



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

5th March 2025

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Richard Evans
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Ky Lewis
Councillor Pam Hughes
Councillor Colin Hidden

Councillor David Sopwith

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

Chair opened meeting at 6:30pm

1/0325 Apologies

No Apologies

2/0125 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/0325 Presentation by Carys Davies (Ceiriog Valley Eisteddfod Fundraising Committee)

Mrs Davies had come to the meeting to give information about the Wrexham National Eisteddfod which is being held on the 2nd to the 9th August 2025 in Bangor-on-Dee. The Welsh National Eisteddfod is the biggest cultural event in Europe and 170,000 visitors are expected to attend. The Eisteddfod costs £5.7 million to run and 75% of this is self-generated through its ticket sales; stalls; broadcasting fees;

Action

corporate sponsorships etc. Wrexham has to raise £400,000 towards the cost of the event and 7% of this is being raised through local fundraising events.

She explained the event effectively promotes tourism and local businesses with a projected local economy boost of approximately £22.7 million (National Eisteddfod in 2022).

Mrs Davies asked if the Council could raise awareness of the event by putting up bunting and advertising the Eisteddfod and local fundraising events. She thanked the Council for its £100 donation and asked if the Council would kindly consider making a further contribution towards the cost of the event. Councillors were in favour of celebrating the event and agreed a further contribution would be discussed at the next meeting.

RE thanked Mrs Davies for coming and providing the information.

4/0325 Reports

(a) Police report

PCSO Gareth Jones had sent a monthly report to **SM** which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Two incidents involving 4x4 vehicles were noted in the report. **DS** asked **TB** if the sight of number plates was needed when reporting 4x4 vehicles to the Police **TB** said this was not necessary and vehicles should be reported via the North Wales Police website. Councillors had no other comments or concerns.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Provided figures for Wrexham County Borough Council's proposed Budget for 2025/2026 and Council tax information.
- Highlighted the issue of having to apply for Blue Badges online. Under instruction from the Welsh Government there are no paper forms. Some residents do not have access to a computer or the internet and are dependent on others to help with their application. Appointments are available at Wrexham library but travelling to Wrexham is difficult for some people.
- **TB** advised that the Welsh Government was challenging the successful appeal court decision which stated WCBC Councillors did not have to vote for the Local Development Plan.
- The 'Pothole Land' campaign and media coverage had successfully raised awareness of the serious potholes issue and the lack of Wrexham Council maintenance on roads in the Ceiriog Valley. The campaign had served its purpose and the lane between Pontfadog and Llwynmawr ('Pothole Land') had now been repaired. **TB** said to keep reporting potholes and send photographs giving an indication of the depth and size with your complaint.
- **TB** asked the Council to support the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order being placed on 'Heartbreak Track' by WCBC so that its repair is not prioritised over other highway improvements in the Ceiriog Valley. **RE** said concerns had been expressed about the temporary closure becoming permanent resulting in WCBC abandoning its responsibility for the track. **DS** raised the issue of the damage being caused by off-road bikes lowering the surface height of the track and making a deep channel along it for water run-off during periods of heavy rainfall. The accumulated water is not being channelled into the adjacent stream and as a result runs down Ysgythre lane eroding the edges of the road and flooding properties along it. Heavier floodwater has also contributed to the flooding of vulnerable properties in Pontfadog. Council to send a letter to WCBC raising these concerns.

SM RE

- In December 2024 EE was awarded the contract to provide the mobile communications infrastructure for the UK Government's new Emergency Services Network project. Once in place the existing system, (Airwave), which has limited capability will be shutdown. Improvements to the 4G network coverage will allow 999 calls to be made from any 4G enabled mobile phone including from most rural and remote areas.
- **TB** had contacted NRW about the flood risk to properties in Bro Dewi. but NRW had made it clear is only responsible for managing flood risk to property from the main river and that Wrexham Council is responsible for the tributaries like the brook which enters the Ceiriog at Bro Dewi. **TB** had contacted Julie Francis (Chief Housing Officer WCBC) and David Bithell (Deputy Leader WCBC) about tackling river erosion and the culvert at Bro Dewi and had reminded them that the trash screen blocks up regularly and the retaining wall had not been repaired some 13 months after being damaged. The issue had been raised with WCBC Environmental Services as they are responsible for flood risk management and emergency planning. **TB** still waiting for an update on the situation.

DD suggested the Council arrange an event to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE day. In line with national celebrations on the 8th May a VE day flag would be raised at 9:00am at the OJMH and the Council's beacon would be lit at 9:30pm in the Hall grounds. **DD**, **KL** and **CH** to discuss a suitable evening event to present at April's Council meeting.

DD CH KL

5/0325 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 8th January 2025

(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2025 as a true and correct record.

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

(b) Matters Arising

- **SM** had notified Dave Evans the Council wanted to go ahead with the fitting of a LorRaWAN receiver at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall. This had now been fitted. The monitors for the Bro Dewi culvert were being fitted shortly.
- **SM** had sent the Council's precept request (£26000) to WCBC, and it had been approved.
- **SM** had notified the WCBC Planning Officer that Councillors had no objections or concerns about the single storey extension at Ael y Bryn, Dolywern or Caru'n Pentrefi's shipping container.
- The three Valley Councils had met on the 15th January as arranged. Councillors agreed the meeting had been both constructive and informative.

6/0325 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Email from the Royal British Legion about the VE Day 80 Celebration flag. It costs £19.99. Councillors agreed the Council should purchase one. **SM** to order one.

SM

- Email from Matthew Evans (Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for North Wales). He had sent a copy of the Police and Crime Plan for North Wales which will guide the work of North Wales Police over the next three years as they fight crime in our region. This Plan had been approved on 27th January 2025 by the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.
- Details of One Voice Wales training course over the next three months. **SM** had circulated.
- Two planning applications: P/2025/0062 for a single storey rear extension at 5 Castle Mill, and P/2024/1646 for the erection of manure store at Llwydiarth, Dolywern.
- Advised by WCBC planning officer that permission for the shipping container for Caru'n Pentrefi is still to be determined.
- A Community Review questionnaire from the WCBC electoral department. WCBC a legal duty (Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013) every 10 years to monitor the communities within the county borough, and the electoral arrangements of those communities.

SM

7/0325 Community Agent

DD reported:

- The OJMH had successfully passed its hygiene inspection. This must be done every 18 months.
- The Repair Café continues to be very successful. Food stalls from local food producers at each session are proving popular. Sessions are usually on Thursdays but recently a session was held on a Saturday to attract residents who are usually working during the week. Cakes kindly made by **DD** had raised £45 for the proposed Men's Club at the Hall.
- The St David's Day event had been well attended. The food had cost £133.00 which had been covered by the £250 PACT donation. The remaining money will be used towards another community event. A raffle was held on the day and raised £120 for the Men's Club. The raffle prizes had been kindly donated by **DD**, **KL**, **CH** and **EJ**.
- Informed Councillors the Llangollen Urban, Llangollen Rural and Glyntraian Welfare Charities had kindly donated £100 to the Men's Club.
- All Community Agents' peer support group meetings attended
- The Vintage Machinery and Craft Fair will take place on 12th July.2025.

8/0325 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 £2784.50 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **CH** questioned the high payment for the OJMH internet. **SM** explained the contract at the lower price had just finished and she was going to renegotiate a price with One Bill Ltd.

SM advised the following payment was still to be made:

- One Voice Wales subscription – **£166.00**

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

A cheque for £200 had been received from the Police North Wales Police and Community Trust (PACT) for the Men's Club at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall.

SM asked Councillors if they wanted to claim the Councillor's Allowance and advised this was taxable and had to be processed through the Council's payroll. Councillors declined claiming the allowance and each signed an 'opt out' form.

(c) To review the External Audit

SM informed Councillors Council's Accounts and Annual Return had successfully passed the external audit. The Auditor had no concerns and confirmed everything was accurate and that the Council had followed relevant legislative and regulatory requirements and operated in accordance with proper practices.

The Auditor did make some advisory recommendations, but these did not affect their audit opinion.

- The Council should always ensure that its major assets are insured, and that the insurance is adequate as is the case with the Council's existing policy)
- Recommend the Council approve all direct debits within the minutes, and these should be on the payments list for signature/approval. **SM** to action.
- The External Auditor questioned the VAT number on invoices for Groundforce Landscape Ltd declaring it invalid. However, Groundforce Landscape Ltd ceased trading during the 2024 – 2025 Financial Year and therefore their VAT number had been deregistered and was no longer valid. During the 2023 -2024 Financial Year, (the accounts being audited), the company was still operating and the VAT number on their invoices was valid. Hence the VAT had been legally reclaimed from HMRC. **SM** advised Audit Wales of their error.

The external auditor had also pointed out that the VAT number for D & E Owen & Sons was not written on their invoice, **SM** had checked with the supplier at the time the work was completed and the invoice received. The supplier confirmed he was registered for VAT and provided a valid VAT number... The VAT was legally reclaimed from HMRC.

SM always checks VAT numbers before paying any invoice to ensure it is valid.

(d) To review the s137 donation request from the Ysgol Cynddelw PTA

Ysgol Cynddelw PTA had requested a donation towards new equipment for the school's playground. **CH proposed** £200. **Seconded by DS. Voting: 5 votes for and 1 abstention. SM** to send donation

9/0325 Planning

(a) To review planning application P/2024/1646: Erection of manure store at Llwydiarth, Dolywern, Pontfadog, Llangollen.

This planning application was discussed and there were no objections or concerns and Councillors supported the application. **SM** to advise Planning Officer.

(b) To review planning application P/2025/0062 Single storey rear extension at 5 Castle Mill, Chirk, Wrexham LL14 5BL.

This planning application was discussed and there were no objections or concerns and Councillors supported the application. **SM** to advise Planning Officer.

10/0325 Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

DS informed Councillors that the Hall was running smoothly day to day and was in a good position financially. He had met with **RE** and Graham Barrow to review issues that had been brought up at a Hall Management Committee meeting and they had discussed what changes were currently affordable and of most importance.

RE was applying for a £100,000 grant from the Wrexham Shared Prosperity Fund which supports projects that seek to deliver meaningful outcomes benefiting communities within Wrexham County Borough. If the application is successful, it would allow the total refurbishment of the Hall.

The Hall's new website had been designed, and a domain was being arranged so the site could go live.

The portacabin on the OJMH car park was being removed sometime within the next couple of weeks. Quotes had been received for resurfacing the car park which would go ahead once the portacabin had been taken away.

11/0325 Agenda items for next meeting

A s137 donation for the Men's Club being set up at the OJMH

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:18pm

Next meeting will be on 2nd April 2025 at 6:30pm