



Gwernymynydd Community Council Cyngor Cymdeithasol Gwernymynydd

T. M. Richardson C. Eng. M.I.MMM, MIOA.
Clerk to the Council
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Ty y Gefell
2, Church Close
Northop Hall
Nr. MOLD
Flintshire
CH7 6HY

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 29th April 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,
Stephen Foley, George Godwin and Julie Crabtree.

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, Frances Rosedale and June Perrin.

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 March 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.

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’.

With reference to the above, Councillor Stephen Foley informed the Members that he was now able to take up the said vacant position. The Clerk was requested to write to the Headteacher informing her that Councillor Foley would now be the Council’s representative on the School’s Board of Governors.

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

Members again discussed various proposals put forward as a memorial to Councillor Kevin Hughes. As a reminder 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 had previously 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 route being selected by the Councillors.

The Members considered the above proposals and agreed that the 3-age group photography competition would be a fitting memorial to Councillor Hughes. Councillor Marjorie Thomson proposed that the competition should reflect village life within the community taking into account the villages of Gwernymynydd, Cadole and Nercwys. The judging of the competition would be undertaken by 3 Councillors plus a person independent of the Council.

With reference to the suggestion of a 5k walk within the community put forward by Councillor Victoria Norman the Members agreed to this proposal and as such were requested to consider a suitable route within the community area.

Councillors Michael Meadway and Marjorie Thomson suggested that with the Rainbow Ramblers now restarting their local walks, they could be approached to propose a suitable 5k or similar route. This proposal was put to the Members and agreed and Councillor Marjorie Thomson volunteered to pursue the initiative.

7. Gwernymynydd Community Council's Website.

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. The Clerk also reminded the Members that at a previous Council meeting via Zoom Mr. Seddon had suggested that each Councillor could provide a photograph of themselves for inclusion in the Members Section of the website. Members were requested to pursue the request.

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 informed the Clerk that police reports for the community could now be obtained via a link which PCSO Owen had provided by e-mail. The Clerk stated that he would forward the said e-mail link to Members. With respect to obtaining a police report for future meetings the Clerk would provide the given information.

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

Member Area Reports.

Llys Enfys; Cadole; Blaen Wern and Tros y Wern in these areas there were no items for discussion.

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; **Minffordd Fields**, previously in his reports 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.

With reference to the car park at the junction of Minffordd Fields and Ruthin Road Members reported that the car park wall had been knocked damaged and there were safety concerns expressed, the Clerk was requested to pursue those concerns of the Members with Flintshire County Council's Streetscene; **Ruthin Road**, Councillor Nancy Matthews outlined her concerns to the Members regarding the bus stop, Ruthin direction A494, located near to the Village Centre; local school children and residents use the bus route on a regular basis, however there is no bus shelter available for use in times of inclement weather. Councillor Matthews requested the Council to petition Flintshire County Council with the view to obtaining a bus shelter at this location.

9. Planning Matters

Submitted Planning Application.

JP/062790, demolition of attached single storey garage roof with proposed first floor extension above with an additional single storey rear extension and minor internal refurbishment works located at 7, Godre'r Coed, 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.

062636, Ty Hir, Ffordd Glyndwr, Nercwys, renewal of unexpired Planning Permission 054629 for change of use of land from Paddock to 24 Touring caravan facilities with an associated Amenity Block.

Information on this application had been forwarded to the Council by Councillor Chris Dolphin, Councillor Nancy Matthews provided additional information on the application and the Clerk was requested to forward to the Members the objections made to Flintshire County Council by the Council on this 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 April the details of which can be found on page 2021; 23.

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 consider the Remuneration Payment that could be given to Councillors in their capacity as Elected/Co-opted Members of a Community Council. The Clerk had requested the Members to consider the issue and to further discuss the matter at the next meeting.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson provided for the Members a detailed report given by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales via information received by One Voice Wales. The salient point outlined in the report was that Councillors should receive a payment to offset expenses that may be incurred whilst undertaking their Council duties. Councillor Thomson outlined that most Councils provided this financial benefit the amount being £150. The Clerk stated that to receive the said amount would be a personal choice of a Councillor and that he would provide for the Members at the next Council meeting a pro-forma for each Member to complete.

The Safeguard Review of the Council's banking arrangements with the Council's Bank, HSBC, the Clerk to provide detailed information on the subject.

The Clerk reported to the Members that he had met via a telephone conference with a member of the HSBC Bank to discuss banking arrangements and he could now confirm that the Council's accounts and actions were exemplary and that the Council was to be congratulated with the manner transactions were conducted.

The Clerk informed the Members that the Council's insurance policy with Zurich Municipal was due for renewal shortly, the Clerk recommended to the Members that the Council should continue with Zurich. This was put to the Council and agreed by the Members.

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, Remembrance Sunday and the purchase of permanent poppies for display to honour the fallen soldiers. Councillor Nancy Matthews reminded Members of the Council's commitment to maintain the permissive footpath, Cadole, Councillor Michael Meadway agreed to look at the path and what needs to be undertaken with regard to any necessary repairs. A working party could then be organised as a village event.

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 Michael Meadway informed the Members that the agreed planters and associated plants to be located at the Centre would soon be obtained and also that Councillor June Perrin had donated lavender plants for the project. Councillor Marjorie Thomson informed the Members that Mr. Michael Thomson was still undertaking grounds maintenance at the Centre, to this the Members thanked Mr. Thomson for his continued commitment to the Village Centre.

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:-

A letter received from Mr. Paul Jones, Business Improvement and Performance Manager, Aura, with respect to available funding for Town and Community Councils to match fund improvements to community play areas. Mr. Jones confirms in his letter that the Tros y Wern play area Gwernymynydd would benefit from such an initiative. The Members agreed to pursue a possible match funding programme with Aura.

By e-mail; Flintshire County Council, information relating to Covid-19 guidelines and safe Polling Stations for the forthcoming Elections, 6th May 2021; FLVC, information regarding the safe opening of Community Centres.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised at the meeting held on the 29th April 2021.

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| T M Richardson | Clerk's Salary, | 505.70 |
| | Postage | 3.40 |
| | | <u>509.10</u> |
| Clwyd Pension Fund, via T.M Richardson | Employer's contribution | 140.72 |
| Audit Wales | Audit costs | 422.90 |
| Scottish Power | Streetlight energy charge | 186.35 |
| Deco Lighting | Streetlight maintenance | 289.25 |
| ICO, Information Commissioner | Data Protection | 40.00 |
| | | <u>1,588.32</u> |