



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

3rd April 2024

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Ky Lewis
Councillor Colin Hidden
Councillor Richard Evans

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

Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm

1/0424 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Edith Jones

2/0424 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Evans declared an interest in planning application P/2024/0147

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/0424 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. Councillors had no comments on the report.

Action

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- **TB** informed Councillors that recycling rates in Wrexham Borough had fallen to 65.46% (December 2023). The Borough is now ranked at 17 out of 22 of the Welsh counties and is one of the few still collecting general waste every 2 weeks. In January 2024 only 35% of households were putting out food waste separately. Unless the figures improve WCBC could be hit with Welsh Government fines of £200 per tonne so we need to reduce our black bin waste by more than 3000 tonnes.
- The Asphalt Industry Alliance latest ALARM survey said that Local Authorities fixed 2,000,000 potholes in 2023/24. The repair backlog has increased by 16% to a new record high of £16.3 billion.
- Wrexham Council's headcount of staff is now 5923. This is up from 5738 over the last 12 months but this is because of a drive to employ staff more directly and use less agency staff. Social Services spent £2.8 million on agency staff between April and September in 2023.
- Sickness and absences of Wrexham Council staff during 2022/2023 had an average of 12.7 days per employee. Highest absences were in Social Services. 30.1% of all absences were due to stress, depression, and anxiety.

Informed Councillors that Simon Baynes MP would be visiting the Valley between 12pm and 1pm on 12th April 2024. Anyone who would like to speak to him during his visit must book an appointment.

- Advised Councillors that there were vacancies for lay members on the WCBC Scrutiny Committee.
- **TB** had reported problems with the flood gates installed to properties in Bro Dewi not being properly sealed at the sides to Lee Roberts (property investment) at WCBC.
- Informed Councillors of the numbers of live housing applications as at 31st January 2024 within the Wrexham Borough. The Valley has a low number of applications relative to other wards and as priority is given to the areas with the most need would be unlikely to benefit.

4/0424 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 6th March 2024

(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2024 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** asked **SM** if the WCBC's Planning Enforcement Officer had viewed the large new shed at Fron Derw to assess whether retrospective planning permission was required. **SM** said she would check for the next meeting.

SM

- At the previous meeting **RE** had asked if the electronic speed sign in Pontfadog had been calibrated because it did not seem to be working properly. **SM** had sent a query to WCBC Highways Department but had not received any further information.
- **SM** had received the new fittings from HAGS for the rocker seat and rocker seesaw in the Pontfadog playground. **CH** offered to fit the parts to the equipment. **SM** asked **CH** to contact her if the original handle for the playground rocker seat was damaged and could not be used.
- Councillors discussed the quote for the new noticeboard from Daniel Roberts Joinery. **RBo** had spoken to Daniel who had confirmed the quote given (£1455) included installation costs. **KL proposed** the Council order the new noticeboard. **Seconded** by **CH**. **Unanimously agreed**. **SM** to confirm order with Daniel Roberts Joinery and check with **EJ** for the location of the site she had found for the noticeboard. **SM**
- **RBo** raised the issue of potholes again on the roads in Glyntraian. This was a very serious problem because carers and an ambulance had refused to go to certain properties because of the poor state of the roads. In addition, lack of maintenance of the roads by WCBC was causing vehicles to be seriously damaged which was totally unacceptable. Councillors were concerned that all this posed a significant risk to the community. **RBo** had already drafted a formal letter of complaint regarding the roads to send to WCBC. It was agreed that photos should be sent with the letter to highlight the seriousness of the problem.
- Following a resident's enquiry about who owns the woodland behind the Graig, **EJ** had found out the details from a Pontfadog resident. However, it had not been possible to track down the owner in Wrexham and **SM** had been informed that residents were making an enquiry with the Land Registry.
- **SM** provided further information about the D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration parade and Church service in Wrexham. **SM** also advised that National Commemorations were taking place on 6th June. These would include raising a Commemoration flag at 9:00am and lighting beacons at 9:15pm. **SM** suggested the Council should make plans to take part. It was agreed a Commemoration flag would be raised and the Council beacon lit at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall.
- Since the last meeting **RBo** had found out that the Canolfan in Glyn Ceiriog was now running a darts club. **KL** suggested a darts tournament could still be held at the Hall on the 8th June. However, **RBo** said the Council should wait to see what interest was shown in the darts club at the Canolfan before going ahead with arrangements. He asked Councillors to consider alternative ideas for activities for younger people in the community. He suggested pool tables at the Hall was a possibility. Further discussion was deferred for the time being.
- **RBo**, **RE** and **SM** had attended a One Voice Wales training course on 'Community/Place Plans.' **RBo** said the session had been useful but the process to draft a plan would require a significant amount of work and a public consultation. **RBo**, **RE**, **CH** and **SM** were meeting to discuss the idea further. **RBo** **RE** **CH** **SM**
- **SM** presented a Council tryptic public information leaflet about the Council and what it does which had originally been designed by the Communications Committee before the most recent local elections, but it had never been printed. **SM** told Councillors it would need to be revised to update some of the information. Councillors agreed this would be a good idea and would be discussed further.
- At the last meeting **CH** had 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. Since the last meeting the Clerk from Glyn Ceiriog Community Council had suggested the three Councils meet on the 12th June. Councillors confirmed this date was convenient for them. **SM** to advise the Clerks of Glyn Ceiriog and Ceiriog Uchaf Community Councils. **SM**

5/0424 Correspondence

SM had received:

- An email from JDH Business Services detailing the internal audit arrangements and required information. **SM** to deliver Council documents on 9th May 2024. **SM**
- An email from Audit Wales giving details of the external audit. This year the Council has a full external audit and all documents have to be forwarded to Audit Wales. **SM** explained the full external audit requires additional information to that normally provided.
- Notification of Urdd's Fund for All, which this year is offering 300 free places at the Urdd's summer camps for children and young people in Wales. **RE** suggested **SM** publicise the information.
- Notification of the launch of a public consultation by North Wales Fire and Rescue on continuing to prevent and respond to emergencies.
- Following the resignation of Cllr Laura Bell McMillan the Electoral Co-Option notice for the Councillor vacancy had been received from WCBC. **SM** to place notice on noticeboards and website. **SM**
- Planning applications P/2024/0147 and P/2024/0183 from WCBC. These were discussed later in the meeting.

6/0424 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- Computer club has made a good start, and we now have a couple of new members. This club runs fortnightly on a Wednesday for two hours.
- I have priced the coaches for the Llandudno Community trip with Tanat Valley coaches and they have kept the cost the same as last year which is £1150. This would give us 100 seats, and the coach would be wheelchair accessible. **DD** confirmed she had now booked the coaches for the trip.
- The Easter Afternoon Tea was very well attended, and tea was served to 50 members of our community.
- After the afternoon tea, we had a toast to celebrate the life of Bryan Evison, who died at the age of 95 on 11th February. Bryan had lived in Maes-Y-Wern, Dolywern for the last 70 years and was a very well respected and loved member of Glyntraian Community. A collection was made at the event and £244 had been raised towards a commemorative bench for the Hall grounds. **DD** requested the Council make a donation towards the cost of bench. All Councillors agreed that the Council should make a donation. **CH proposed** the Council donate up to £350. He said this higher amount would avoid **DD** having to ask the Council for more money and then having to wait until the next meeting for a decision to be made. However, three Councillors thought this amount was too much. **PH proposed** a donation of up to £200. **Seconded** by **RE**. **Vote: 3 for and 2 against. Motion carried.**
- After receiving correspondence from **SM** regarding her annual Community Agent monitoring form, I have checked my records in relation to my training. Last year it was noted that only two Community Agents fully complied with the training needed to receive funding for the Community Agent position. One of them was me but it should be noted that I have already notified **SM** that my training will need to be renewed before the end of July 2024. These

qualifications will take time to complete and will likely incur a cost. **SM** advised **DD** that this would not be an issue as the Council makes an allowance for staff and Councillor training in its annual budget.

- The new arrangements for recording Community members contact, referrals and paperwork should have come into place 1st April, but so far, I have not seen any of the new forms. Community Agents have been told that Commissioning will no longer have communication directly with them and all communication with now only be with their Clerks. Therefore, unless paperwork is delivered and distributed in a timely manner, we will always be behind with our reporting. **SM** and **DD** attending a video call on 9th April to discuss everything in further detail.
- Joanna, a Financial Inclusion Officer from WCBC along with Hafren Dyfrdwy will be visiting Brunch Club on 30th April between 10am and 12pm to provide advice and support on reducing water bills.

Summary:

The Vintage Rally and Craft Show will be held on Sunday 14th July (2024) at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall. The Llandudno Community trip will take place on Tuesday 6th August (2024)

After summarising her report **DD** left the meeting.

7/0424 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 £3214.16 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** advised Councillors the following payments not yet been paid:

- D-Day Commemoration flag: £74.40
- Pocket envelopes: £12.49
- One Voice Wales training courses: £190.00
- Printer inks: £83.11

CH proposed all payments be approved. **Seconded** by **PH. Unanimously agreed.** The payments were authorised at the meeting by **RBo** and **PH. CH proposed** the Finance Report be accepted. **Seconded** by **RE. Unanimously agreed.** **RBo** signed the financial report. There had been no receipts.

SM confirmed that **DD's** salary would increase from April 1st (2024) to £12.00 p/hr in line with the Real Living Wage.

8/0324 Volunteers appointed by the Council

(a) Review the appointment of Caru'n Pentrefi as Council Volunteers

It had been agreed at the last Council meeting that the appointment of Caru'n Pentrefi as volunteers would be reviewed again at the Council meeting in April. The group had carried out one litter pick as agreed. **SM** had ensured that a Litter Pick Induction Brief and Volunteer Acknowledgement had been signed by each volunteer on the day. The Group had not yet held its AGM so there had been no discussion about whether members would like to work as volunteers for the Council. The Council would not therefore appoint the group until further discussion had taken place and arrangements had been agreed.

9/0424 Planning

(a) Planning application P/2024/0147:

Installation of bridge link, 4 no. Dormer roof extensions and external alterations The Orchards, Ysgythre Road Ponfadog

This application was discussed by Councillors and there were no objections. **SM** to notify WCBC Planning Officer.

SM

(b) Planning Application P/2024 /0183:

Two storey side extension and erection of detached garage Gwern y pale, Dolywern

This application was discussed by Councillors and there were no objections. **SM** to notify WCBC Planning Officer.

SM

10/0424 Items for next Council meeting (1st May 2024)

New Council noticeboard

Council Strategic Plan

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:56pm

Next meeting will be on 1st May 2024 at 6:30pm