



Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

T. M. Richardson C. Eng. M.I.M.M.M, MIOA.
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CH7 6HY

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 25th March 2021 remotely and by Zoom format.

Chairman: Michael Meadway (Vice-Chairman)

The Chairman welcomed the Members to the meeting held by Zoom format following the recent Covid-19 lockdown imposed by the Welsh Government. The Clerk informed the Members of the procedures that would be undertaken and he also welcomed Councillors to the remotely held meeting.

Councillors Present

Marjorie Thomson, Nancy Matthews, Victoria Norman, Frances Rosedale, Stephen Foley, George Godwin and June Perrin.

In Attendance

Mr. John Seddon, the Council's Website coordinator and administrator. Mr. Seddon kindly hosted the Zoom meeting and provided website information for the Members before retiring from the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors; Carl Jackson, John Homersley and Julie Crabtree.

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 February Meeting

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above Meeting

There were no items given for discussion by the Members, however the Clerk outlined to the Members the Remuneration Payment that could be given to Councillors in their capacity as Elected/Co-opted Members of a Community Council. The Clerk requested the Members to consider the issue and to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

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

Members were aware, with respect to Councillor Kevin Hughes' passing, that there was now a vacancy as the Council's representative on the Federated CP. Schools Board of Governors, previously the Clerk had requested that the Members consider this situation and that in due course a nomination for the position would be then put forward. With regard to this Councillor Stephen Foley had informed the Members that he would consider putting his name forward for the position but at the present time this would not be possible, a delay in making the decision of about 2 months would alter the situation. This situation was still in abeyance and the Members thanked Councillor Foley for his interest and hoped that he would be able to take the vacant position of School Governor in due course.

6. To consider proposals for a Memorial to Councillor Kevin Hughes.

Members discussed various proposals put forward as a memorial to Councillor Kevin Hughes. Suggestions given were, an annual photograph competition, a picnic area within the grounds of the Village Centre, the meadow and orchard area to be dedicated to Councillor Hughes and a bench located in a suitable area of the Village Centre or in the adjacent FIT (NPFA) field. With respect to the proposals put forward involving the Village Centre grounds, Councillor Nancy Matthews reminded the Members that other prominent Councillors over the years had also put a lot of energy and ideas into providing facilities for the community. Councillor Matthews informed the Members that the Village Centre Management Committee were considering the suggested memorial options and as such the Committee would report back to the Council. Concerning the suggested photograph competition, the Members considered that the age groups should be for primary school children, secondary school children and adults, also, that a Village Calendar could be produced to show the winning photographs. Councillor Frances Rosedale suggested that the competition could be categorised and an example could be natural scenes within the village. Councillor Victoria Norman put forward the idea that a memorial 5k walk could be organised in memory of Councillor Hughes, the particular route being selected by the Councillors.

Members were requested to consider the proposals suggested and to perhaps be in a position within the next few months to progress an agreed memorial to Councillor Kevin Hughes.

7. Gwernymynydd Community Council's Website.

Before retiring from the meeting Mr. John Seddon informed the Members that he had started to put on the website a map of the streets, roads and house names of residences within the village, this being an aid to provide location information to businesses, delivery persons and the postal service. Mr. Seddon also stated that he had put on the website useful information on 'Save a Life Cymru' (SALC), regarding the latter Councillor Marjorie Thomson provided for the Members additional detailed information.

The Members were reminded that the contents of the Gwernymynydd Community Council website were a provider of useful village knowledge and general information which all residents within the community could enjoy and that Mr. Seddon could be contacted with regard to any item on the website be it new or old information by Councillors for clarification on any points.

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 remotely held 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.

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

Ruthin Road, Councillor Victoria Norman informed the Members of a suspicious vehicle that had appeared near to her property in Paddock Way at around 7.30/8.00 am. Once challenged the driver went away. Members recommended to Councillor Norman that she reports the unusual activity to North Wales Police. Councillor Marjorie Thomson informed the Members of reported dog thefts in the area and as such advised Members to report any suspicious activities to the Police.

Member Area Reports.

Llys Enfys; Ruthin Road; and in these areas there were no items for discussion.

Cadole, Councillor Michael Meadway informed the Members that the planters and the contained plants had been severely affected by the winter weather and as such he would be attending to them in due course; **Tros y Wern** Councillor Nancy Matthews reported to the Members that the play equipment in the Ger-y-Llan play area required attention, the Clerk stated that he would get in contact with Aura the Department responsible for maintaining the play equipment to undertake the necessary repairs; **Blaen Wern**, the Clerk reported to the Members that he had received complaints via Councillor Carl Jackson in relation to overhanging trees/bushes that were causing a nuisance both in Blaen Wern and at Godre'r Coed, the Clerk informed the Members that he had been in contact with Streetscene, Flintshire County Council to report the matters of concern; **Swan Lane**, Councillor Marjorie Thomson 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 Mr. Andrew Lightfoot of Streetscene was still pursuing this matter with Scottish Power, B.T and Mr. John Edgar, Councillor Thomson also informed the Members that the reception for the internet was intermittent in this area and that this was being pursued by Mr. Michael Thomson, Councillor Thomson reported to the Members that she had received notice from Flintshire County Council regarding a road closure to undertake essential road repairs; **Minffordd Fields**, previously in his report to the Council Councillor Kevin Hughes, as stated in previous minutes had 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 had again at that time informed the Members that the issue at the present was still being pursued.

Councillors had expressed their concerns that the good works done and the achievements made to date would be lost due to Councillor Kevin Hughes' passing, Members were again unanimous in their resolve that the Council shall continue to pressure Flintshire County Council to determine a resolution to the problems being experienced by the residents of Minffordd Fields. The Clerk informed the Members that Councillor Chris Dolphin would continue with the good works already achieved by Councillor Hughes.

9. Planning Matters

Submitted Planning Application.

JZB/062473; Application to vary condition to extend permission, at Plas Hafod Hotel, Hafod 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 offer no objection to the planning application.

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 2021; 17.

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.

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 Council's Asset Register, these referred to the missing time statement the said assets became the responsibility of the Council and also the inadvertently missing tick on the Year Ending Statement for the 31st March 2019 for the N/A section relating to Trust Funds.

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.

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

11. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd

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

Councillors reported to the meeting that local residents and indeed Members themselves had continued to undertake litter picks throughout areas in the communities of Gwernymynydd and Cadole.

Members also considered future celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, this item to be discussed at a later meeting of the Council.

12. Reports

Outside Bodies

With reference to the Village Centre Management Committee, an update of information concerning the Village Centre was provided for the Members by Councillor Nancy Matthews. Councillor Matthews in her report informed the Members that the vegetable co-operative was still in use and doing well despite the problems imposed by the Covid-19 situation. Councillor Matthews also informed the Members that the Management Committee had undertaken a change in contract for the emergency warning system, the fire extinguishers and that regular alarm testing was now being done and recorded. Councillor Matthews related to the Members that the new contracting company was Jackson Fire, based in Mold.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson reported to the Members the salient points of the recently remotely held One Voice Wales meeting. Councillor Thomson outlined the commitment Community Councils will need to undertake in 2022, that is an annual report providing information on priorities, achievements and activities, a training plan for Councillors and their Clerks and to achieve a clean and approved Financial Audit.

With reference to the subject of training Councillor Nancy Matthews informed the Members of the commitment of Flintshire County Council to provide such useful and necessary training sessions on a regular basis, these to re-commence once the Covid-19 pandemic has eased substantially.

Sub-Committees

There were no additional items for discussion.

13. Correspondence

Items 1 and 2 were received by the Council.

14. Late Correspondence

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

By e-mail; One Voice Wales/North Wales Police, a scam alert relating to Tesco; Jacquie Jepson information concerning CPR training sessions; North Wales Police, information given relating to Inspector Iwan R Jones; Information received concerning the road closure for repairs at Swan Lane, Gwernymynydd; Digital Connectivity Survey; Finalisation of The Countryside Code document.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 25th March 2021.

T M Richardson	Clerk's Salary,	505.70
	Postage	3.40
		<u>509.10</u>
Clwyd Pension Fund, via	Employer's contribution	140.72
T.M Richardson		
One Voice Wales	Annual Subscription	181.00
Mr. John Seddon	Council's Website Costs	237.64
		<u>1,068.46</u>