necessary because of restrictions on residents due to limited mobility or ill health.
- Coffee and cake now runs in hand with warm space. We now supply cake and hot soup fortnightly on Thursdays to members of the Community. This ran very successfully up until Christmas but has not been so popular since. My feeling is people don't like the idea of anything associated with the name warm space. Councillors agreed this should now continue to be branded as coffee and cake sessions.
- An Easter afternoon tea is being planned. **CH** has kindly offered to do the music.

Summary

Things have seemed a bit low and slow since Christmas but hopefully with the days drawing out and the St David's day event to look forward to, people will start to feel better and more interested to become involved and engaged again.

7/0224 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 £2783.63 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** advised the following payments had not yet been paid and required approval:

- TV Licence for the Hall: £159.00
- Ink for the Council Room printer: £159.95

PH proposed all payments be approved. **Seconded** by **KL**. **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.** **RBo** signed the financial report.

There had been no receipts. **SM** informed Councillors that a payment of £1.25 for a 1st Class stamp had been made. **RBo** signed the petty cash report.

(c) To discuss s137 donation request from the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall Committee

The Oliver Jones Memorial Hall Committee had requested a donation of £120 to cover the cost of the delivery of a piano which had been given to the Hall. It was agreed that the piano would be an asset to the Hall. **PH proposed** a donation of £120. **Seconded** by **KL**. **Unanimously agreed.**

(d) Confirmation of Precept

SM had received an email from WCBC confirming the requested precept (£26000)

8/0224 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. **KL** suggested the idea of a darts tournament as a socially inclusive activity. Councillors suggested a tribute band staged at the Hall would be another suitable event. for younger people in the community. Further discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

9/0224 Items for next Council meeting (6th March 2024)

Further discussion on ways to make Council activities more relevant to younger age groups to make it more socially inclusive

Continue discussion about a Council Strategic Development Plan

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:06pm

Next meeting will be on 6th March 2024 at 6:30pm