



CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD / WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of The Meeting of Whitford Community Council

Held Virtually by Video and Telephone Conference,

On Thursday the 1st July, 2021, at 7.00pm

1(A). 126/21

PRESENT

Councillor Richard L. Dolphin (Chairman)
Councillor William Glynn (Vice Chair)
Councillor Timothy A. Barks
Councillor Chris Dolphin (Community & County)
Councillor Matthew J. Marshall

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(B). 127/21

APOLOGIES

Councillor Richard Davies
Councillor Robert J. Hughes
Councillor Mrs. Sharon E. James
Councillor Caradoc Wyn Jones
Councillor Gareth W. Sharp
Councillor Miss. Emma Warbrick
Councillor Joseph W. Williams

2. 128/21

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

3. 129/21

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 3D JUNE, 2021

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Chris Dolphon and seconded by Councillor Matthew Marshall and formally agreed by the Members present.

4. 130/21

MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) Minute no: 4. 114/21 (1) (page 2)** – in relation to a further phase of the footpath project in Gorsedd. The Clerk advised, that Councillor Chris Dolphin had further contacted County Highways, to express the disappointment of the Community Council, that the promised quotation had not been received. The Clerk further advised, that a quotation had been received on the 17th June, at a cost of £6,824.00 plus VAT.

The Clerk recollected to Members, that a figure of £7,000.00 had been placed in the ear-marked reserves for this footpath phase, which had been agreed by Council in the budget setting process in January, 2021. The Clerk, therefore, had sent the quotation to the Chair and Vice Chair of Council to determine in-between meetings. The Clerk confirmed, that the quotation had been agreed, whereby the County Council had been issued with a Work Order, to the contractor J. R. Roberts (Resurfacing Contractors). The Chair and Vice Chair had agreed to Suspend Financial Standing Orders in relation to receiving one quotation.

Members agreed the following: (1) Confirmed acceptance of the above referred to quotation (2) Confirmed the Suspension of Financial Standing Orders, in relation to receiving one quotation. Members took into consideration, that the cost per square metre from the contractor was cost effective taking into consideration previous quotations received for phase one in Pantasaph, together with the increase in tarmac cost. Therefore, the quotation was cost effective for the public purse (3) The contractor is registered on the Flintshire County Council list of approved contractors.

- (2) Minute no: 5(B). 116./21 (page 3)** – in relation to the future commencement of Council meetings in Carmel Village Hall, and in particular, the required equipment used to facilitate hybrid meetings. Councillor Richard Dolphin advised, that other public bodies such as the North Wales Police and Probation Services have used Sysco audio equipment. The current regulations for usage in Village Halls, including the Welsh Government meeting regulations were further discussed.

Members agreed the following: To continue with virtual meetings, until such time as regulations allow appropriate access in Carmel Village Hall.

5(A). 131/21 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received, that was required to be either advised to, or dealt with by the Members:

- (1) The Clerk advised, that the following criminal offences had been reported to the North Wales Police, that had occurred within the Whitford Community Council area:

Carmel - 1 x Burglary / 2 x Violence
Gorsedd - No crimes reported

Lloc – (Services area) 1 x Drugs / 1 x Possession of weapon / 1 x Shoplifting

Pantasaph - No crimes reported

Whitford – 1 x Anti-social behaviour

- (2) Prestatyn Running Club: Notification in relation to a running event on behalf of the North Wales Cross-Country Council, to be held on Saturday 27th November, 2021, on Mostyn Hall land – outskirts of Whitford Village. The Clerk advised, that he had suggested to the Running Club Committee that an advert is placed in the Five Villages Chronicle.

(3) Flintshire Local Voluntary Council: Question and answer session with Welsh government, in relation to the reopening of meeting venues; to be held virtually on Wednesday 9th June at 12 noon. The Clerk advised, that Councillor Richard Dolphin had registered to attend the virtual meeting. (Councillor Dolphin provided a report under Representatives report)
Minute number 6. 135/21 on pages 5 & 6 below.

(4) Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant: Update on the work of the Society.

The following correspondence was forwarded by e-mail to Members:

(i) Flintshire County Council: 2021 Summer Play Scheme update.

Councillor Richard Dolphin recollected Members to previous years statistics, which reflected an extremely low attendance over the five week period in both Carmel and Whitford. The statistics indicated, that the majority of Community Council's in the County provide the scheme for a three week period. Members discussed further.

Members agreed the following: To await the statistical figures following this summers play scheme.

(ii) North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent: Notification of proposed works on A55 between Halkyn and Junction 31 at Caerwys; commencing 28th June to 9th July. Road will be closed on occasions during the evening period.

(iii) HyNet North West: Further information in relation to a CO2 pipeline proposals. Members to complete on a personal basis. The Clerk advised, that Councillor Gareth Sharp had attended the virtual presentation.

(iv) Flintshire County Council: Your Council News – June 2021.

(v) Flintshire County Council: Increasing Covid-19 infections in the County.

5(B). 132/21

CLERK'S REPORT

(a) The Clerk advised, that he had been contacted by a concerned resident in Whitford, seeking the whereabouts of the tennis court posts which had apparently been removed. Following the Clerk contacting Aura Leisure, it was confirmed, that the posts had been removed for refurbishment. The posts are now back in situ.

(b) The Clerk advised, that Councillor William Glynn had been contacted by former Councillor Tegwyn Thomas. Councillor Glynn advised, that Councillor Thomas thanked the Council for the condolence card and kind message sent following the passing of his wife, which was appreciated.

(c) The Clerk recollected to Members, an e-mail forwarded from the Welsh Government (WG) in relation to a Clerk's qualification consultation. Whilst this has been contained in a number of reviews for approximately eight years, it is only recently that the WG have agreed that a qualification is required.

The qualification is part of a range of measures that WG wish to provide Town & Community Councils in Wales with a 'General Power of Competence'. Apart from the Clerk qualification, the following is also required for a Council to be eligible:

- At least two-thirds of the total number of members of the council have been declared to be elected, whether at an ordinary election or at a by-election.
- The clerk to the council holds such qualification or description of qualification as may be specified by the Welsh Ministers by regulations.
- The council has received unqualified auditor's opinions from the Auditor General for Wales, for two consecutive financial years. The latest unqualified auditor's opinion must have been received during the 12 months preceding the day on which the council's resolution is passed.

The Clerk further advised, that the General Power of Competence is presently scheduled to commence from May 2022. Whilst there are many Clerk's in Wales who hold various qualifications, such as the qualification held by the Clerk to this Council; however, the Clerk's qualification was gained a considerable number of years and is not included in the current consultation. The Clerk expressed his willingness to complete the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). The Welsh Government have agreed a bursary to 50 Clerk's to cover the CiLCA registration at a cost of £410.00, together with other training cost at £250.00. The Clerk has applied for the bursary. There would be minimal costs incurred by this Council i.e., stationery and training hours, which would be shared with other Councils.

Members agreed the following: To support the Clerk during his training period, together with the ancillary costs for this Council.

- (d) Prior to the meeting, Councillor Richard Dolphin brought to the attention of the Clerk the following concern: Carmel Facebook comments to the lack of recreational space for young people and in particular, fencing surrounding the school field and lack of access during evenings and weekends. Councillor Matthew Marshall had also contacted the Clerk to the same concern. Members were shown virtually the Facebook comments together with photographs of an area of private land, adjacent to a public footpath, that had been damaged.

Councillor Matthew Marshall advised Members, as to the various comments on the local Facebook page, which highlighted the lack of areas available for the youths of the village to play and socialise. Councillor Marshall referred to comments on the Facebook page, in particular, to the assumption, that as the youths are using the various public footpaths, they are causing anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Richard Dolphin advised Members, that he had placed an appropriate reply to the Facebook comments (this was viewed virtually by Members). Councillor Dolphin had visited the area of the public footpath which runs through private land with Councillor Chris Dolphin; whereby litter was removed. Councillor Dolphin expressed his concern, that the school field which has been an area for the youths to play and socialise, has now apparently been closed during the weekday evenings and at weekends. The area at the bottom of the school field was discussed.

Councillor Chris Dolphin advised, that in the area of the public footpath which runs through private property, a number of holes had been dug to create ramps; this action had caused damage to an area of wild flowers. Councillor Dolphin was pleased that the landowner together with a number of parents were due to meet to discuss the concern.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to write to the Chair of Ysgol Bro Carmel School Governors (i) To enquire if the locking of the area is a temporary measure, and in particular, will the area be accessible during the summer school holiday period (ii) Area of land at the bottom of the school field; the Councillors would be pleased to be made aware, if the school have a future use for this area.

(e) The Clerk advised, that the following items had been received from County Councillor Chris Dolphin:

- (i)** The new speed activated sign sited on Carmel Road, Carmel is faulty; this has been reported to Flintshire County Council on the 7th and 28th June. Councillor Dolphin advised, that there had been no reply from the County Highways Officer, and would escalate the matter.
- (ii)** Flintshire County Council Wildflower Scheme. Councillor Dolphin advised, that he had suggested to the County that the Carmel Village Green area may be suitable for this scheme, together with the bank adjacent to the A5026 and the Ocean View Estate.

5(C). 133/21

TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO THE 30TH JUNE 2021

The Clerk, as Financial Officer, provided Members with a copy of the Quarterly Statement of Accounts, as at the end of June, 2021, together with copies of the two Council Bank account statements. The Clerk further provided Members, with a breakdown in relation to the budget headings, which included income and expenditure to-date.

Members agreed the following: Approved the Statement of Accounts, whereby the document was agreed to be signed by the Chair of Council; Councillor Richard Dolphin.

5(D). 134/21

STREETSCENE SCHEDULE (FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

The Clerk advised, that there had been no update received.

Members brought the following concerns to the meeting:

- (1)** Monastery Road, Pantasaph; Pot holes in area between St. David's Close and St. Clare's Close.
- (2)** Monastery Road, Pantasaph; Tarmac requires attention in area of Red telephone box.
- (3)** A5151 Road; Pot holes and edging of road crumbling (Pen Ffordd Llan Roundabout – travelling towards Trelawnyd) outside property named Ghia.
- (4)** Whitford Road junction with A5026; large bush growing into road on right hand side – travelling to Whitford from Carmel.
- (5)** A5026 road junction with Whitford Road; travelling to area of Lloc Garage. Could a review of the brambles that have grown along this length of roadway be carried out.

The Clerk advised, that the above concerns would be brought to the attention of StreetScene.

6. 135/21

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

- (1)** Flintshire Local Voluntary Council: Question and answer session with Welsh Assembly in relation to the reopening of meeting venues. Councillor Richard Dolphin provided the following report following his virtual attendance. The virtual meeting was informative.

Prior to the Council re-commencing their meetings in the Carmel Village Hall, it was considered good practice for the Council to complete a risk assessment.

7(A). 136/21

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application to be considered by Members at the meeting:

- Application number: 063088 – for removal or variation of condition following grant of planning permission, at Land East of McDonald’s, Lloc.

Comment by Council: No objection. The Community Council are pleased with the reduction in size of the two buildings, and in particular, to increase the approved four spaces to twelve to accommodate electric vehicle charging units.

7(B). 137/21

PLANNING DECISIONS

No planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council

8. 138/21

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (June - Street Lighting Electricity Account - payment dated 18/06/2021)	150.50	30.10	180.60
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for June) Payments dated 01/07/2021			
	<u>Payments for consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	Standing Order BACS: H. M. Revenue & Customs. Clerk’s PAYE & Clerk & Council NI - April, May & June, 2021	604.56		604.56

9. 139/21

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	No applications received	

10. 140/21

Members agreed the payments of the above accounts as listed.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

SIGNED BY CHAIR OF COUNCIL:.....

DATE OF APPROVAL:.....