



CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD / WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of The Meeting of Whitford Community Council

Held at St. Paul's Church, Gorsedd,

On Thursday the 8th February, 2024, at 7.00pm

1(A). 28/24

PRESENT

Councillor Richard Dolphin (Chair)
Councillor Billy Glynn (Vice Chair)
Councillor Tim Barks
Councillor Caradoc W. Jones
Councillor Gareth Sharp
Councillor Melanie Wallis
Councillor Joseph Williams

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(B). 29/24

APOLOGIES

Councillor Matthew J. Marshall
Councillor Paul Urquhart
Councillor Emma Warbrick

1(C). 30/24

ABSENT

None

2. 31/24

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

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

3. 32/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

4. 33/24

TO APPROVE (A) GENERAL MINUTES AND (B) SUPPLEMENTARY MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 11TH JANUARY, 2024

Both sets of Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Billy Glynn and seconded by Councillor Caradoc Jones and formally agreed by the Members present.

5. 34/24

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(A) The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) Damaged television in St. Paul's Church, Gorsedd:** The Clerk advised that following the January Council meeting enquiries had been made with a number of television repair engineers in Flintshire, whereby all advised that to repair a large LED television screen would be as costly as purchasing a new set. The Clerk further advised that following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Council, it was agreed that the Clerk submit a claim using the Council's insurance policy.

The Clerk further advised that upon entering a claim together with photographs of the damaged television set a full refund had been made into the Councils account by the insurance company, less the policy excess - £774.00. A quotation for an exact model new television from Currys at a cost of £765.84 plus VAT of £153.17 – Total £919.01

The Clerk advised that Councillor Tim Barks had kindly assembled the new replacement television on the mobile stand and also kindly disposed of the damaged model, which had been authorised by the insurance company.

Councillor Barks advised the following: The television bracket at the rear of the unit, the metal was bent out of shape. The stand wheels were also out of shape. The rear of the television unit itself when the bracket was removed showed obvious signs of trauma. The top left (looking towards the screen) edge of the television was marked. It appears that the television had fallen over on its side which had caused the damage and also to the screen. The Clerk advised that he would write to the Church Warden seeking that guidance is provided to Groups and Committees booking the Church, and in particular, to the use of the television.

Councillor Tim Barks was thanked for his assistance.

- (2) Grass Cutting on Public Footpaths / Litter Picking on Highway Adopted Land:** The Clerk advised that he had written to both County Highways and the Public Footpath Officer, to seek their views as to the Community Council carrying out litter picking on land adjacent to highways within the Community Council area, together with additional grass cutting on public footpaths. The reply from Street Scene was positive and included costings should the Council wish to consider utilising the County staff. The reply from the Footpath Officer was also positive and suggested that the Community Council may wish to approach their appointed contractor.

Councillor Billy Glynn discussed with Members the local Company that the Footpath Officer had referred to who was currently contracted to the County. This company could possibly be approached seeking their initial / draft costs for both litter picking and grass cutting. This Council would have to decide on the number of days a month for work to

be completed, together with the areas within the Community Council area to be identified. A number of public footpaths were identified during Members discussions.

Members agreed the following: (1) To seek contracts for litter picking and grass cutting within this Community Council area from the ear-marked budget named Environmental (2) The Clerk to write to all Council Members seeking they identify areas of highway land adjacent to roadways for litter picking, including footpaths within the Council area for additional grass cutting. The Clerk to provide Councillors with a web link to the County Council Footpath Mapping System, whereby footpaths and their respective number can be identified (3) Councillor Billy Glynn to approach the County Council contractor seeking their views to provide provisional costings (4) To be further discussed at the March Council meeting.

(3) **Red K6 Telephone Box in Whitford:** The Clerk confirmed, that the adoption contract had been signed and sent to BT Payphones, whereafter receipt had been acknowledged. BT Payphones advised that following the equipment removal from the phone box, the contract would be signed and sent to the Clerk which would include the date of transfer of ownership to the Community Council.

(B)

TO CONSIDER: TREE CONDITION SURVEY REPORT (PEN Y GELLI NATURE RESERVE)

The Clerk recollected Members to the Tree Condition Survey report that had been sent to Members for perusal prior to the meeting, in relation to an inspection completed in the Pen Y Gelli Nature Reserve. The Clerk further recollected Members to the High priority work at a cost of £4,150.00 plus VAT, together with medium to low priority work at a cost of £1,150.00 plus VAT.

Members agreed the following: (1) In principle, accepted the quotation for the high priority work, at a cost of £4,150.00 – from Davies, Land & Sea Ltd., Lloc (2) The Clerk to ascertain from the contractor, as to when the trees are felled, are they to be removed from site or left in situ (3) Members agreed to suspend Financial Standing Orders, for the following reasons: (i) The difficulty in obtaining quotations from other suitable contractors (ii) the work is required to be completed in a timely manner (iv) The Council have used the contractor for similar work in the past and was found to be reasonable when taken into consideration other previous quotations sourced by Council for similar work.

**6(A). 35/24
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

Gorsedd - 1 x Other crime

Lloc - No crimes reported

Lloc (Services) – 1 x Burglary / Criminal damage / 1 x Public order

Pantasaph - No crimes reported

Whitford - No crimes reported

- (2) Flintshire County Standards Committee: The Clerk recollected Members to previous correspondence in relation to the appointment of a Town & Community Councillor representative to the Standards Committee.

Five nominations had been received by the Flintshire County Chief Officer – Governance. This Council were requested to choose their preferred nomination. Each candidate had provided pen-portraits which had been sent to each Council Member prior to this evening's meeting. The pen-portraits were also shown on screen.

Members agreed the following: Councillor Rosalyn Griffiths (Saltney Town and Broughton & Bretton Community Council) – as this Council's preferred candidate nomination.

- (3) Royal Garden Party: The Clerk advised that member Councils affiliated to One Voice Wales have been invited to nominate one Councillor (together with guest) to attend a Garden Party in Buckingham Place during the month of May. The Clerk further advised that previous invitations were for the current Chair who would retire from their position in May, however, the Palace wishes nominations to include all Councillors. The appointed Councillor will be entered into a draw and will represent Welsh Town & Community Councils.

Members agreed the following: Councillor Billy Glynn be nominated to attend the Garden Party.

- (4) Natural Resources Wales: New National Park in Wales – Invitation to attend a virtual information session. The Clerk advised that following the invitation notice sent to all Council Members, the following Councillors expressed a wish to attend: Richard Dolphin; Caradoc Jones and Emma Warbrick. The Clerk confirmed, that the above three Council Members had been booked on the virtual event.

- (5) West Flintshire Town & Community Council's Group meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th February at 6.00pm in the Offices of Holywell Town Council. This Council's representative Councillor Caradoc Jones has received the agenda and minutes of their last meeting.

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

- ❖ Flintshire County Council: Link to new County Facebook page

6(B). 36/24

CLERK'S REPORT

- (a) The Clerk advised Members in relation to the following deposit to the Council's bank account:

- £774.00 – Aviva Insurance: Claim for damaged television in St. Paul's Church, Gorsedd

- (b) The Clerk recollected Members who were present during the January Council meeting that Councillor Sharon James expressed her desire to resign from this Council with immediate effect and subsequently left the meeting room. The Clerk advised that the Chair of Council had corresponded with Councillor James, which included time to reflect on the decision. Both the Chair of Council and Clerk have not been further contacted despite a request to

confirm the resignation. The resignation therefore is effective. A letter has been sent via the postal service to Ms. Sharon James' home, thanking her for their service to the Community of Whitford.

The Clerk advised that the process to fill the vacancy will now commence; the County Electoral Officer will be advised together with the display of a Public Notice, including being placed on the Council's web site.

- (c) The Clerk advised in relation to a request made by Savills of Chester on behalf of Wayfind, the new owners and operators of Pennant Park Golf Club. The new owners wish to attend either the March or April Council meeting to present and discuss with Council their vision for the Golf Club to Council Members.

Members agreed the following: The representatives be invited to the March Council meeting.

- (d) The Clerk advised that Councillor Gareth Sharp will attend a Planning Aid Wales course named: Planning for future generations, at a cost of £50.00. The fee will be paid from the Councillor training budget.

6(C). 37/24

CO-OPTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

The Clerk advised that following the display of Public Notices on the Council's notice board, web site including the latest edition of The Five Villages Chronicle, one Expression of Interest had been received prior to the closing date of 12 noon on Wednesday 31st January, 2024. Councillors were shown on screen the Expression of Interest received from Steve Watts.

Members agreed the following: Co-opted Steve Watts.

6(D). 38/24

TO CONSIDER: CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

The Clerk advised Members that a request had been received from the Flintshire County Monitoring Officer – Governance, seeking all Town & Community Councils to consider signing up to a national pledge named Civility and Respect. The Clerk recollected Members to the web site link sent prior to the meeting which provided information in relation to the pledge, together with a statement that was to be confirmed by Council. The pledge was supported by The National Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and One Voice Wales.

Members agreed the following: To sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge and confirmed the contents of the pledge statement. The Clerk to complete the Council's registration.

6(E). 39/24

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

The Clerk advised in relation to the following received from County Councillor Chris Dolphin:

- (1) Obstructive/dangerous/inconsiderate parking in the areas of Whitford Street and Holway Road. The County have received funding to complete work in this area, whereby a public consultation will be carried out
- (2) Suggested Environmental reduction in services will be subject to a review by the County Scrutiny Committee

- (3) Future improvements, subject to funding: Footway widening and other work - for access to Ysgol Maes y Felin and Ysgol Treffynnon
- (4) Footway widening - Holyway to Holywell. The scheme has been funded through Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities Fund, with the County being awarded £487,000.00
- (5) County Weather Forecast: Advice ahead of Thursday's anticipated adverse weather.

6(F). 40/24

STREETSCENE SCHEDULE (FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

The Clerk advised in relation to the following concern(s) that had been reported to StreetScene, since the last Council meeting:

- No matters of concern had been received and reported since the last Council meeting.

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

- ❖ The Clerk advised that following the reported concerns at the January Council meeting, Nigel Seaburg (StreetScene) had acknowledged, as follows:
 - (1) Pot holes in various areas will be added to the current list
 - (2) Blocked gullies in area of Ty Newydd Farm, Sarn, will be cleaned
 - (3) The broken gate in area of Maen Y Gol and Ty Newydd, Sarn, has been passed to the County Footpath Officer

Members brought the following concerns to the meeting:

- (i) Pot holes outside Pensioners Bungalows on Carmel Road
- (ii) A5026 Road: Footway from Whitford Road junction – westbound to Gorsedd / Crossroads
- (iii) Pot hole on Allt y Golch / Carmel Road junction

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

7. 41/24

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

- Ysgol Yr Llan, Whitford. Councillor Joe Williams advised that the new school building was ahead of schedule. The formal opening will take place in March.

8(A). 42/24

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application was considered by Members at the meeting:

- ❖ Application number: COU/000696/23 – for amendment to submitted application, for the conversion of former redundant Chapel to single dwelling at, The Seion Chapel, Allt Y Goch, Carmel.

Comment by Council: Object to the application for the following reasons: **(1)** Concern is expressed as to the visibility aspect for the proposed two car parking area, in particular, for egress **(2)** There are no measurements shown on the amended plan for the new access gate to the new access path to the cemetery. Will the width of this proposed access path be wide enough to enable a coffin to be carried to the cemetery. The Community Council understand that there are a number of pre-purchased interment plots that have not been used to-date.

8(B). 43/24

PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decisions have received from Flintshire County Council:

- (i) Application number: FUL/000556/23 Removal of agricultural occupancy condition (condition 1 of application ref: Y494) Dwynant, Whitford. Approved
 - ❖ The Clerk was asked to download the Planning Officers Decision Notice and forward to Councillors, in relation to the above application at Dwynant.
- (ii) Application number: FUL/000659/23 Application for Variation of Condition No. 1, Ref: 058502 Ocho Rios, A5026 Lloc To A5151 - Pen Ffordd Llan Roundabout, Lloc. Approved.

8(C). 44/24

PLANNING APPEAL(S)

The following notice of planning appeal to the Wales Planning Inspectorate has been received:

- ❖ Planning Reference number: FUL/000046/23: Appeal Reference number: CAS-02910-B1Q4Z9, by Peter Barlow, PHB (NW) Ltd, in relation to proposal to relocate 29 touring pitches to adjacent field at Misty Waters Caravan Park, Fachallt Road, Lloc.

9. 45/24

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment dated: 31/01/2024	5.00		5.00
	BACS: DGS Retail Ltd (Curry’s) Purchase of new LG Nano 75 inch smart television to replace damaged unit in St. Paul’s Church, Gorsedd – following claim to Council’s insurers. Payment dated: 29/01/2024 (Authorised by two Councillor bank signatories)	765.84	153.17	919.01
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for January) Payments dated: 01/02/2024			
	<u>Payments for consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			

	Davies, Land & Sea (Tree Report – as previously agreed)	500.00	100.00	600.00
	R. P. Parry (Clerk) Re-imburement of 1/4 share of Microsoft Office renewal with other Councils (as per receipt)	30.90	6.18	37.08
	Planning Aid Wales (Course – Planning for future generations) Councillor Gareth Sharp to attend (To be paid upon receipt of invoice)	50.00		50.00

10. 46/24

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	<u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u>	
	Flintshire Vintage & Classic Tractor Society (Application for funding towards a charity event at Mertyn Abbot Farm, Whitford) (Section 144 of the LGA 1972)	£250.00
	Holywell Leisure Centre (Application for annual grant) (Section 19 – 3 (a) & (b) LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)	£500.00
	Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant Society (Application for annual grant) (Section 137 LGA 1972)	£500.00
	Carmel Village Hall (Application for annual grant) (Section 19 LGA 1976)	£2,000.00

11. 47/24

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:.....