



Cyngor Cymuned **Glyntraian** Community Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

8th January 2025

At the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall

Present:

Councillor Robin Boston
Councillor Edith Jones
Councillor Richard Evans
Councillor Ky Lewis
Councillor Pam Hughes

Councillor Colin Hidden

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

Chair opened meeting at 6:30pm

Action

1/0125 Apologies

Apologies from Cllr David Sopwith

2/0125 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

(b) Requests for dispensations

None

3/0125 Presentation by Mr Dave Evans (Smart Towns Manager for Wrexham CBC) on Smart Interventions

Mr Dave Evans informed Councillors how Wrexham is on track to become Wales' next Smart City following a significant investment in digital technology and data by Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) and its partners. He explained WCBC is using different types of electronic methods and sensors to collect data and how the insights gained from that data are used to manage assets,

resources, and services efficiently. The aim is to improve operations and future prosperity across the town.

He explained that the initiative includes the installation of LoRaWAN (Long Range Wide Area Network) technology, which enables sensors to collect and transmit data across the Borough. He gave interesting examples of how the empirical data collected by the sensors is being used to improve the Council's efficiency. The digital infrastructure has been used to address challenges, from parking to flood management. The WCBC wanted to significantly increase the ability and capacity to deploy sensors across Wrexham's urban villages and rural communities.

He showed how monitors could be used to detect water levels in the culvert in Bro Dewi during heavy rainfall. The data is monitored, and a text alert would be sent when the level of water in the culvert was too high, suggesting the culvert may be blocked. This could be resolved at the time by WCBC contacting a local contractor.

He asked the Council to consider having a transmitter on the OJMH building. The use of the Hall internet would also be required. There would be no cost for the transmitter or monitors as these would be covered by the Welsh Government, the SMART Towns Initiative funding.

RBo thanked Mr Evans for coming and providing the information.

Following discussion after Mr Evans left, **CH proposed** the Council go ahead with fitting a LorRaWAN receiver at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall. **Seconded by RE. Unanimously agreed. SM** to notify Mr Evans.

SM

4/0125 Reports

(a) Police report

PCSO Gareth Jones had sent a monthly report to **SM** which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors had no concerns.

(b) WCBC Councillor Trevor Bates

TB reported:

- Ian Bancroft resigned as CEO of Wrexham Council as of 31st December 2024. Alwyn Jones (Head of Social Services) has been appointed interim CEO whilst the CEO position is being advertised.
- Councillors voted not to adopt the Wrexham CBC's Local Development Plan on 14th June 2023 due to the Welsh Government withdrawing funding to improve the A483 junctions near Wrexham where 700 new houses were included in the LDP Wrexham CBC's Local Development Plan.

In 2023 Wrexham CBC was taken to court in Cardiff by BDW Trading Ltd, Bloor Homes Ltd, Redrow Homes Ltd, Harworth Estates Investments Ltd, Russell Homes (UK) Ltd, Castle Green Homes and SG Estates Ltd. Council Officers took a decision not to defend the non-adoption of the LDP in court. Judge Eyres made the Judgment that Wrexham CBC must adopt the LDP. He awarded costs of £100,000 in favour of the developers and against Wrexham CBC.

In December 2023 a special meeting of Wrexham CBC was called, and Councillors were warned that if the LDP was not adopted then those voting against it could go to prison or have their assets seized. Many stayed away or abstained and the LDP was voted through. Following this, a group of Councillors paid for legal advice and challenged the decision in the Court of Appeal in London in October 2024 which was successful. Now waiting for the unfolding of the adoption process but the Welsh Government does have the power to impose the LDP on the

Council. I've been advised that parties to the proceedings have until 17th January 2025 to lodge an appeal.

On the 6th January 2024 Wrexham CBC Planning Committee has been cancelled pending legal advice.

- Wrexham Council's Budget 2025/2026: a 4.3% increase is expected from the Welsh Government, but this would not cover all the proposed expenditure. To cover the Council's Budget, it looks like another round of savings will have to be made combined with an increase in Council Tax.
- The last storm has left some considerable damage to the road network which will obviously need a great deal of repair work. Please report potholes, road defects and blocked gulleys either on the website www.wrexham.gov.uk and by creating a 'My Account' you will have an audit trail of your reports or calling 01978 298989 or by email contact-us@wrexham.gov.uk.
- Erosion of the riverbanks behind Bro Dewi has taken away some of the gabion baskets and left fence posts dangling above the water. Bro Dewi residents have been living with sandbags now for the last few weeks. I'm awaiting the date for the site meeting with NRW and Wrexham Council regarding Bro Dewi. Wrexham Council had agreed to repair the entrance to the culvert and improve it 12 months ago, but obviously nothing has been done yet.

NRW no longer does anything about fallen trees in the river and the damage caused when washed downstream is increasing. The concrete support pillar for the sewer pipe above Dolywern Bridge has been toppled over and gabion baskets along the riverbanks have been ripped out. There has been no response from NRW.

- The North Wales Rural Crime team (Chris James) was alerted to a sheep's head in the Nantyr Forest after Boxing Day. PC James also found a goat skin, two front legs, some bones and a meat cleaver. A sheep's skin was found 2 miles away. There were no ear tags or pitch marks on the sheep. One local farmer recalled finding a dead sheep with its head missing on Boxing Day 2023.
- The Santa run with chocolate selection boxes for the children went ahead on 22nd December thanks to Davena and her family and to Santa. Between Glyntraian and Glyn Ceiriog £210 was raised for the Wales Air Ambulance.

5/0125 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Oliver Jones Memorial Hall on 4th December 2024

(a) To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2024 as a true and correct record.

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

(b) Matters Arising

- Glyntraian Community Council will be hosting the next meeting of the three Councils on 15th January 2025. **SM** had invited Annette Thomas from Community Catalysts to speak at the meeting. **SM** had received no other agenda items.
- **SM** had sent a letter of appreciation to Morrisons in Oswestry thanking them for their generous donation of groceries for the Christmas hampers. **DD** had taken photographs showing

Morrisons groceries in the hampers to send to Morrisons who would put them on their Facebook page.

- **SM** had emailed Kevin Edwards (WCBC Contracts and Engineering Manager) requesting clarification of responsibilities for responsibilities are regarding the maintenance of roadside verges, drains and ditches. He had sent a detailed email outlining WCBC's responsibilities. **DD** thought that further clarification was required regarding roadside boundaries and cleaning the washes across the verges. **SM** to follow up.

SM

6/0125 Correspondence

SM had received:

- Notification of planning application P/2024/1455: Floor side extension and alterations to roof at: Llwyn Afon, Bronygarth, Oswestry, SY10 7ND. Discussed later in the meeting.
- A thank you email for the Council's donation towards the 2025 National Eisteddfod in Wrexham.
- One Voice Wales training dates for November 2024 to March 2025. **SM** had forwarded details to the Councillors,
- Notification from WCBC that they have launched a new consultation to help shape the future of local libraries and resource centres and were inviting the public to take part. **SM** to put details on the Council website. **DD** had already put paper copies in the OJMH.
- Email from Police detailing a survey from the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner asking people of the region to say how much money they are prepared to pay for the work the police do to keep neighbourhoods safe through the precept levied on their Council Tax.

7/0125 Community Agent

DD reported:

- The Glyntraian Community Christmas lunch was held on 17th December at the OJMH. It was very well attended and enjoyed by all who came. 60 meals were served and a further 12 were delivered within the community. These included two frozen meals for Christmas Day to members of the Community. I would like to thank all the volunteers (Robin, Graham, Maggie and Sue) for their hard work. **RBo** thanked Trevor for inviting Councillor Beryl Blackmore, Mayor of Wrexham. She came for lunch and spent time chatting to everybody.
- With the help of donations from Helping Hands, residents and Morrisons in Oswestry, 10 Christmas hampers, 2 family hampers and 10 'hugs' were delivered to nominated members of the community over the weekend before Christmas. The 'hugs' consisted of homemade mince pies kindly made by Glennys and decorated pots of hyacinth bulbs kindly provided by Sioned. Thank you to Glennys and Sioned and to all the volunteers (Ian, Steph, Robin and Gareth) for packing and delivering the hampers and the 'hugs'
- Sixty chocolate selection boxes were handed out to children during the Santa Run on the 22nd December. Between Glyntraian and Glyn Ceiriog £210 was raised for the Wales Air Ambulance. Many thanks to Trevor and Aled for making this event a great success.

8/0125 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 £4289.58 had also been circulated prior to the meeting and these were discussed. **SM** informed Councillors that the higher total of payments was due to payment of both the November and December salaries in the same month. December's salaries were paid on 31st December 2024 and not New Year's Day (public holiday). **SM** advised that this was part of the employment contracts for **SM** and **DD**. The payment for the planning fee for the retention of a shipping container (for tool storage) had been paid on behalf of Council volunteers Caru'n Pentrefi.

SM advised the following payment were to be made:

- WordPress website annual fee - 120
- Clerk's desk diary - £8.05
- TV Licence for OJMH - £169.50

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

There was one receipt of £8666.66 from WCBC for the final instalment of the Council Precept. **SM** had transferred £7000 of this to the Council's savings account. She informed Councillors that this would be used for payments to the end of the Financial Year.

(c) To discuss 2025-2026 Council Budget

SM had prepared a draft Council Budget for 2025-2026, and this had been reviewed by the Finance Committee. The budget figures and precept calculation (£26000) were discussed and agreed by Councillors. **PH proposed** the budget and precept request be approved. **Seconded** by **EJ**. **Unanimously agreed**. **SM** to send the Precept request to WCBC.

SM

9/0125 Planning

(a) To review planning application P/2024/1306: single storey extension at Ael y Bryn, Dolywern, Pontfadog, Llangollen, LL20 7AG

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

SM

(b) To review planning application P/2024/1670: Renewal of planning permission (P/2019/0131) for retention of shipping container at Cartref Dyffryn Ceiriog, Llwynmawr, Llangollen, LL20 7AF

SM advised Councillors that this application had been made on behalf of Caru'n Pentrefi. The group use the shipping container for storing their tools. As the group are Council volunteers there were no concerns.

10/0125 Election of new Chair

RBo confirmed he was standing down as Chair of the Council and resigning as a Councillor after the meeting. He thanked everyone for their help and support, to **SM** for her support and guidance and **DD** for her hard work in the Community and her support. He said it had been privilege to have held the position over the last two years. **RE offered** a vote of thanks to **RBo** on behalf of the Council.

Prior to the meeting **RBo** had asked **RE** to consider being the new Chair. There were no other nominations. **RE** offered to take on the role. **EJ proposed** **RE** to be elected as Chair. **Seconded** by

KL. Unanimously agreed. RE accepted the role and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair.

11/0125 Agenda items for next meeting

AOB

CH said a resident had raised concerns about the safety of a tree in the area. It was known that a tree owner has a responsibility in law known as the 'duty of care' and when a tree owner fails to exercise his or her responsibility and harm or injury results, the tree owner may be subject to a claim for negligence. **EJ** identified the site of the tree and who the landowner was. **SM** to advise landowner that concerns had been raised about the tree's safety.

SM

RE asked what progress there had been for the removal of the portacabin on the OJMH car park. **RBo** explained that a resident had expressed an interest and was planning to move it to his property.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:14pm

Next meeting will be on 5th February 2025 at 6:30pm