



# Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

**Chairman:** Carl Jackson.

## **Councillors Present**

Frances Rosedale, Michael Meadway, Marjorie Thomson Luisa Citra, Nancy Matthews, June Perrin and Stephen Foley.

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

Councillors Chris Bradshaw, John Homersley and Julie Crabtree

## **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.

Councillors Nancy Matthews, Carl Jackson and Kevin Hughes declared their interests with reference to the Village Centre Management Committee

### **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 meetings

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

**12. 2019; 27, Member Area Reports,** Councillor Kevin Hughes again provided for the Members an update on the problems being experienced at Minffordd Fields with the former Developer, Silkavon which is still responsible for the maintenance of the streetlighting and the road repairs due to none adoption by Flintshire County Council. Councillor Hughes informed 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 problems on the estate.

Councillor Kevin Hughes outlined to the Members the salient points of public meetings he had held with residents of Minffordd Fields. Councillor Hughes had co-ordinated a meeting to discuss the respective Solicitors of the purchasers of the houses on Minffordd Fields and to what had transpired reference to local searches that had been carried out prior to the residents taking up occupancy.

The non-co-operation of Mr. John Edgar, the owner of the former Silkavon Development Company continues to be the stumbling point. Councillor Hughes reiterated the point that Mr John Edgar would still be responsible for the estate roads, the street lighting, the surface water run-off and the steep access steps leading onto Swan Lane. Councillor Hughes reported to the Members that again the recent public meeting to provide further information to the residents was well attended and positive progress was made to get all concerned together to push forward and resolve the issues necessary for Flintshire County Council to fully adopt the estate. Councillor Hughes informed the Members that Flintshire County Council engineers were to be inspecting the supporting wall, the nearby area and associated steps and if they were found to be unsafe then Flintshire County Council would be taking the necessary action to make the whole area safe.

Councillor Hughes related to the Members that to provide continued updates of information to all residents in Minffordd Fields he would be calling another public meeting, this again to be held in the Village Centre.

With regards to the hire of the Centre for the said meeting Members unanimously agreed for the Council to pay the necessary hire charge.

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

The Clerk informed the Members that he had been in contact with Jacqueline Jepson and confirmed that she had agreed to the requests of the Council to undertake training sessions throughout the year. With reference to the purchase of another mannequin the Clerk informed the Members that this was now deemed to be unnecessary due to the lesser numbers being trained at the scheduled sessions, the existing equipment being adequate to cater for the number of persons attending. Therefore, the Clerk recommended to the Members that the £300 donation given by the Gwernymynydd Coffee Club to purchase another mannequin be returned to the Club. This was put to the Members who agreed unanimously to the proposal.

Councillor Carl Jackson informed the Members that weekly checks were undertaken on the Defibrillator in order to maintain ensure the apparatus to be in good working order.

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

Councillor Kevin Hughes in his report to the Members stated that all was going well with the newly formed School Federation with school numbers increasing and future school events planned. Councillor Hughes also informed the Members that the Headteacher had now returned to work following recovery of the sustained foot injury and was now able to work and to maintain the necessary school commitments. Councillor Hughes further stated that the School's Christmas play was a success and that photographs taken of the event could still be viewed on the website.

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

Councillors were informed of the lack of progress of the Website by the Clerk.

The Members again discussed the concerns of Mr. David Griffiths the Council's Internal Auditor in relation to the site not being updated on a regular basis, the Members concurred with the comments put forward by Mr. Griffiths and again resolved to pursue the recommended course of action given. As stated, the Council's website needs to be updated regularly and shall include the comments of the External Auditor, BDO. With reference to this comment Councillors agreed to appoint a Member of the Council to monitor the website on a regular basis. With regard to the updating of the website Members agreed to liaise with Vicky Shinks on the outstanding issues in order to progress the matter. This to be determined as soon as possible.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson again reported on the concerns of One Voice Wales, some Town and Community Councils having been reported as not meeting the Standards required by Audit Wales in relation to information being presented on the respective websites and as a consequence those Councils failing the Wales Audit.

## **8 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 state that she would provide the Clerk with a Police Report, this to be forwarded to the Members accordingly.

Councillor Carl Jackson related to the Members a report of a burglary that had occurred in a property at Maes y Wern. Councillor Michael Meadway informed the Members of reports of gangs in the local area looking to steal quad bikes, he requested that Councillors make owners of such bikes aware of the issues.

**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 of the obstructive nuisance of construction vehicles being parked half on the pavement and half on the road and in some cases completely on the pavement; **Swan Lane;** Councillor Marjorie Thomson again expressed her concerns with regard to vehicles being parked on the A494 directly opposite to the Swan Lane/A494 junction, this nuisance and hazard causing vehicle entering or leaving Swan lane to undertake difficult road manoeuvres. Councillor Kevin Hughes had stated that he would discuss this hazardous situation with Flintshire County Council's Streetscene and North Wales Police. However, Members reported that at the moment the parking nuisance had been resolved, Councillors agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

### **Member Area Reports.**

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

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

**Minffordd Fields**, Councillor Kevin Hughes, as stated and discussed earlier, informed 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; **Cadole**; Councillors expressed their concerns in relation to the parking issues in the Loggerheads and Cadole areas in the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Again, as reported in previous years at this time walkers/ramblers parked their vehicles haphazardly and without consideration to local residents and road users. Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members that he had met with the Llanferres Local Member, Councillor Martin Holland and with Streetscene officers of Flintshire and Denbighshire County Councils to investigate the problems and to look into remedial issues to resolve the continuing nuisance. Councillor Hughes stated that he would report back to the Members.

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

9. **Planning Matters**

**ADW/060689, Amendment to the application submitted for 4, Godre'r Coed, Gwernymynydd.**

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 proposal and as such gave full approval to the application.

**DJM/060820, Variation of condition 5, planning number 47536, to allow for limited Sunday working at Cefn Mawr Quarry, Cadole Road, Cadole.**

The above planning application was discussed by Councillors at the Planning Sub-Committee and later in full Council. The Members raised objections to the proposal and as such refused the application. The Clerk was requested to respond to Flintshire County Council's Planning Services accordingly.

'Dear Sir

I refer to the above planning application which was placed before this Council and state that the Members object to the proposal for Sunday working at the Cefn Mawr Quarry.

The proposal of Sunday working, although limited, to allow existing silos to be refilled with crushed rock will have an unwarranted impact on the community of Cadole. Working between the hours of 8 am to 6 pm would affect residents in Cadole by the increase in lorry movements, 4 lorries with 17 loads totalling 68 loads is unacceptable on a Sunday in the small community of Cadole.

Councillors respectfully request that their observations on the proposal be earnestly considered and the Community Council and residents in the village of Cadole and Gwernymynydd wish refusal of the application.

**JZB/060for 060696, Outline application for 28 dwellings located on land adjacent to Llys Newydd, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd.**

The above planning application was discussed by Councillors at the Planning Sub-Committee and later in full Council.

The Members raised objections to the proposal and as such refused the application. The Clerk was requested to respond to Flintshire County Council's Planning Services accordingly'.

'Dear Sir

I refer to the above planning application which was placed before this Council at its recent meeting. I emphasise that this Council has no objection in principle to a proposed development on this site providing the said proposal is appropriate and in keeping by design with the village and its topography. By satisfying these criteria any such development would then comply with the Gwernymynydd Village Development Plan, a document produced by full consultation and agreement with the respective community and Flintshire County Council.

However, the above application in its present form is not appropriate and it does not agree with what is required or needed in Gwernymynydd. Therefore, the Members of this Council at its meeting emphatically resolved to object to this proposal for the following reasons.

1. The Council has many concerns regarding access/egress to and from the site. It 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 and incidents at this location. The Council emphasises this statement that there have been numerous road traffic incidents in this location. The access/egress point is close 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 with its proposed access/egress point would exacerbate an already hazardous traffic situation.

This Council is of the opinion that the Welsh Government, Trunk Road Agency would need to be consulted on this proposed development as the amount of traffic seeking access/egress to/from the site would require acceleration/deceleration lanes with respect to the A 494. The proposal fails to demonstrate the required visibility on the uphill side of the trunk road.

In addition, there are other nearby properties facing onto the A494, access/egress to these houses has resulted in near vehicle hits due the volume and speed of traffic on the busy trunk road.

2. There would be a problem of surface water run-off to neighbouring properties, which already suffer from flooding. The building of 28 houses on this site would exacerbate the problem. The development needs to propose a controlled surface water run-off system, the application drawings do not show such a system, therefore how will the proposed development cope with the excess water?

3. Concern is expressed with regard to the high levels of exposed mining spoil deposits, the application does not take into account any methods for removal/dealing with heavy toxic metal contamination.

4. It is anticipated that there would be a problem with the foul water system, to service an additional 28 houses on an already overstretched main would inevitably cause problems on the existing sewerage system. The development does not take this into account nor does it allow for a re-alignment of the sewers in Gwernymynydd.

5. There is an established fresh water well located within the proposed development site, there is no adequate proposal submitted with regard to resolving this situation.

6. There is no submitted proposal for realigning the established public footpath which runs through the proposed development site.

7. This Council expresses great concern with regards to the topography of the site and its effect on the design and location of the proposed houses, also, the outlined housing development submitted lies outside of the Gwernymynydd settlement boundary.

8. With respect to the presence of bats and newts on the Llys Newydd site, the proposal to retain the linear features and to install bat boxes and protection for newts as stated in the ecological assessment, this in the opinion of the Council does not adequately resolve the situation.

This application needs to be fully examined with the views of the local community taken to heart as this Council is voicing what the village is saying.

The Community Council and residents in the village of Gwernymynydd wish refusal of the application’.

## **10. 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 2020; 08.

To present to the Members the Financial Statement, 2019/20, to determine the Budgetary Requirements for 2020/2021 and to finalise the Precept for, 2020/2021.

The Clerk presented to the Council the Financial Statement 2019/2020. Based upon the information provided the Members then determined the Council’s Precept and Budgetary requirements for the forthcoming Municipal Year 2020/21 from Flintshire County Council based upon the calculated Council Tax Base of 568.16 Band ‘D’ equivalent properties.

The Clerk outlined to the Members the anticipated financial burden that the Council would face in 2020/21, the Summer Playscheme costs had increased marginally and hopefully would remain as such and the Council had committed itself to the continued improvement of the Website. The Clerk also informed the Members that based upon the Council’s present commitment to the community and the level of predicted financial spend he would recommend that the Council’s Precept remains at its present level of £16,000. The Precept amount equating to a decrease in the Community Council Tax requirements by 0.25% a decrease of 7 pence on the Band ‘D’ Charge.

The Members fully discussed the financial implications and the Council’s commitments to the community and resolved to accept the Clerk’s recommendation that the Precept remains at £16,000 for the forthcoming financial year.

## **11. 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.

Members had agreed to this proposal and to take the Plan forward in order to meet its commitment to the community.

Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members of the responses he had received from members of the public to articles that had put in the Village Newsletter. Residents were in favour of pursuing allotments and also Bee Keeping. Councillors Michael Meadway and Louisa Citra outlined what would be required regarding hives, fencing and protective equipment. Councillor Meadway provided additional information to the Members with respect to the type of bees that could be obtained and also the benefits of selling honey and the queens of the 'gentle bees'. Councillor Hughes related to the Members that he would use the Village Facebook site to provide such information to the community and he also reported that ASH Waste Services had donated £100 to help to start the projects.

Councillor Hughes reported to the Members that the Company, Smurfitt Cappa had agreed to provide solar lighting for the now popular 'dog walking area' in the Village Centre grounds.

Councillor Meadway reported to the Members that Cefn Mawr Quarry would help and assist in the wildflower project and the 'Cadole Triangle' area on Cadole Road was suggested as a suitable location for planting.

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 pursue the Plan with such projects in mind accordingly.

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

Members again reported on the continued success of the monthly coffee mornings and again thanked Councillor June Perrin on the initiative.

Councillors were requested to consider suggestions to celebrate the VE Day anniversary which will take place on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

## **13. Reports**

### **Outside Bodies**

With reference to the Village Centre Management Committee, an update of usage information concerning the Village Centre was provided for the Members. Councillor Nancy Matthews informed the Members that the Village Centre Management Committee had appointed a Treasurer and Booking Secretary and she also outlined to the Members the spending commitment needed to ensure continuity in providing the Village Newsletter and other services to the community. Councillor Matthews informed the Members that the Community Vegetable Co-operative required new shopping bags because of wear and tear, a cost of approximately £200 would be needed to replace the worn-out bags. Councillors considered the request for financial assistance and agreed unanimously to approve the proposal.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson related to the Members the salient points of the recently held One Voice Wales meeting. Councillor Thomson outlined the presentation given by the insurers Came and Company which focused on the responsibilities of Councils to inspect play areas and footpaths on a regular basis and to keep a record of the said inspections. Councils must undertake appropriate Risk Assessments and act upon any identified risk by adopting suitable control measures to reduce the hazard element to an acceptable level.

Councillor Thomson provided information with respect to the Policy Committee Bill which now means that elections would be held every 5 instead of 4 years and that 16 and 17 year olds would now be eligible to vote in the said elections.

Councillor Thomson briefly outlined to the Members the details of the One Voice Wales Awards, perhaps the Council could submit a suitable project to the awarding committee in the future? Councillor Thomson stated that she would obtain further details of the Awards

### **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:-

A letter of thanks from the Gwernymynydd Pantomime Company for the kind donation given by the Council; information from Hannah Blyddyn AM, reference to 'drop-in' advice surgeries; information relating to the Denbighshire County Council LDP.

By e-mail; Flintshire County Council, date for the forthcoming County Forum meeting; One Voice Wales, a response to the consultation regarding Local Government and the Election Bill.

**Chairman.....**

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary,	488.60
	Postage	8.40
		497.00
Councillor Carl Jackson	Chairman's Allowance	150.00
Clwyd Pension Fund	Employer's contribution	149.00
Scottish Power	Streetlight energy charge	190.51
Deeco Lighting	Streetlight maintenance charge	289.25
Gwernymynydd Village Centre	Hire charges for functions	71.74
		<b><u>1,347.50</u></b>