



# Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

**Chairman:** Vicky Hinstridge

## **Councillors Present**

Frances Rosedale, Carl Jackson, John Homersley, Nancy Matthews and James Appleton.

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

Councillors, Charlotte Dawson, Marjorie Thomson, Michael Meadway, Jacqueline Jepson and Heidi Jackson

## **In Attendance**

Councillor Kevin Hughes and Members of the Public; (Mr. J. Bond, Mrs. S. Elsley, Mr. A. Doward and Mrs. R. Doward).

Mr. J. Bond informed the Members of his deep concerns relating to the A494, Ruthin Road and speeding vehicles, unsheeted lorries and the amount of dust and debris on the road caused by the volume of traffic. Mr. Bond drew reference to the recent road traffic accident and the broken promises made over the years by the authorities, North and Mid Wales Road Traffic Agency, Flintshire County Council and Welsh Government, to safe guard local residents and the environment with regard to speeding vehicles and the discharge of dust and debris on the road. Mr. Bond emphasised that immediate action needs to be undertaken now to resolve this stated hazardous situation. Mrs. S. Elsley shared Mr. Bond's comments emphasising the problems experienced with road traffic dust, and loose debris spilled on the road, with little action being taken to resolve the situation with the County Council's road sweeper. In addition to the above concerns, Mr. A. Doward provided for the Members examples of spilled debris he had collected from the A494, the debris consisted of large blocks, stone and bricks. Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the meeting that he had been in contact with the management of the 2 local quarries about such spillages and the issue of unsheeted lorries travelling along the road. The response from both quarries was positive with regards to preventing spillages but he stated that the situation would need to be monitored and any such occurrences would need to be reported to the respective quarries and Flintshire County Council.

Councillor Hughes reported to the meeting that Officers of Flintshire County Council had visited the said Quarries and discussed the received complaints and he stated that they were closely monitoring the quarries activities and transportation of materials. Particular attention was being given to the wheel wash arrangements and the education of drivers with regard to the correct sheeting of their vehicles.

Discussions ensued with regard to speeding vehicles and to the recent road traffic accident, Councillor Hughes informed the meeting that he had held in depth talks with North and Mid Wales Road Traffic Agency and North Wales Police about the concerns of the community. Welsh Assembly Member, Mr. Ken. Skates had also been approached with the view of authorising the installation of Speed Activation signs to warn drivers of their speed whilst travelling through Gwernymynydd. Councillor Hughes emphasised that by everyone working together in order to resolve the problems being experienced a positive way forward would be produced.

Councillor Vicky Hinstridge requested that all incidents be recorded and reported to the authorities to ensure that positive steps could be taken to resolve all issues of concern.

Councillor Vicky Hinstridge thanked all who had attended the Council meeting for their input and for voicing their concerns, hopefully an improvement will be produced to benefit the community of Gwernymynydd.

**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.

Councillors Carl Jackson, Nancy Matthews and John Homersley declared their interest in matters relating to the Village Centre.

**3. To Approve the Minutes of the January 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.**

There were no items raised for discussion.

**5. Defibrillators and First Responders within the Community**

With respect to the previous Council meeting whereby information had been given, reference to the Council failing to achieve a grant towards purchasing a defibrillator, Members had discussed the matter further and all had 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. Councillor Jacquie Jepson had provided information on the types of defibrillators and associated equipment by e-mail and also the Clerk drew reference to an article in the Society of Local Council Clerk's magazine whereby up to date information recommended more modern defibrillators. The Members agreed to go forward with the equipment recommended by Councillor Jepson

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

Councillor James Appleton informed the Members of the first meeting of the Governors for the Federated Schools. The 2 individual school governing bodies had come together and a productive meeting had taken place. Councillor Appleton informed the Members that the recently held Quiz night in the Plas Hafod Hotel had been a success with £750 being raised for the schools. Councillor Appleton also reported that Governors' training had been undertaken and that further meetings of the new Governing Body would be taking place in the future.

Councillor Appleton informed the Members that a family bingo session would be held at Easter and he hoped that Councillors would be able to give their support to the event.

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 Lllys Enfys Play Area Improvement**

The Clerk had provided to the Members by e-mail the details of the proposed improvements of the play area as designed by Mr. Richard Roberts, Play Design Officer, Aura Leisure and Libraries. The Members raised no objections to the proposals and resolved to invite Mr. Roberts to the next meeting of the Council to outline the said improvements of the play area.

**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.

Councillor Hinstridge informed the Members that she had been in contact with Vicki Shinks with regard to the new improved website and as such she was able to relate to everyone that the website should be up and running by the next meeting of the Council.

**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**

The Clerk reminded everyone that PCSO Chey Arrowsmith had now been replaced by PCSO 2932 Emma Owen, her contact e-mail being;  
[Emma.Owen@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Emma.Owen@nthwales.pnn.police.uk).

There was no Police presence at the meeting however PCSO Owen had submitted a report via e-mail stating that up to the 14<sup>th</sup> February there had been no crimes reported within the Gwernymynydd community 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. Councillor Carl Jackson informed the Members that a tradesman working in the Blaen Wern area had noticed 2 suspicious people looking through windows into houses, the workman had confronted the 2 in question and was told that they were salesmen. Noting their suspicious behaviour, he telephoned the police who responded quickly to the call and consequently confronted the 2 men. The police dealt with the situation.

Members were informed that distraction burglaries had taken place within Flintshire and as such they were requested to make local residents aware of similar situations within Gwernymynydd.

### **Member Area Reports.**

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

**Blaen Wern,** Councillor Kevin Hughes reported to the Members that the garage area refurbishment was well underway, there being new garage doors fitted and the asbestos-cement roofing panels replaced. Also, Councillor Hughes informed the Members that the grass area located near to the garages would be transformed into a car park for local residents; **Swan Lane,** with reference to previous complaints regarding overgrown trees/bushes along Swan Lane, Mr. Andrew Lightfoot to be again contacted concerning the problem as the overgrowth was affecting the overhead telephone wires. With respect to Councillor Heidi Jackson's concerns regarding the lack of rock salt/grit in the Lane especially with the anticipated hard frosts and snow. Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that this would be resolved quickly with Flintshire County Council; **Cadole;** Councillor Vicky Hinstridge informed the Members that local residents had concerns regarding the anticipated snow and the effect it would have on the village with visitors parking indiscriminately along the A494 and Cadole Village Road, Councillor Hinstridge had met with officers of North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA) to effect a strategy to combat the influx of people, hopefully to avoid obstructive parking and abuse to residents; **Hafod Road,** Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that he had met with Flintshire County Council Highways Department Officers to hopefully resolve the traffic concerns of residents in the area especially with an anticipated increase in visitors to the Plas Hafod Hotel following the possible planned improvements to the building.

## **11. Planning Matters**

**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.**

**RMH/057883, Listed Building application for 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 latter planning application was received from Flintshire County Council, the application was discussed in full Council and Members agreed that the comments and observations given previously, reference to the above former application prevailed.

Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that a meeting had been held for local residents with the management of the Plas Hafod Hotel with the aim to reassure everyone that the proposed improvements would not cause problems. The issues of surface water run-off and the possible increase in traffic along the road were discussed in depth and comments and observations from residents were taken on board by the Hotel management with solutions to those raised concerns being put forward to Flintshire County Council for consideration and action.

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; 13.

The Clerk informed the Members that he had received a request for financial assistance from the Gwernymynydd Village Centre Management Committee. The request relates to the proposed construction of an enclosed dog walking area within the Centre's grounds. The Management Committee informs the Council that it has received many requests from dog owners in the village for a safe area for them to let their dogs run free without harm.

The Members fully discussed the request and paid heed to any possible implications to the Centre's Management Committee. Following the said discussions, the Members agreed to donate £600 towards the venture.

## **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 as soon as possible.

The Sub-Committee had met previously to discuss the issues and Councillor Hintridge stated that she would be in contact with the Members of the Sub-Committee to arrange further meetings to discuss the review.

The Action Plan will be started to be discussed in detail in the New Year with the intention of relaunching the Development Plan as soon as possible and undertaking full consultation with the community by adopting the same format for obtaining ideas that was used previously.

The Clerk informed the Members that he had received a request from Flintshire County Council for a Council representative to give a brief talk on the Gwernymynydd Development Plan for the forthcoming County Forum. The Members agreed that Councillor Kevin Hughes and former Councillor Chris Bradshaw should attend the said meeting and give an outline of the Development Plan, past and present.

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

Members were reminded that there was a need to prepare for the annual village litter pick, the date suggested was the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Further discussions on the event will take place nearer to the set date.

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 and 2 were received by the Council.

**17. Late Correspondence**

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

By e-mail; Press release relating to the Board of Community Health in Wales; Engagement event, a Review Panel; Innovative Practice Awards Ceremony 2018; Mold Spring Clean; Best Kept Communities Competition 2018.

With respect to the latter, Members agreed that the Village Centre, the CP School and the Blaen Wern Sheltered Housing Scheme had a great deal to offer and could be successful, therefore the Council resolved to enter the competition, Councillor Vicky Hinstridge agreed to pursue the matter with consultation and help from colleagues.

**Chairman.....**

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.

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|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| T M Richardson              | Clerk's Salary,                          | 391.81               |
|                             | Postage                                  | 9.40                 |
|                             | Clerk's allowance                        | 56.40                |
|                             |  | <b><u>457.61</u></b> |
| Clwyd Pension Fund          | Employer's contribution                  | 115.78               |
| Gwernymynydd Village Centre | Dog Walking Area Project                 | 600.00               |
| Councillor Nancy Matthews   | Book token gift for the Rev. Brotherston | 20.00                |
| Councillor Vicky Hinstridge | Chairman's Allowance                     | 150.00               |
| FLVC                        | Council's printing                       | 16.84                |
| One Voice Wales             | Annual Subscription                      | 155.00               |

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