

Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council held on 7 June 2017 at Ysgol Y Waun.

Present: Councillor P Challinor, Councillor J Elcock, Councillor R Hughes, Councillor C Hopwood, Councillor K Johnson, Councillor R Morgan, Councillor L Pritchard (Chair), Councillor J Roberts, and Councillor G Tattum, Councillor L Vaughan.

In Attendance: Mrs K L Roberts – Clerk

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

Councillor Bolton, Councillor K Armstrong and County Councillor A.D.Cooke

2. To record declarations of interest from members

Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Fields - Cllr. Vaughan, Cllr. Johnson, Cllr. Hopwood and Cllr. Pritchard. In this case as less than £500 was being requested for consideration members did not have to leave the room during the discussion at agenda item 8.

3. To approve the minutes of the last council meeting 10 May 2017

The minutes of the 10 May 2017 annual meeting were approved as an accurate record by Cllr. Tattum and seconded by Cllr. Hughes and signed by The Chair.

4. Matters Arising from the last minutes

Planning Application Reference 056664 Cobby Farm, Cilcain Road, Gwernaffield, CH7 5DQ

Cllr. Tattum reported on the outcome of the Planning Committee earlier that day. The Planning Committee Chairman provided a casting vote resulting in 9 votes in favour and 8 votes against the development which meant the planning application was approved. However, a condition was required that if the farm shop failed the new road entrance must come out.

The Community Council had made a written objection along with other residents to Planning in recent months. Councillors still recorded their concerns for a Farm Shop in that area primarily because of its impact on the highway being a danger and a potential accident waiting to happen due to the site entrance at that particular point of the road.

Cllr. Pritchard will complete a piece for the newsletter to explain the community council objections made and the outcome of this particular planning application.

Cllr. Morgan hoped it might contribute something positive to the community.

5. Streetscene Matters

The clerk reported on feedback from Andy Lightfoot, Streetscene Area Co-ordinator that tarmacking is being completed and he was awaiting authorisation to do more. However this area would be against 8 other areas when prioritising.

Y Waun traffic issues - Cllr. Pritchard reported 2 Council workers would be completing a traffic report. The clerk reported tried unsuccessfully to contact for Mr A Stanford leaving a message and Mr Lightfoot has now confirmed he would speak with Mr Stanford.

Dog Fouling - reminder that pinpointing specific times of dog fouling incidents for the enforcement officers who can be there to witness an incident.

Obscured signage from hedges in particular Gwernaffield when you come up into the village on Cilcain Road from Mold.

6. Police Matters – To discuss excessive traffic speed in the villages.

The Chair welcomed PCSO Chey Arrowsmith and PCSO Steph Jones to the meeting.

PCSO Chey Arrowsmith reported on reports of a suspicious vehicle in Rhydymwyn VW 4x4 66 plates at 10.10am on 08.05.17. Councillor Pritchard reported she was aware there had been reports of a white van, in Gwernaffield stating it was collecting a mower, this was not the case. PCSO Chey Arrowsmith said this would be probably be being dealt with by Managed Resource Unit.

Councillors reported their concerns of people parking close to the junctions impacting on visibility turning in/out onto the road at Y Waen junction to Cilcain Road and High Park onto Cadole Road. PC Chey Arrowsmith advised he would write to 10 houses either side of these junctions to remind them not to park close to the junctions.

PCSO Chey Arrowsmith reported on the Community Speed Watch initiative and said training can be provided with a minimum of two people to volunteer. Councillor P Challinor was interested and he would speak directly with the PCSO.

Excessive speeds in the villages were discussed and PCSO Chey Arrowsmith said it is now Go Safe who decides if a location has a speed van. If reports of a speeding vehicle are passed on the Police traffic department will look for any trends i.e. a repeat report of a car using excessive speed may be looked into further.

Some Councillors noted the times the Arrive Alive vans need to be located is earlier around 7am.

The clerk reported on Operation Snap North Wales Police response to increasing submissions of video and photographic evidence relating to driving offences that members of the public have seen which can be uploaded via the North Wales Police website.

7. Clerk's Update - communication and correspondence

Civic Service Invite from Buckley Town Council Sunday 2 July 2017 10.30am at The Cross Methodist Church.

The clerk reported on a project from Cadwyn Clwyd – Electric Communities The project aims to help a community building to understand how much electricity they are using and how the electricity is being used. They are looking for 15 community buildings to take part. Participating buildings will get the loan of an electricity monitor which will record electricity consumption on site. Data from these monitors will be downloaded and used to help understand how much energy is used by different buildings. The monitors will provide a detailed information on electricity consumption.

Civic Service invite from Buckley Town Council Sunday 2 July 2017 10.30am at The Cross Methodist Church, Buckley

The clerk reported on the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). Flintshire County Council are to consult on a proposed Dog control PSPO which will replace the current Dog Control Order. The clerk summarised some of the prohibitions proposed. This matter is open to consultation from 1 June – 29 June 2017 via a survey on www.flintshire.gov.uk/dogcontrolpspo .

The clerk read out a letter from Ysgol Y Waun explaining the school governor's decision not to have access to the community centre during the Summer Play Scheme hours due to the alarm system and a senior staff member requiring to be a key holder. The letter also noted extensive construction work taking place at the school during the holidays which Flintshire County Council will be made aware of. The school apologised for any inconvenience.

The setting up of the room before community council meetings was also an enquiry made by the clerk, which will be discussed by the school once the new school care taker is in place.

The clerk read out a letter from Seafarers UK for Merchant Navy Day 3 September 2017 asking for consideration to be given to fly the Red Ensign at a public building or prominent flag pole on this day to remember the sacrifice and courage and support of the Merchant Navy.

RESOLVED: The above information was noted. No further action required.

8. Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Fields request for consideration of match funding by the community council.

Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Field did not leave the room as the quantity of money was £500 to be considered by the Community Council. Anything above this would require them to leave the room.

Cllr. Pritchard asked members to consider whether they would agree to match fund money from Flintshire County Council toward improvements to the park including new play equipment. At present The Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Field have £1,500 raised from fundraising activities and the funding request from the Community Council would be in the region of £500.

Cllr. Johnson described having a small garden area in the park, something for young people and adults in an area which cannot have play equipment because of an old shaft made safe some time ago. Cllr. Johnson thought a garden may attract Big Lottery Funding in the future under health, well-being and exercise. The garden creation would involve children and young people and other organisations including The North East Wales Wildlife Trust.

Cllr. Roberts said she was concerned the garden may get damaged and questioned who would maintain it long term.

Cllr. Pritchard advised anyone interested in Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Field should attend the public meeting on 14 June 2017 at The Hand at 7.30pm.

RESOLVED: In principle the Community Council said they would consider provision of match funding for park improvements/equipment.

The clerk reminded members she had still not had a response from the solicitor who dealt with the transfer of the park to the community council with regard to ownership of existing equipment.

9. Exiting Councillors – to consider leaving gift arrangements.

If Councillors leave the community council what arrangements should be made for an acknowledgement of their work. This item was discussed and considered at some length.

RESOLVED: Members agreed a letter from the clerk thanking councillors for their work and each individual case should then be based on merit.

All agreed a gift was not an expectation. The clerk confirmed a small amount in sundry items for a councillor leaving would be permissible.

10. Woodland Trust – a number of trees will be coming to the villages and requiring planting.

Cllr. Johnson reported she had applied to the Woodland Trust and would receive an amount of trees/shrubs to be planted in the villages of Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn from November 2017. They would be planted in the Gwernaffield Park and she has spoken with Ysgol Y Waun. Cllr. Johnson will be speaking with residents. Members agreed this was positive in many respects for the environment including reducing the carbon footprint.

11. To consider the Internal Auditors Report and Sign the Annual Return 2016/2017.

The clerk reported on the internal auditor report on the annual statement and suggested it was good practice to instruct an internal auditor for 2017/2018. The clerk has been advised to complete a P11D in respect of her expenses for HMRC for 2016/2017.

The clerk reported it was good practice to obtain quotes from internal auditors as outlined below:

The current auditor Mr D Smith - £90.00 – auditor comments noted on the annual return.

JDH Business Services - £129.00 plus VAT. The vat can be reclaimed by the council. Includes a detailed report and support/advice in year.

Argoed Community Council clerk who is a qualified accountant and has completed Mold Town Councils internal audit in the past. He would charge £60.00 for checking the annual return.

The Chair noted the increased work and scrutiny community councils were now under for their management of public funds and having an internal auditor with a sound understanding of expectations for Town and Community Councils going forward was essential.

A number of local community councils use JDH Business Services and feedback was positive in particular on their knowledge of Community Council requirements. Also the detailed report and recommendations for the future financial year would be helpful.

RESOLVED: That the annual return be accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr. Morgan and Seconded by Cllr. Roberts to instruct JDH Business Supplies as internal auditor for 2017/2018.

The relevant notice for electors rights to inspect the accounts to be erected on the relevant notice boards.

12. To approve payments to be made. Resolved:

100818	D I Smith	90.00
100819	GCHA	84.00
100820	FLVC	176.67
100821	Clerk's Salary	476.00
100822	expenses	95.00
100823	HMRC	73.00
100824	Scottish Power	290.11

List of legal powers and duties

100818 Local Government Act 1972 s151

100819 Local Government Act 1972 s133

100820 Local Government Act 1972 s142

100821/22/23 Local Government Act Misc. s19

100824 Local Government Act Highways 1957 sec 3

13. Planning Applications (A) Planning Decisions (B)

Refer to agenda item 5. No other planning applications received.

14. To receive items for the next meeting on Wednesday, 5 July 2017 at Ysgol Y Waun.

Senior Citizens Christmas meal - Cllr. Roberts

Community Speed Watch – Cllr. Challinor

Tan Y Hafod – parking – Cllr. Roberts.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.