



Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 27th February 2020 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

Chairman: Carl Jackson.

Councillors Present

Frances Rosedale, Marjorie Thomson, Louisa Citra, Stephen Foley, John Homersley and Julie Crabtree

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Chris Bradshaw, Nancy Matthews, June Perrin and Michael Meadway

In Attendance

On this occasion Councillor Kevin Hughes gave his apologies for absence to the Council, Councillor Hughes however did provide for the Members a full and detailed report on various Agenda items.

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 Louisa Citra, Carl Jackson and John Homersley declared their interests with reference to the Village Centre Management Committee

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 meetings

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

12. 2019; 27, Member Area Reports, Councillor Kevin Hughes in his report to the Members provided further information with regard to Minffordd Fields

‘Work continues with respect to Minffordd Fields. I have now had the retaining wall checked both physically by engineers and from the 348-page planning file that is now on microfiche. Engineers say the wall was constructed properly and is safe which is something of a relief. I have got the county to agree to put a bollard at the top of the steps in Minffordd Fields which should prevent any vehicle from being driven or rolling down the steps. This has been difficult as it isn’t on Flintshire land but none the less I now have an agreement that public safety is more important than protocol. The same applies to the hole in the car park at the bottom of Minffordd Fields and adjacent to Ruthin Road. That is going to be filled in.

Other than that I am trawling through the Planning file and preparing a report that I hope will convince senior officers and cabinet members that the right course of action would be to adopt Minffordd Fields and carry out the work, including new street lighting, that will bring the road up to standard. Part of this process is looking at the drainage from Llys Newydd which as community councillors will know is the subject of a planning application. I understand that the application is going to be recommended for refusal and even might be withdrawn by the applicants. However, it’s my belief that the drainage from that site has not been adequately dealt with which is why Minffordd Fields residents are seeing gardens regularly flooded.

In short, there is a long way to go and a lot more work to be done to get this matter sorted and I am meeting again with planning and highways officers in a few weeks. I hope by then to have full and comprehensive estimates of the cost of bringing Minffordd Fields up to adoptable standard.

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

With regards to the hire of the Centre for the said meetings 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 respect to insurance issues for the training sessions Jacqueline had informed the Clerk that there may be a problem in obtaining such insurance cover; to resolve this situation should it arise the Clerk recommended to the Members that the Council’s own insurance policy could be utilised. This proposal was put to the Members and approved unanimously.

Councillor Carl Jackson informed the Members that weekly checks were still being undertaken on the Defibrillator in order to maintain and 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, ‘Councillor Hughes stated there is little information to impart. Children will be celebrating St David’s Day next Monday as the 1st of March falls on the weekend this year. Next week they will also be celebrating World Book Day. I am going in next week to do some pictures for the newsletter and Louise and I will then discuss what the school might do to celebrate VE Day in May’.

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 concern the Clerk informed the Members that Councillor Nancy Matthews had been in contact with a local resident who had expressed an interest in taking over the responsibilities presently undertaken by Vicki Shinks. The Members agreed that Councillor Matthews should pursue this development and hopefully come to a successful conclusion.

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.

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, Councillor Jackson requested the Clerk to contact PCSO Owen with the view to visiting Blaen Wern and hopefully resolving the expressed concerns.

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, it was noted by the Members that 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 were informed of the minor damage sustained by the Gwernymynydd/Llanferris Council's Notice Board, Councillor John Homersley had inspected the Notice Board and stated that it could still be used but he would also monitor it in case of further damage or deterioration.

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

9. Planning Matters

The Clerk reported to the Members that to date there has been no submitted planning applications for the Members to consider.

10. Finance

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for February the details of which can be found on page 2020; 14.

With reference to the renewal of the annual subscription to One Voice Wales the Members unanimously approved the action.

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.

The Members requested that the Clerk contacts Councillor Kevin Hughes with regard to submitting up to date information about the Council's Action Plan for the forthcoming Village Newsletter.

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.

Councillor Kevin Hughes in his report to the Members, 'Councillor Hughes stated that the Council needed to set a date for the litter pick and through the community council I'd like to add my congratulations to the Pantomime group for their amazing hard work and production which is a beacon for good intergeneration community work. We should all be proud of what they achieve year after year'.

With reference to the annual Village Litter Pick the dates the 9th or 11th April were suggested by the Members.

Councillors were requested to consider suggestions to celebrate the VE Day anniversary which will take place on Friday the 8th May 2020, the Clerk was requested to provide information on the forthcoming celebrations.

Councillor Louisa Citra informed the Members that she had made an application for funding from the initiative, Welsh Government, Local Places for Nature, its aim being to create, restore and enhance habitats throughout Wales.

13. Reports

Outside Bodies

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

Councillor Marjorie Thomson related to the Members a full and detailed report of the recently held County Forum, 13th February 2020. Councillor Thomson outlined to the Members the discussions that took place at the Forum.

The Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council, Mr. Colin Everett provided details of the Council Budget, 2020/2021. There being an initial £16 million shortfall which had now been reduced to £250,000 due to the Welsh Government. Schools would be protected and funding would be available to accommodate a 2.75% increase in teachers' salaries. Councillor Thomson provided details of the forthcoming Council Tax, Flintshire would increase by 5% as compared to other Unitary Councils of 7%.

Details of the Local Government Bill, due to be enacted in September/October 2020 were given, the Audit Regime to be more acceptable, Regional Working e.g. Transport to be encouraged between Local Councils, voting franchise for 16 and 17 year olds to be implemented, certain prisoners to be able to vote and boundary area changes to be again considered in 2020.

The Local Development Plan, Development towards 2030 to now proceed following closure of the consultation time period, the many responses to be reviewed and criticism levied at the process involving Housing Developers.

The Waste Strategy Consultation had received over 9,000 responses with the main issues revolving around the frequency of collection, the type of waste that can be recycled and possible enforcement to ensure recycling is undertaken by the householder. At the present time the existing collection service will remain but there will be an impetus to provide householders with more information about recycling. At the moment Flintshire County Council is the 3rd best County for recycling with figures of around 69% being established.

Councillor Thomson provided information on the Welsh Education Strategic Plan, the strategy a 10-year plan is aimed at increasing the number of people able to speak Welsh to around 1 million by 2050. This will be achieved by increasing the number of children able to access education through the medium of the Welsh Language by increasing the number of Welsh medium primary schools and Welsh medium secondary schools. New schools will be built in Flintshire to accommodate this initiative and suitable locations will be identified.

The Chairman and Members thanked Councillor Marjorie Thomson for the very detailed report given.

Sub-Committees

With reference to the Council's Planning Sub-Committee and the 2 vacant positions Councillors John Homersley and Stephen Foley were nominated and were accepted to fill the said positions.

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; Flintshire County Council, consultation events concerning the County's recycling programme; Playscheme information 2020; Information relating to the Best Kept Communities Competition; CAB its annual report.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 27th February 2020

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary,	488.60
	Postage	8.40
		497.00
Councillor Nancy Matthews	Vegetable bags	229.74
Clwyd Pension Fund	Employer's contribution	149.00
One Voice Wales	Annual subscription	174.00
Andy Garside	Community Website Calendar	75.00
Vicki Shinks	Council's website fee	71.86
		<u>1,196.60</u>