



Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 28th November 2013 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

Chairman: Councillor Marjorie Thomson

Councillors Present

Anita Thomas, Nancy Matthews, Keith Taylor, Kevin Hughes, Shirley Hughes, Vicky Hinstridge, John Homersley and Carl Jackson.

The Clerk related to the Members that he had received an e-mail from Councillor Anu Beadle informing him that she could now confirm her resignation as a Councillor to the Gwernymynydd Community Council. The Clerk informed the Members that the Local Government procedures for filling a vacancy on the Council would be initiated in the New Year.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Karen Jones and Robert Sheppard.

2. To Approve the Council's Financial Risk Assessment 2013/14

In compliance with the recommendations set by the external auditor the previous year's Risk Assessment Report was provided for the Members to consider at the previous meeting. The Council's Internal Auditor, Mr. David Griffiths, identified minor changes within the Assessment; the Financial Risk Assessment 2013/14 was put to the members and as such was agreed with the alterations in place.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the October 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

8. 2013; 23, With reference to the insertion of a window into the bus stop shelter, Councillor Carl Jackson informed the Members that he would pursue this matter.

5. 2013; 45, Cadole; Members had previously been informed that the post box had been stolen, 29/30th September in the early morning, to date there was no further information available.

With regard to the issue of a 'licence' for a permanent access onto the FIT (NPFA) Field the Members discussed this issue in depth and resolved to take no further action at the present time. However concern was expressed with regard to any future encroachment on the Field, therefore the Members resolved to advertise the fact that such actions would not be tolerated with enforcement procedures possibly initiated.

Remembrance Sunday, Councillors outlined the success of the event, the service being well attended by members of the community.

BMX Cycle Track, Gwernymynydd, Councillor Marjorie Thomson related to the Members that she had obtained information from Treuddyn Community Council with regards to the signage in place at the respective Village Cycle Track. Councillor Thomson informed the Members that she would pursue costs incurred with the contractor who had undertaken the signage work for Treuddyn Community Council.

Councillor Shirley Hughes provided information to the Members regarding the Village Xmas Fayre and the request for financial assistance submitted to the Council from the organisers of the event.

5. Police Matters and Area Reports

Gwernymynydd and Cadole; Police Area Reports (no Police in attendance)

Glyndwr Road; Minffordd Fields; Swan Lane; Ruthin Road; Cadole and Tros y Wern in these areas there were no items to report for discussion.

Blaen Wern; Councillors were informed that unknown persons had been seen acting suspiciously in gardens in the early hours, the Police had been informed but residents do need to be alert to such matters.

Llys Enfys and Blaen Wern; Indiscriminate vehicle parking was still causing a nuisance.

Member Area Reports; Swan Lane; Glyndwr Road; Minffordd Fields; Blaen Wern and Llys Enfys in these areas there were no items to report for discussion.

Cadole; Members were informed that Councillor Vicky Hinstridge had undertaken the planting of 50+ spring flowering bulbs; **Tros y Wern;** Members raised concerns with regard to congested car parking near to the school and also to speeding vehicles in the area; **Ruthin Road;** Members expressed their concerns with regard to speeding vehicles on the A494 and in particular in the area near to 4, Maes y Wern. Members received an earnest request from Mr. J. D. Bond for help and assistance in resolving the issue of speeding vehicles following a severe road traffic accident outside his property whereby a car crashed into his parked car. The Council resolved to write to NMWTRA and to Flintshire County Council regarding the design of the A494 in this area, concerns resting around the location of the road traffic islands/bollards.

Councillor Keith Taylor informed the Members about the boundary stone, Flintshire/Denbighshire, A494, being in a poor state of repair. The stone has been fenced off and is awaiting repair. Councillor Taylor also reported the Old Chapel, site, A494, for maintenance and for tidying up, NMWTRA to be requested to sanction the work.

6. Planning Matters

1. Restoration scheme submitted in accordance with condition Number 34 of Planning Permission 21/1999/0783/PP, Aberduna Quarry, Maeshafn.

AGREED

2. HJP/050695, Restoration of Cambrian Quarry, Gwernymynydd by the importation and recycling of inert materials, Town and Country Planning (Environmental Assessment) Regulations 1999.

NOT AGREED

Prior to the Council meeting the Members consulted with local residents in a public meeting in order to hear objections to the above proposal. Mr. C. Bradshaw, a local resident, outlined to the meeting his concerns and drew reference to plans which he had prepared in order to clearly define the problems such a proposal would result in should approval be given. Also, other local residents voiced their concerns to the Members and as such the Council was made fully aware that this said proposal for the Cambrian Quarry was not acceptable.

Following on from the public meeting, the Members of the Gwernymynydd Community Council emphatically resolved to object to this proposal to import inert materials into the Cambrian Quarry for the purpose of restoration and recycling for the following reasons.

1. The proposed new entrance to the quarry still lies in close proximity to the Glyndwr Road/A494 road junction. Traffic vision lines, although improved from the previous application, but still less than 20metres, do not compare to those afforded at the Cefn Mawr and Aberduna Quarries. The increase in heavy goods traffic using this entrance/exit, close to a bend on the brow of a hill on the A494, will in the opinion of the Council still create a road traffic hazard and an increase in associated risks on the busy trunk road. This Council maintains that the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency need to undertake a transport/traffic assessment of the traffic movement in this area.

2. The proposal outlines traffic movement of heavy goods vehicles of at least 150 per day, this amount of vehicle activity from the narrow Glyndwr Road onto the busy A494 trunk road would exacerbate the existing traffic problems of quarry traffic emanating from the nearby Cefn Mawr Quarry and increased public vehicle flow.

3. The previous proposal identified a new quarry haul road which was in an elevated position running parallel to the existing public road, the Glyndwr Road. Residents and or users of the Glyndwr Road would have been subject to heavy goods, quarry vehicles, travelling along the elevated road high above them thus increasing the possibility of traffic risk relating to an accident. The proposed re-alignment of the internal haul road, lowered and in a deeper cutting would not alter the situation and concerns. The new proposed access/egress onto the A494, taking it further away from the junction and more into the Glyndwr Road, also making the road wider at this point does not resolve the anticipated problem of 2 heavy goods, quarry lorries, trying to pass one another in this area. Again as previously stated this situation would be further exacerbated by Glyndwr Road traffic and A494 traffic waiting to enter/leave the Glyndwr Road. This traffic risk would be increased at times of inclement weather, there would be increased surface water run off from the Glyndwr Road. The established ice formation at the junction with the A494 in cold weather would still be a problem and would remain a priority 'gritting' area with Flintshire County Council, Highways, this is a potential road traffic hazard which has not been completely resolved in the proposal.

4. Residents in the area would still be subject to an increase in road traffic noise, an estimated 150 lorry movements per day, road/quarry traffic dust and quarry carry over debris/mud resulting from the works taking place inside the quarry and traffic movement onto the Glyndwr Road/A494 junction.

5. The Council questions the proposal reference to landfill and restoration within the quarry; Members are of the opinion that the quarry would be essentially a transfer station with recycled materials being transported out thus maintaining a high traffic flow from the quarry and through Gwernymynydd via the busy A494. It has been stated by ASH that the proposal would cater for a 95% recycle of material; this would equate to a very long time period for restoration and making safe the various quarry faces.

6. The local flora and fauna, well established since the cessation of quarrying activities, would be adversely affected by the increase in traffic movement and recycling activities within the quarry, special reference is made with respect to disturbance of the resident protected bat population.

7. The Council expresses its concern with regard to the proposed working hours deemed necessary to make the operations viable. The quoted hours, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter working times may alleviate the need for floodlight operations, however there would be times for such illumination to take place in order to accommodate process deadlines.

8. The Council and local residents express their concerns with regard to previous operations that have taken place within the quarry, e.g. the licensed deposition of asbestos, the importation of general waste and chemical waste materials. The concerns are centred upon the possible disturbance of the buried substances.

9. Previous permitted operations within the quarry entailed adequate waste cover material and bunding to ensure minimum nuisance of noise and dust to neighbours. In the opinion of the Council and local residents this control measure has not been fulfilled and adequately addressed in the proposal and works within the quarry would cause unacceptable nuisance. There is still a concern with regard to noise pollution, new crushers (as stated by ASH) will still emit noise and would be perceived to be intrusive. A noise survey in compliance with pollution control and location of the machinery within the quarry needs to be undertaken. Expected fugitive dust emissions to local areas have not been fully addressed, there needs to be adequate dust suppression equipment set in place.

10. Members have raised the issue of the Cambrian Quarry being in close proximity to the Clwydian AONB and to what effect the proposal will have on the neighbourhood.

11. The quarry area is subject to excess surface water run off, this frequently causes flooding problems and nuisance on the Glyndwr Road and the A494, the Council questions the proposed provision detailed in the planning application to resolve the problem.

12. The quarry area is criss-crossed with public and non definitive footpaths close to the proposed workings; the re-submitted application does not adequately resolve this problem of the use of the footpaths. Security of the site is an unresolved issue with site safety within the quarry, crumbly unstable worked faces, being crucially ignored.

In addition to the objections submitted above the proposal, as stated in the previous letter of this Council, in its present form has had the knock on effect of devaluing property within the village. This effect has been felt not only in the area close to the quarry but also within the village some distance away from Cambrian Quarry. Properties currently for sale within Gwernymynydd have seen a devaluation figure of 10% imposed on the respective houses.

In conclusion this Council submitted its request to Flintshire County Council 'that the concerns and objections outlined above by the Members and the residents of Gwernymynydd be taken into consideration and that the planning application should be refused'.

3. Ref: APW/051350, Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural store located at Brynffynnon, Glyndwr Road, Gwernymynydd.

AGREED

7. Finance

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for November, the details of which can be found on page 2013; 54.

8. Gwernymynydd Development Plan and Action Plan

The members resolved to discuss the Housing and Land Development Policies, H1 through to H6, the identified short, medium and long term initiatives at the next meeting.

9. Gwernymynydd Youth Club/Youth Council

With regard to the previous Council Minutes;
'Councillors were informed that the Youth Club had now closed; Councillor Nancy Matthews informed the Members that she had pursued the matter with the Director of Life Long Learning with the request of obtaining a relief Youth Leader to take control of the Club. Councillor Matthews reiterated that the Council and community of Gwernymynydd had worked hard to get the Youth Club up and running again and it was sad to receive such news of a closure. With regard to a threat of permanent closure it was hoped by all concerned that this possibility did not occur'; Councillor Matthews informed the Members that there was no further information nor progress on the situation.

10. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd

Information was provided to the Members with regard to the Village Senior Citizens' Xmas Party to be held on the 9th December 2013 at the Plas Hafod Hotel.

Also, information was given to the Members with regard to an afternoon tea to be held for the village Senior Citizens' and sponsored by Global Lifts. The event is to be held on the 19th December 2013 at 2.00 until 4.30 PM in the Village Centre and will feature music and the children's' choir from the Village CP School.

11. Reports

Outside Bodies

With reference to the Village Centre Management Committee, Councillor Anita Thomas provided an update of information for the Members; they were informed of future events and activities at the Centre.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson reported to the Members the salient points of the meeting, the Rural Development Plan for Wales, 2007-2013, held on the 18th November 2013. The aim of the meeting was to raise awareness of the ‘Linking Flintshire’s Communities’ project which currently funds cycling and horse riding schemes in the Gronant and Talacre area.

Councillor Nancy Matthews reported to the Members the main issues arising from the recently held Cefn Mawr Quarry Liaison Committee Meeting. These related to 24-hour working operations, the Xmas shut-down and concerns expressed by local residents with regard to blasting and its associated vibration tremors. Councillor Matthews informed the Members that the blasting operations were strictly controlled but under certain atmospheric and ground conditions vibrations would be felt locally.

Sub-Committees

BMX Cycle Track, has now been handed over to the Council. A formal opening of the Track was discussed by the Members along with obtaining suitable signage for its use. This is to be discussed further by Councillors.

12. Correspondence

Items 1 and 2 were received by the Council.

13. Late Correspondence

The following information was received by the Council:-

There were no items of Late Correspondence.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 28th November 2013.

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary (Nov)	379.56
	Clerk's Salary (Dec)	379.56
	Postage	10.00
	Clerk's Allowance	54.50
		<u>823.62</u>
Councillor Marjorie Thomson	Travel expenses (OVW AGM)	80.01
Flintshire County Council	Playscheme charge	898.20
Deeco Lighting	Street light maintenance charge	276.67
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual subscription	101.00
		2,179.50