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

Chairman: Due to an apology for absence being received from the Chairman the Vice-Chairman Councillor Carl Jackson Chaired the meeting.

Councillors Present

Frances Rosedale, Keith Taylor, Karen Jones, John Homersley, Kevin Hughes Heidi Jackson and Marjorie Thomson.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Vicky Hinstridge and Jacqueline Jepson.

In Attendance

Councillor Nancy Matthews, PCSO Chey Arrowsmith and colleague Amy Jones.

2. Co-option of a new Councillor

The Clerk reported to the Members that he had not received any applications nor any enquiries regarding the vacancy for a Councillor. This vacancy will therefore be kept open pending such a time that someone may be interested in filling the post.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the November 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.

2016; 59, Councillor Keith Taylor had previously informed the Members that the North Wales Wildlife Trust would be taking over the Visitors' Centre at the former Aberduna Quarry in the near future and that Mr. Andrew Lloyd Jones would like to come along to a Council meeting to outline the work the Trust will be undertaking at the former Quarry. Councillor Taylor related to the Members that following discussions with Mr. Lloyd Jones he confirmed his availability for attendance at the March meeting.

5. Gwernymynydd CP School, Governors Report to the Council

Councillor Kevin Hughes provided an update of what was happening at the school, pupil numbers were creeping up and this was seen as a positive step towards being renowned as an excellent school which was greatly appreciated by the community. Councillor Hughes informed the Members that there would be a Governors meeting shortly and he also reported on the excellent day visit to Plas Hafod by the children in the Nursery Class. Councillor Hughes related to the Members that the Christmas Fayre was a success with funds over £1,000 being raised

Councillor Kevin Hughes again stated that the Governors' continue to promote the school through the local media and the Village Newsletter in efforts to increase pupil numbers.

6 Police Matters and Member Reports

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting PCSO Chey Arrowsmith and his colleague PCSO Amy Jones. PCSO Arrowsmith outlined to the Members the local situation in relation to crimes. There had been 2 major incidents involving the theft of money, these were still being investigated at this moment in time. Also he informed the Members of the 'break in' at the Nercwys Recycling Site whereby power tools had been stolen.

Councillors asked about the parking of trailers on village estate roads, in his reply PCSO Arrowsmith outlined the legal situation regarding the question.

Councillor Frances Rosedale requested information regarding the recent Road Traffic Incidents caused by the severe winter weather. PCSO Arrowsmith in his reply stated that the police were involved but the causation was due to the snowfall and icy conditions on the A494 trunk road and the lack of salt/grit. Councillor Kevin Hughes commented upon the community spirit displayed by the local residents who voluntarily pitched in to salt the road in order to make safe the busy A494 trunk road for traffic.

Councillor Nancy Matthews commented upon the parking of the Go Safe CCTV van in the Nercwys area, a location where there has been little concern in relation to traffic incidents. In his reply PCSO Arrowsmith stated that he had no knowledge about the Go Safe van and its siting, this responsibility being part of the Traffic Safety Department.

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.

Member Area Reports.

Blaen Wern; Swan Lane; Cadole and Minffordd Fields; in these areas there were no items to report for discussion.

Ruthin Road, Councillors reported a series of streetlights for attention along the A494; **Llys Enfys,** Councillor Keith Taylor related to the Members that the storm drains near to the former Rainbow Inn were blocked with fallen leaves, in reply to this complaint Councillor Nancy Matthews informed the Members that work to clear the debris was scheduled to be undertaken shortly;

Glyndwr Road, Councillor Nancy Matthews informed the Members that the streetlight previously reported for attention was now working; **Tros y Wern**, Councillor Kevin Hughes reported a streetlight for attention.

Councillor Heidi Jackson raised her concerns with regard to the filthy/dirty condition of the pavements within the village. Councillor Nancy Matthews in her reply to the Council reported that the sweeping schedule was on a 6-week cycle and was due in the village shortly.

The Clerk was requested to report the concerns and complaints to the appropriate authority.

7. Planning Matters

Pre-planning application consultation for a mobile phone base station installation located at the Rainbow Garage, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd.

Councillor Nancy Matthews reported to the Members on the above issue and she also outlined the actions she had taken on the matter. The Members thanked her for her report and requested that the Clerk writes to the Company outlining the similar concerns of the Council.

CM/056196, Display of a Stacker Sign Advertisement located at the former Rainbow Inn, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd.

After full consultation the Members raised no objection to this planning application.

SCB/056349, To fell 21 Conifers, 5 Ash and 6 Beeches (as specified in the tree survey) within the Cadole Conservation Area, located at Bod Arthur, Cadole.

Councillor Nancy Matthews reported to the Members that this application had now been amended to provide a more acceptable proposal.

DJM/056287, Swap out and relocation of the existing 10m high monopole for a 12m high alpha monopole, installation of 3 equipment cabinets and associated development located at land opposite to Fair Haven, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd.

The Planning Sub-Committee had discussed this application in detail and recommended to the Council that Members object to the proposal. After full consultation the Members agreed with the points outlined by the Planning Sub-Committee and raised the following objections to this planning application.

This Council objects most strongly to the submitted application for the following reasons:-

1. The proposed mast, at 12.5m, 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 proposed mast site by the Trunk Road Agency, this needs to be taken into account
7. 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
8. This Council appreciates that improvements in technology needs such types of equipment as that proposed, however this installation is too close to housing 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.

In addition to the above objections Councillor Nancy Matthews outlined to the Members the research work she had undertaken with reference to radiation emissions, the associated radio frequency and the splay emittance hazard to nearby housing.

With regard to the application being discussed in the Planning and Development Control Committee, Flintshire County Council, Councillors Kevin Hughes and Nancy Matthews volunteered to speak on behalf of the Council outlining the concerns and objections of the community.

By e-mail, Planning Weekly List, reference to decisions taken by the Planning authority.

With reference to the Council's Planning Sub-Committee, Councillor Keith Taylor informed the Members that he wished to step down and to be replaced by another Member. Councillor Taylor in his address to the Council outlined the many years he had served on the Sub-Committee and he wished his successor well for the future. Councillor Heidi Jackson was nominated and accepted to replace Councillor Taylor.

8. Finance

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for January the details of which can be found on page 2017; 07.

The Clerk presented to the Council the Financial Statement 2016/2017. Based upon the information provided the Members then determined the Council's Precept and Budgetary requirements for the forthcoming Municipal Year 2017/18 from Flintshire County Council based upon the calculated Council Tax Base of 560.89 Band 'D' equivalent properties.

The Clerk outlined to the Members the financial burden that the Council would face in 2017/18, the Summer Playscheme costs had increased by £400, the Council Elections were to take place in May 2017 resulting in at least a minimum administration cost and there was a concern with regard to the condition of the streetlights and a possible programme of improvement.

The Clerk had recommended to the Members that the Precept for the Council be £15,000, the Precept amount equating to an increase in the Community Council Tax requirements by 2.2%.

The Members fully discussed the financial implications and the Council's commitments to the community and resolved to accept the Clerk's recommendation of an increase of 2.2% to the Community Council Tax.

Councillor Keith Taylor related his concerns about raising the Precept by 2.2% and wished to record his objection to the increased amount.

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

The Members resolved to discuss the Action Plan in more detail at future meetings of the Council.

With respect to the Gwernymynydd Development Plan, its associated Action Plan and in particular the item referring to Quarries, Councillors Vicky Hinstridge, Kevin Hughes and Nancy Matthews reported to the Members the details of their recent site visit to the Cambrian Quarry. Councillor Hughes outlined to the Members the works taking place to stabilise the rock faces in order to prevent collapse. Councillors informed everyone about the improvements that had been undertaken with the vehicle wheel wash systems, the works done to prevent soil/mud carry over onto the A494, Ruthin Road. Councillor Hughes informed the Members of detailed report on the Quarry given to the local press, the article providing up to date news on the undertakings at the Cambrian Quarry.

Councillor Vicky Hinstridge informed the Members that she had suggested to the Quarry's Management the possibility of holding an 'Open Day' in the summer months in order to provide an insight into the Quarry's workings and achievements. The suggestion was favourably received.

Councillor Kevin Hughes also informed the Members that he had gained permission from the Quarry Management to undertake an aerial view of the Quarry utilising a remote controlled drone. The resultant recording to be made available to Councillors.

With reference to dog fouling within the village, although requests to dog owners to pick up and bag the faeces is repeatedly made in the Village Newsletter fouling of the pavements and verges still continues to be a nuisance. The Members resolved to action the printing of flyers and their distribution throughout the village in order to ask residents to be vigilant and to report inconsiderate dog owners to Flintshire County Council's Enforcement Team and to request considerate dog owners to continue 'poop scooping'.

10. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd

With reference to the Christmas event, (it would have the following; a tree that would be decorated with presents or handmade festive decorations given by children, craft stalls, refreshments (cakes, mince pies, tea, coffee and soft drinks), small boxes filled with 'stocking fillers', music and carol singing and a raffle) the Members reported the event to be an outstanding success and truly appreciated by the community. The shoebox appeal was a real success story and compliments were paid to the Councillors who gave up their time on the day to provide such a worthwhile village occasion.

As stated previously the Members had agreed that the charity chosen to benefit from the Christmas event would be the Domestic Abuse Safety Unit based in Deeside; resulting from the outstanding success made on the day, many parcels were given to the Unit and all were gratefully received.

Members were informed of a Cycle Ride planned in the near future and Councillor Kevin Hughes reported that an indoor carpet bowls club would be formed and would use the Village Centre for the activity, the Welsh Indoor Bowls Association promoting the club and the activity under the Welsh Government Initiative, 'Bowl for Life'.

11. Reports

Outside Bodies

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

Councillor Nancy Matthews provided for the Members information concerning to the Flintshire County Council's LDP and its relationship with Category C Rural Villages and affordable housing.

Sub-Committees

There were no additional items for discussion.

12. Correspondence

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

13. Late Correspondence

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

A letter of thanks from the Gwernymynydd Village Pantomime Group for the kind donation given by the Council; A letter of invitation to the Mayor of Mold's Valentine Charity Dinner; Information relating to the Summer Playscheme and its associated costs; By e-mail; information received from the Best Kept Communities Competition 2017; The District Police Inspector, Jonathan Bowcott's Monthly Newsletter; Information relating to the forthcoming Council Elections.

Chairman.....

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

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary	391.81
	Postage	12.57
		<u>404.38</u>
Mr. John Seddon	Council's website fee	80.00
FLVC	Council's Printing	45.03
Scottish Power	Streetlight energy charge	190.01
Deeco Lighting	Streetlight maintenance charge	289.25
Flintshire County Council	Clwyd Pension Fund admittance fee	900.00
Gwernymynydd Village Centre	Hire charge	35.00
		<u>1,943.67</u>