



# Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

**Chairman:** Councillor Marjorie Thomson

## **Councillors Present**

Keith Taylor, Nancy Matthews, Kevin Hughes, Ian Joseph and Carl Jackson.

Members of the Council received from Councillor Ian Joseph his submitted resignation. Members requested Councillor Joseph to change his mind however due to issues and pressures outside of the Council he remained resolute in his determination to leave. Councillor Joseph hoped that someone would come forward from Cadole and he stated that he would endeavour to seek a volunteer. The Members reluctantly accepted his resignation, he was thanked for all the good work achieved to date and everyone wished him well for the future.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anita Thomas, Anu Beadle, John Homersley, Karen Jones, Shirley Hughes, Robert Sheppard, PC Gary Aldous and PCSO Chey Arrowsmith.

### **2. To Welcome to the Council Meeting Mr. Colin Everett, the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council**

The Chairman, Councillor Marjorie Thomson welcomed Mr. Colin Everett to the meeting and introduced him to the Members of the Council. Mr. Everett outlined the points of discussion relative to Flintshire County Council before proceeding onto the concerns of the Members.

Mr. Everett related to the Members the 10 biggest Flintshire County Council Issues, these were given as follows:-

**1. Council Reform;** being clear about our priorities to protect and improve local services and jobs; our strategies for our four resources - people, money, assets and information and our customer services strategy; our reform programme to be as modern and efficient as possible:

**2. Council Finances and the Financial Strategy;** the revenue budget position for 2013-14 and beyond; creative use of capital investment for future priorities including schools, leisure centres, roads and infrastructure, and energy efficiency systems; our 'social business model' - manage pressures (economic and demographic pressures and inflation), maximise income and reduce core operating costs: **3. Regional and Local Collaboration;** how to improve services, have more consistent quality in services, save money and be resilient in challenging times by working together and sharing resources; getting the most from the sum of the parts of partnerships for 'public value' e.g. sharing buildings with the Police; big current regional projects e.g. school improvement, social services commissioning, waste and transport, working with health: **4. School Modernisation;** having a fit for the future secondary and primary schools provision; schools standards and performance (e.g. school bandings); making the money go further, raising 'spend per pupil' and dealing with 'surplus places' (school funding formula review underway): **5. Streetscene and Waste;** introduced new area 'patch' service approach to all services (in 12 sub-county areas); single point of customer contact; changes to waste collection and recycling and disposal services and high recycling rates achieved: **6. Economic Development and Planning;** the regional priorities of inward investment and support for business and enterprise; developing the strategic sites - the Enterprise Zone and Northern Gateway; adopted the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and introducing the new Local Development Plan (LDP): **7. Housing, the Housing Ballot and Social Services;** planning housing provision across the public and private house building and supply sectors to meet demand; the impacts of Welfare Reform, Government funding policy and more support for people to live independently in their own homes; continually improving local Council Housing landlord and maintenance services following the 2012 Housing Ballot where tenants voted 88% - 12% to stay with the Council: **8. Highways and Winter Maintenance;** investing in maintaining the highways infrastructure; improving transport access to key sites; the Council's commitment to the roads winter maintenance (clearance and gritting) service: **9. Boundary Reviews and the Local Elections;** new Boundary Commissioners appointed and the review of County boundaries suspended; local review of Community Ward boundaries to start in 2013: **10. The Charter for County and Town and Community Council Joint Working;** the Charter for relationships and joint working and the County Forum meetings; working together e.g. investment in local play areas and town centres; improving communication ( e.g. dedicated web pages) how we handle and resolve complaints and local issues.

Following on from the above points Mr. Everett welcomed comments from the Members, he then received the concerns raised by the Members in relation to issues within Gwernymynydd. These are listed below:-

1. Speeding vehicles along the housing estate roads, particularly near to the school, Councillors would like to have a 20 mph restriction along Uwch y Dre, Godre'r Coed and Heol y Wern. This would then lend itself to the project 'safer routes to school' and also to the recent request submitted to Flintshire County Council for the installation of a Pelican Crossing on the A494 at the top of the Gwernymynydd Hill near to the Rainbow Inn to serve residents at the upper end of the village.
2. Traffic control in Cadole's Village Road, e.g. an access only restriction, this would then assist in the issue of overspill parking in Loggerheads. Also re-design of the Village Road/Gwernaffield Road junction to discourage vehicles entering onto Village Road, using it as a 'rat run'.
3. Better control by education of dog owners and their responsibilities to dog fouling near to the CP School.

4. Can Flintshire assist financially in building improvements to the Village Centre.
5. Projected Council Tax costs and the effect the Welfare Bill will have on payments.
6. The Council's Development Plan, do other Councils within Flintshire have a similar Plan which will help to align itself within the LDP now that the UDP has been agreed and accepted.

The discussion that ensued provided for Mr. Everett a feeling for the concerns and problems existing within Gwernymynydd and where he can establish help in achieving a resolution to those issues he agreed to investigate and to report back to the Clerk.

The Chairman, Councillor Marjorie Thomson, thanked Mr. Everett for coming to the meeting and all the Members welcomed the positive interest expressed by Mr. Everett in matters of concern in Gwernymynydd.

### **3. To Approve the Minutes of the January Meeting**

The Minutes of the above had been distributed and were confirmed as a true record of the business transacted at the meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**5. 2012; 37, Llys Enfys;** With reference to the sign warning of children playing erected by a local resident at Llys Enfys/Bryn Eithin, Councillor K. Taylor again expressed his concern regarding the slow progress of an official recognised Flintshire County Council sign being placed at the site. Members discussed the issue and resolved to request permission from Flintshire County Council for the Council to purchase such a sign and to get it placed in the respective area.

**5. 2013; 02, Tros y Wern;** With reference to dog fouling in and around the Godre'r Coed, Godre'r Mynydd areas, Councillor Nancy Matthews related to the Members that she had been in contact with Mr. Richard Blake in Public Protection, Flintshire County Council with regard to obtaining information concerning fouling and 'Dog Watch' notices to be placed on lamp posts. It was also proposed and agreed that an invite be given to Mr. Blake to attend a Council meeting in order to determine what could be done to reduce the dog fouling nuisance.

**9. 2013; 03,** Councillors discussed a proposal to brighten up the approach to Gwernymynydd and Cadole by having daffodils and other spring time flowers in planters near to the village road signs. Councillor K. Taylor agreed to pursue this matter.

Councillor K. Taylor informed the Members that Blaen Wern would again be entering the Flintshire County Council Best Kept Senior Citizen's Estate Competition.

### **5. Police Matters**

Apologies for absence were received from PC. G. Aldous and PCSO. C. Arrowsmith.

#### **Gwernymynydd and Cadole; Police Area Reports.**

**Cadole; Glyndwr Road; Minffordd Fields and Ruthin Road** in these areas there were no items to report for discussion.

**Llys Enfys and Blaen Wern;** Indiscriminate vehicle parking was still causing a nuisance; **Swan Lane;** Councillor Marjorie Thomson related concerns of speeding vehicles. **Tros y Wern;** Councillor Karen Jones reported via e-mail that a car had been parked in the vicinity of the school, people were suspicious of the vehicle and as such the incident was reported to the police.

#### **Member Area Reports:**

**Cadole; Ruthin Road; Llys Enfys; Glyndwr Road; Swan Lane;** and **Blaen Wern** in these areas there were no items to report for discussion.

**Tros y Wern;** Councillor Anita Thomas reported via text street lights requiring attention in Heol y Wern.

**Minffordd Fields;** Councillor Anu Beadle reported via e-mail her concerns regarding the maintenance of street lighting on the estate. Members concurred with the concerns expressed by Councillor Beadle but were aware of the problem of none adoption of the estate by Flintshire County Council. The consequence of this situation being that the estate cannot be maintained by Flintshire County Council, responsibility of maintenance lies with the developer, Mr. J. Edgar.

#### **6. Neighbourhood Watch, Gwernymynydd**

Councillor Nancy Matthews outlined her concerns that the Village's Neighbourhood Watch Group had now become depleted of members and that it would be prudent to push for 'new blood'. Councillors agreed with Councillor Matthews and resolved to petition villagers in the hope that volunteers could be found. Also the Members agreed to invite officers of the Neighbourhood Watch to come along to a future Council meeting in order to promote the scheme.

#### **7. Planning Matters**

There were no planning applications received for discussion.

With regard to the application; Ref: LEJ/048850; Amended Plans; Erection of 18 in number of dwellings with associated roads, sewers and open spaces located on Land adjacent to Siglen Ucha, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd, Members expressed great concern regarding the very short notice received from Flintshire County Council for attendance at the Planning Committee, the inaccuracies in the received letters informing the Council of the Committee Meeting and the none notification of the scheduled site meeting.

Following discussion on the issue the Council resolved to write a letter of complaint to the Director of Environment and to emphasise the Council's great concern over the mis-handling of the correspondence.

#### **8. Finance**

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for February, the details of which can be found on page 2013; 10.

#### **9. Gwernymynydd Development Plan and Action Plan**

The Members agreed to discuss the Agenda Item at the next meeting of the Council.

**10. Gwernymynydd Youth Club/Youth Council**

Members were informed that there had been a reasonable attendance at the recent meeting of the Club. Councillor Karen Jones via e-mail gave a brief outline to Members of the Club's proposed activities.

**11. Gwernymynydd/Cadole, Road Safety and Road Improvements**

With reference to the A494 and the Prohibition of Waiting Order at Loggerheads, Members were informed that the painting of the yellow lines would soon be undertaken. It is hoped that the Order would improve pedestrian and highway users' safety and ease the problem of indiscriminate parking of vehicles in the area.

**12. Reports**

**1. Outside Bodies**

With reference to the Village Centre Management Committee, Councillor Karen Jones via e-mail provided an information update to the Members, she reported that the pantomime had gone well and that everyone who attended the performance enjoyed it. Councillor Anita Thomas via text informed the Members that the Centre has a jazz evening planned for the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and that additional bookings had been received.

**2. Sub-Committees**

The Clerk informed the Members that the specification for the BMX Cycle Track was now completed and that the documents would be sent out to at least 4 contractors who would then submit their quotations to the Council in sealed envelopes for the Members to look at and agree which contractor would be selected to undertake the required work. As a reminder the Council's Contractor's Selection Group will consist of Councillors Karen Jones, Anita Thomas, Shirley Hughes, Marjorie Thomson, Carl Jackson, Keith Taylor and John Homersley.

**13. Correspondence**

Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were received by the Council.

**14. Late Correspondence**

The following information was received by the Council:-

Olive Sweetman, a survey on the issue of horse meat in the food chain is being undertaken, the website address is [www.surveymonkey.com/s/CSP8MBG](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CSP8MBG).

**Chairman**.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013.

T. M. Richardson	Clerk's Salary	364.06
	Postage	6.00
	Clerk's Allowance	53.96
		<b><u>424.02</u></b>
Cadwyn Clwyd	Cadole permissive footpath	910.00
Deeco Lighting	Street light maintenance/repair	18.00
One Voice Wales	Councillor training	20.00
FLVC	Annual membership	25.00
		<b><u>1,397.02</u></b>