



Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 29th June 2017 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

Chairman: Vicky Hinstridge

Councillors Present

Frances Rosedale, James Appleton, Marjorie Thomson, Charlotte Dawson, Nancy Matthews and Carl Jackson.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Heidi Jackson, Jacqueline Jepson, John Homersley and Stephen Prydderch.

In Attendance

Councillor Kevin Hughes, Mr. Andrew Lightfoot (Streetscene Co-ordinator) and Mr. Chris Bradshaw.

The Chairman welcomed Andrew Lightfoot to the Council meeting who proceeded to outline to the Members complaints he had received from Councillors and members of the public. Issues regarding grass cutting at the Village Centre field and the neighbouring King George V play area were resolved on an amicable basis and the problem of bricks/kerbstones on the highway (Ruthin Road) was again raised by Councillors. With regard to the latter Andrew Lightfoot stated that this would be resolved as soon as possible.

Members raised the problem of 'over flowing' dog litter bins, particularly the one in Swan Lane, and the frequency of emptying. Andrew Lightfoot stated that this issue would be investigated and a more appropriate emptying schedule adopted. Councillor Vicky Hinstridge raised the complaint regarding the parking of a bus in the lay-by in Cadole, the bus causing a traffic hazard by reducing visibility along the busy A494. Andrew Lightfoot outlined to the Members the actions he had taken with regard to the problem and also that Flintshire County Council's Transportation Department were investigating the complaint and how it may be resolved to satisfaction.

Councillors thanked Mr. Lightfoot for coming along to the meeting and for undertaking responsive actions on the complaints received.

2. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillors**

Councillor Charlotte Dawson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Proper Officer of the Gwernymynydd Community Council, that is, the Clerk to the Council.

3. **Members Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest**

The Clerk outlined to the Members their responsibility to declare any such interests that they may have with regard to discussion items and any actions determined that may influence decisions taken on Agenda items.

All Councillors stated that there were no such issues to declare for discussion/determination at this meeting of the Council.

4. **Defibrillators and First Responders within the community**

Councillor Vicky Hinstridge outlined to the Members the initiative of utilising the Community Heartbeat Trust Lottery fund in order to purchase defibrillators for the community. Councillors discussed the number needed for the 2 villages and possible locations for siting them within a suitable range for emergency use.

Members resolved that the Council would pursue the said funding stream and look towards purchasing 3 defibrillators for the community. Issues raised regarding training, insurance liability and maintenance of the units would be investigated.

Councillor Vicky Hinstridge again provided for the Members information relating to training which was being undertaken and promoted by the Mold Town Council and Councillor Jacque Jepson would continue to lead on the project.

The Members agreed to discuss this issue further at the next meeting of the Council.

5. **To Receive Nominations and to Determine the Sub-Committee for Play Areas.**

The Members agreed that any issues regarding play areas could be resolved by discussion in full Council and therefore resolved that it would not be necessary to have a Sub-Committee for play areas.

6. **To Approve the Minutes of the May Meeting**

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

7. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

9. 2017; 29; Council's Website, Councillors Vicky Hinstridge and Heidi Jackson had been nominated for this Sub-Committee with the main issue being to improve the website and to co-ordinate relevant information with the Gwernymynydd and Cadole Facebook site. Councillor Hinstridge stated that she would continue to pursue this item.

9.2017; 23, 056757, Installation of a 17.5m monopole supporting 2 in number antennae within a shroud, 2 in number cabinets and ancillary development.

Councillor Kevin Hughes related to the Members of the outcome of the recently held Flintshire County, Planning and Development Committee meeting whereby this application was refused by the County Council.

8. Gwernymynydd CP School, Governors Report to the Council

Previously Councillors Kevin Hughes and Nancy Matthews had reported to the Members the proposals being discussed with regard to taking the CP School forward following the intended departure of the present Headteacher, Mrs Louise Williams. Councillor Hughes outlined to the Members the proposal of a federation with Gwernaffield CP School whereby there would be one Headteacher/Manager for the 2 schools, this would entail a responsibility of 2.5 days in Gwernymynydd and 2.5 days in Gwernaffield. The parents of pupils in both schools had been consulted about the proposal and both school governing boards had worked closely with Flintshire County Council on the merger. Councillor Hughes related that both schools would maintain their individual budgets but there would be only one governing body. Councillor Nancy Matthews explained to the Members that smaller schools were under threat of closure and such proposals of federating with nearby neighbours was a means of maintaining local village schools.

Councillor Kevin Hughes stated that the governing body had appointed a full time teacher, Ms. Amber Prosser, who at this moment was working as a supply teacher. Also Councillor Hughes informed the Members that the school's sports day was a success with everyone enjoying themselves.

Previously Councillor Hughes had informed the Members that ASH Waste Services had donated prizes for an essay writing competition for pupils in the school and that the school would have a visit from a Theatre Clwyd actor who would read the pupils submitted essays. The judging panel consisting of Councillor Nancy Matthews and Mrs. Jane Owens selected the winning entries and presented prizes for the best effort and for the best 2 submissions, the winners received tickets for a performance at Theatre Clwyd.

9 Police Matters and Member Reports

There was no Police presence at the meeting and no submitted report. Councillors raised their concerns about this situation and requested the Clerk to pursue the matter further.

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

Llys Enfys and Blaen Wern; as previously stated indiscriminate vehicle parking was in part still causing a nuisance. With reference to the latter, the parking problems have been exacerbated due to the poor surface area of the car park near to the entrance of Minffordd Fields, vehicles were now parking at the top of Blaen Wern and causing a nuisance to the residents. In addition to this problem Councillor Hughes informed the Members that he had again approached Flintshire County Council about the issue and because of the close proximity of the subsided surface to the pavement he had requested the Council to take the appropriate action to make safe the area. However because the area of land in question was in private ownership Councillor Hughes had requested Flintshire County Council to pursue enforcement action in order to remedy the problem. Also concerns were expressed with regard to vehicles parking within the garage area at Blaen Wern, such indiscriminate actions resulting in obstruction to access to the rented garages. Councillor Hughes related that he had met with Flintshire County Council Officers to discuss the problem and as such a way forward of removing the grassed area near the garages and replacing with tarmac was proposed. This proposal being considered along with the possible refurbishment of the garages themselves.

Member Area Reports.

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

Llys Enfys, Councillor Nancy Matthews related to the Members complaints received regarding the grassed area of land near to the former Rainbow Inn, in previous years the land had been maintained in part by Flintshire County Council but because of unknown ownership this complimentary action had now ceased.

10. Planning Matters

DGJ/053325, Outline application for the erection of 10 dwellings located at Siglen Uchaf, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd and also submitted amendments to the application.

The above planning application was discussed by Councillors at the recent Planning Sub-Committee meeting and further in full Council; the Members raised the following objections to the proposals, as such Councillors refused the application.

Dear Sir

I refer again to the above planning application which was placed before this Council at its recent meeting. I emphasise that this Council has no objection in principle to a proposed development on this site providing the said proposal is appropriate and in keeping by design with the village and its topography. By satisfying these criteria any such development would then comply with the Gwernymynydd Village Development Plan, a document produced by full consultation and agreement with the respective community and Flintshire County Council.

However, as in previous submitted applications the above in its present form is not appropriate and it does not agree with what is required or needed in Gwernymynydd. Therefore the Members of this Council at its meeting again emphatically resolved to object to this proposal for the following reasons.

1 There is insufficient detail submitted in the outline application, it does not address the concerns of this Council nor the Gwernymynydd local community. The application needs to fulfil the requirements previously stated, 'the site may be developed but this needs to be done appropriately by design and sympathetically'. As stated more planning detail is requested by this Council.

2. The Council has many concerns regarding access/egress to and from the site. It is on the busy A 494 Trunk Road, there is the hazard of speeding vehicles ignoring the 40 mph limit, the road is well used by heavy goods vehicles carrying stone from the nearby quarries and there have been numerous accidents at this location. The Council again emphasises this statement that there have been numerous road traffic incidents in this location. The access/egress point is opposite to the Twmpath Lane/Paddock Way, which houses 12 dwellings, it is near to the brow of the hill and a bend resulting in poor vision in both directions along the Trunk Road.

The additional vehicle movements that would be caused by the development with its proposed access/egress point would exacerbate an already hazardous traffic situation.

This Council is of the opinion that the Welsh Government, Trunk Road Agency would again need to be consulted on this proposed development as the amount of traffic seeking access/egress to/from the site would require acceleration/deceleration lanes with respect to the A 494. The amended proposal fails to demonstrate the required visibility on the uphill side of the trunk road, the existing access/egress is only 40 metres and not the needed, for adequate road safety, 120 metres. In addition there are other nearby properties facing onto the A494, access/egress to these houses has resulted in near vehicle hits due the volume and speed of traffic on the busy trunk road.

3. Again there would be a problem of surface water run-off to neighbouring properties, particularly to the Haulage Yard which already suffers from flooding. The building of 10 houses on this site would exacerbate the problem. The development needs to propose a controlled surface water run-off system, the application drawings do not show such a system, therefore how will the proposed development cope with the excess water?

4. Concern is still expressed with regard to the high levels of exposed lead deposits, the application does not take into account any methods for removal/dealing with the heavy toxic metal contamination.

5. Again it is anticipated that there would be a problem with the foul water system, to service an additional 10 houses on an already overstretched main would inevitably cause problems on the existing sewerage system. The development does not take this into account nor does it allow for a re-alignment of the sewers in Gwernymynydd.

6. The amended plans do not address the concerns expressed with regard to underlying mine shafts and the stability of the ground area to accommodate the proposed number of houses. The Council is aware that the Coal Authority objects to this proposed development.

7. The application suggests that the proposed development site is a brownfield site, the Council contests this statement, Siglen Uchaf is a small holding.

8. The development does not show accommodation for an open space/play area facility which is contrary to Flintshire County Council's planning policy.

The Council respectfully requests that its observations on the proposal be earnestly considered, that the decision process is not undertaken by delegated powers and that a site visit by the respective committee is again undertaken to view the proposed development taking into account the objections of this Council. This application needs to be fully examined with the views of the local community taken to heart as this Council is voicing what the village is saying.

The Community Council and residents in the village of Gwernymynydd wish refusal of the application.

Prior to the Agenda being printed and sent out to Members the Council had not received any additional planning applications from Flintshire County Council for Members to pass their observations and comments. However, 1 application was then received before the June meeting, this was as follows:-

Ref: DJM/057050, The swop out and relocation of the existing 10m high monopole for a 12.0m high alpha monopole, installation of 1 in number equipment cabinet and associated development located at land opposite to Fair Haven, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd.

The above planning application was discussed by Councillors in full Council; the Members raised objections to the proposals and as such refused the application for the following reasons.

1. The proposed mast, at 12.0m, is considered to be too high, it would be clearly visible from all sides and would be obtrusive in a rural landscape. The location of the proposed mast is also within an AONB and would therefore be out of place within the natural environment.

2. There are major concerns expressed with regard to the radiation emissions, there is no valid explanation to the amount emitted and there are uncertainties given worldwide as the said radiation levels are still being investigated. This Council is aware that similar installations in France have been vetoed over concerns of high radiation levels. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends caution on the siting of masts particularly when such locations are close to housing areas.

3. It is widely accepted that detailed research is poor and inadequate due to minimal statistics but nevertheless papers submitted by Powerwatch voice the concerns of scientists across the world about clusters of ill health of persons living in close proximity to telecommunication masts.

4. The proposed location of the mast is close to residential properties, this factor needs to be earnestly considered and the application rejected. The height of the mast is on a line with the neighbouring properties and therefore the radiation splay would bathe those houses near to the mast.

5. The proposed mast application is for an increase from 3G to 4G, this Council submits and the residents of Gwernymynydd agree that the community is adequately served with the existing coverage, there is no requirement or need to increase that service from 3G to 4G.

6. The Council and the residents of Gwernymynydd are aware that there are underlying mineshafts in and around the proposed location, this factor needs to be considered as any subsidence or collapse would lead to a serious situation on the busy A494 trunk road. Also, this Council is aware that to date there has been no response to the new proposed mast site by the Trunk Road Agency, this needs to be taken into account.

7. The proposed site has been moved further along the A494, as compared to the previous application, DJM/056287, this location has a narrower section of grass verge/pavement area and is consequently much closer to the busy A494 trunk road.

8. Employees working on similar masts to that proposed are governed by strict health and safety regulations and codes of practice, they are not allowed to work close to the installation unless the telecommunication workings are switched off. This safeguard is adhered to because of high radiation levels, those levels would exist to the nearby properties.

This Council appreciates that improvements in technology needs such types of equipment as that proposed, however this installation is too close to housing to close to the busy A494 with its heavy traffic load and is in the wrong place, there are more appropriate locations that maybe considered well distanced away from communities that maybe affected.

This Council respectfully requests that its observations on the proposal be earnestly considered, that the decision process is not undertaken by delegated powers and that a site visit by the respective committee is undertaken to view the proposed development taking into account the objections of this Council. This application needs to be fully examined in Planning Committee with the views of the local community taken to heart as this Council is voicing what the village of Gwernymynydd is saying.

The Community Council and residents in the village of Gwernymynydd wish refusal of the application.

11. Finance

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for May the details of which can be found on page 2017; 42.

To receive and approve the Council's Accounts 2016/17 prior to submission to the Council's Internal Auditor, Mr. David Griffiths. The Clerk presented to the Council the Accounts, 2016/17, the Members approved the Accounts which were duly signed by the Chairman. Also the Annual Governance Statement, 2016/17 was presented to the Members who fully agreed with the Clerk's submission to them, the said Governance Statement was then approved by the Members.

The Clerk informed the Members that the Council's Accounts would now go forward to Mr. Griffiths the Council's Internal Auditor for assessment and verification.

12. Gwernymynydd Community Council's Action Plan, 2016/17

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. Chris Bradshaw, a previous Member of this Council and previously lead Councillor for the initiative and production of the Gwernymynydd Development Plan. Mr Bradshaw outlined to the Members the work done in achieving the Development Plan and its associated Action Plan and the reasons for reviewing the document on a regular basis to ensure that the community obtains the best of benefits. Mr. Bradshaw informed the Members of the close working arrangements that were undertaken with Flintshire County Council on the project and how full consultation with the community of what was needed in Gwernymynydd and Cadole was borne out within the document, Flintshire County Council Local Development Plan (LDP).

To progress the Development/Action Plan and its review the Members agreed that a small working group be established, that consultation with the community should again take place and that the Council would commence this initiative in September.

Councillor Vicky Hinstridge related that she would be in contact with the Members in order to arrange a meeting to discuss the issues of the review.

The Councillors thanked Mr. Bradshaw for coming along to the meeting and giving a full presentation of the Development Plan.

13. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd

Councillors Nancy Matthews and Kevin Hughes informed the Members of the success of Cambrian Quarry Open Day. Councillors and local residents enjoyed a visit to the site and full explanations were given with regard to what ASH Waste Services were undertaking at the Quarry and to how the Company was working to protect the environment and local flora and fauna. Members requested the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the Quarry Management relating to them how much everyone who attended the Open Day enjoyed the experience.

Councillor Carl Jackson informed the Members that another Car Boot Sale will be taking place in the near future, the sale to be held in the car park of the Village Centre.

14. Reports

Outside Bodies

With reference to the Village Centre Management Committee, an update of usage information was provided for the Members.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson informed the Members that she had attended the recently held One Voice Wales, Flintshire/Wrexham Area Committee AGM meeting and she had been nominated onto the National Executive Committee to represent Flintshire. Councillor Thomson briefly outlined the salient points of the ordinary meeting of the committee, a report from the Stakeholder Reference Group, Betsi Cadwaldr University Health Board and good practice of what is happening in Local Councils.

Sub-Committees

There were no additional items for discussion.

15. Correspondence

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

16. Late Correspondence

The Clerk reported to the Members on the following received items:-

Flintshire County Council, Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2017 an offer to donate ceramic poppies to the Council; notification of additional training for newly elected Councillors to take place at County Hall on Thursday the 14th September.

By e-mail; Flintshire County Council, notification of cancellation of the County Forum, a new date to be given to Councils; information from Councillor Nancy Matthews, Securing Wales' Future.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 29th June 2017

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary	391.81
	Postage	14.10
	Ink cartridges	26.00
		<u>431.91</u>
Clwyd Pension Fund, (May)	Employer's contribution	115.78
Councillor Vicky Hinstridge	Refreshments, litter pick	42.68
FLVC	Council's printing	37.86
Clwyd Pension Fund	Employer's contribution	115.78
Councillor Marjorie Thomson	Attendance fee, One Voice	
	Wales Conference	50.00
		<u>794.01</u>