



# Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

**Chairman:** Carl Jackson.

## **Councillors Present**

Frances Rosedale, Michael Meadway, Marjorie Thomson, John Homersley and Julie Crabtree

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

Councillors Chris Bradshaw, Luisa Citra, Nancy Matthews, June Perrin and Stephen Foley.

## **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 October Meeting**

The Minutes of both 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.

The non-co-operation of Mr. John Edgar, the owner of the former Silkavon Development Company being 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 the recently held 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 Members were again informed that all had gone well with the Defibrillator Training Sessions, each one being well attended by members of the public, irrespective of their age. Members had agreed that the Council should acknowledge and thank Jacqueline Jepson for all the training work done to date and also to request training be offered on an annual basis. The Clerk informed the Members that he had been in contact with Jacqueline Jepson and that she had agreed to the requests of the Council. 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 at this moment in time the Headteacher was absent from work due to a foot injury but was able to work from home in order to maintain necessary work commitments.

Councillor Hughes related to the Members that the annual Christmas collection, the 'shoe box' was again donated to the Domestic Abuse Centre, Councillor Hughes further stated that the School play was a success and that photographs taken of the event could now be viewed on the website.

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

Councillors were updated on the progress of the Website and the Clerk related that Members would be welcome to add information to the site via Vicki Shinks. The Members 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 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 and to liaise with Vicky Shinks on any outstanding issues. 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 Marjorie Thomson related to the Members of reports being given on the Facebook site whereby householders were being targeted by unwanted callers touting for business/work in the local area. Councillor Thomson requested that Members be aware of such incidents and to warn local residents. Councillor Kevin Hughes reminded Members to warn householders/businesses having oil central heating and related oil storage to be aware of potential oil thefts at this time of year.

**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 stated that he would discuss this hazardous situation with Flintshire County Council's Streetscene.

### **Member Area Reports.**

**Tros y Wern; Llys Enfys; Blaen Wern and Cadole** 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, Councillor Julie Crabtree informed the Members that consultation with the local CAB on the stated problems had been undertaken and as such positive steps had been suggested as a way forward; **Ruthin Road and Glyndwr Road,** Councillor Kevin Hughes reported to the Members the issues and concerns relating to Glyndwr Road and the Cambrian Quarry, the road being very dusty and muddy in parts due to carry off onto Ruthin Road from the Quarry's wheelwash. Councillor Frances Rosedale also commented on the state of the road adding that some rocks had fallen from the wagons creating hazardous road conditions and that she had been covered in mud by a passing lorry. **2019; 60**

Councillor Hughes informed the Members that he had been in contact with ASH Waste Services on the problems stated and that the Company had responded quickly with improvements to remedy the concerns. Councillor With respect to Ruthin Road Members expressed their concerns regarding the roadworks, gas pipeline replacement and associated traffic lights, and the effect it was having with traffic issues, vehicles backing up and causing an obstruction with the Swan lane/A494 junction together with the previously mentioned parking issues. Councillors agreed to monitor the problems outlined and to contact Streetscene when necessary. Councillor Frances Rosedale again raised her concerns about the security lights located at Eagles and Crawford vehicle depot/garage on Ruthin Road, the lights being too bright and causing nuisance, Councillor Kevin Hughes stated that he would pursue the complaint with the said garage.

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

## **9. Planning Matters**

### **JZB/060520, erection of a building for housing calves and stabling of horses located at Bryn Gwyn Farm, 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.

### **ADW/060689, single storey extension to kitchen dining area located at 4, Godre'r Coed, Gwernymynydd.**

The Clerk informed the Members that this planning application had just been received and as such the Planning Sub-Committee had not had the opportunity to look at the application and pass on their comments and observations. The Members, in full Council agreed to look at the application received and all agreed to pass no objections on the proposal and gave full approval of the application.

With respect to the Planning Weekly List, reference to received applications and decisions taken by the Planning Authority, the Clerk informed the Members of the proposal, 060696, to build houses on the land adjacent to Llys Newydd, Gwernymynydd. The Members discussed the said proposal and resolved to consider it in more depth following future submitted detailed plans.

## **10. Finance**

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for September the details of which can be found on page 2019; 63.

To receive the comments and observations from the external auditor BDO LLP acting on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales.

The Clerk related to the Members the contents of the report issued by the External Auditor BDO LLP. The Auditor related, comments on the time for displaying of the rights of members in the community to comment and or discuss issues on the approved accounts The Auditor also raised issues relating to the Council's website whereby information concerning the Council needs to be readily available to the community All the items outlined were discussed in detail and the Council resolved to accept the criticism and to take heed of the submitted comments. The Clerk was requested to adhere to the recommendations given by BDO LLP. **2019; 61**

The Members approved and accepted the report issued by the External Auditor.

The Clerk informed the Members that he had received notification from Welsh Government stating that the sum permitted to be spent/donated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 had been increased in accordance with the Retail Price Index, that is an increase of 2.4%.

The Clerk informed the Members that he had received a request for financial assistance from the Gwernymynydd Pantomime Company, this was put to the Members who agreed to donate to the Company £250.00.

The Clerk informed the Members that he had received notification from Flintshire County Council relating to the 2020/2021 Precept. The calculation for the Council Tax Band 'D' Tax Base was set at 568.16.

The Clerk informed the Members that based upon the Council's commitment to the community and the level of predicted financial spend he would be recommending no increase in the Council's Precept from its present amount of £16,000. The full financial situation would be presented at the next meeting of the Council for the Members to discuss and deliberate upon.

With respect to the above the Clerk provided for the Members the present financial statement relating to the Council's Deposit Account and its Community Account.

**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.

Councillors 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 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.

Councillor Nancy Matthews in her e-mail to the Clerk reminded the Members of the Council's commitment to fund the hire of the Village Centre for the Christmas celebrations together with some refreshments for everyone coming along to the Christmas lights switch on, this to take place on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

With reference to the Remembrance Sunday Service, which took place the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the Members related on the success of the Service, it being well attended by members of the public and also the school children. The Members thanked the Reverend Andrew Millar for undertaking the Service, it was truly appreciated by everyone.

### 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.

There were no other reports given by the Members for discussion.

#### Sub-Committees

There were no additional items for discussion.

### 14. Correspondence

Items 1 and 2 were received by the Council.

### 15. Late Correspondence

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

By e-mail; Health Watchdog, reference to Vascular Services; Flintshire County Council, dates for the forthcoming County Forum meetings;

**Chairman.....**

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary, November and December	977.20
	Postage	6.40
	Clerk's Allowance	56.40
		1,040.00
T M Richardson	Council's Computer Security	89.99
Clwyd Pension Fund	Employer's contribution, December and January	298.00
Wales Audit Office	External Auditor Payment	243.75
Flintshire County Council	Playscheme 2019	1,373.95
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Subscription	109.00
Association of Local Council Clerks	Annual Subscription	40.00
Double Click Printing	Council's Printing	5.28
Gwernymynydd Pantomime Company	Donation to the Company	250.00
Councillor Michael Meadway	Council's Poppy Wreath	21.00
		<b><u>3,470.97</u></b>