



Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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CH7 6HY

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 25th January 2018 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

Chairman: Carl Jackson (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Present

Frances Rosedale, Marjorie Thomson, Michael Meadway, Nancy Matthews
James Appleton and Heidi Jackson

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors, Charlotte Dawson, John Homersley, Vicky Hinstridge and
Jacqueline Jepson.

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.

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

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.

12, 2017; 67; The Members again discussed the request for financial assistance submitted by the Welsh Border Community Transport. The Clerk had previously provided information received from the organisation, however Members had been concerned regarding the amount requested and the stated use of the Transport by local residents. The Members investigated the issue further and resolved not to donate funds to the organisation.

5. Defibrillators and First Responders within the Community

With reference to the previous Council meeting it was again outlined to the Members the initiative of utilising the Community Heartbeat Trust Lottery fund to purchase a defibrillator for the community. However, Councillor Jacquie Jepson informed the Members via the Clerk that the Council had failed in its bid to secure the said grant.

Members discussed the matter further and all agreed that the Council should proceed on its own accord to purchase a defibrillator for the community; the issue being too important not to go forward with the undertaking.

Issues raised regarding training for the unit including CPR, insurance liability and maintenance of the defibrillator would be investigated as a matter of course and would compliment the purchase of the essential equipment. Councillors Nancy Matthews and Frances Rosedale spoke highly about the valuable training courses that were available to organisations, stating that they were well worth attending.

Also, the Members agreed to pursue the requirement of obtaining volunteers to help and to act as First Responders and Councillor Marjorie Thomson suggested that all the issues could be brought together with the forthcoming re-launch in February of the Gwernymynydd Village Development Plan.

6. Gwernymynydd CP School, Governors Report to the Council

The Members were informed that there had been no meeting of the Governors however this would be resolved in the New Year as the school moved towards Federation with Gwernaffield CP School.

Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that training courses organised by Flintshire County Council, reference to the Federation of the schools, had been held in the Plas Hafod Hotel, Gwernymynydd and the courses had provided good and interesting information to all who attended. Also, Councillor Hughes informed the Members that the school's Xmas Fayre had raised over a £1,000.

Councillor Hughes informed the meeting that Mr Dafydd Johnson would continue as acting Headteacher of Gwernymynydd CP for the time being but would revert to his previous position of Deputy Headteacher upon finalisation of the Federation of the two schools.

Councillor Nancy Matthews informed the Members that the school and its Governors were looking forward to the progressive way ahead which would bring many challenges to the school.

7. Proposed Llys Enfys Play Area Improvement

For Members to consider the Section 106 Agreement (Rainbow Housing Development) and Match Funding from Flintshire County Council/Aura.

With respect to the previous meeting, reference below:-

‘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'.

The Clerk reported to the Members that Flintshire County Council had received many requests from Councils for match funding and that although they were pleased to announce that Gwernymynydd Community Council's submission had been approved the amount available for match funding was now £1,500.

The Members discussed the matter in depth and resolved to continue with the £3,000 contribution as determined at the previous meeting. Therefore, the total sum available to improve the Llys Enfys Play Area would be, £12,200.

8. 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.

Via the Clerk Councillor Hinstridge (by e-mail) informed the Members that she had been in contact with local resident Vicki Shinks to help adapt and improve the website and as such she would be able to provide a full report to Members at the next meeting.

9. National Children's Day 13/05/2018

Members agreed to discuss this Agenda Item at the next meeting of the Council.

10. Police Matters and Member Reports

There was no Police presence at the meeting and no submitted police report at the time of the meeting. However, an e-mail received from PCSO Chey Arrowsmith informed the Members that as from the 8th January 2018 he would be transferring to and be responsible to Buckley Town and its surrounding area. PCSO 2932 Owen, would then replace him, she would be responsible for what was previously his policing area.

Glyndwr Road; Minffordd Fields; 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. **Swan Lane;** previously Councillors had reported that a car parked opposite to the junction of Swan Lane/Ruthin Road (A494) was causing an obstruction to vehicles entering/leaving the Lane. This had been resolved on a temporary basis but now a truck was observed to be parking at that same place and again causing an obstruction. Councillor Kevin Hughes stated that he would pursue the complaint with NMWTRA, Flintshire County Council and North Wales Police.

Member Area Reports.

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

Blaen Wern, Councillor Carl Jackson again raised his concern regarding an abandoned vehicle parked in the road; **Swan Lane**, Councillor Marjorie Thomson again raised the complaint regarding overgrown trees/bushes along Swan Lane, Mr. Andrew Lightfoot to be contacted concerning the problem as the overgrowth was affecting the overhead telephone wires. Councillor Heidi Jackson raised her concerns regarding the lack of rock salt/grit in the Lane especially with the anticipated hard frosts and snow. Councillor Jackson informed the Members of her contact with Flintshire County Council on the matter and of the said Council's poor response. Councillor Kevin Hughes stated that he would pursue the complaint with Mr. Andrew Lightfoot, Streetscene. **Ruthin Road**; the Clerk brought to the attention of Councillors the complaint he had received from Mr. K. Taylor, reference to the poor state of the Rainbow housing development.

11. Planning Matters

LEJ/057822; erection of extension to existing house and garage located at Stanton, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd.

KCS/057881; alterations and extension to a dwelling located at 3, Paddock Way, Gwernymynydd.

The above planning applications were discussed by Councillors at the recent Planning Sub-Committee meeting and further in full Council; the Members raised no objections to the proposals

RMH/057648; demolition of existing former public house, erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings on the same building footprint, located at the Former Rainbow Inn, 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 the following concerns to the proposal, as such Councillors reluctantly approved the application but with the following comments.

Planning Services
Planning and Environment Directorate
Flintshire County Council
County Hall, MOLD
Flintshire

I refer to the above planning application which was discussed by this Council at its recent meeting. This Council accepts that the previous owners of the Inn did very little to maintain the structure of the building and because of this fact together with the time delay by the developer in undertaking renovation/refurbishment works the building has deteriorated to such an extent that demolition appears to be the only viable option now available.

However, the Council refers you to the previous approved planning application, 051490, which states that the exterior of the building shall be kept to closely resemble the former Inn. That is, keeping the front bay windows and retaining the historical appearance of the building.

The Community Council and residents in the village of Gwernymynydd wish you to impose conditions upon the developer to ensure that the character of the former Inn is depicted in the outward appearance of the pair of semi-detached dwellings.

RMH/057882, Extensions for new bedrooms, dining room, entrance and function rooms; internal alterations. Demolition of existing conservatory and porches located at Plas Hafod Hotel, Hafod Road, Gwernymynydd.

The above planning application was received late from Flintshire County Council, the application was discussed in full Council and the following observations/comments were made. The said observations/comments given below to be forwarded to Planning Services Planning and Environment Directorate Flintshire County Council

‘I refer to the above planning application which was discussed by this Council at its recent meeting. This Council welcomes the initiative presented by the owners of the hotel, the improvements suggest a possible increase in employment for local people in the area and it will also provide the opportunity to bring more visitors into the locality to enjoy the nearby designated area of outstanding natural beauty.

The Community Council does however have concerns regarding the Hafod Road which has over recent years become a ‘rat run’ for motorists. The increase in potential for more visitors to the hotel would create further traffic issues along this narrow lane. This Council respectfully requests that Flintshire County Council examines the potential traffic concerns with the view of producing cost effective and constructive measures to resolve these road safety matters for the local community.

This Council also raises the problems of foul and surface water issues associated with the hotel, conditions need to be imposed to ensure that the hotel’s septic tank can accommodate the potential increase in visitors and that the local surface water run-off is suitably dealt with to prevent localised flooding.

The Community Council and residents in the village of Gwernymynydd wish you to take note of the concerns raised and to take the appropriate measures to ameliorate those stated issues’.

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 November the details of which can be found on page 2018; 07.

The Clerk presented to the Council the Financial Statement 2017/2018. Based upon the information provided the Members then determined the Council’s Precept and Budgetary requirements for the forthcoming Municipal Year 2018/19 from Flintshire County Council based upon the calculated Council Tax Base of 563.23 Band ‘D’ equivalent properties.

The Clerk outlined to the Members the financial burden that the Council would face in 2018/19, the Summer Playscheme costs had increased, the Council had entered a match funding scheme to improve the Llys Enfys Play Area 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 £15,500, the Precept amount equating to an increase in the Gwernymynydd Community Council Tax element requirements by 2.9% this would result in the Band 'D' equivalent properties increasing by £0.779.

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 2.9% to the Community Council Tax.

Councillor Heidi Jackson related her concerns about raising the Precept by 2.9% and wished to record her objection to the increased amount.

13. Gwernymynydd Community Council's Action Plan, 2017/18/19

Members were reminded 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.

The Sub-Committee had met previously to discuss the issues and that another meeting would be held shortly. Councillor Hintridge had stated that she would be in contact with the Members of the Sub-Committee to arrange another meeting to discuss the review, however the said meeting unfortunately had to be postponed.

The Action Plan will be started to be discussed in detail in the New Year with the intention of relaunching the Development Plan in February or at a later date and undertaking full consultation with the community by adopting the same format for obtaining ideas that was used previously.

14. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd

The Xmas Fayre was discussed by the Members who highlighted the success of the event, 2017. Councillors were informed that the amount received came to £149.10.

As stated previously the Members agreed to follow the same format as of 2016, the money raised to go to Hope House.

Members were reminded that there was a need to prepare for the annual village litter pick, the date suggested was the 14th April 2018. Further discussions on the event will take place nearer to the set date.

Members were reminded that the Gwernymynydd Pantomime, 'Babes in the Wood' was scheduled to take place in February, the event being within the school half-term.

Councillor Nancy Matthews informed the Members that the 'Eve Appeal' would be taking place after Easter.

Members discussed ideas for celebrating Xmas, 2018. The date suggested was the 7th December 2018 and proposals put forward were a Fayre and a fully decorated Xmas tree to be the focal point of the celebrations. Councillor Heidi Jackson to pursue the possibility of purchasing lights and decorations for the tree.

With reference to obtaining a defibrillator for the community, although the Council had resolved to purchase the equipment, Members suggested that the Council could also look towards fund raising events to help with the costs. This to be discussed and progressed.

15. Reports

Outside Bodies

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

A request for financial assistance was submitted by the Gwernymynydd Village Pantomime Company. The Members fully discussed the application and resolved to support the Company's request. The Council resolved to donate £250 to the village organisation.

A letter received from Gwernaffield Community Council reference to possible sharing of the Flintshire County Council Playscheme with Gwernymynydd to reduce costs. The Members discussed the proposal in detail and resolved not to progress the invitation. Members were content with the existing arrangements and funds had already been allocated to finance the Gwernymynydd Playscheme.

An invitation to the Flintshire County Council's Chairman's Annual Charity Dinner to take place on the 16th March 2018.

By e-mail; Flintshire County Council PSB, a launch of a new fund; The Bee Friendly Scheme.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 25th January 2018.

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary, Nov. and Dec.	391.81
	Postage	14.30
	Council's Stationary (ink)	69.99
		<u>476.10</u>
Clwyd Pension Fund	Employer's contribution	115.78
Gwernymynydd Village Centre	Hire charge	45.00
Wales Audit Office	Annual Audit	240.30
Scottish Power	Streetlight energy charge	190.51
FLVC	Council's printing	13.54
Councillor Heidi Jackson	Xmas Fayre refreshments	73.79
Deeco Lighting	Streetlight maintenance charge	289.25
Gwernymynydd Pantomime	Donation	250.00
V. M. Shinks	Council's website	1,057.50
		<u>2,751.77</u>