



# Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

## Minutes of Council Meeting

6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

### Present:

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

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

Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm

**Action**

### 1/0324 Apologies

No apologies

RBo informed Councillors that Laura Bell McMillan had resigned from the Council.

RBo confirmed that Mr Richard Evans had made an application for one of the Councillor vacancies. His personal statement had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. **CH** proposed Mr Evans be co-opted as a Councillor. **Seconded** by **PH**. **Unanimously agreed.**

### 2/0324 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

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

None

#### (b) Requests for dispensations

None

### 3/0324 Reports

#### (a) Police report

No Police report.

**(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates**

**TB** reported:

- **TB** informed Councillors that following the calculation of the Wrexham Council Budget for 2024-2025 Council Tax was being increased by 9.9%. Of this 1.3% was for the North Wales Fire Service.
- Advised Councillors that 3 planning applications were being reviewed by Wrexham Council Planning Committee on 11/03/2024. Informed Councillors that there had still been no decision regarding the application for an organic free range egg production unit at Cae Mor.
- Advised Councillors of two interesting articles in the 'Local Government First' magazine, one relating to funding for pothole repairs and the other for the need for more support for vulnerable people in the community.
- Advised Councillors that Ceiriog Uchaf Community Council were against the proposed new North East Wales National Park which is set to cover a sweep of land much larger than the existing Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on which it is based. Ceiriog Uchaf Councillors were concerned about the effects this may have on farming in the local area.
- Wrexham Council's Employment, Business and Investment Scrutiny Committee had expressed they were very concerned over Ty Pawb's finances and had challenged Wrexham Council's future support and direction of Ty Pawb calling for more effective management of resources.
- Wrexham Council's Safeguarding, Communities and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee had met to discuss the future of the Community Agent service. A report outlining the plans had been presented although there were questions over the clarity in parts of the report. Age groups of people who can use the service was confirmed as people aged over 50 years, but Community Agents could work with younger age groups if support was needed. ID badges would not be provided by WCBC, and it would be the responsibility of Community Councils to provide one themselves using their Council logo, However, the Community Councils could design one to include WCBC's logo and submit it for approval. The idea of 'floating' Community Agents to cover an area to avoid disruption to the service at times when the local Community Agent was not available was not discussed as previously proposed.

Funding had been confirmed by the Welsh Government for the 2024-2025 financial year but there had been no commitment to provide funding for the remaining two years of the original five years agreed for the Community Agent service.

- At the same meeting of the Safeguarding, Communities and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee the need to reduce the number of children in foster care in the Borough was discussed.
- He confirmed he would be attending the Member development meetings in Wrexham.

**4/0324 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 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**

- **RBo** had previously confirmed his intention to step down as Chair of the Council following the Council meeting in February. However, as there were still 4 vacant seats on the Council, he decided to delay his resignation for the time being.
- **RBo** asked if there had been any update on the removal of the portacabin from the OHMH car park. **DD** advised that arrangements for this were confirmed as in progress at the recent Bowling Club AGM. However, no timescale had been given. It was agreed the situation would be reviewed at the April Council meeting.
- **RBo** said that a resident had asked him if the new large shed at Fron Derw had been given planning permission. **RBo** had spoken to the owner about the building, which is being used for the storage of tools and heavy equipment, and whether he had initially applied for planning permission. The owner said he had not and **RBo** advised that, given the overall size of the building, a retrospective planning application would be required.
- **RE** asked if the electronic speed sign in Pontfadog had been calibrated because it did not seem to be working properly. **SM** to check with WCBC Highways Department.
- Since the last meeting **SM** had attended a session to learn more about Community Speedwatch. Information from the session was discussed by Councillors. **RBo** said the Council should invite PCSO Gareth Jones to review the idea further.
- **RBo** suggested the idea of the Council compiling a Neighbourhood Plan for the administrative area of Glyntraian for approval by WCBC. This would require proportionate, robust evidence to support the choices made and the approach taken. The Council would need to be inclusive and open in the preparation of its neighbourhood plan if a decision was taken to draft one and ensure that the wider community was kept fully informed of what was being proposed; was able to make their views known throughout the process; had opportunities to be actively involved in shaping the emerging neighbourhood plan and was made aware of how their views have informed the draft neighbourhood plan. **RBo** suggested a core group of Councillors should meet to identify areas the Council could work in. It was agreed that **RBo**, **RE**, **CH** and **SM** form the group.
- **SM** had received a quote for a new noticeboard made from sapele hardwood from Daniel Roberts Joinery. The cost would be £1455.00. The noticeboard would be fitted with a toughened glass lock and hinges to a stained finish and mounted on metal posts. **SM** to confirm if this price includes installation costs. **EJ** suggested comparison should be made with the prices given for St John's Church noticeboard and offered to find out the information. Decision deferred until the Council meeting in April.
- **RBo** raised the issue of potholes again on the roads in Glyntraian. The poor condition of the roads caused by lack of maintenance by WCBC was causing vehicles to be seriously damaged. Furthermore, carers and an ambulance had refused to go to certain properties because of the poor state of the roads. **TB** advised Councillors that Cllr Terry Evans (WCBC Environmental Services) would be visiting the Valley in May to review the situation. **RBo** had drafted a formal letter of complaint regarding the roads to send to WCBC.
- Since the last meeting **SM** and a local resident had attended an online call run by Planning Aid Wales which provided information regarding Strategic Development Plans. **SM** explained that these did not currently exist, but new regional plans are being prepared by Corporate Joint Committees established under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. These Plans will enable *'a more consistent, cost effective and efficient approach to planning and will deliver more effective planning outcomes for communities by ensuring key issues, development and associated infrastructure is planned for in an integrated and comprehensive*

SM

RBo CH  
RE SM

EJ

way across a wider geographical area.’ (statement by Welsh Government). The Plans are being prepared on a 20-year timescale but will be reviewed annually. They support the Wales National Planning Policy and Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 and provide information for LDPs.

- At the last meeting **SM** had advised that the Council should prepare a Strategic Plan setting out the Council’s long-term vision and priorities and discuss ideas for short, medium and long-term projects. Any further discussion deferred for the time being.
- **CH** suggested the Council support the idea of a meeting of the three Councils in the Valley and all Councillors agreed that this would be beneficial. **RBo** said there should be better communication between the three Councils. This would be beneficial when dealing with Valley wide issues. Councillors agreed.
- **RBo** had asked the Secretary of the Hall Committee whether the Council could hold a darts tournament at the Hall and permission to hold the event had been granted. **RBo** asked **KL** to draft a plan for the tournament for discussion at the next Council meeting. **KL**
- **SM** informed Councillors a resident was to review the necessary repair work required to the roundabout in Dolywern playground following the report by Play Safety. He would advise **SM** of suitable contractors to contact for quotes for the work.

### 5/0324 Correspondence

**SM** had received:

- New Community Agent monitoring forms from WCBC Commissioning
- Email confirming the cost of the parts for the equipment in the Pontfadog Play Area. The cost would be £35 plus VAT. **SM** to order the parts. **SM**
- Notification of the internal audit and information required.
- Email from a resident enquiring who owns the woodland behind the Graig. Residents are concerned some trees may be unsafe and present a risk to their properties. Councillors did not know who the owner was, but **EJ** said she would find out. **EJ**
- Email from Barbara Jones informing how the plans for the D-Day 80 Commemoration event in Wrexham were progressing. **SM** to send for further details of the event for the next meeting. **TB** informed Councillors that a D-Day 80 Commemoration flag was available. **PH proposed** the Council purchase the flag. **Seconded** by **EJ**. **Unanimously agreed**. **SM** to order a flag. **SM**

### 6/0324 Community Agent Report

**DD** reported:

- Computer club has started for the Spring and Summer sessions.
- The wheelchair is now back at the Hall and available for use.
- St David's Day on Friday 1st March was a very successful event. My thanks to PCSO Gareth Jones for having arranged not only the various organisations to attend but also the PACT funding for the buffet. It was good to work for the whole Valley's Communities and to work with Glyn Ceiriog and Llanarmon Community Agent Christina.

- Thank you to all who attended. My thanks also to Adrian and Alan who made the drinks and did the washing up. Also, Thanks to Fiona Evans who did the flower arrangements for the occasion, and to Ralph for raising the flag at the Hall.
- The first Citizens Advice drop-in will take place on 7th May 10am till 1pm at the OJ Hall and there after bimonthly on the first Tuesday of the month. Marketing materials in both Welsh and English are being produced and the first date will appear in the Glyn News.
- Meeting with **SM** and **RBo** to discuss the new arrangements for recording Community members contact, referrals and paperwork for Commissioning at Wrexham.
- It is proposed to hold an Easter Afternoon Tea on Thursday 28th March. This is the day before Good Friday and is a coffee and cake day. Help with this event would be welcomed.

### Summary

We are hoping to hold the Vintage Rally on Sunday 14th July this year. I will update when we have more information.

### 7/0324 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 £2782.41 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **CH proposed** all payments be approved. **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed.** The payments were authorised at the meeting by **EJ** and **PH. CH proposed** the Finance Report be accepted. **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed.** **RBo** signed the financial report.

Receipts totalled £426.23: £250 (arranged by PCSO Gareth Jones from the PACT fund); £150 (arranged by PCSO Gareth Jones from the PACT fund) and £26.23 (Scottish Power Wayleave).

**DD** asked if some of the money remaining from the Groundworks grant and money given by the Little Learning Company could be used towards a Community Afternoon Tea (c. £300) and the Community bus trip to Llandudno. **PH proposed** the remaining funds from both be used towards the two events. **Seconded** by **EJ. Unanimously agreed.** **DD** to research costs and present a proposal at the next Council meeting.

DD

### 8/0324 Volunteers appointed by the Council

#### (a) Discuss and adopt a Council Volunteer Policy

**SM** explained that the Council can appoint volunteers for Council activities. She had checked with the Council's insurance company who had confirmed that the volunteers would be covered by the Council's Public and Employer's Liability insurance providing risk assessments are completed prior to any activity being carried out and the volunteers' details are on a Council's Volunteer Register. **SM** advised that appointing volunteers must be passed by the whole Council only and records must be kept in case a claim has to be made. Any equipment needed for volunteer activities would be paid for by the Council as Controller. Following discussion **EJ proposed** the Council adopt the Council Volunteer Policy. **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed.**

#### (b) Appointment of Volunteers from Caru'n Pentrefi

Following Caru'n Pentrefi's request for help with insurance costs **SM** had been advised by an SLCC advisor that the Council is allowed to appoint Caru'n Pentrefi as volunteers to keep the villages tidy and free of litter. She had spoken to the Chair of the group about this type of arrangement, and he had said that if the Council agreed it would allow Caru'n Pentrefi to go ahead with their litter pick on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>

March 2024. A risk assessment provided by Keep Wales Tidy used by the group had been reviewed by **SM**. The Chair had provided a scope of work and a list of the volunteers who would be taking part in the activity. **SM** would meet the group before the start of the litter pick to ensure all paperwork is completed correctly and a Litter Pick Induction Brief and Volunteer Acknowledgement is signed by each volunteer. **KL proposed** the Council appoint Caru'n Pentrefi as volunteers initially for one month while the Council looked at risk assessments in more detail. **Seconded** by **EJ. Unanimously agreed**. This limited the Carun Pentrefi volunteers to one litter picking session only. It was agreed the appointment would be reviewed again at the Council meeting in April.

**SM**

### **9/0324 Items for next Council meeting (3rd April 2024)**

Appointment of Caru'n Pentrefi as Council Volunteers

New Council noticeboard

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:27pm

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