



CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD / WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of The Meeting of Whitford Community Council

Held at St. Paul's Church, Gorsedd,

On Thursday the 14th March, 2024, at 7.00pm

1(A). 48/24

SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE (STEVE WATTS)

Co-opted Councillor Steve Watts signed his Declarations of Acceptance of Office, following being co-opted to the Council at the February, 2024 Council meeting. The Declaration was witnessed and signed by the Clerk.

The Acting Chair of Council Councillor Billy Glynn welcomed Councillor Watts to the meeting.

1(B). 49/24

PRESENT

Councillor Billy Glynn (Vice Chair)
Councillor Tim Barks
Councillor Caradoc W. Jones
Councillor Matthew J. Marshall
Councillor Gareth Sharp
Councillor Paul Urquhart
Councillor Emma Warbrick
Councillor Steve Watts
Councillor Joseph Williams

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(C). 50/24

APOLOGIES

Councillor Richard Dolphin
Councillor Melanie Wallis

1(D). 51/24

ABSENT

None

2(A). 52/24

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF WAYFIND (PENNANT PARK GOLF CLUB)

Standing Orders were suspended:

The Acting Chair of Council Councillor Billy Glynn welcomed the following to the meeting:

David Eccles (Chief Executive of Wayfind); John Bratherton (Park Design Consultant); Philip Jones (Savills, Chester)

David Eccles thanked the Council for allowing his attendance at the meeting together with his colleagues and wished to provide Members with details as to the historical, the current and proposed development at Pennant Park Golf Club. David commenced his address by providing his personal and professional details, including the work completed to date, together with proposed future work at the site, various financial costings and employment number of staff.

Councillors discussed with the visitors the increase in traffic to the site, the public bridleway, including damage to grass verges by delivery vehicles.

The Acting Chair of Council Councillor Billy Glynn thanked David Eccles and his colleagues for attending the meeting, together with the presentation.

2(B). 53/24

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

The Acting Chair of Council Councillor Billy Glynn, welcomed Mr. Paul Brighton (Secretary to: Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant Society)

Paul advised Councillors that he wished to attend personally to thank the Community Council for their generous financial donation and support provided to the Society. The Society will provide a programme of events for the year to the Clerk to distribute to Councillors - who are welcome to attend any of the lectures.

The Acting Chair of Council Councillor Billy Glynn thanked Paul Brighton for attending the meeting and wished the Society a successful year.

2(C). 54/24

Standing Orders were restored:

3. 55/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

4. 56/24

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 8TH FEBRUARY, 2024

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Cradoc Jones and seconded by Councillor Mathew Marshall and formally agreed by the Members present.

5(A). 57/24

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) Red K6 Telephone Box in Whitford:** The Clerk advised that BT Payphones had completed the adoption of the Red K6 Telephone Box in Whitford to this Council. The Clerk further advised that he would place the phone box on the Council's asset register at a value of

£1.00. The Clerk confirmed, that at the request of BT Payphones he had placed a notice inside the phone box which stated that the box was now in the ownership of the Community Council.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to make contact with the Headteacher of Ysgol Yr Llan Primary School in Whitford, to enquire if the school have any thoughts as to the future use of the Red Phone Box.

- (2) **Interpretation Board:** The Clerk advised that Councillor Melanie Wallis had been informed by the owner of the Druids Inn, that the Interpretation Board will be re-erected to the outside wall of the premises and will be housed in a secure frame.

5(B). 58/24

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

The Clerk recollects Members to their decision under minute number: 5. 34/24 (B) on page three of the minutes dated 8th February, 2024. The Clerk had contacted Davies Land & Sea to enquire in relation to the removal of the trees / branches once they have been felled. The Clerk read out the reply which stated the following: ‘To chip all small diameter branch wood into small piles into bramble etc. Larger diameter timber to be removed from site’.

Members agreed the following: (1) Confirmed the acceptance of the quotation from Davies Land & Sea at a cost of £4,150.00 plus VAT (2) Further confirmed, 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 (iii) 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 – in particular, each tree has been itemised on the quotation.

5(C). 59/24

TO FURTHER DISCUSS: LITTER PICKING AND ADDITIONAL GRASS CUTTING

- (i) **Litter Picking:** The Clerk recollects Members to the costing previously advised by Darell Jones (Flintshire Street Scene). Whilst the County would be pleased to be considered for this additional service, the costs would possibly have to be reviewed due to the type and weight of litter collected. The correspondence advised that the County would also have no objection to another contractor or person(s) completing this service, as long as work carried out on adopted network assets have the relevant insurance, accreditations, RAMS and PPE. The County confirmed, that one approved contractor who completes this type of work for the County would be suitable.

Councillor Billy Glynn recommended to Members that the litter picking aspect could be for 2 days a month from April to August, 2 days in October, December and February – total of sixteen days a year.

- (ii) The Clerk advised that the County Footpath Officer had confirmed, that the County would be pleased for the Community Council to complete additional grass cutting on public footpaths. However, it was important to talk through the specific routes to ensure there was no duplication with the County strimming schedule. The Footpath Officer referred to a local approved contractor who has great knowledge of the County schedule and network of footpaths in the Whitford Council area.

The Clerk recollects an e-mail sent to all Councillors which provided a web link to the County Footpath locations throughout the Whitford Community Council area, and sought

identification of footpaths for consideration to be placed on a strimming list. A number of areas had been suggested by Councillors' Richard Dolphin and Paul Urquhart; these areas were shown on screen. Councillor Billy Glynn read out a list of potential footpaths for grass cutting together with their respective reference numbers.

Members agreed the following: (1) To source a contract for litter picking on roads throughout the Community Council area for 2 days a month from April to August, 2 days in October, December and February – total of sixteen days a year (2) To source a contract for grass cutting on public footpaths in identified areas and to be discussed further with the County Footpath Officer (3) Councillors' Billy Glynn and Paul Urquhart together with the Clerk to draw up contract specifications for litter picking and footpath grass cutting.

6(A). 60/24

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 Vehicle crime / 1 x Violence

Gorsedd – 1 x Violence

Lloc - No crimes reported

Lloc (Services) – 1 x Violence

Pantasaph - No crimes reported

Whitford - No crimes reported

- (2) Flintshire County Council: Climate Toolkit Launch. The Clerk advised that Councillor Gareth Sharp had volunteered to attend the first Workshop which was held during the afternoon of this Council meeting date.

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

- ❖ Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: Annual Report – February 2024
- ❖ Scottish Power Energy Networks: Stakeholder Priorities Survey – 2024 (Councillors to complete on a personal basis)

6(B). 61/24

CLERK'S REPORT

- ❖ The Clerk had attended a recent Welsh Government training course named: Use of IT, Social Media and Web sites virtual course for Community & Town Councils in Wales

6(C). 62/24

COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR (VACANCY)

The Clerk advised, that a Public Notice advising the Vacancy for Councillor had been displayed on the Council's web site and notice board on the 12th February, 2024. Following the closing date of

Friday 1st March, 2024, the Clerk had been advised by the Office of the Flintshire County Returning Officer, that no call for an election had been received; the Community Council were authorised to co-opt a new Councillor.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to display a Co-option notice on the Council's web site and notice board advertising the Casual Vacancy for a Councillor. The Clerk to send to Councillor Emma Warbrick a copy of the Public Notice to be uploaded to the local Facebook pages. The closing date for letters of application (interest) to be received by the Clerk by 12 Noon on Tuesday 30th April, 2024. The Casual Vacancy will be further listed on the May, 2024 Council agenda.

6(D). 63/24

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

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

- (i) Flintshire County Council are currently advertising a consultation whereby members of the public are able to identify / suggest roads that could be reverted by to a 30mph speed limit
- (ii) Speed Indicator Signage: The County have made a financial application to the Welsh Government for funding to replace signage where the speed features cannot be reprogrammed
- (iii) Complaint received by this Council in relation to unauthorised work in a tourist site in the Lloc area. Councillor Dolphin has registered the complaint with County Enforcement, which has been acknowledged
- (iv) Footpath project in Gorsedd: The work to extend the footpath in Gorsedd was due to commence this week and has been delayed for at least two weeks. The delay is due to bore holes being drilled to the adjacent wall for various tests to be completed

The following items of concern were discussed:

- (v) Councillor Billy Glyn discussed with Members the condition of Monastery Road in Pantasaph. The following concerns were raised:
 - (1) From the area of the Monastery no exit sign to the former Fielding Arms public house, the highway is in an appalling condition and requires substantial repair, most probably re-surfacing.
 - (2) From the top of the hill towards the White House and Babel Road, the pot holes are appalling.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to make contact with County Councillor Chris Dolphin, to seek the Councillor to discuss with County Highways as to a timely inspection of this particular road, and thereafter, to facilitate the urgent re-surfacing and pot holes repair.

6(E). 64/24

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

- ❖ Carmel Road near pensioners bungalows: The area will be inspected and any road defects will be added to the system
- ❖ Footway from Whitford Road to Lloc: Have sought that the area is considered for slurry sealing works

Members brought the following concerns to the meeting:

- (1) Pant Y Wacco: Request for installation of a red dog bin at the corner of the road. Local residents advise, that this area is very popular with dog walkers who are leaving dog bags around the Pant Y Wacco sign. The installation of a red dog bin would assist to alleviate this practice
- (2) Concerns expressed with the ever increasing pot holes in all five villages within the Community Council area. Could an inspection please be carried out (Separate e-mail sent in relation to Monastery Road in Pantasaph)
- (3) A5026 Road, Lloc. Road flooding in area of Pen Y Gelli Quarry

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

7. 65/24

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

- (i) **West Flintshire Town & Community Councils Working Group:** Councillor Caradoc Jones advised of his attendance at a recent meeting of the Group. The North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner together with a Senior Flintshire Planning Officer were in attendance
- (ii) **One Voice Wales:** Councillor Gareth Sharp reported on his attendance at a virtual Planning for Future Generations Workshop. Councillor Sharp will provide Council a link to the Workshop topics

One Voice Wales: Councillor Gareth Sharp reported on his attendance at a local committee meeting of One Voice Wales in Gwersyllt, and advised of the meeting topics
- (iii) **Proposed New National Park in Wales:** Councillor Emma Warbrick reported on her attendance at a virtual information session to a proposed new national park in Wales, and provided Councillors with further information
- (iv) **Flintshire County Council - Climate Toolkit Launch:** Councillor Gareth Sharp reported on his virtual attendance at a Workshop on the afternoon of this Council meeting. Councillor Sharp provided the workshop content to Councillors.

8(A). 66/24

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications had been received:

- (1) Application number: FUL/000083/24 – for proposed installation of 10 x solar panels on the north facing side of the roof and the installation of a 10kw air source heat pump at the rear of the property, at 1 – 2 Mount Pleasant, Whitford.

Comment by Council: Objects to the application for the following reasons: (1) The property lies within the Whitford Conservation area. The siting of the solar panels would affect two listed buildings, namely, The Church of St Beuno and St Mary which is a Grade I listed Church. The Entrance piers, gates and steps to the Lychgate at the Church is Grade II listed (2) Policy EN9 Development in or adjacent to a conservation area (a) important views / 9.38, 9.39 & 9.40 – would contribute to the character and appearance of the historic part of Whitford Village (3) The property faces west to east and fronts the main road and is contrary to the planning guidelines that solar panels in conservation areas should not face the highway.

(2) Application number: FUL/000084/24 – for extension to existing access including two metre high boundary wall and new field gate, at Groesffordd, Llwyn Ifor Lane, Whitford.

Comment by Council: Object to the application for the following reasons:

Flintshire Local Development Plan (LDP) – Section PC2: This development would urbanise the entrance to an open field in the open countryside.

The following is noted from the planning application form:

1. Trees and Hedges: The applicant has answered NO to the question on the application form when the correct answer is YES. The trees, hedges have been affected and removed.
2. Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: The applicant has answered NO to the question on the application form (iii) item 3 when the correct answer is YES
3. Referring to the drawing DWJ IJ07 – Existing and proposed: The work has already been completed – trees, hedge and small stone wall removed.
4. Referring to the drawing DWJ IJ02 – Existing entrance into the field: This is a new entrance and not was existing when the application was made.
5. Referring to the drawings DWJ IJ06 – Block plans of existing and the proposals: The existing is a new break through with trees, hedges and small stone wall removed completed in readiness for this application. This boundary breakthrough is a newly constructed entrance from the public highway.
6. Design and Access statement appears to be not correct. The entrance into the field is a new entrance and not an old existing entrance - having the trees, hedge and stones removed.

(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). 67/24

Members formally confirmed the above decisions.

8(C). 68/24

The following planning application(s) were considered by Members at the meeting:

No planning applications received from Flintshire County Council for consideration at meeting

8(D). 69/24

PLANNING DECISIONS

- (i) Application number: Planning application number: TPO/000030/24 – to remove the one Lime tree covered by a TPO, at 69, Ffordd Aelwyd, Carmel. Refused

- (ii) Planning application number: COU/000808/23 – for Change of Use of existing vacant Chapel into new dwelling, at Carmel Chapel, Carmel Road, Carmel. Approved
- (iii) Planning application number: DET/000781/23 - for Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions no 3,4,5,12, 13, at former Halfway House, Allt Y Golch, Carmel. Approved

9. 70/24

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (January - Street Lighting Electricity Account - payment dated: 20/02/2024)	551.22	110.24	661.46
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for February) Payments dated: 01/03/2024			
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment dated: 02/03/2034	5.00		5.00
	<u>Payments for consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	BACS: H. M. Revenue & Customs. Clerk’s PAYE & Clerk & Council NI - January, February & March	1,332.78		1,332.78
	Flintshire County Council: Whitford Children’s Play area (Additional match funding scheme)	5,000.00		5,000.00
	Wales Audit (Audit fees for year 2020 / 2021)	558.00		558.00
	St Paul’s Church, Gorsedd (Hire fee for Council meetings: January, February & March)	120.00		120.00
	Caerwys Town Council 1/4 share of Photocopier hire fee (£204.00 a year - VAT paid by Caerwys)	51.00		51.00
	R. P. Parry (Clerk) Travelling expenses from March 2023 to March 2024 (as per detailed auditor schedule)	68.40		68.40
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (February - Street Lighting Electricity Account - payment due: 19/03/2024)	515.63	103.13	618.76
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment due: 31/03/2034	5.00		5.00

10. 71/24

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	<p><u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u></p> <p>The Five Villages Gardening Club (Application for annual grant) (Section 19 - 3 LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)</p> <p>Eisteddfod Rhonda Cymon Taff – 2024 (Application for general grant)</p> <p>Marie Curie (Penarth) (Application for funding towards the Great Daffodil Appeal – 2024)</p>	<p>£250.00</p> <p>No grant</p> <p>No grant</p>

11. 72/24

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:.....