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Clerk to the Council
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Nr. MOLD
Flintshire
CH7 6HY

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2020 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

Chairman: Carl Jackson.

The Chairman welcomed the Members to the meeting following the Covid-19 lockdown imposed in late March. The Clerk informed the Members of the procedures that needed to be undertaken to comply with the Covid-19 rules and regulations and he also welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

Councillors Present

Frances Rosedale, Marjorie Thomson, Stephen Foley, John Homersley
Julie Crabtree, Nancy Matthews, June Perrin and Michael Meadway

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor; Louisa Citra

In Attendance

Councillor Kevin Hughes

2. 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.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the February Meeting

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

4. To Approve the Information Notes for the Covid-19 Lockdown Months of March, April, May, June, July and July/August/September.

The Minutes of the above notes had been distributed and were confirmed as a true record of the business transacted during the lockdown months.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the February Meeting and the Covid-19 Lockdown Notes**

The Members confirmed that there were no matters arising from the above Minutes and the respective notes issued during the lockdown months.

6. **Vacancy for a Councillor on the Gwernymynydd Community Council**

The Clerk outlined to the Members the procedures that now need to be followed as a result of the confirmed resignation of Councillor Chris Bradshaw. The Clerk explained to the Members the reasons for the delay in processing the procedures that had to be followed to fill the vacancy, these being Welsh Government Regulations attributed to Covid-19 precautions stipulated by Government.

The Members stated their thanks to Councillor Chris Bradshaw for all the work he undertook during his term of office as a Councillor and for his total commitment to the community of Gwernymynydd.

7. **Federated CP Schools (Gwernymynydd and Gwernaffield), Governors Report to the Council**

Councillor Kevin Hughes in his report to the Members stated that the children were now back at school and that the teachers and assistants were working well with the procedures that were now needed to be followed in compliance with the Covid-19 precautions. Councillor Hughes informed the Members that although the news is late the scheduled 'leaving party' for the pupils had gone well and everyone was pleased with the event.

Councillor Hughes outlined his concerns to the Members about the lack of security cameras at the school. There had been some reported vandalism and also of unwanted incidents on the school premises which were of a serious concern to the Headteacher and her colleagues. Councillor Hughes asked the Members would they consider granting funds towards the cost of installing CCTV at the school. Councillors discussed the proposal in depth and considered the options available with regard to the hire or borrowing of a CCTV system on a short term basis from North Wales Police or of increasing the support grant from the Council from £600 to £1,000 to help towards the purchase of CCTV at the school. Councillor Hughes related to the Members that at the present moment the full cost of a CCTV system was unknown but that the school was exploring what would be needed and what the full cost of installation would be.

Following on from the discussion the Members agreed in principle to financially support the school in its endeavour to install CCTV but would await the full costs to be verified.

8. **Gwernymynydd Community Council's Website**

The Clerk informed the Members that following on from the past problems experienced with the Council's website local resident Mr. John Seddon had come forward to take over responsibility for the website and as a result of his intervention the website had been brought up to date to satisfy Wales Audit and the corresponding Welsh Government Regulations. The Clerk also informed the Members that Mr. Seddon would be undertaking further work on the website in order to bring it up to a satisfactory standard to serve the community.

The Members expressed their thanks to Mr. Seddon and requested the Clerk to forward on their appreciation to him.

9 Police Matters and Member Reports

The Clerk informed the Members that he had received an apology for absence from PCSO Emma Owen stating unfortunately she would not be able to attend the meeting, however, PCSO Owen did provide the Clerk with a Police Report, this was forwarded to the Members for discussion at the meeting.

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

Blaen Wern; as stated in previous minutes indiscriminate vehicle parking was in part still causing a nuisance. Councillor Carl Jackson informed the Members of the obstructive nuisance of vehicles being parked half on the pavement and half on the road and in some cases completely on the pavement, as in previous minutes Councillor Jackson requested the Clerk to contact PCSO Owen with the view to visiting Blaen Wern and hopefully resolving the expressed concerns. **Cadole,** Councillor Michael Meadway reported to the Members the continuing problem of nuisance caused by vehicles being parked obstructively in the village, concerning the Cadole/Gwernaffield Road improvements by road markings had been undertaken to make motorists aware of their speed.

Member Area Reports.

Tros y Wern; Llys Enfys; Ruthin Road; Cadole and Glyndwr Road in these areas there were no items for discussion.

Swan Lane, Councillors Marjorie Thomson and John Homersley stated that overhanging trees and bushes were still causing a nuisance and interference, some areas had previously been trimmed back but not enough, it was noted by the Members that Councillor Kevin Hughes and Mr. Andrew Lightfoot of Streetscene were still pursuing this matter with Scottish Power, B.T and Mr. John Edgar.

Blaen Wern, Councillor Carl Jackson related to the Members the issues of a neighbourly dispute in the street. **Minffordd Fields,** Councillor Kevin Hughes, as stated in previous minutes related to the Members that he was working closely with Flintshire County Council's Legal Department in order to resolve the concerns of residents in relation to streetlight maintenance, surface water run-off, the steep steps leading onto Swan Lane and road repairs on the estate. Councillor Hughes informed the Members that he was pursuing the possibility of land transfer or adoption at Minffordd Fields to Flintshire County Council or perhaps land transfer to the individual residents and that the discussions on the various issues would hopefully be scheduled to take place in the near future.

Councillor Hughes again related to the Members that he will continue to provide updates of information to all residents in Minffordd Fields and that hopefully he would be able to call more public meetings if the Covid-19 situation eases, these again would be held in the Village Centre.

The stated concerns of the Members would be taken forward to Flintshire County Council.

10. Planning Matters

The Clerk reported to the Members that to date there has been no submitted planning applications for the Members to consider.

Councillor Kevin Hughes provided for the Members an update of the planning application submission for the Plas Aney proposed development in the Mold South Ward. Councillor Hughes explained that the proposal was to be heard in the Planning and Development Committee, Flintshire County Council soon with the Officers concerned recommending refusal of the application. Councillor Hughes also informed the Members about the appearance of traffic counters on the A494, Ruthin Road, these had been placed not by NMW Trunk Road Agency but by an Agent working on behalf of a developer. The NMW Agency removed the counters.

11. Finance

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for September the details of which can be found on page 2020; 38.

The Clerk provided for the Members the detailed report received from the Council's Internal Auditor, Mr. David Griffiths reference to the end of year accounts, 2019/2020. The Members accepted the report from the Council's Internal Auditor and resolved to act upon the points of concern so raised in the report.

The Clerk provided information to the Members on the National Pay Award Agreement for full and part-time Council Clerks, the Clerk requested the Members to consider the points raised in the National Pay Award.

The Clerk provided for the Members copies of the existing Financial Risk Assessment and reminded the Members that the Council's Internal Auditor Mr. David Griffiths would be attending the October meeting of the Council to discuss the Risk Assessment in detail. The Clerk advised Councillors to examine the Risk Assessment and to consider any changes that they may feel to be relevant.

Please note that because the Clwyd Pension Department at County Hall has all its staff working from home the Council's cheque to the Pension Fund for the Clerk, the Employer's Contribution, will be paid directly to the Clerk for submission by BACS to the pension fund.

12. Gwernymynydd Community Council's Action Plan, 2018/19/20

Members had been previously reminded by Councillor Chris Bradshaw 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 should commence this initiative as soon as possible in 2020. The Members of that Sub-Committee outlined the main topics of the discussion held at the last meeting and confirmed the progress that had been made.

The Members outlined what had been achieved and drew reference to the 'dog walking area' the wildflower meadow, the orchard, the beehives and bees project. Members also stated the improvements made to the Village Newsletter which on a regular basis contains much village news and events planned in the community.

Councillors again emphasised that the Council's Action Plan was important, it needed to be taken forward and have consultation with the community and Councillors all agreed to continue to pursue the Plan with such projects in mind accordingly.

13. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd

Councillor Kevin Hughes related to the Members that the Council needed to set a date for the litter pick. Members discussed the proposal and resolved to aim for the school half term week date of Saturday the 24th October at 10.00 am. The litter pick initiative being dependant upon the Covid-19 situation and any rules that may be applied by the Welsh Government.

Regarding the equipment to be used for the litter pick Members agreed to request of Mold Town Council a loan of the necessary tools for the day.

14. Reports

Outside Bodies

With reference to the Village Centre Management Committee, an update of usage and information concerning the Village Centre was provided for the Members by Councillor Nancy Matthews. Councillor Matthews informed the Members that the Village Centre Committee had appointed Mr. George Godwin as Treasurer and that he had worked tirelessly to obtain a grant of £10,000 to help finance the Centre's shortfall due to the Covid-19 situation and the fact that bills had to be paid but with very little income coming in. Councillor Matthews explained that the conditions of hire of the facilities needed to be worked through with the Committee and that help had been obtained from Flintshire County Council regarding Covid-19 and the respective safety precautions to be taken. The Centre's Health and Safety Policy had been brought up to date and approved by the Committee.

Councillor Michael Meadway informed the Members that the wildflower meadow and orchard at the Centre were doing well as were the beehives and bees; work on the meadow would continue next year with a re-seeding programme.

Councillors discussed the proposal of putting planters at the Centre and Councillor June Perrin suggested that the £300 donated to the Council from the Gwernymynydd Coffee Morning Club could be used to finance the project. This proposal was put to the Members and was supported unanimously.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson informed the Members of the proposed Mold Town Council initiative of a Mobile Library of Things, this being a lending facility of tools and equipment that could be borrowed by members of the public to enable them to complete DIY tasks without the costly need to purchase the required tools etc. Councillor Thomson informed the Members that she would be attending virtual meetings in order to be kept up to date with One Voice Wales matters, e.g. Councillor Thomson outlined to the Members the training programme available for Councillors by Webinar, the training costs being supplemented by Welsh Government grants.

The Chairman and Members thanked Councillor Marjorie Thomson for the especially useful information provided to them.

Sub-Committees

There were no additional items for discussion.

15. Correspondence

Items 1 and 2 were received by the Council.

16. Late Correspondence

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

By e-mail; Flintshire County Council, information relating to 'free school meals'; One Voice Wales, information concerning 'fly tipping'; WBCT a request for financial assistance.

Gwernymynydd Indoor Bowls Club a request for financial assistance regarding this item the Members resolved to keep the financial submission in abeyance until the Covid-19 situation improved and the Bowls Club was back playing at the Village Centre.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson informed the Members that she had been in contact with Hannah Blythyn MS regarding the poor Broadband Service in the Village, Councillor Thomson related to the Members that Hannah had responded positively and was pursuing the complaint.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 24th September 2020

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary,	488.60
	Postage	4.56
	Office 365, Council's computer	79.99
	Ink for the Council's printer	52.29
		625.44
Vicki Shinks (Blake)	A re-issue of an un-presented cheque, reference to the website	71.86
Clwyd Pension Fund, via T.M Richardson	Employer's contribution, October	140.72
Gwernymynydd CP School	Annual support grant	600.00
		<u>1,438.02</u>