



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

12th July 2024

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Colin Hidden
Councillor Richard Evans

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

Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm

Action

1/0724 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Ky Lewis

2/0724 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/0724 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. At the last meeting Councillors were concerned about the lack of detailed information or comments in the report. It was noted that the figures in this month's report related to crime in the Valley, but which was in areas outside Glyntraian.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Informed Councillors that the hiring and retention of Wrexham Council staff is an issue in several departments. However, on the 10th July 2024 there was a Council-wide invitation to staff to express an interest in voluntary redundancy or early retirement. More cuts in future years are anticipated.
- The WCBC Planning Department now has 3 vacant posts (soon to be 4). There is an average of 236 days to determine a planning application. The Cae Mor Organic Egg Production Facility application is now over 3 years old and not yet determined.
- Grass cutting and verge cutting in the Valley is behind schedule. Grass cutting on Council Estates and communal areas was undertaken in the Ceiriog Valley on the 9th July 2023. **TB** has asked the WCBC Environment Department to prioritise the narrow lanes in the Valley when verge cutting commences.
- Two WCBC Council farms, (Pools Farm and Gates Farm, Bangor on Dee) have been sold in 6 lots by auction on 3rd July for a total of £2,345,000. Due to the dire financial position these funds will not on this occasion be earmarked for new schools.
- Schools: Ysgol Llanarmon is all right for now, but Ysgol Cynddelw is losing a teacher and teaching assistant due to finance issues.
- WCBC has arranged an Environmental Action Day. There will be a Skip at the rear of Cae'r Ysgol between 9.30am and noon on Tuesday 10th September 2024. This is primarily for Council Tenants throughout the Valley, but other residents will be able to dispose of items too. A collection service for tenants will be available but must be pre-arranged. There is usually a scrap metal wagon on site too.
- Wrexham Council has a responsibility to ensure testing of private water supplies every 5 years and testing is currently underway. This is compulsory for rented properties that are not on mains water and where a single supply feeds more than one property. There is a charge for this service but those owner occupiers on a single supply it is optional. Costs will be a maximum of £300 for single supplies ranging up to £700.
- At the Scrutiny Meeting on 10th July the following information about the Welsh Ambulance Service was given:
 - The service was only meeting 43% of the 8-minute target for red calls.
 - In 2023/2024 in the Wrexham area there were 64 cases of safety concerns during handovers
 - Ambulance staff are spending 38% of their time waiting to hand over patients, Wales average is 27%. 9567 hours were lost in North Wales alone in May
 - Staff normally do 12-hour shifts but are often 3 or 4 hours late going off duty and this has a significant effect on their home life and is increasing stress and absence rates. As a result, staff morale is affected, as is recruitment and retention. It also reduces the skills acquisition of new staff and sees a skills decay for existing staff because they deal with fewer incidents.
 - Peak times are in December, Handover problems mainly caused by A&E departments and by Social Care. Residents are asked only to use A&E when necessary.

- Reminded that defibrillators do save lives, and it is important to check them regularly, check battery, check pads and ensure they are easily accessible and registered with Welsh Ambulance Service.

DD advised **TB** that occupational therapy in the community was not in place, and she had informed Steve Latham-White at a recent meeting. He was unaware that this was the case and will investigate the issue further.

PH outlined the issue of the very poor condition of a road in the area which was so damaged it was becoming inaccessible. This had resulted in taxis not picking up school children as arranged and was also causing problems for a milk lorry which uses the same road. She asked **TB** to forward this information to WCBC Highways.

4/0724 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 3rd June 2024

(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2024 as a true and correct record.

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

(b) Matters Arising

- **SM** had ordered the plaque for the memorial bench. It cost £23.
- **CH** had fixed the handle on the rocker seat in Pontfadog playground
- The planning application for the new shed had Tyn y Celyn had been passed by WCBC Planning Committee.
- A WCBC Planning Officer had tried to see the shed at Fron Derw at but had received no response from the owner of property. **RBo** offered to speak to the owner to ask him to contact the Planning Officer.
- **RE** explained he had applied for a Repair Café Wales community grant and was waiting to see whether the application had been successful. To go ahead with the project, he said getting volunteers was crucial. He would be visiting the Repair Café in Llangollen to discuss if it was being well used and share their experiences.
- The porta cabin had still not been removed from the OJMH car park and **RBo** said it had gone on too long and had to be moved. David Sopwith expressed an interest in having the porta cabin for storage and agreed to have a look at to whether it was possible for him to move it. **RBo** asked Mr Sopwith to confirm with him if he decided he wanted to go ahead with moving the porta cabin.
- **RBo** explained the meeting of the three Councils had focussed on raising the problems and issues in the Valley requiring further action. **SM** had received the minutes from the meeting and had sent these to Councillors prior to the meeting. The next meeting of the three Councils would be in September and **RBo** asked more Councillors to attend. It had been agreed that future meetings would rotate between the three communities and held quarterly.

5/0724 Correspondence

SM had received:

- The playground reports from RoSPA following the play safety inspection which had been carried out in June. The inspection had cost £192.
- A copy of the minutes from the 3 Councils meeting which **SM** had circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting
- Email confirming the Bitdefender software renewal
- Email from Clear Councils confirming the Council's insurance had been renewed
- Notification from WCBC that planning applications are now in public register on WCBC website.
- Email from Gavin Jones (Openreach's Regional Engagement Manager for Mid and North Wales) regarding plans to install full fibre in Dolywern, Llwynmawr and Glyn Ceiriog. **RBo** explained that the community scheme utilises the UK Gigabit Voucher scheme which allows communities to use free Government funding to improve their broadband connection. Every eligible rural home or business can get a voucher worth up to £4500 to improve broadband in their local area. Mr Jones has asked the Council if it would raise awareness and promote the scheme through the community to encourage people to pledge their vouchers. **SM** to invite Mr Jones to the September meeting.

SM

6/0724 Community Agent Report

DD reported:

- The Glyn Ceiriog coach to Llandudno is now full. We still have a limited number of seats available from Dolywern. **CH** suggested the Council match the £250 donation given by Glyn Ceiriog Community Council towards the cost of the trip. **EJ proposed** the Council donate £250 towards the cost of the trip. **Seconded** by **RE. Unanimously agreed.**
- The vintage and craft fair takes place this Sunday 14th July from 11am till 5pm.
- A meeting was requested earlier this month by Vicki and Steve from Commissioning at Wrexham. This was in response to my monitoring form returns and my reporting on the welfare calls made to members of our community. It would seem in the first instance that they are against welfare calls claiming that this may lead to a dependency on Community Agent time. After discussion about the reason why we carry out these calls, it was accepted that they did serve a very useful service, and it was agreed that in this instance and for this purpose they should continue.
- I have met with Caroline Mogan, who is carrying out research on behalf of Marie Curie looking at the impact both financially and on the personal health of someone caring for someone with long term health issues or terminal illness in rural areas. They look at what help was made available to those affected. They are looking to interview more people who have or do carry out this caring role and are going to send more information on what is involved in taking part in their research. Anyone taking part will receive a £25 gift voucher.
- This month's Citizens Advice drop-in session was very well attended.
- The Dee Valley Water Trust has been in touch in relation to the survey that they carried out on the water running from the roof of the OJ hall and they have agreed that the water gardens

would be worthwhile and have assured me they will be back Intouch when funding has been secured to carry out the work.

- Commissioning peer support group meeting attended. Training attended to learn the new paperwork needed by the Welsh Government on case studies. A separate consent form is needed for each case study.

Summary

A shorter report this month but no less busy. Lots of extra time needed in the organising of the vintage rally and craft show, everything crossed now for good weather on the day, not that it could be much worse than last year, but everyone still enjoyed the event.

7/0724 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 £3375.58 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** advised Councillors the following payments had been added to the list but had not yet been paid:

- RoSPA Play Safety inspection £192
- Bitdefender software £54.99

PH proposed all payments be approved. **Seconded** by **RE. Unanimously agreed.** The payments were authorised at the meeting by **PH** and **EJ. CH proposed** the Finance Report be accepted. **Seconded** by **RE. Unanimously agreed. RBo** signed the financial report.

There had been a receipt of £12792 (Community Agent funding from WCBC)

SM advised Councillors that she had sent a VAT claim of £964.65 to HMRC.

(c) To discuss Ground Maintenance Contract

SM had received three quotes for the Council's ground maintenance contract. The quotes were discussed, and the decision was taken to award the contract to Rhys Hughes. **SM** to advise contractors.

SM

8/0724 Council Strategic Plan

At the last meeting Councillors had agreed that creating a Council Strategic Plan would involve extensive community engagement to help identify ideas and priorities. **RE** had compiled a draft questionnaire which **SM** had circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. This was discussed and **CH** suggested the questionnaire be revised and condensed to make it more straightforward to complete. **SM** and **RE** to redraft the questionnaire. **DD** suggested holding a community event at the Hall to invite people to come and put forward their ideas. Councillors agreed this should be considered and would need further discussion.

RE said the Council should try to encourage use of the Hall and this could form part of the Council Strategic Plan. **RBo** said members of the Hall Committee had resigned and it was therefore very important for the Council to take on a management role. He would arrange a date for a meeting with the retired members of the Hall Committee and would like all Councillors to attend. **CH** said he had spoken to a few residents in Dolywern and had a few ideas which could be considered at the meeting.

9/0724 Playground Inspection Reports

SM had received the playground safety reports from RoSPA following the inspection in June and had circulated these to Councillors prior to the meeting. The following issues had been raised:

Dolywern Playground

- Repair to laminate on roundabout tread board required. **SM** to contact a local contractor to do the repair. **SM**
- Portable goalpost must remain outside the minimum space of the permanently installed items. Free movement of children within the play area may be affected. Will be regularly monitored to ensure it is correctly placed.
- The net on the goalpost needed fixing to the ground to ensure safety. Mr Sopwith said he would do this. **DS**

Pontfadog

- Recommended the installation of 'no dogs' signs. **CH proposed** the purchase of signs like the ones at the entrance of the OJ Hall car park. **Seconded by EJ. Unanimously agreed.** **SM**
- Highlighted some chain wear on the swings. Recommended the Council monitor for further deterioration and replace the chains before 40% wear.
- Replace missing bolt from rocker seesaw. **CH** to fix. **CH**

AOB

At the end of the meeting **RBo** presented a request from St John's Church for a donation towards repairing the lawn mower used by volunteers to maintain the graveyard. The repairs had cost £317.20. **RE proposed** the Council donate £250. **Seconded by PH. Unanimously agreed.**

RBo asked Councillors to formally consider co-opting David Sopwith as a new Councillor following his interest in joining the Council. **PH proposed** to co-opt Mr Sopwith. **Seconded by EJ. Unanimously agreed.**

10/0724 Items for next Council meeting (4th September 2024)

Council Strategic Plan

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:13pm

Next meeting will be on 4th September 2024 at 6:30pm