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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 26th November 2020 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

Chairman: Michael Meadway (Vice-Chairman)

The Chairman welcomed the Members to the meeting following the Covid-19 lockdown imposed in late March. The Clerk informed the Members of the procedures that needed to be undertaken to comply with the Covid-19 rules and regulations and he also welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

Councillors Present

Marjorie Thomson, Stephen Foley, John Homersley, Victoria Norman,
Nancy Matthews, June Perrin and Frances Rosedale.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors; Julie Crabtree, Carl Jackson and Kevin Hughes

In Attendance

As stated above, on this occasion Councillor Kevin Hughes submitted his apology for absence to the Council; with respect to items for discussion on the Agenda, Councillor Hughes had also given the Clerk related information for the Members.

2. Election of Chairman, 2020/21

Councillor Carl Jackson was nominated and seconded for the position of Chairman; therefore, Councillor Jackson was duly elected Chairman of the Gwernymynydd Community Council, 2020/21

3. Election of Vice-Chairman, 2020/21

Councillor Michael Meadway was nominated and seconded for the position of Vice-Chairman; therefore Councillor Meadway was duly elected Vice-Chairman of the Gwernymynydd Community Council, 2020/21.

4. To Adopt the Council's Existing Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Members agreed without alteration to adopt the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

5. **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.

6. **To Approve the Minutes of the October Meeting**

The Minutes of the above had been distributed and were confirmed as a true record of the business transacted.

7. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Agenda Item 9; 2020; 42, Member Area Reports, Cadole; Councillor Michael Meadway outlined further to the Members his discussion with a local resident regarding obtaining and locating a defibrillator unit within Cadole Village. The Members concurred that it would be in the interest of the local community to look into the matter and requested Councillor Meadway to pursue the proposal. Additionally, the Members proposed that more defibrillator/CPR courses be made available to members of the public, to this the Clerk was asked to pursue the request.

8. **Vacancy for a Councillor on the Gwernymynydd Community Council**

Following on from previous minutes the Clerk explained the legal process of advertising the vacancy throughout the community for the said vacant seat on the Council. The Clerk informed the Members that the advert time period was still open with respect to Flintshire County Council's election regulation, however he informed the Members that he had received a letter of request to be considered for co-option as a Councillor from local resident Mr. George Godwin. The Members agreed to consider the co-option of Mr. Godwin following the end of the time limit in accordance with the regulation and advert for the vacant position of Councillor.

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

Councillor Kevin Hughes in his report to the Council stated that everyone was sad to see Jean Droog and her husband Richard retire from their respective roles at the school. As a teaching assistant Jean has, for many years, worked tirelessly to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of village children. She was particularly good working with children who struggled to keep up with their peers and will be sadly missed by pupils, parents and staff. Richard worked hard as the school caretaker and was also very reliable. Both decided to retire at the same time so they could do things together and take life a little easier. Councillor Hughes further stated that he had taken a picture snap of Jean and Richard on their last day and the sheer number of comments and well wishes on the village Facebook page was testament to their hard work and just how much they will be missed.

Councillor Hughes suggested to the Members that they may wish to consider writing to Mr. and Mrs. Droog to express their thanks for the many years of dedication to the school. This proposal was put to the Members who agreed unanimously to the suggestion put forward by Councillor Hughes. The Clerk was requested to respond accordingly.

With reference to the school's newly installed CCTV system Councillor Hughes informed the Members that it was now up and running and providing much needed security, Councillor Hughes also stated that the Governing body had expressed their thanks for the financial contribution made by the Council and added that a similar system was now being installed at Gwernaffield CP School. Councillor Hughes further stated policy had been written and was in place covering all aspects of the CCTV and any such recordings from it, Councillor Hughes will bring the policy to the next Council meeting for the information of the Councillors.

Councillor Hughes informed the Members that with respect to the replacement fence that will run alongside the school field at Ger y Llan this was now on order and work would be taking place shortly. Councillor Hughes stated that he had spoken to all neighbouring householders and advised them of the new fence and the fact it would be a little higher than the old, damaged and untidy fence in place now. Everyone he spoke to were happy and indeed pleased that the fence was being replaced.

10. Gwernymynydd Community Council's Website

The Clerk again informed the Members that following on from the past problems experienced with the Council's website local resident Mr. John Seddon had come forward to take over responsibility for the website and as a result of his intervention the website had been brought up to date. The Clerk also informed the Members that Mr. Seddon would be undertaking further work on the website in order to bring it up to a satisfactory standard to serve the community.

11 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 would be forwarded on to the Members as soon as possible. The Clerk also informed the Members that he had corresponded with PCSO Owen and assured her that there was an open invitation for her to attend a Council meeting whenever she was available to do so. The Clerk hoped that this would clarify any misunderstanding that may have occurred with respect to attendance at a Council meeting.

Glyndwr Road; Blaen Wern; Minffordd Fields; Ruthin Road; Swan Lane; Tros y Wern; Cadole and Llys Enfys on this occasion, in these areas there were no items for discussion.

Member Area Reports.

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

Cadole; Councillor Kevin Hughes in his report to the Council informed the Members that he had obtained agreement for 'Slow and Araf' road signage to be put on Cadole Road just past the Quarry entrance, hopefully this action will provide better awareness to motorists passing the nearby houses and farm; **Swan Lane,** Councillors Marjorie Thomson and John Homersley again 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. Also, Councillors Nancy Matthews and John Homersley informed the Members of the many potholes along the Swan Lane and Ffordd Las which need immediate repair. **2020; 48**

Ruthin Road; Councillor Frances Rosedale informed the Members that there was still the nuisance of lorries leaving the Cambrian Quarry and discharging mud and stone on the road, members of the public had reported being hit by the said mud and stone. Councillor Kevin Hughes to be requested to discuss the issue with the Quarry Management. **Minffordd Fields,** In his report to the Council Councillor Kevin Hughes, as stated in previous minutes related to the Members that he was working closely with Flintshire County Council's Legal Department and the Planning 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 Hughes again informed the Members that the issue at the present time was still being pursued. Councillor Hughes again related to the Members that he will continue to provide updates of information to all residents in Minffordd Fields and that hopefully he would be able to call more public meetings if the Covid-19 situation eases, these again would be held in the Village Centre; **Tros y Wern;** In his report to the Council Councillor Kevin Hughes informed the Members of the concerns of residents in Godre'r Coed to the nuisance of Leylandii confers that were now obstructing the pavement, Councillor Hughes to pursue the matter with the respective householder.

On other matters, Councillor Marjorie Thomson informed the Members of the dangerous footpath stile on Hafod Road and the temporary closure of the footpath itself, the Clerk was requested to pursue the issue with Flintshire County Council's Right of Way Officer; Councillor Kevin Hughes in his report informed the Members that the temporary road signage, 'Slow and Araf' on the Hafod Road would be replaced by permanent signage.

Concerning Ash tree dieback, Councillor Kevin Hughes in his report informed the Members that the respective trees of concern had been identified and as such painted to enable appropriate removal, the area in question lies along the Cadole Road.

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

12. Planning Matters

Submitted Planning Applications.

ADW/062023, application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval, Ref: 058979, located at Fernleigh, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd.

The Members inspected the proposal by use of the Flintshire County Council website and discussed the application in the Council meeting. The Members after full discussion agreed to object to the planning application as follows:-

Dear Sir

I draw your attention to the above title and to the previous submissions, the Council at its recent meeting may resolve to reluctantly accept the above proposal but states to you that this submission for planning permission has been put forward quite a few times without any such start on the said building. Again, this Council questions the fact that it may never be built but submissions for approval will continue.

This Council had respectfully requested that a time limit of 1 year be imposed on the developer and if in that time no such start has been made on the proposal then any further submissions for planning permission shall be refused, I politely remind you that this present submission for planning approval follows 2 years after the latest application and again there is very little detail in the proposed application.

Taking into account the above statement this Council would now like refusal of this planning application and cites to you the following additional reasons for consideration:-

1. Access/egress to and from the site 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 at this location. The Council emphasizes this statement that there have been numerous road traffic incidents in this location. The access/egress point is near 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 would exacerbate an already hazardous traffic situation. The Council is of the opinion that the Welsh Government, Trunk Road Agency would need to be consulted on this proposed development with respect to the A 494.
2. Concerns are expressed with regard to underlying mine shafts and the stability of the ground area to accommodate the proposed house.
3. The site is near to the AONB, the proposed 3-storey house would be visually intrusive on the landscape. The dwelling would tower above Ruthin Road (A 494) and would be completely out of character with the locality.
4. The proposed development shows the 3-storey house very close to the A 494, other permitted developments, e.g. Hafod y Wern, are located well away from the trunk road.

The Council respectfully requests that its observations on the proposal be earnestly considered, that the decision process is not undertaken by delegated powers and that a site visit by the respective committee is undertaken to view the proposed development taking into account the objections of this Council.

The Community Council of Gwernymynydd wish refusal of the application.

JZB/062022 Application for Approval of Reserved Matters Following Outline Approval, (056714), located at Rocklands, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd.

The Members inspected the proposal by use of the Flintshire County Council website and via e-mail discussion to the Clerk the Members agreed to object to the planning application for the following reasons:-

Dear Sir

I refer to the above planning application which was placed before this Council at its recent meeting. The Members of this Council resolved to object to this proposal even though outline approval had been granted in 2017.

This new planning application contains very little detail with regard to the development and therefore as stated this Council objects to the proposal for the following reasons:-

1. Access/egress to and from the site 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 at this location. The Council again emphasizes this statement that there have been numerous road traffic incidents in this location. The access/egress point is near 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 would exacerbate an already hazardous traffic situation. The Council is of the opinion that the Welsh Government, Trunk Road Agency would need to be consulted on this proposed development with respect to the A 494.

2. There would be a problem of surface water run-off to neighbouring properties, particularly to the Hafod Road which already suffers from flooding. The building of additional 3 houses would exacerbate the problem.
3. It is anticipated that there would be a problem with the foul water system, to service an additional 3 houses on an already overstretched main would inevitably cause problems on the existing sewers. This concern is also expressed by the Mold Town Council.
4. Concerns are expressed with regard to underlying mineshafts and the stability of the ground area to accommodate the proposed houses. In recent years the ground area has sunk indicating a collapse of the previously capped mineshafts.
5. The site is near to the AONB, the proposed development would be visually intrusive on the landscape. In this application the developer alters the existing landscape to crowd in the 3 houses. The dwellings would tower above Ruthin Road (A 494) and would be completely out of character with the locality.
6. The proposed development shows 3 houses very close to the A 494, being side-on towards the trunk road and also with a rear garden facing the A494, other permitted developments, e.g. Hafod y Wern, are located well away from the trunk road.
7. There is a stile and associated footpath crossing the site of the proposed development, details of this right of way are not shown on the planning application.

The Council respectfully requests that its observations on the proposal be earnestly considered, that the decision process is not undertaken by delegated powers and that a site visit by the respective committee is undertaken to view the proposed development taking into account the objections of this Council.

The Community Council of Gwernymynydd wish refusal of the application.

13. 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 2020; 54.

With respect to the cost of the poppy wreath for the Remembrance Sunday Service, the Members agreed to pay the amount of £35.00 to the Royal British Legion.

The Clerk informed the Members that he had received notification from Flintshire County Council relating to the 2021/2022 Precept. The calculation for the Council Tax Band 'D' Tax Base was set at 575.12

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 an increase in the Council's Precept from its present amount of £16,000 to a figure of £16,500, this equates to an increase of 1.88%. The full financial situation would be presented at the next meeting of the Council for the Members to discuss and deliberate upon.

Please note that because the Clwyd Pension Department at County Hall has all its staff working from home the Council's cheque to the Pension Fund for the Clerk, the Employer's Contribution, will be paid directly to the Clerk for submission by BACS to the pension fund.

14. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd

The Members reported to the meeting the success of the Remembrance Sunday Service, although it was a difficult situation with respect to the Covid-19 problem and its associated rules and regulations the Service was very well received. Special thanks were given to Mr. Stuart Perrin who played the ‘last post’ and to Mr. Stevenson who rang the former school bell at the appropriate time.

In his report to the Members Councillor Kevin Hughes thanked Mr. Nigel Parry an ex-RAF serviceman who stepped in to lay the community poppy wreath. Councillor Hughes also related to the Members that 84-year-old Mr. Terry Broadfoot, a village resident and ex-RAF serviceman who attended the Service, was asked if he would be willing to lay the community poppy wreath at next year’s Remembrance Service. Councillor Hughes stated that Mr. Broadfoot in his reply to the request said that he would deem it to be an honour and privilege. All Councillors were in agreement to Councillor Hughes proposal and thanked him for taking the initiative on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Michael Meadway suggested to the Members that perhaps in place of the usual plastic poppy wreath that is bought each year for the Service an artistic and more durable and appropriate metal wreath should replace it. The Members discussed the proposal and agreed to pursue the suggestion but also insisted that a donation to the RBL would still prevail.

With reference to a One Voice Wales meeting and respective environment reports Councillor Marjorie Thomson provided for the Members a brief report.

Members discussed the delayed Village Litter Pick and resolved to pursue the event in 2021 and to propose a suitable date at the next meeting of the Council.

With respect to any suggested Christmas festivities in the Village the Members agreed that for this year all such proposals should be postponed and that only Christmas lights be put up and displayed within the Village Centre grounds.

15. 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 by Councillor Nancy Matthews. Councillor Matthews in her report informed the Members that the potholes in the car park were due to be filled in and that the poor outside lighting would be replaced to provide adequate illumination within the grounds. Councillor Matthews also informed the Members that Mr. George Godwin the Centre’s Treasurer had obtained a £4,000 support grant and that the Centre had received a donation of £250 from the Gwernymynydd Village Hall Trust.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson provided the Members a full and detailed report of the recently held Flintshire County Council, County Forum meeting which she had attended via remote access. Councillor Thomson outlined to the Members the salient points of the meeting as follows:-

1. Council Topics

1A. The Existing Emergency Situation an update provided by Colin Everett/Sian Jones/Lisa Brownbill.

With respect to the Covid19 emergency situation the Track, Trace Protect Programme for which Flintshire is the lead North Wales Council has reported an estimated 95% contact, 5,965 people, there being over 400 Track and Trace Advisers/Co-ordinators over the region who will also act as information providers for public protection.

1B. Recovery Strategy information provided by Colin Everett/Andrew Farrow/Gareth Owens)

An update on the Council's proposals for recovery at the Local and Sub Regional levels, community services to be kept on track, a working relationship with Wrexham County Borough Council and the conversion of Deeside Leisure Centre for use as an emergency Covid-19 hospital. Discussions were also undertaken with regard to Children and Young People, Inequality, Natural Environment and Well Being

1C. Local Development Plan (LDP), information was provided by Andrew Farrow.

The purpose was to provide an update on the next steps for the Local Development Plan prior to the examination in public and following the endorsement of the Plan by County Council on 28 September. Councillor Thomson related to the Members that the nearest of the 11 areas of proposed development to Gwernymynydd was that put forward on the Gwernaffield Road.

1D. Council Budget Update; the Budget Position 2020/21 and the Budget Update 2021/22, information was given by Colin Everett/Gary Ferguson. Additional Information was provided by attached Month 5 Report and MTFS and Budget Slides)

The latest financial position for the Council in the current financial year was presented to the meeting, the Council's progress on budget planning for 2021/22 was given with a spending review to combat the estimated £14 million shortfall. It was stated that the Council Tax prediction would be in the region of 4-5% but certainly no more than 5%.

1E. Election Planning Update information on this topic was given by Colin Everett/Gareth Owens.

To update everyone on the practicalities of next year's Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections due to take place in May, 16-year-olds would be permitted to vote in the forthcoming elections.

2. Town and Community Councils Items

Items that were submitted for discussion by Town and Community Councils:

An update was requested on general recycling what can and cannot be included, Councillor Thomson confirmed that following a review plastics and cans can be disposed together but on paper recycling no disposable nappies and tissues were to be included in the paper waste. An update was requested on why general housing repairs were taking a long time to process, in reply it was stated that there had been a delay in large scale repairs such as re-roofing projects but small-scale repairs continued. Identified emergency repairs had been undertaken without any delays.

With respect to match funding for Play Areas with Town and Community Councils, it was stated that this would continue in 2021 and Councillor Carolyn Thomas thanked all participating Councils for taking part in the various projects.

The Chairman and Members thanked Councillor Marjorie Thomson for the especially useful information provided to them.

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; Welsh Government, an update concerning Covid-19; Councillor Kevin Hughes and Flintshire County Council, Food Poverty Strategy Christmas Campaign.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 26th November 2020

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary, November	505.70
	Postage	6.08
	Clerk's Salary; December	505.70
	Clerk's Allowance	56.40
	Clerk's back pay to April 1st	120.00
		1,193.88
T.M. Richardson	Council's Computer Security	89.99
Clwyd Pension Fund, via	Employer's contribution,	
T.M Richardson	November and December	281.44
Royal British Legion	Council's Poppy Wreath	35.00
		<u>1,600.31</u>