
T. M. Richardson C. Eng. M.I.MMM, MIOA.
Clerk to the Council
Telephone: 01244 815083

Ty y Gefell
2, Church Close
Northop Hall
Nr. MOLD
Flintshire
CH7 6HY

Minutes of the Meeting of the Gwernymynydd Community Council held on Thursday the 27th October 2022 at the Village Centre, Gwernymynydd.

Chairman: Councillor Carl Jackson.

Councillors Present

Victoria Norman, Stephen Foley, Klara Lethbridge,
George Godwin, Frances Rosedale and Marjorie Thomson

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors; Julie Crabtree, John Homersley, Michael Meadway and Karen Hughes,

In Attendance

On this occasion Councillor David Coggins was unable to attend the meeting and as such he submitted his apologies for absence to the Members.

The Clerk informed the Members that the Chairman, Councillor Carl Jackson would be stepping down from the position of Chairman because of ill health problems, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Michael Meadway will succeed to the position of Chairman in the interim period.

The Clerk also announced to the Members that due to ill health Councillor Julie Crabtree had submitted to the Council her resignation, the Members reluctantly accepted her submission but fully understood her position and all wished her well for the future.

The Clerk informed the Members that the correct procedures would now be followed to fill the vacant position of Councillor.

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 given by Councillors for this meeting.

3. **The Clerk to Gwernymynydd Community Council,**

Appointment of a new Clerk and Financial Officer to the Council.

A quorum of Members met prior to the start of the scheduled October Council meeting to discuss the appointment of a Clerk and Financial Officer to the Gwernymynydd Community Council following the notification of retirement of the present Clerk. The Members interviewed the candidate Mrs. Colette Buckley of the Plas Hafod Hotel, Gwernymynydd and discussed in detail the position of the Clerk and Financial Officer to the Community Council. A questions and answers discussion took place and following a short deliberation the Members offered the position of Clerk and Financial Officer to Mrs. Buckley who accepted the offered employment.

Mrs. Buckley was introduced to the Councillors who arrived for the scheduled meeting at 7.00 pm and stayed for the remainder of the Council meeting.

4. **To Welcome to the Meeting Mr. David Griffiths the Council's Internal Auditor**

To discuss and determine the Council's Financial Risk Assessment 2022/23.

The Chairman, Councillor Carl Jackson welcomed Mr. Griffiths to the Council meeting whereby introductions were made to all present. An explanation of why this assessment needed to be done was given by Mr. Griffiths who then referred Councillors to the previous year's Financial Risk Assessment check list. The Clerk had provided the Members copies of the said list and as such Mr. Griffiths proceeded to go through each item, the Risk, the Consequences and the Action.

Following discussions on each identified Risk, Consequences and Action and also drawing reference to the situation that had involved Dynfant Community Council in South Wales changes to the Council's Financial Risk Assessment were deemed to be necessary. The Members agreed to the following:-

The Members agreed to the proposals put forward in the discussions, reference to minor changes concerning retirement and or resignation of the Clerk and to the statement that the Council's website would be subject to an Agenda item on a quarterly basis.

The Members thanked Mr. Griffiths for his report and for his commitment to the community in outlining the Council's Financial Risk Assessment.

5. **To Approve the Minutes of the September Meeting**

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

6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Member Area Reports, 8, 2021;60, Ruthin Road; Councillor Frances Rosedale had previously raised the issue of light nuisance/intrusion from the Eagles and Crawford Bus Depot's night-time security lights dazzling households' opposite; the Clerk reported to the Members that he had arranged a meeting with a Company representative on site to resolve the said complaint, however the Company had not responded to the agreed improvements and therefore the Clerk stated that he would again follow up on the issue of concern.

4, 2022;34, Dog Litter Bins within Gwernymynydd.

The Clerk had informed the Members that he had received a request from Councillor David Coggins who in turn had received requests from members of the public for more dog litter bins to be placed within the village. Councillor Michael Meadway informed the Members that he had arranged a meeting with Andrew Lightfoot, of Streetscene, Flintshire County Council regarding other matters and that he would bring up the related public requests at the meeting. This issue was still to be resolved.

Member Area Reports, 10,2022;17, Minffordd Fields, Minffordd Fields, ‘Councillors still raised concerns with regard to the excess surface water on the estate, Councillor Julie Crabtree had previously reported to the Members that there were road signs missing at the entrance to the estate and that there was concern regarding the small brick wall fronting the small car park at the entrance, also at the moment there was still only one street light working making the street and the estate hazardous, this situation was still being maintained’.

Councillor David Coggins had informed the Members that he had pursued the concerns raised by Councillors and residents of Minffordd Fields with Flintshire County Council but there had been no substantive reply, Councillor Coggins stated that he would continue to pursue the said issues on behalf of the residents.

Police Matters, 9,2022; 35, Cadole; Councillor Michael Meadway had reported to the Members the concerns of local residents’ reference to noisy speeding vehicles in the early hours of the morning. Councillor Meadway had requested the Clerk to pursue the said nuisance with North Wales Police. The Clerk reported to the Members that he had not received a response from North Wales Police on the complaint.

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, Gwernymynydd, 12, 2022; 36; Members discussed ideas to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. Suggestions put forward by the Members were the planting of trees or the creation of a rose garden incorporating Queen Elizabeth Roses plus a memorial stone with a suitable informative plaque, this agreed proposal is to be pursued.

Llys Enfys/ A494 Junction, Councillor George Godwin had previously raised concerns with the Members regarding the very tight turning into/out of Llys Enfys onto the A494, the Clerk had been requested to pursue the matter with Flintshire County Council with the view to possible improvements to the junction as a matter of safety. The Clerk reported to the Members that the issue is still being pursued.

7. Training Report, Gwernymynydd Community Council.

Councillor Marjorie Thomson reported to the Members the details of the Welsh Government Training Plan to be undertaken and she also outlined the individual Modules available by One Voice Wales, identifying 11 Modules in particular. Councillor Thomson stated that the Code of Conduct Training provided by Flintshire County Council for all Councillors in Flintshire was a good starting point but she emphasised that the training Modules provided by One Voice Wales did need to be earnestly considered and undertaken.

Councillor Thomson stated that the Clerk did need to keep up to date records of the training undertaken by Councillors and requested details from the Members present to be given to the Clerk. The Clerk was also asked to again provide to the Members the training information and details given by One Voice Wales.

8. Remuneration Payments to Members.

Members to advise if they wished to receive the annual Councillor Allowance of £150 or to opt out of the statutory payment.

The Clerk provided for the Members the required payment document for each Councillor to fill in the said details. The payments to be given to the Members at the next meeting of the Council.

9. Federated CP Schools The Hafod Federation (Gwernymynydd and Gwernaffield), Governors' Report to the Council

Councillor Stephen Foley again provided for the Members a report, reference to the last meeting of the Hafod Federation which he had attended. Councillor Foley again explained the school's financial situation and stated that the school numbers were healthy and everyone was looking forward to the new school year.

10. Gwernymynydd Development Plan, 2030

To continue to discuss the progress of the Plan taking into account the Sections Titled, Policies, Social and Community Development, Transport and Roads, The Environment, Housing and Land Development and the continued monitoring of the Plan.

Members again discussed the issue and how to proceed to impart the information to residents in the community, the Village Newsletter and the Council's website will, as stated previously, be used to provide information relating to the Development Plan.

Within the Plan Councillors, can highlight the achievements to date, e.g. the Wildflower Meadow, the Dog Walking Facility, the Bees and Hives and also the Council's involvement with the Village Pantomime and the Monthly Coffee Mornings; Members agreed to look at what can be done further within the community and also to advertise any such regular events taking part within the villages of Gwernymynydd and Cadole.

Following on from the above, Councillor Marjorie Thomson informed the Members of the successful Memorial Walk in the Community, there were over 30 people taking part with sponsorship of £150 plus being raised for the nominated charities, the Teenage Cancer Trust and the Village Centre. The success of the Walk prompted the participants to suggest that the event should be undertaken twice a year, Spring and Autumn, this proposal was accepted by everyone.

Again, Members were requested to look at the existing Development Plan as published on the Council's website.

11. Police Matters and Member Reports

The Clerk informed the Members that he had received apologies for absence from PCSO Cleo Milburn, PCSO Emma Owen and PCSO Connor Freel stating unfortunately they would not be able to attend the meeting.

The Clerk related to the Members the said Police Report as published from the police website, the reported crimes within the Gwernymynydd Area were given to be; 7, violence offences, 1, anti-social behaviour incident and 1, public order offence.

Councillor Klara Lethbridge raised the issue of cyber crime and its effect on the community, with respect to the concerns expressed Councillor Lethbridge stated that she would investigate such problems and report back to the Council.

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 additional items for discussion.

Member Area Reports.

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

Ruthin Road, The Clerk informed the Members that he had been in contact with the North and Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agency with respect to the promised improvements to the former Chapel site, opposite to the Rainbow Housing Development. In reply the Agency stated that they were awaiting drawings and costings of the proposal but were hoping that work on the improvements would be starting soon.

The items of concern raised by the Members would be forwarded to Streetscene, Flintshire County Council for attention and action.

12. Defibrillators and Maintenance.

To discuss the possibility of obtaining a defibrillator for Cadole and the surrounding community.

Councillors were reminded of earlier discussions on this item ‘Members again discussed the proposal to obtain a defibrillator for Cadole, the Members outlined their concerns regarding the number of people within the community area and wished the proposal be progressed. The public house, The Colomendy Arms, situated in Village Road, was again suggested to be the most suitable location and Members agreed to seek sponsorship for to purchase the defibrillator.’

With reference to the above Councillor Michael Meadway reported to the Members that he had been in consultation with the nearby Quarry (Cefn Mawr) and that he had received a positive response, the Quarry Management stated that they would either in total or part fund the purchase and also maintain the defibrillator, this was still being pursued in a positive manner. With respect to the siting of the defibrillator at the suggested local pub, The Colomendy Arms, Councillor Meadway had also received a positive response from the Licensee to the request of siting the unit at the pub. Councillor Meadway had stated that he would continue with the consultation process with both the Cefn Mawr Quarry Management and the Licensee at The Colomendy Arms.

13. Council sponsored Photographic Competition in Memory of Councillor Kevin Hughes.

Councillor Victoria Norman provided an update on the competition for the Members and related to everyone that the winners in the agreed categories had been chosen, and that the next steps to print the winning photographs to produce a 2023 calendar had been undertaken, as stated previously Double Click Design and Print were the selected printers for the calendar. Councillor Norman stated that the calendar would soon be available for sale within the community.

14. Planning Matters

To date the Council has not received any applications from Flintshire County Council for the Members to discuss and comment on.

By e-mail, Planning Weekly List, reference to the previous reception of applications and decisions taken by the Planning Authority, this has now been replaced by an alternative process by Flintshire County Council for the Members to use, the details of which have been given to the Members.

15. Finance

To receive invoices for payment to order payment and to sign cheques, the Clerk informed the Members of the expenditure for October the details of which can be found on page 2022; 46.

Please note that because the Clwyd Pension Department at County Hall has most of its staff still 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.

16. Events Taking Place Within Gwernymynydd

To receive and outline and subsequently progress suggested future events from Councillors taking into consideration the following:- proposals which were put forward for consideration.

The Clerk informed the Members that he had been in contact with the Reverend Andrew Millar with respect to the forthcoming Remembrance Service, on Sunday the 13th November 2022, the Reverend Millar stated that he would conduct the Service and that he looked forward to meeting everyone in the community. The Members discussed the details of the Service and the Clerk was requested to provide those details to the Reverend.

Councillor George Godwin had previously provided details to the Members of the Christmas Fayre to held on the 4th December starting at 3.00 pm, Councillor Godwin informed the Members of the estimated costs of the event and as such the Members discussed the possibility of donating a grant to the Village Centre which was hosting the Christmas Fayre. The Members proposed a donation of £100 to the Village Centre this proposal was unanimously agreed by all the Councillors.

17. Reports

Outside Bodies

With reference to the Village Centre Management Committee, an update of present usage and additional information concerning possible improvements to the Village Centre was provided for the Members by Councillor George Godwin.

There were no further reports given to the Council by the Members.

Sub-Committees

There were no additional items for discussion.

18. Correspondence

Items 1 and 2 were received by the Council.

19. Late Correspondence

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

By e-mail; Information provided by the Boundary Commission; Understanding Welsh Places; An email received from Mrs Nancy Matthews relating to ‘Warm Hubs’ a Welsh Government initiative and promoted by Flintshire County Council, to help people in the increasing problems of the energy and financial situations. Mrs. Matthews states that at the moment this initiative does not apply to Gwernymynydd but she requests that this initiative be pursued with Flintshire County Council for the benefit of the Village.

With respect to further information on this initiative Councillor George Godwin informed the Members that the Village Centre had been put forward as a ‘Warm Hub’ to help residents in Gwernymynydd.

Chairman.....

Payments authorised for the Council meeting held on the 27th October 2022.

T M Richardson	Clerk’s Salary Postage Clerk’s Allowance	505.70 8.50 56.40 570.60
Clwyd Pension Fund, via T. M. Richardson	Employer’s contribution	145.64
Elitehelp Ltd	A re-issued Cheque due to the cancellation of the previous	365.00
Gwernymynydd Village Centre,	Donation to the costs of the Christmas Fayre	100.00
		1,181.24