



# Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the Village Centre,  
Gwernymynydd.

**Chairman:** Carl Jackson (Vice-Chairman)

## **Councillors Present**

Frances Rosedale, Keith Taylor, Karen Jones, Kevin Hughes, Vicky Hinstridge  
Heidi Jackson and John Homersley,

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marjorie Thomson and  
Jacqueline Jepson

### **In Attendance**

Councillor Nancy Matthews and 3 Members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting all 3 Members of the Public.

### **2. North Wales Wildlife Trust, Aberduna Quarry**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. Adrian Lloyd Jones who proceeded to give a presentation to the Members with regard to the Trust, its objectives and its progress in relation to the former Aberduna Quarry, Maeshafn. Mr. Lloyd Jones provided for the Members background information and history relating to the former Quarry, its owners, the future land management issues and the formation of a Nature Reserve. He outlined the plans in place to preserve the natural flora and fauna and also the intentions to open up the Reserve to the public. Mr. Lloyd Jones explained how the Trust would be retaining some of the former Quarry buildings and the car parking facility in order to provide suitable accommodation to Trust Volunteers and visitors to the Reserve.

Councillor Nancy Matthews asked if the Trust would be obtaining a classroom to accommodate visiting school parties, in reply Mr. Lloyd Jones stated that this would certainly be a future proposal, however funds did not permit this at the moment. With regard to possible landfill proposals to take place within parts of the Quarry, Mr. Lloyd Jones replied that at this moment in time there were no such plans or suggestions.

In summing up the presentation Mr. Lloyd Jones provided for the Members and visitors information booklets outlining the work the Trust aims to undertake at the Quarry.

The Chairman and Members thanked Mr. Lloyd Jones for coming along to the meeting and for providing an insight to the Nature Reserve at the Aberduna Quarry.

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

The Members again discussed the option of purchasing two defibrillators for emergency use within the community and Councillor Vicky Hintridge provided for the Members information relating to training which was being undertaken and promoted by the Mold Town Council.

The Clerk informed the Members that he had been in contact with Cadwyn Clwyd who were able to provide funding for such schemes through the Rural Development Fund and as such Sarah Jones from the organisation would like to attend the May meeting in order to outline the process. The Members agreed with the said proposal.

**4. Information for Councillors following the Town/Community Elections, held on the 4th May. 2017**

The Clerk outlined to the Members information relating to the Council meeting in May following the Town/Community Election process. The 3 vacant positions may be filled by Co-option at the meeting or held in abeyance for 35 days without the need to advertise the said vacancies. Also in relation to the approval of such Agenda items as the Council's Code of Conduct, the Council Financial Regulations and Standing Orders the Members agreed to receive the information by e-mail in order to reduce the costs of postage.

**5 To Approve the Minutes of the March 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.**

There were no issues raised for discussion by the Members.

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

Councillors Kevin Hughes and Nancy Matthews 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 stated that he had been involved in putting together an advertisement for Mrs Williams' replacement and that this would be going out in the near future.

Councillor Hughes again stated that Louise had been a really good and efficient Headteacher in the time she had been at the school and that the Governors would be sorry to see her leave. The Members also concurred with Councillor Hughes' opinions.

Councillor Hughes informed the Members that there was a slight increase in pupils joining the school and that ASH Waste Services had sponsored an essay writing competition, 'Super Heroes', the children's own stories.

## 8 Police Matters and Member Reports

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

Councillor Kevin Hughes reported to the Members the salient points of the recently held South Flintshire Police Consultation meeting. The objectives stated in the Police Report to the meeting related to Domestic Abuse, Slavery, Sexual Abuse, Organised Crime and Neighbourhood Issues. Visual policing was discussed in depth but not truly taken on board by the Police. In terms of local issues Gwernymynydd did reasonably well with just 12 problems reported for investigation. The overall statistics showed an increase of 16.5% in crime, burglaries down by 15% and car damage/theft. With respect to issues involving the local community the Police have agreed to contact the Gwernymynydd/Cadole facebook site to warn and make residents aware of any problems.

**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.

### **Member Area Reports.**

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

**Ruthin Road,** Councillors reported streetlights for attention along the A494, **Hafod Road,** the dog litter bin located in this area has a rotted/sharp lid and needs to be replaced; **Llys Enfys,** Councillor Keith Taylor again related to the Members that the storm drains and gullies in the area were blocked with fallen leaves and debris, in reply to this complaint Councillor Nancy Matthews informed the Members that Flintshire County Council Streetscene were aware of the issue and would be rectifying the problem as soon as possible, also similar problems had been reported to the Trunk Road Agency for attention reference to the junction with the A494; **Cadole;** Councillors reported that a new 'dog litter bin' had been installed in the area; **Glyndwr Road,** Councillor Nancy Matthews brought to the attention of Members the nuisance caused by litter louts, also with reference to this item Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that he witnessed a person fly tipping some waste in the area, his action in reporting the issue to Flintshire County Council resulted in prosecution of the offender.

## 9. Planning Matters

Prior to the Agenda being printed and sent out to Members the Council had not received any planning applications from Flintshire County Council for Members to pass their observations and comments. However, 3 applications were then received before the April meeting, these were as follows:-

**BMK/056527, Amendment to the Bod Arthur, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd, application, reference to the balcony.**

The above planning application was discussed by Councillors at the recent Planning Sub-Committee meeting and further in full Council; the Members raised no objections to the proposals and as such gave full approval to the application.

**DGJ/056714, Outline application for the erection of 3 dwellings located at Smith's Haulage Yard, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd.**

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

1. Access/egress to and from the site 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 emphasizes this statement that there have been numerous road traffic incidents in this location. The access/egress point is near 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 would exacerbate an already hazardous traffic situation. The Council is of the opinion that the Welsh Government, Trunk Road Agency would need to be consulted on this proposed development with respect to the A 494.
2. There would be a problem of surface water run-off to neighbouring properties, particularly to the Hafod Road which already suffers from flooding. The building of additional 3 houses would exacerbate the problem.
3. It is anticipated that there would be a problem with the foul water system, to service an additional 3 houses on an already overstretched main would inevitably cause problems on the existing sewers.
4. Concerns are expressed with regard to underlying mine shafts and the stability of the ground area to accommodate the proposed houses.
5. The site is near to the AONB, the proposed development would be visually intrusive on the landscape. In this application the developer alters the existing landscape to crowd in the 3 houses. The dwellings would tower above Ruthin Road (A 494) and would be completely out of character with the locality.
6. The proposed development shows 3 houses very close to the A 494, being side-on towards the trunk road and also with a rear garden facing the A494, other permitted developments, e.g. Hafod y Wern, are located well away from the trunk road.

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 undertaken to view the proposed development taking into account the objections of this Council.

**BMK/056757, Installation of a 17.5m monopole supporting 2 in number antennae within a shroud, 2 in number cabinets and ancillary development.**

The above planning application was discussed by Councillors at the recent Planning Sub-Committee meeting and further 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 17.5m, 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, both opposite to and at the rear of the proposed mast, this factor needs to be earnestly considered and the application rejected. The height of the mast is on a line with the said neighbouring properties and therefore the radiation splay would bathe those houses near to the mast.

5. The proposed location for the mast lies within the site of a former Welsh Chapel, the Chapel was demolished some time ago in order to provide better vision lines for traffic travelling along the very busy A494 Trunk Road, consultation needs to be undertaken with the Welsh Government's Trunk Road Agency on this matter.

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 Council received the information given by e-mail; the Planning Weekly List, reference to decisions taken by the Planning Authority.

## **10. Finance**

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for March the details of which can be found on page 2017; 26.

The Clerk informed the Members of the amount of funds held by the Council as of the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017; in the Community Account the amount stands at £2,367.78 and in the Deposit Account the amount is £18,158.44.

The Clerk reported to the Members that he had received a letter requesting financial assistance from the Gwernymynydd Lunch Club; after full discussion the Members resolved to donate £50.00 to the organisation.

## **11. 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 following the Town/Community Council elections on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

## **12. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd**

Councillors reported that the annual litter pick held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April was very successful, the day was enjoyed by all involved and was well attended by members of the community. Councillors concurred that it was really good that employees of the local quarry got involved and helped everyone on the day. Overall the litter pick achieved its objective, 47 black sacks being collected and the community coming together to enjoy themselves. Councillor Kevin Hughes related that the event had been reported in the local press with many photographs showing children and adults coming together to clean up the two villages, Gwernymynydd and Cadole.

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.

Members were reminded that Councillor Jacqueline Jepson has organised a fund raising coffee morning in aid of Cancer Research and that this event would be taking place in the Village Centre on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

## **13. Reports**

### **Outside Bodies**

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

Councillor Nancy Matthews reported to the Members the salient points arising from the recently held Cefn Mawr Liaison Committee; production levels remain the same as previous although sales were reduced due a lull in the construction industry. There was a full discussion regarding 'dirty roads and pavements' and it was reported that the 2 quarries, Cefn Mawr and Cambrian, were working together to resolve the problem. Councillor Vicky Hinstridge informed the Members that Cefn Mawr Quarry management would be helping to refurbish Debra's Well and also working closely with the Gwernymynydd CP School.

Councillor Nancy Matthews reminded the Members that the Cambrian Quarry Open Day would be taking place in June, the event will be widely reported locally and it is hoped that it will be well supported.

### **Sub-Committees**

There were no additional items for discussion.

#### **14. Correspondence**

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

#### **15. Late Correspondence**

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

Flintshire County Council, Open space land within the responsibility of the Council for inclusion in consultation on implementing a Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order in Flintshire; Information from Wales Audit; Receipt of the FLVC Membership Certificate.

By e-mail; South Flintshire Police Consultative Meeting, to be held at Mold Town Hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017; White Paper, Reforming Local Government; One Voice Wales, Vexatious Complaints Policy.

At the close of the meeting the Members gathered together to wish Councillor Keith Taylor well in his retirement from local government and to present to him a gift in recognition of his long service given to the Gwernymynydd Community Council.

**Chairman.....**

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary	391.81
	Postage	6.40
		<b><u>398.21</u></b>
Deeco Lighting	Streetlight maintenance	289.25
FLVC	Council's printing	16.20
Clwyd Pension Fund	Employer's contribution	115.78
Gwernymynydd Village Centre	Hire charge	50.00
Gwernymynydd Lunch Club	Donation	50.00
Councillor Karen Jones	Litter pick Easter Eggs	40.00
Scottish Power	Streetlight energy charge	186.35
		<b><u>1,145.79</u></b>