



CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD / WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of The Meeting of Whitford Community Council

Held Virtually by Video and Telephone Conference,

On Thursday the 4th November, 2021, at 7.00pm

1(A). 189/21

PRESENT

Councillor Richard L. Dolphin (Chairman)
Councillor William Glynn (Vice Chair)
Councillor Timothy A. Barks
Councillor Richard Davies
Councillor Chris Dolphin (Community & County)
Councillor Caradoc Wyn Jones
Councillor Matthew J. Marshall
Councillor Gareth W. Sharp
Councillor Paul Urquhart
Councillor Miss. Emma Warbrick
Councillor Joseph W. Williams

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(B). 190/21

APOLOGIES

Councillor Mrs. Sharon E. James

1(C). 191/21

SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE (CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR PAUL URQUHART)

- (i) The Clerk advised, that Councillor Paul Urquhart had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to the Council meeting; whereby the Declaration had been witnessed by the Clerk. Councillor Urquhart had been provided with all the current Council policies by e-mail. Members were shown virtually a copy of the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chair of Council, Councillor Richard Dolphin, welcomed Councillor Urquhart as a Member of Whitford Community Council.

2. 192/21

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

No attendance at meeting by public, no questions, comments or representations received prior to meeting.

3. 193/21

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest declared

4. 194/21

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH OCTOBER 2021

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor William Glynn and seconded by Councillor Emma Warbrick and formally agreed by the Members present.

5. 195/21

MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) Minute no: 5. 170/21 (2) (page 2)** – in relation to the usage of the lower field adjacent to Ysgol Bro Carmel. The Clerk advised, that a reply had been received from the Chair of School Governors, who confirmed, that the Community Asset Transfer provisional proposal by the Community Council had been discussed by the Governing Body. The School will be discussing with the Flintshire County Council to ascertain their views, whereafter the School will contact the Community Council further.
- (2) Minute no: 5. 170/21 (2) (page 2)** –in relation to the removal of the inner circle slabs on the roundabout by MacDonald's, Lloc. The Clerk advised, that the following further information had been received from Flintshire County Council. 'The slabs were constantly being damaged with debris entering the road on a number of occasions, therefore, it was decided to remove and replace with a much more friendly solution'
- (3) Minute no: 5. 170/21 (3) (page 2)** – in relation to the Active Travel Consultation. The Chair of Council Richard Dolphin, advised Members as follows:
 - ❖ Active Travel survey had been a success
 - ❖ Coffee morning in Carmel Village Hall – over 70 attendees.
 - ❖ On-line presentation provided by Councillor Richard Dolphin
 - ❖ Copy of a draft Active Travel Survey had been forwarded to Councillors on behalf of the Chair of Council, by the Clerk prior to the Council meeting.

Members agreed the following: (i) Confirmed approval of the Draft Active Travel Plan to be forwarded to Flintshire County Council for consideration (ii) Thanked Councillor Richard Dolphin for the informative report, together with the assistance of Councillor Chris Dolphin, including the Clerk and Councillor Emma Warbrick (iii) The sub-committee of Councillors' Chris Dolphin, Richard Dolphin, William Glynn, Matthew Marshall together with the Clerk, to also include newly co-opted Councillor Paul Urquhart.

- (4) Minute no: 6(A). 171/21 (1) (page 3)** – in relation to a request to the North Wales Police Go Safe Team, to complete surveillance in the vicinity of Mertyn Lane and the former Halfway House on A5026 Road. The Clerk advised, that PC Kelly French-Jones had confirmed the following. The Go-safe Team will be in attendance at the above areas and in particular, during the early evenings.

- (5) **Minute no: 6(F). 176/21 (page 5)** – in relation to a traffic survey on Monastery Road, Pantasaph, and in particular, a recent site visit held on the 13th October, with the following in attendance: Community Councillors’ William Glynn & Emma Warbrick, Community & County Councillor Chris Dolphin, together with Officers from Flintshire Highways.

The attending Council Members at the above site meeting advised the following:

- Two potential sites for the signage had been identified
- The signs could be housed on existing road signage poles and connected to the electricity supply
- The costings were similar to the signage installation in Carmel and Gorsedd, with extra costings for installation and connection to the electricity supply

Members agreed the following: (i) Thanked the above Councillors for attending the site meeting (ii) The Clerk to ascertain a firm quotation cost from Street Scene (iii) The Chair and Vice Chair to agree quotation, or other in-between meetings.

- (6) **Minute no: 9.184/21 (page 8)** – in relation to Carmel Village Green (The Bryn). The Clerk advised, that a quotation for the sum of £475.00 had been received from a grass cutting company named Treetops Ground Maintenance, for the cutting of grass, clearance of undergrowth and removal at The Bryn, in Carmel. The Chair and Vice Chair of Council had agreed the quotation in-between meetings.

Members agreed the following: Confirmed acceptance of the quotation.

- (7) **Minute no: 10.185/21 (page 8)** – in relation to the possible adoption of the Red K6 telephone boxes in Pantasaph and Whitford. The Clerk advised the following:

- ❖ BT have confirmed that the red telephone boxes in Pantasaph and Whitford can be adopted for a nominal £1.00 fee each.
- ❖ BT require in writing confirmation that the Community Council wish to adopt the two boxes, and if confirmed, BT will commence a 90 day consultation period.
- ❖ The Clerk had contacted the County Conservation Officer to discuss, as both telephone boxes are sited in conservation areas, both planning and conservation permission would be required for change of use.
- ❖ The Clerk had been made aware of funding from the Welsh Government via the North Wales Ambulance Service, to purchase a defibrillator. The Clerk following consultation and agreement with the Chair and Vice Chair had completed an application form.

Members discussed the change of use for the two phone boxes, whereby the Pantasaph box will primarily house a defibrillator, the Clerk showed virtually photographs of both the internal and external areas, which identified a number of concerns; greenery growing inside and surrounding the back of the box; the box requires sanding down and re-painting.

The Whitford box had been re-painted by BT, however, the door requires adjusting with the surrounding area – grass and weeds require cutting / removing. This phone box could be suitable for a book exchange.

Members agreed the following:

- (i) Confirmed their intention to adopt the two Red K6 telephone boxes in Pantasaph and Whitford at a fee of £1.00 each. To discuss further following the three month consultation period.

(ii) Pantasaph box; (a) Councillor William Glynn to inspect and provide a report as to the exact work required (b) Councillor Matthew Marshall to arrange a quotation from a local contractor for the painting aspect.

(iii) Whitford Box; Councillor Joe Williams advised, that he would cut the grass and generally tidy-up outside the box.

(iv) Councillor Richard Dolphin to seek views of residents on the Pantasaph and Whitford Village Facebook pages, as to the change of use of the telephone boxes.

6(A). 196/21 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 - 2 x Criminal Damage / 2 x Violence / 1 x Anti-social behaviour / 1 x Vehicle crime.

Gorsedd - 1 x Vehicle crime.

Lloc - 1 x Drugs

Pantasaph - 1 x Drugs (A55)

Whitford - No crimes reported

(2) North Wales Police: Request from Police Officer Kelly French-Jones, seeking if there are any concerns from Councillors. There were no concerns reported.

(3) Welsh Government: Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 Section 47 Multi-Location Meetings. The Clerk advised, that the Wales Government have commenced a questionnaire on Survey Monkey, in relation to the concerns expressed by Town & Community Councils in Wales, with the current restrictions to holding Council meetings. The Clerk confirmed, that he had completed the survey.

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

❖ Flintshire County Council: Your Council News

6(B). 197/21 CLERK'S REPORT

(a) The Clerk advised, that he had attended the virtual Flintshire County Standards Committee, annual training and meeting with Town & Community Councils in Flintshire on Monday 1st November.

(b) The Clerk advised, that the two Remembrance Sunday Wreaths had been delivered to the Rector of Gorsedd and Whitford Churches, to lay on behalf of the Community Council. The Gorsedd Church is now closed for internal remodelling, with no service held in Whitford Church.

- (c) Reports of an abandoned car in the area of Crecas Lane, Carmel. Information forwarded to the appropriate team at Flintshire County Council.
- (d) The Clerk advised, that following receipt of a poster advertising a Bonfire Night at the Carmel Cricket Club Grounds, on Friday 5th November, the Clerk had contacted the Cricket Club Committee, to enquire in relation to the parking arrangements on the A5026 Road; as the last event attracted a number of complaints to both the Community Council and Police. The Clerk advised of the following reply from the Cricket Club:

‘Since the last Bonfire event held there have been more car parking spaces created within the club grounds. The club is also obtaining a number of cones from a traffic control company and will place them all along the road outside the club to stop cars parking there’ The Clerk further advised, that the Police had stated: ‘that unless vehicles were parking in a dangerous position; no action would be taken’.

Councillor Tim Barks provided further information.

- (e) The Clerk advised, in relation to a number of photographs provided by Councillor Matthew Marshall, to concerns with a number of wooden steps on a footpath leading from Crecas Lane travelling upwards through the woods. The Clerk further advised, that he had contacted the County Footpaths Officer, who has visited the area and confirmed, that the County is in the process of obtaining quotations for the repairs to the wooden steps.
- (f) The Clerk advised, in relation to a number of Facebook posts, including photographs that had been sent by Councillor Richard Dolphin. The photographs showed a number of used dog bags that had been left on a wall rather than placed in the appropriate red bin.

Councillor Richard Dolphin advised Members, in relation to posters produced by Flintshire County Council, who joins in a campaign to tackle dog fouling.

(g) STREET LIGHTING

- ❖ The following street lantern has been reported faulty: Near to a property named Kilfinan, Llwyd Ifor Lane – near the junction with Mertyn Lane.
- **The Clerk brought to the attention of Members the following from County & Community Councillor Chris Dolphin:**
 - (i) Concerns with further rubbish bins within the community area of Carmel, being filled with recycling material. Councillor Dolphin provided further information.
 - (ii) The Headteacher of Ysgol Y Llan in Whitford had written to both Councillor Dolphin and the Clerk, requesting assistance with the purchase, installation and planning application of direction signage to the School.

Members agreed the following: (i) Whilst the Community Council would support signage advertising the School, it was not appropriate for the Council to apply for planning permission on behalf of the School (ii) The Council look forward to receiving an application for financial assistance towards the project.

6(C). 198/21

TO CONSIDER: THE FOLLOWING POLICY & STATEMENT UNDER THE ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 SECTION 6; BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY

The Clerk, together with Councillor Chris Dolphin recollects Members to previous discussions in relation to the County Council designating an area of land – adjacent to the A5026 Road near Ocean View estate in Carmel, as a biodiversity area. An area of land owned by the Community Council named The Bryn in Carmel could also be considered a possible site, together with Glebe Field in Whitford (County owned) and Pen Y Gelli Quarry (Community Council owned).

Both the Clerk and Councillor Dolphin held recently a virtual meeting with Sarah Slater the Flintshire County Council Biodiversity Officer. During the meeting Sarah kindly offered to provide a new Interpretation Board from a County budget, whereby the annual cut of the area could be amended from the summer to late September / early October. New posts would also be required in the area.

Members were shown virtually a Town & Community Council in Flintshire Biodiversity Duty Plan template, which Sarah had kindly created.

Members agreed the following: (1) To adopt the Biodiversity template. Councillors' Chris Dolphin and Emma Warbrick together with the Clerk – as a sub-committee, to take forward and produce a draft plan for consideration by Council in early 2022 (2) Accepted the offer for a new Interpretation Board (with amendments to be agreed by the sub-committee) (3) To discuss with Sarah the replacement wooden posts and should the cost not be included in the interpretation board, then the Clerk to acquire a quotation.

6(D). 199/21

PRECEPT AND FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR 2022 / 2023

The Clerk advised, that this exercise was to enquire with the Members of the Council, if there were any items of expenditure, extra to the present allocation in the 'Earmarked Reserves' to be included in the next financial year. A copy of the current ear-marked reserves was provided to Members.

Members agreed the following: Speed activated signage in Pantasaph – estimate cost £9,000.00 to £11,000.00 / Community Asset Transfer of Land adjacent to Ysgol Bro Carmel – estimate £10,000 – includes legal fees / Environmental budget £5,000.00 – estimate / Upgrade to Carmel & Whitford Play areas £10,000.00 / Active Travel – bench seats £2,500.00 / Red phone boxes £2,000.00 to £3,000.00 – estimate, includes planning permissions.

Ring-fenced and general reserves (includes property upkeep) – to be agreed in January 2022 budget setting.

6(E). 200/21

STREETSCENE SCHEDULE (FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

The Clerk provided the following update from Mr. Nigel Seaburg (StreetScene) Officer (Update in italics)

- (1) A5026 Road at junction to Whitford; overgrowth across the pavement is causing difficulty for pedestrians: *Quotes now received and under review by senior management team.*
- (2) A5026 Road at junction to Whitford; the Give Way sign is covered by overgrowth. *NS will inspect and arrange cutting back.*

- (3) A5026 Road; Street light. Lamp is working but visually appears unsafe requiring a review. Travelling west bound on - it is the fourth lamp. *Need lamp number or more details to pass onto street lighting team.*
- (4) A5026 Road; Street lights from Halfway House, Carmel, to Crossroads at Gorsedd, require review due to overgrowth and impact of sufficient lighting. *NS will inspect/pass to street lighting team.*
- (5) Bottom of Carmel Hill (behind Village Hall); the hedge from a nearby property (Highfield) require cutting back. *NS will inspect and arrange for hedge cutting notice to be issued to owner.*
- (6) Monastery Road, Pantasaph; the white lines are faded along the entire length of road through the village. *NS will inspect, however this area has previously been passed over for the lines to be refurbished.*
- (7) Celyn bends: pavement is breaking up and dangerous for pedestrians. *Will inspect area and note any defects found.*
- (8) Celyn bends; travelling from Holway to Lloc – leylandii hedge growing into roadway. *Hedge notice has been issued to owner, will monitor.*
- (9) Whitford Road; verges require attention and carriageway is down to single lane in parts due to overgrowth. *Travelled this road yesterday and the verges will be cut in the next couple of weeks by our contractor.*
- (10) Downing Lane; Opposite Sandham – overgrown hedge. *Area has been flagged up with contractor to cut back as much possible, when rural cut takes place in next couple of weeks.*
- (11) Lon Y Waen Gullies: *Notice issued for work to be carried out.*

Members brought the following concerns to the attention of the meeting:

- (a) Entrance to MacDonald's on the A5026 – a high sided vehicle appears to have knocked into the metal barrier, whereby the mesh fence is damaged, which could move into the road and catch vehicles.
- (b) Three individual pot holes, one very, very large, one very large and one large, on Carmel Road - outside Skylark House. A review of the east-bound Carmel Road from property named Bryn Ceris to the A5026 is required due to cracking, white line damage / pot holes (photograph provided).
- (c) Hedging and overgrowth on Carmel Road, opposite Windsor Drive. Properties requiring a notice are located on Park Crescent. This hedging is approximately 50 yards long and is up to 50% overhanging onto the footway (photograph provided).
- (d) Could the road be swept between Carmel Village Hall to the area of Mwdwl-eithin Farm
- (e) A5026 Road – The grass verge along the properties to the right and left of the former Police Station. Only one section of the grass verge is cut whereby apparently the other section is not. Could you please investigate the reason for this anomaly.
- (f) A5026 Road – Passing Lloc Garage travelling downhill towards Celyn bends during heavy rain flash flooding occurs. Possibly the gully near a property named The Haven requires clearing.

- (g) Carmel Road, Carmel. Could the road sweeper be arranged to clear the area; from the children's play area to Ffordd Neuadd road. Complaint that the pavement is slippery due to fallen leaves.

7. 201/21

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

There were no reports specific to the Local Committees and Outside Bodies schedule, or Council Members who had attended meetings on behalf of the Council.

8(A). 202/21

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications have been received:

- (a) Application number: 063562 – for Change of use of former chapel as a holiday let property, at Pen Llwyn Chapel, Penfforddilan, Lloc.

Comment by Council: Objects to the application, under Section HSG7 Change of use to Residential Outside Settlement Boundaries, of the current Flintshire Local Development Plan.

The current building appears from the information contained in the planning application, that it is currently not used for residential usage, and also appears not to be structurally sound and would therefore not be capable of conversion without significant extension, together with extensive rebuilding and external alteration. The current dilapidated condition of the building is not worthy to be classed as an architectural or historic interest, whereby the new proposed building would have an unacceptable effect on the character and appearance of the surrounding area. The current building is opposite a listed building named Pen Llwyn Farmhouse.

- (b) Application number: 063588 – for the erection of Single storey extensions, at The Meadows, Tan Y Lloc Lane, Lloc.

Comment by Council: Subject to compliance with relevant policies and planning guidance notes, then no objections raised.

(The above two applications were sent to Members for consultation in-between meetings, due to statutory time limits for observations from County Planning).

8(B). 203/21

Members formally confirmed the above decisions.

8(C). 204/21

The following planning applications were considered by Members at the meeting:

- (a) Application number: 063645 – for replacement garage for vehicles. Proposed hobby workshop and storage to replace existing garage, at The Pines, Monastery Road, Pantasaph.

Comment by Council: Should the application be allowed, then, considering the size and scale of the proposed hobby workshop and storage, the Community Council wish that the following condition be considered; 'that the garage will not be utilised for any additional activities, other than applied for' – and to be subject to compliance with relevant policies and planning guidance notes.

- (b) Application number: 063596 – for proposed side extension with internal alterations and external refurbishment, at 1 Ffordd Gwelfor, Carmel.

Comment by Council: Subject to the proposed development having no detrimental effect upon the surrounding properties, including compliance with relevant policies and planning guidance notes, then no objections raised.

- (c) Application number: 063639 – for amended application for Construction of annex, at Glan Llyn, Tan Y Lloc Lane, Lloc.

Comment by Council: Subject to compliance with relevant policies and planning guidance notes, then no objections raised.

- (d) Application number: 063512 – for proposed siting of 49 static holiday caravans and lodges on former golf practice area with supplemental landscaping, at Pennant Park Golf Club, Mertyn Downing Lane, Mostyn.

The Clerk advised Members, that whilst the above application was in the adjoining Mostyn Community Council area, it has been listed for comment, as this Council had previously made comment during the pre-planning consultation.

Comment by Council:

- (1) Under the current Flintshire County Council Unitary Development Plan: T5 - Extension of Existing Static Caravan and Chalet Holiday Sites. The application appears to contravene sub sections (a) the increase in the number of standings / units is not marginal, the increase is substantial by some 67% (b) the proposal does not involve a modest physical extension to the site area, the area is increased substantially – as stated above (c) the scheme does not significantly improve the environment of the site or the impact on the surrounding landscape; the impact is increased.
 - (2) The increase in highway traffic along the country lanes leading to the facility is a concern.
 - (3) Concern is also expressed with the loss of ‘green belt open recreational area of land’ whereby the construction of 49 static holiday caravans and lodges on the former golf practice area would ultimately change the characteristic appearance of the local landscape.
 - (4) There are currently two planning permissions granted for development at the existing site, which appear to have not been commenced. Should this application be allowed, then, the Community Council wish consideration for the following condition: ‘To complete the allowed planning applications prior to the commencement of the current application’.
 - (5) To consider the following condition, should the application be allowed: ‘To cease the dangerous practice of offloading caravans and mobile homes from large vehicles to smaller vehicles in the area of the slip road on A5026 at its junction with Ocean View Estate in Carmel’. This practice has been in existence for a number of years, whereby traffic have to take evasive action and in particular, obstructs vehicle drivers views at this busy junction.
- The Council thanked the Clerk for his research work in relation to the above planning application at Pennant Park Golf Club, which has assisted Members in reaching their decision.

8(D). 205/21

PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council:

- (i) Application number: 063358 - for proposed store for agricultural machinery, animal feed & fodder, at Bryn Hedydd Farm, Llyn Helyg, Lloc. Approved.
- (ii) Application number: 063316 - for proposed first floor extension, at Haulfryn, 13, Mertyn Lane, Carmel. Approved.

9. 206/21

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for September) Payments dated 01/10/2021			
	BACS: Royal British Legion (Two Remembrance Sunday Wreaths) Payment authorised by two Councillor bank signatories: Dated 11/10/2021	70.00		70.00
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (September - Street Lighting Electricity Account - payment dated 19/10/2021)	145.66	29.13	174.79
	<u>Payment for consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	Flintshire County Council (Further phase of Gorsedd footpath – as previously agreed)	6,824.00		6,824.00
	Carmel Village Hall (Active Travel Coffee morning; 60 attendees at £2.50 = £150.00 / Hall hire £25.00) (As previously agreed to fund the event)	175.00		175.00

10. 207/21

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	<u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u>	
	Holywell Leisure Centre (Application made by Dr. Mark Rowlands – Trustee) (Section 19 - 1(a) LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)	£500.00
	Carmel Papercraft Group (Application for annual	£250.00

	donation) (Section 19 - 3(a) LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976) 1 st Carmel Scout group (Application for annual donation) (Section 19 - 3(a) LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976) Wales Air Ambulance (Application for annual donation) (Section 137 LGA 1972)	 £300.00 £250.00
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11. 208/21

Members agreed the payments of the above accounts and financial support 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:.....