

Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council held on 4 January 2017 at Ysgol Y Waun.

Present: Councillor Barsby, Councillor D Bolton, Councillor R Edwards, Councillor J Elcock, Councillor C Garrett, Councillor Hopwood, Councillor R Hughes, Councillor K McDonald, Councillor L Pritchard (Chair) and Councillor G Tattum.

In Attendance: Mrs K L Roberts - Clerk

1. Apologies: Cllr. K Williams. **Non-attendance:** Cllr. R Morgan

2. Approval of Minutes of the last council meeting 7 December 2016.

Resolved: The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of interest

Item 8 Councillor R Hughes - relative of treasurer who has written to the community council requesting an increase in financial assistance.

Item 8 Councillor K McDonald and Councillor L Pritchard – both on the Friends of Gwernaffield Playgroup committee.

Item 8 Councillor L Pritchard – Chair of Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council

When items were discussed the councillors did not vote or take part in the discussion.

Councillor R Edwards – Resignation

Councillor Pritchard reported to the meeting the receipt of a letter today from Councillor R Edwards, advising of his resignation with immediate affect due to ongoing personal and business commitments.

RESOLVED: Cllr. R Edwards was thanked for his commitment and work for the community council.

4. Matters Arising from the last minutes

The clerk reported Cornerways in Pantymwyn, Planning Reference 056215 was currently under consideration as per information contained on the Flintshire County Council Planning Portal.

The clerk reported a cheque for £250 had been written between the December 2016 meeting and January 2017 meeting for footpath improvements between Caer Rhug Lane and Y Waen.

Councillor C Garrett reported being contacted by a local resident with concerns about heavy machinery and flood lights next to her property off Cilcain Road. The resident would like to know what is happening? Councillor Garrett said it was unlikely the resident would make enquiries directly with the planning department herself.

RESOLVED: Councillor C Garrett to make enquiries on the resident's behalf through County Councillor Davies-Cooke.

5. Streetscene Matters

Some of the road patching work completed by Streetscene in the villages was noted to be of poor standard and tree cutting previously agreed had not been completed.

Councillors were disappointed that Mr A Lightfoot was again not in attendance at the meeting, which helps the sharing and reporting of information directly. The clerk reported he had advised he was on call and provided his apologies.

RESOLVED: The clerk to contact Mr A Lightfoot, Streetscene area co-ordinator to convey the community council's dissatisfaction.

To request Mr A Lightfoot's attendance at the 1 February 2017 community council meeting.

6. Police Matters

PCSO Chey Arrowsmith provided his apologies as he was unable to attend this meeting. Concern noted about a recent badger bating incident in Pantymwyn reported as seen on Facebook.

7. Gwernaffield Playing Fields – Councillor Representative

Councillor Pritchard reported Councillor K McDonald is now the official Councillor Representative for Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Fields. As the Councillor who would have been representative Cllr. L Jones resigned in 2016.

8. Clerk's Update – Communication and correspondence

Flintshire Citizens Advice Bureau 2015/2016 Annual Report

Letter from BDO external financial auditors, who have reached an agreement with the Welsh Audit Office regarding invoicing arrangements with community councils. An invoice should be received in due course for their work completed in September 2016.

Letter from Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - inviting two council representatives to a round table discussion event in Llandudno, North Wales on 26 January 2017.

The Clerk had previously emailed the timetable for local elections in England and Wales: 4 May 2017. The clerk will receive an information pack at the end of January and nomination forms in due course from Flintshire County Council.

A letter on Section 137 Expenditure Limits for 2017/2018 which increases a maximum sum per elector from £7.42 to £7.57.

Letter from Holy Trinity Church, Gwernaffield, requesting £1,000 in financial assistance to be considered in 2017/2018 toward Churchyard and Cemetery maintenance due to their increasing costs. This will be considered when the Budget and Precept are considered under item 9.

Letter from The Pensions Regulator informing the Community Council of their legal requirements. The clerk will liaise with them initially as a primary contact/representative of the Community Council.

Battle's Over - A Nation's Tribute – a request to enquire if the community council would be interested in having some kind of Beacon on 11 November 2018 to commemorate the end of the war. This

included suggestions of cost effective ways of participating in the chain of Beacons. This will be an agenda item at February's meeting to allow fuller consideration.

9. The Community Council to approve the precept for 2017/2018

The clerk had circulated a proposed Budget which had been discussed with the Chair in advance, to aid the precept setting process for 2017/2018.

The clerk reported savings being demonstrated in electricity and maintenance in the region of £800 per annum by end of 2016/2017 due to the invest to save project of installation of the new LED lights which commenced in the last two years. The costs should gradually decrease year or year as for each new LED light installed the annual maintenance contract with Deeco lighting decreases by £40.00 per annum. Electricity consumption is also reducing. Further cost reductions forecast in 2017/2018 as a further 16 LED lights are planned for installation.

Other main savings in the year were from community events, as this year a contribution from those attending the Senior Citizens Christmas party was raised £485 and a raffle raised £158.00.

Following negotiation with Flintshire County Council the Youth Club Sessions have now resulted in hire of the Gwernaffield Village Hall costs only from a budgeted amount of £850 to £504 in 2017/2018.

Due to some savings generated particularly with the electricity and ongoing street lighting maintenance and money remaining in the 2016/17 budget for lighting renewal. Cllr Edwards proposed purchasing a further 6 LED lights to link up the villages in the remainder of the financial year. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D Bolton.

RESOLVED: The Community Council to purchase and install 6 further LED street lights in 2016/2017.

The letter from Holy Trinity Church was considered and discussed by councillors a decision to request £750 in the 2017/2018 was made.

RESOLVED: The Community Council by majority vote decided to request £750 as part of their precept in 2017/2018 and not increase this to £1000 as per the Holy Trinity Church request. Councillor G Tattum abstained from this vote.

Chairman's allowance was considered and discussed, as this had not been raised for some years. The present annual allowance is £250 which is designed to defray the expense of chairmanship itself. The current Chair, Cllr. L Pritchard outlined her duties arising from the ordinary business of the council, outside the council i.e. recent attendance at the Local Development Plan Workshops, Local Transport Reviews and other activities expected of her by the public.

Councillor L Pritchard left the room while councillors considered and discussed.

The clerk advised the chair can be paid an allowance to meet the expenses of his/her office. An allowance can now also be made for the Vice Chair. The clerk reported from her knowledge she was aware of some smaller community councils paying in the region of £350 - £400.

RESOLVED: The Community Council agreed by majority vote to raise the Chair/man's Allowance to £500 per annum.

Councillor G Tattum voted against this increase.

Clerks Salary and Expenses Review (The clerk left the room during this discussion)

Councillor Pritchard, Chair had reviewed the National Joint Council Salary scales and contacted several other Community Councils with regard to the clerk's salary.

Councillor Pritchard had forwarded a proposal to councillors and a discussion took place.

RESOLVED: The proposal to increase the current clerk's pay to scale 23 was agreed from the new financial year 2017/2018 by a majority vote.

The newsletter was well received in the villages and Cllr. Pritchard has been aiming to keep the newsletter to 8 pages thereby reducing the cost of its production from £265 to £176 per quarter. The £176 per quarter will be retained in 2017/2018.

Financial Audit Fees were increased by £100 per annum; it is unknown what new fee the BDO external auditor appointed by the Welsh Audit office will charge as yet as an invoice is still awaited for 2016/2017.

Gwernaffield Playing Fields an amount of £850 per annum would be retained as in 2016/2017. The includes insurance for the playing fields.

Financial Assistance/Grants were increased by from £100 to £500, based on increasing numbers of community organisations and charities requesting assistance in 2016/2017.

Miscellaneous/Schemes to allow the community council activities within its designated powers from £844 to £1,500. Also with community council elections on 4 May 2017 a minimum amount suggested by Flintshire County Council was £1,700, the increase took this into account. The clerk reported a prudent level of reserves which at the end of 2016/2017 will be between one third and a half of the current precept.

RESOLVED: The clerk to submit the Precept request form 2017/2018 to Flintshire County Council set for £32,000 an increase of 6.76%. Proposed by Councillor L Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Bolton.

10. Planning Applications and Planning Decisions

There were no planning applications received.

5. To approve payments to be made

RESOLVED:

100788	Kay Roberts	salary	287.95
100789	Kay Roberts	expenses	95.00
		income	
100790	HMRC	tax	74.00
100791	Scottish Power	electricity	289.15
100792	Deeco Lighting	quarterly lighting	1,143.25
			<u>1889.35</u>

The meeting
closed at
9.15pm.

