Coychurch Higher Community Council

Annual Report - Public Meeting 13th May 2024

Chairmans’s Report:

It has been a challenging year, with many changes within Coychurch Higher Community Council.

We are currently running with only 4 of our allocation of 7 councillors despite advertising.

However, this has not stopped the wheels from turning.

I would like to thank the councillors and clerk who have left us and also our Chair who has retired after 14 years of service, and wish them all very the best.

I would also like to welcome Cllr Tracy Boxall and our newly appointed clerk, Antoinette Chislett.

Sincere appreciation to Karyl Carter, who has been our backbone for many, many years, for staying on long after her retirement date to assist us during this challenging time.

There is absolutely no way that we would have managed without Karyl’s continued support.

Our website has been upgraded, where residents can access all things relevant to CHCC and Cllr Vicky Evans has set up a council Facebook page which she updates regularly. Thank you Vicky.

Cllrs have completed Code of Conduct training and will soon be receiving new email addresses for council correspondence.

CHCC continues to be a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks as well as having representatives on the School Governing Body, Town & Community Council, The Board of Conservators and One Voice Wales.

This Council has been extremely active in its efforts to inform the public of potential changes in the area and have helped organise visits to Stormy and public site visits with Cenin at the proposed solar site.

We have liaised with residents regarding the planning issues at the traveller sites as well as making consultation observations on other projects that go before BCBC.

We have met with CCV, who we employ to ensure that the local footpaths are tended to and have ensured the safety of the public by felling several extremely dangerous trees and removed Japanese Knotweed via BCBC referrals through our three Bridgend Council representatives.

Both the footbridge and bench near ADM have been replaced. The uneven boardwalk at the Millenium Garden has been removed and replaced with chippings and both Cllr John Holmes and Toby Barton worked tirelessly shovelling and barrowing in excess of 8 tonnes of chippings. Thank you both.

The Landscape Project which Karyl has liaised on for a very long time has now come to fruition and Welsh Government and BCBC are making the plan a reality. We hope that, once finished, the public will enjoy and appreciate this landmark project.

The Welfare Hall, of which all Cllrs are trustees has been improved in so many ways by the hard work of John Holmes. Whilst we have all endeavoured to 'do our bit' he has definitely taken on the lion's share. Thank you.

Also, thanks to John, Tracy and Karyl for all the office work involved in not just keeping the Hall legalities straight, but the employment side of things too. Thank you all.

We have supported 2 very special concerts which were organised by Mrs Eileen Thomas at the Hall as well as arranging a Coronation Event which was enjoyed by all. Attendees were treated to refreshments and commemorative wild flower seed packs.

Daniel Barton was the lucky winner of the photography competition and received a small monetary prize and Mr & Mrs Owen won the Christmas Light competition and donated their prize to Bethel Newydd.

Some of the commemorative poppies that we attach to lamp posts annually were unfortunately stolen and we will be replacing these as soon as possible.

The Annual Carol Service and Christmas Tree were a great success and the invitation to the hall afterwards for mince pies and selection boxes was well attended. The new carol service sheets were well received and it was lovely to see the children of Pencoed Primary School taking part. Thanks to all who contributed, especially Karyl.

Change happens, and at this moment, there is a consultation that may result in Coychurch Higher Community Council being merged with a larger body.

We will do everything that we can in an effort to maintain our individuality and independence and to serve the people of our area to the best of our ability.

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| Present: |  |  |
| Chairman | Catherine Reape | JP |
| Vice-Chair | John Holmes | RB |
|  |  |  |
| Members | Tracy Boxall |  |
|  | Victoria Evans | RJ |
|  |  |  |
| Clerk/RFO | Antoinette Chislett | AC |
|  | Karyl Carter | KC |
|  |  |  |
| Member of the Public | Mary Goodman-Edwards | MGE |

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