



Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 26th October 2017 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

Chairman: Vicky Hinstridge

Councillors Present

Frances Rosedale, James Appleton, Marjorie Thomson, Michael Meadway and Carl Jackson.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors, Charlotte Dawson, John Homersley, Nancy Matthews Jacqueline Jepson and Heidi Jackson

In Attendance

Councillor Kevin Hughes, Mr. Andrew Lightfoot, Flintshire County Council, Streetscene and Mr. David Griffiths, the Council's Internal Auditor.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Andrew Lightfoot to the meeting who proceeded to give his report to the Members. Mr. Lightfoot outlined the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order and stated that notices and stickers emphasising the Order would be made available to the Council. With regard to the complaint of overgrown trees/bushes along Swan Lane Mr. Lightfoot outlined to the Members the course of action to be taken, he also provided information relating to the grass cutting schedules operating at the present time along the highway and verge areas. However he also informed the Members that these schedules would be reviewed following cut backs in the County Council's budget. Mr. Lightfoot related to the Members the salient points of the meeting held with Councillor Kevin Hughes and also the respective 'drive around' the village to inspect various areas of complaint. Councillor Hughes informed the Members of the issues relating to the Minffordd Fields and of the course of action being positively pursued by Flintshire County Council with the former site developer Silkavon.

With reference to the Swan Lane/A494 road junction Councillor Marjorie Thomson outlined to Mr. Lightfoot her concerns regarding highway safety, in reply Mr. Lightfoot informed the Members that he had spoken to the respective resident and outlined to him the issues of concern. Hopefully this will now be resolved amicably.

2. To Welcome to the Meeting Mr. David Griffiths the Council's Internal Auditor

To review the Council's Financial Risk Assessment, 2017/18.

The Chairman, Councillor Vicky Hinstridge welcomed Mr. Griffiths to the Council meeting whereby introductions were made to all present. An explanation of why this assessment needed to be done was given by Mr. Griffiths who then referred Councillors to the previous year's Financial Risk Assessment check list. The Clerk had provided the Members copies of the said list and as such Mr. Griffiths proceeded to go through each item, the Risk, the Consequences and the Action.

Following discussions on each identified Risk, Consequences and Action and also drawing reference to the situation that had involved Dynfant Community Council in South Wales changes to the Council's Financial Risk Assessment were deemed to be necessary. The Members agreed to the following:-

1. With reference to the Precept amount, the Council will monitor the actual income and expenditure against the budget on a quarterly basis.
2. The Action Plan on residents' views continues to be monitored regularly and Councillors actively seek and regularly report residents' comments to the Council.
3. Communication to the community is undertaken via the Village Newsletter and the Gwernymynydd and Cadole Facebook site

The resultant Financial Risk Assessment, 2017/18 can be found attached to the Minutes.

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.

There were no declarations of interest given by Councillors for this meeting.

4. Defibrillators and First Responders within the Community

Councillor Vicky Hinstridge again outlined to the Members the initiative of utilising the Community Heartbeat Trust Lottery fund in order to purchase defibrillators for the community.

Again 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.

Councillors Vicky Hinstridge and Jacquie Jepson would lead on the project with help and assistance being given by the Clerk as and when required.

Councillor Hinstridge informed the Members that the application for funding had been submitted and that Councillor Jepson would be informed in due course of any success.

The Members agreed to pursue the requirement of obtaining volunteers to help and to act as First Responders.

5. **To Approve the Minutes of the September Meeting**

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

6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

With reference to the previous problem of bricks/kerbstones on the highway (Ruthin Road) which had been resolved by the direct action of Mr. Lightfoot speaking to the home owner concerned, the items had now been removed but unfortunately the homeowner was now parking his vehicle(s) partly on the pavement and on the highway. Members discussed the issue of concern, the parking of vehicles causing an obstruction on the highway and pavement and with particular reference to vehicles emerging from the Swan Lane/Ruthin Road junction.

Councillor Vicky Hintridge informed the Members that she had followed up this complaint with PCSO Chey Arrowsmith and hopefully this would secure an amicable solution to the concerns of the Council.

12, 2017; 53; AW/057427: Change of use of land from a paddock and timber storage to a site providing 23 tourist accommodation lodges located at Ty Hir, Ffordd Glyndwr, Nercwys. Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that this application would not be discussed in the Planning and Development Committee, Flintshire County Council until the New Year.

With reference to Planning Application DGJ/053325, Outline application for the erection of 10 dwellings on land adjacent to Siglen Ucha, Gwernymynydd, Councillor Frances Rosedale represented the Council at the Planning and Development Committee, Flintshire County Council and as such outlined the Council's objection to the proposed application. Councillor Kevin Hughes attended the site visit as the local Member and raised the concerns of the Council reference to the access/egress to and from the proposed development site. With respect to this concern Flintshire County Council Highways and Welsh Government were looking more closely at the site because of the vehicle vision lines in both directions at the access/egress to the A494 trunk road.

18, 2017; 55; Late Correspondence; Flintshire County Council/Aura Leisure and Libraries, information received regarding the availability of match funding with the authority to upgrade children's play areas. With respect to Gwernymynydd the Llys Enfys play area was identified by the authority as in need of improvement. The Clerk reported to the Members that he had been in contact with Flintshire County Council concerning the Section 106 Agreement, Rainbow Inn Development, whereby the Council would receive £7,700 earmarked for improvements to the Play Area, this money is assured for the said improvements. The Clerk informed the Members that the Council had budgeted for Play Area upgrades and that a sum of £3,000 could be used to match fund with the Flintshire County Council/Aura Leisure and Libraries proposal. Therefore the total amount available for the Llys Enfys Play Area improvement would be £13,700. The Members discussed the proposal and unanimously agreed to the match funding proposal. The Clerk was requested to contact Flintshire County Council/Aura Leisure and Libraries, accordingly.

7. **Gwernymynydd CP School, Governors Report to the Council**

Councillor James Appleton informed the Members that Louise Ankers had been offered the post of Headteacher to the Federation of the Schools, Gwernymynydd and Gwernaffield County Primaries following an interview.

Councillor Appleton related that the interview went extremely well and that now the schools could move forward. There will be one Governing Body but the finances will remain separate for each school. Councillor Appleton informed the Members that the Headteacher would spend time in both schools on a basis of half weeks respectively. Dafydd Johnson continues as acting Headteacher of Gwernymynydd CP for time being but will revert to his previous position of Deputy Headteacher upon finalisation of the Federation of the two schools. To ease the financial situation for the school Councillor Appleton informed the Members that a grant would be forthcoming in January 2018. With regard to the school numbers Councillor Appleton was pleased to announce that more pupils would be attending the school.

Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that the school and Governors were looking forward to the progressive way ahead which will bring many challenges to the school, he also related that it was the Harvest Festival at the school tomorrow and that all Councillors were invited to the event.

8. Remembrance Sunday, 12th November 2017

Councillors discussed the work of upgrading of the gardens and war memorial at its site within the Village Centre grounds. The refurbishment work had started and is in line with all that has been discussed previously, e.g. an increase in the hard standing area, the trees to be trimmed back and new fencing. Councillor Carl Jackson informed the Members that all was now complete apart from a small amount of work needed to tidy the garden. With regard to planting of the flower beds, Cambria College had been approached for their help and guidance and Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that this work would be undertaken in the Spring.

With respect to a possible opening ceremony of the garden/memorial following completion of the work Councillor Kevin Hughes stated that he would ask the Quarries Management team, Mr. Ken Skates AM, Mr. David Hanson MP, and the Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council to attend the event, most probably on a Friday but depending on the availability of the invited guests.

Concerning the Remembrance Sunday Service, all has been organised as previous, e.g. the Reverend Mary Brotherston to conduct the service, cubs/scouts, school pupils to come along, the piper to play, the former school bell to toll and the PA System to be obtained. The Clerk informed the Members that 10 large plastic poppies had been ordered from Flintshire County Council and that these would be made available ready for display on the day.

9. Gwernymynydd Community Council's Website

As stated previously Councillors Vicky Hinstridge, Heidi Jackson and Charlotte Dawson 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 informed the Members that although initially she had received interest from 2 residents from within the village to help look into improving the website one had now stated that she was unable to help. Estimated costs had been obtained for the work, however budgetary constraints were of a concern for the project.

The Sub-Committee will continue to pursue this item to satisfaction by seeking additional quotes for the work in order to achieve an efficient cost effective and informative website.

10. Police Matters and Member Reports

There was no Police presence at the meeting and no submitted police report.

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.

Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that there were problems near to the Llys Enfys/A494 junction, the grass verges needed to be cut and vehicles were parking near to the junction and causing an obstructive nuisance. PCSO Arrowsmith to be informed of the latter problem.

Also Councillor Hughes stated that he had again approached Flintshire County Council about the problem of the Minffordd Fields parking area and because of the close proximity of the subsided surface to the pavement he had requested the Council to take the appropriate action on the matter. 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. As stated previously concerns were again 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 the proposed way forward of removing the grassed area near the garages and replacing with tarmac was again discussed and may proceed subject to funds being made available.

Member Area Reports.

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

Ruthin Road, Councillors again raised their concerns regarding the former Rainbow Inn's possible demolition, Councillor Kevin Hughes outlined to the Members the poor condition of the building's interior but with respect to demolition the necessary planning consent would need to be given; to date there was no such application; Councillor Hughes also informed the Members that there were lights out near to the site; concerns were again raised reference to cyclists travelling at speed down the A494 Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd hill, the cyclists were considered to be a danger to themselves, to members of the public and to vehicular traffic. Councillor Hughes informed the Members that North Wales Police were investigating the issue.

With regard to the Village Newsletter Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that due to printing problems being experienced at FLVC the Newsletter would be late this month?

11. Planning Matters

The Clerk reported to the Members that he had received no planning applications for the Council to view, to submit opinions and observations.

The Members received the information by e-mail regarding the Planning Weekly List, reference to decisions taken by the Planning Authority.

12. Finance

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for October the details of which can be found on page 2017; 63.

To receive the comments and observations from the external auditor BDO LLP acting on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales.

The Clerk related to the Members the contents of the report issued by the External Auditor BDO LLP. The Auditor raised minor issues, comments on the budgetary process, minuting approval, certificate of documents for audit and minuting of the annual return. The Auditor also raised issues relating to the Council's website whereby information concerning elected Councillors needs to be available and includes any declarations of interest. All the items outlined were discussed in detail and the Council resolved to accept the criticism and to take heed of the submitted comments. The Clerk was requested to adhere to the recommendations given by BDO LLP.

The Members approved and accepted the report issued by the External Auditor.

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

Councillor Vicky Hinstridge reminded the Members that to progress the Development/Action Plan and its review a Sub-Committee would be established, that consultation with the community should again take place and that the Council would commence this initiative in September.

Councillor Hinstridge related to the Members that the Sub-Committee had met to discuss the issues and that another meeting would be held shortly. Councillor Hinstridge stated that she would be in contact with the Members of the Sub-Committee in order to arrange another meeting to discuss the review. The Action Plan could then be started to be discussed in detail at the November meeting with the intention of relaunching the Development Plan in January and undertaking full consultation with the community by adopting the same format for obtaining ideas that was used previously. Councillor Hinstridge informed the Members that the date put forward by the Sub-Committee for the relaunch of the Plan was the 20th January 2018.

14. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd

The Xmas Fayre was discussed by the Members who again highlighted the success of the previous event, 2016. Again Ideas for the Fayre were requested from Members for further discussion on the topic. Councillor Vicky Hinstridge confirmed that the date for the event would be the 17th December at the Village Centre, 2.00 to 4.00 PM.

The Members agreed to follow the same format as of 2016, this proving to be a successful and well attended event, the money raised to go this year to Hope House. Councillor Kevin Hughes stated that he would contact the school in order for the pupils to be actively involved and Councillor Vicky Hinstridge agreed to advertise the event on the Gwernymynydd/Cadole Facebook site.

15. Reports

Outside Bodies

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

Councillor Marjorie Thomson provided for the Members full and comprehensive reports on One Voice Wales AGM and Conference and the Flintshire County Council, County Forum; information leaflets and booklets were also given by Councillor Thomson for the benefit of the Members.

Councillor Thomson informed the Members that Mark Draford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government outlined to the Conference the percentage cuts in finance that is to be experienced in 8/9th year of austerity measures, Wales is facing a 5.3% reduction compared to a 15% cut for England. Regarding Principal Councils there will still be the 22 local authorities but regional working arrangements will be actively encouraged. The Local Government Bill is scheduled for June/July 2018. For Town and Community Councils guidance from Welsh Government will be produced to help them take on more responsibility from Unitary Authorities. Concerns were expressed at Conference with regard to unfulfilled or uncontested Town and Community Council elections, discussions ensued around whether 16/17 year olds should be able to vote and for more modern methods of voting e.g. electronic means be employed. Councillor Thomson outlined the salient points of Huw Vaughan Thomas' Report, the Auditor General for Wales. Lyn Cadwallader the Chief Executive for One Voice Wales provided information in relation to the NHS in Wales, there will be by the year 2021 an expected 36% increase in costs to deliver services to the respective communities. Mr. Cadwallader informed the Conference that there is a need for Councils to adapt their Precepts to provide adequate services to the communities.

With respect to the Flintshire County Forum Councillor Marjorie Thomson outlined the discussions that took place regarding the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order, Community Asset Transfer and the Community Review Guidance and Boundary Commission. Councillor Thomson provided for the Members the main discussion points relating to Local Government Reform Consultation and its possible effect on the future role of Town and Community Councils. Colin Everett the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council outlined the County's plan for its Well Being Strategy, the information to be imparted via its website. With regard to the National and Local Budget Position, Mr. Everett stated that a settlement reduction of 0.99% would have an effect on Council Services and that options such as charging for the collection of green/garden waste were being considered. The County Forum Local Charter requires a review and to undertake this action a task and finish group is to be established. For the Agenda Item, Town and Community Councils, Councillor Thomson provided information for the Members on Theatr Clwyd, its commitment to the community and to outreach to schools and colleges. In her final statement on the Report Councillor Thomson provided information on the next scheduled meetings of the Forum. These being 28th February, 19th June and the 4th October 2018, an invitation to attend the meetings is extended to the Members.

Sub-Committees

There were no additional items for discussion.

16. Correspondence

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

17. Late Correspondence

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

The Boundary Commission for Wales, Revised Proposals Report, the 2018 Review; Welsh Border Community Transport, Community Transport Funding, a request for financial assistance.

With respect to the latter item the Clerk was requested to obtain additional information regarding the usage of the transport within Gwernymynydd and Cadole.

By e-mail; Flintshire County Council, follow up notes on the County Forum meeting; Flintshire County Council, Streetscene, regarding an offer of assistance concerning Bonfire Night and any forthcoming events at Christmas time.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 26th October 2017

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary	391.81
	Postage	9.40
		<u>401.21</u>
Clwyd Pension Fund	Employer's contribution	115.78
Hick's Accountancy	Council's Accountant (PAYE)	240.00
Flintshire County Council	Playscheme	1,309.00
FLVC	Council's printing	16.84
Deeco Lighting	Streetlight maintenance	289.25
Scottish Power	Streetlight energy charge	190.51
		<u>2,562.59</u>