



CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD / WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of The Meeting of Whitford Community Council

Held Virtually by Video and Telephone Conference,

On Thursday the 5th December, 2024, at 7.00pm

No Council meeting was held in November

1(A). 213/24

PRESENT

Councillor Caradoc W. Jones (Vice Chair)
Councillor Tim Barks
Councillor Sandra B. Roberts
Councillor Gareth Sharp
Councillor Paul Urquhart
Councillor Melanie Wallis
Councillor Steve Watts
Councillor Joseph Williams

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(B). 214/24

APOLOGIES

Councillor Billy Glynn
Councillor Matthew J. Marshall
Councillor Emma Warbrick

1(C). 215/24

ABSENT

None

1(D). 216/24

REMOTE ATTENDANCE OF LEE SHONE (FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL) RE: GORSEDD FOOTWAY (& COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN)

The Acting Chair of Council Councillor Caradoc Jones welcomed Lee Shone and County Councillor Chris Dolphin to the virtual meeting.

Lee Shone kindly provided an update to the footpath extension in Gorsedd which included the following:

- (1) Since receiving funding for the footpath extension a number of difficulties had been encountered
- (2) A number of independent surveys identified that the original proposals were not feasible
- (3) The adjoining wall to the highway is privately owned. A meeting had been arranged with the owners representative for this week, but due to inclement weather has been rearranged for next week
- (4) It is envisaged that the current stone wall will be either upgraded or replaced together with a new gate. This is subject to the owners agreement
- (5) Work is intended to commence on the 20th January, 2025 for a period of three to four weeks
- (6) Traffic lights will be on site and one or two new street lights will be erected

County Councillor Chris Dolphin reiterated a number of point raised by Lee and was confident the project would be completed early 2025.

Councillor Caradoc Jones thanked both Lee Shone and Chris Dolphin for the update and their attendance at the virtual meeting.

2. 217/24

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

- (1) E-mail received from a resident in Whitford who attends Ysgol Treffynnon, seeking if the Community Council could consider providing a skate park in the Whitford play area. The Clerk had replied to thank the young resident for their request and advised that the play area is administered by the Flintshire County Council. The Clerk further advised, that the County will consider the request and if thought appropriate the County may seek funding from the Community Council towards the installation of a skate park.
- (2) Pond at Top Y Lloc: The Clerk recollected to Members that the Top Y Lloc pond was subject to work by the County Council some three years ago following a request by a local resident. The resident had further written to advise, that as the pond has no known registered owner the resident wishes to explore the possibility of registering the pond and surrounding area as common land and seeks the views of this Council.

Councillors discussed the process together with their involvement, and in particular, there would be evidence to be collected and statements gathered from local residents who had used the area for a number of years, including the tracing of land owner(s) and issuing of public notices. The Councillors felt that as they did not know the residents and were also not able to personally provide statements, it would be difficult for the Council to take an active role in the registration, apart from its support to the resident during the process.

Members agreed the following: To support the resident in the registration process.

3. 218/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was declared: Councillor Tim Barks (**Minute number: 8(C). 230/24 (b) on page 7 below**)

4. 219/24

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH OCTOBER, 2024

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Steve Watts and seconded by Councillor Sandra Roberts and formally agreed by the Members present.

5. 220/24

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) **Pavement Extension in Gorsedd:** Virtual attendance of Lee Shone (Flintshire County Council) & County Councillor Chris Dolphin at this evening's meeting. (**Minute number 1(D). 216/24 on pages 1 and 2 above**)
- (2) **Council Notice Boards:** The Clerk advised that the contractor who had installed the cork backings to all the Council's notice boards has made contact and will visit all the notice boards and report back to the Council in due course.
- (3) **Pen Y Gelli Nature Reserve:** The Clerk advised that Tim Davies (Davies Land & Sea) had written to apologise for the delay in providing a quotation, which was due to health reasons.
- (4) **Ysgol Bro Carmel:**
 - (i) **Appointment of Councillor Representative School Governor:** The Clerk advised that the Chair of School Governors confirmed the following. 'The Councillor would take the position of Community Governor on the Governing Body and will be able to report back to the Community Council on matters which would be of interest to the Council and local community'. The Clerk advised that the appointment would be placed on the January 2025 agenda.
 - (ii) **School Environmental Project:** The School confirm that the funds of £2,500.00 received from the Community Council will be utilised to transform the current overgrown pond area back into a functional area. This is part of a larger scheme of works being jointly funded with Flintshire County Council Biodiversity team and is due for completion by the end of year. (Photograph of current condition of area shown to Members on screen)
 - (iii) **Notice Board:** The School confirm that they have no objection to the Community Council erecting a new notice board in the position of the removed school notice board.

The Clerk advised that the joiner has recently been hospitalised and will provide a quotation for the January 2025 Council meeting.

Pending:

The Clerk advised, that the following matter remain in the pending file:

Street Lighting Electricity Supply: There had been no update received from the Welsh Government Procurement Department. The Clerk has sent a reminder e-mail enquiring as to the present position.

6(A). 221/24

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 Bicycle theft

Gorsedd - 1 x Other theft / 1 x Vehicle crime

Lloc - 1 x Criminal damage

Lloc (Services) – 1 x Vehicle crime

Pantasaph - No crimes reported

Whitford - No crimes reported

- (2) Flintshire County Council: Information in relation to the 2025 Summer Play Scheme. The Clerk recollected to Members that this Council had previously agreed to a three year play scheme, whereby this year's scheme was held bilingually in Carmel during both the morning and afternoon periods. The County requested a form to be completed confirming this Council's agreement for year 2025.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to complete the form confirming this Council's agreement for a bilingual six week summer play scheme in Carmel for both the morning and afternoon periods.

- (3) Welsh Government: Notification that the appropriate sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137 Expenditure limit for 2025 / 2016 – had been increased from £10.81 to £11.10 per elector. The Clerk advised that the actual figure for this Council would be placed on the 2025 / 2026 accounts spreadsheet, and in particular, following notification by the County Returning Officer as to the number of residents entered within the electoral register which will be made public in January 2025.

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

- ❖ Flintshire County Council: Flintshire Connects consultation. Members to complete survey on a personal basis and forward to others
- ❖ North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner: Yearly survey named 'Have your say on funding for policing in North Wales' Members to complete survey on a personal basis and forward to others
- ❖ Estuary Car Scheme: Information on services provided
- ❖ Flintshire County Council: Budget information for 2025 / 2026
- ❖ One Voice Wales: Fire Service presentation forwarded to Members following attendance at a OVW meeting by Councillor Gareth Sharp
- ❖ Natural Resources Wales: Update to the proposed new National Park in Wales together with Public drop-in dates
- ❖ North Wales Fire & Rescue Service: Consultation for keeping communities safe. Members to complete survey on a personal basis and forward to others
- ❖ One Voice Wales: Virtual joint seminar with OVW and Society of Local council Clerks to discuss key topic areas for Town & Community Councillors in Wales. Members to advise the Clerk should they wish to attend the virtual seminar

6(B). 222/24
CLERK'S REPORT

- (a) The following Councillors had attended the virtual Code of Conduct training provided by Flintshire County Council in October: Councillors' Tim Barks; Billy Glynn; Caradoc W. Jones; Gareth Sharp; Paul Urquhart; Melanie Wallis; Emma Warbrick; Steve Watts
The Clerk recollects to Members an e-mail dated the 11th November forwarded from the County Solicitor which attached the slides from the above referred to Code of Conduct training together with a link to the virtual training session. The Clerk enquired as to the names of Councillors who had not attended the virtual training sessions, but had perused the slides and watched a recording of the training session. The Following Councillor confirmed they had perused the slides and watched the training recording: Sandra Roberts.
- (b) The Clerk advised that he had attended the following courses: (1) Flintshire County Council Code of Conduct training (2) Funding, Grants & Precept setting facilitated by One Voice Wales
- (c) National Joint Council for Local Government Services: The Clerk advised that the Local Government Services pay award for 2024 had been agreed in October, which included Clerk's to Councils in Wales with a 2.5% increase in salary scales backdated from 1st April, 2024. The Clerk further advised, that he would calculate the back pay and provide the figures to Members at the January 2025 Council meeting.
- (d) **Street Lighting:** The Clerk advised in relation to the following:
- Street light reported faulty on Monastery Road, Pantasaph – travelling towards Brynford and outside a property named Beech Cottage.

6(C). 223/24
COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR VACANCY

- (i) The Clerk advised that the Office of the Flintshire County Returning Officer had confirmed, there had been no call for an election. The Community Council were authorised to proceed with a co-option process.
- (ii) The Clerk confirmed that the following Public Notices had been displayed and dated the 1st November: Community Council main notice board; Council's web site; public notice in the recent edition of the Five Villages Chronicle. The closing date for Expressions of Interest – 12 Noon on Thursday 2nd January 2025.

6(D). 224/24
PRECEPT AND FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR 2025 / 2026

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: (1) Environmental projects (including Pen Y Gelli Nature Reserve) - £5,000.00 / Speed Indicator Signage (area to be discussed with Flintshire) - £8,000.00 / Children's play area upgrade (area to be discussed with Flintshire) - £10,000.00 / Training budget (Councillors & Clerk) - £2,000.00 (2) Other possible ring-fenced and general reserves – to be agreed in January 2025 budget setting.

6(E). 225/24

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

No items to report

6(F). 226/24

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

- No update in relation to previously reported concerns had been received from Street Scene.

Members brought the following concerns to the meeting:

- (1) Llwyn Ifor Lane: A number of waterways / grids are blocked which causes flooding
- (2) Llwyn Ifor Lane: Flooding on roadway in area of Penpalment
- (3) Llwyn Ifor Lane: Flooding concerns in general, including condition of road surface which requires attention in area between Mertyn Abbot Farm and Mertyn Uchaf Farm (this road has a high volume of HGV's)
- (4) Waen Road to Saith Ffynnon: The surface water in this area appears to not run within the culverts (which appear to be blocked) – whereby the water is running along the actual roadway and is causing the road to erode

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

7. 227/24

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

- (i) Councillor Gareth Sharp recollected Members to a Fire Service presentation that had been forwarded to Members following his attendance at a One Voice Wales meeting
- (ii) Councillor Sandra Roberts advised Members of her attendance at the Remembrance Service held at the Church of St Beuno and St Mary in Whitford. Councillor Roberts had been advised during her visit that the Church were considering providing toilet facilities and would be possibly seeking financial assistance from the Community Council. The Clerk advised that under an old Act of Parliament, the Council were unable to provide financial assistance to a place of worship. The Clerk advised he would forward a copy of the legal advise to Councillor Roberts.

8(A). 228/24

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications had been received:

- (1) Application number: FUL/000777/24 – for proposed roof over feeding area, at Mynydd Mostyn, Berthengam.

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

- (2) Application number: FUL/000814/24 – for proposed demolition of outbuildings (2 No) and provision of single and 2 storey side extensions, first floor extension and installation of underground gas tank, at Pen Y Gelli Fawr, Lloc

Comment by Council: Taking the application on its merits, no objection. However, bearing in mind two previous planning applications for extensions have been approved, if this application was approved it would mean the property is out of scale and size for the surrounding area.

- (3) Application number: FUL/000750/24 – for temporary permission to site a caravan, at land adjacent to 4, Brynhyfryd Cottages, Lloc.

Comment by Council: Objects to the application, as it is contrary to Policy HN4 of the Local Development Plan for the County of Flintshire.

- (4) Application number: FUL/000841/24 – for the installation of one rapid electric vehicle charging station and ancillary equipment within the car park, at Mc Donald's Restaurant, Lloc.

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

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

8(B). 229/24

Members formally confirmed the above decisions.

8(C). 230/24

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

- (a) Application number: Cons/000944/24 – for proposed reinstatement of former door opening, at 6, St Clares Court, Pantasaph.

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

- (b) Application number: Ful/001026/24 – for proposed single storey garden room extension to the rear of Pen y Parc Farm, St Asaph Road, Lloc.

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

- **Declaration of Interest** declared by Councillor Tim Barks in relation to the above planning application (**Minute number: 3. 218/24 on page 2 above**)

8(D). 231/24

PLANNING DECISIONS

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

- (i) Application number: DET/000794/24 – for approval of details reserved by Condition No. 11, Planning Ref: 058502, at Ocho-Rios, Lloc. Approved.

- (ii) Application number: FUL/000777/24 – for proposed roof over feeding area, at Mynydd Mostyn, Berthengam. Approved.

9. 232/24

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>October & November</u>			
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	BACS: Royal British Legion (Remembrance Poppy Wreaths) Payment made: 14/10/2024	100.00		100.00
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment dated: 31/10/3024	5.00		5.00
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for October) Payments dated 02/11/2024			
	BACS: Treetops Environmental (K Fricker): Environmental services: Payment dated 02/01/2023	700.00		700.00
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (October - Street Lighting Electricity Account: Payment dated 18/11/2024	551.22	110.24	661.46
	Above BACS payments authorised by two Councillor Bank Signatories			
	<u>December</u>			
	<u>Payments for confirmation and consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment dated: 01/12/2024	5.00		5.00
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for November) Payments dated 02/12/2024			
	Society of Local Council Clerk's (Quarter share of membership renewal)	105.00		105.00

10. 233/24

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

	Name of organisation	Amount granted

Cheque Number		£
	<p><u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u></p> <p>Wales Air Ambulance (Application for annual grant) (Section 137 LGA 1972)</p> <p>Carmel Papercraft Group (Application for annual grant) (Section 19 - 3 LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)</p> <p>Five Villages Chronicle (Application for annual grant) (Section 137 LGA 1972)</p>	<p>£500.00</p> <p>£300.00</p> <p>£2,000.00</p>

11. 234/24

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:.....