

Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council held on 7 March 2018 at Ysgol Y Waun.

Present: J Elcock, R Hughes (Vice Chair), K Johnson, L Pritchard (Chair) and G Tattum

In Attendance: Mrs K L Roberts and County Councillor Adele Davies-Cooke.

Apologies: Cllr. Armstrong, Cllr. D Bolton, Cllr. C Hopwood, Cllr. R Morgan, Cllr. S Roscoe, Cllr. J Roberts

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

The clerk reported some apologies were received others were not. The Chair (amended) reported Cllr. J Roberts had experienced a close family bereavement earlier in the day and would not be in attendance. The clerk reminded the council of the duty to attend meetings as a community councillor to represent your community and should a councillor be unable to attend for apologies to be provided to the clerk and a reason given for the community council to consider.

Standing Orders state 5 community councillors need to be at the meeting to enable business to be transacted and be quorate.

2. To record declarations of interest from members

None received.

3. To approve the minutes of the last council meeting 7 February 2018

The clerk had been contacted by the head teacher, Mrs Louise Ankers to ask if snow clearance by teaching staff can be amended to support staff as this was the case. The Chair agreed. (NB. January minutes 2018).

The minutes of the meeting were approved and duly signed as an accurate record by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr. G Tattum and Cllr. K Johnson.

4. Matters arising from the last minutes

The clerk reported a brief report forwarded from PCSO Emma Owens – reports of a white van on The Links causing an obstruction, it is taxed and insured and not causing any issues. Report of a fake letter from Scottish Power being sent to a resident in Gwernaffield, on enquiry by the police it was genuine as the occupant had reported smashed glass on the metre. A road rage incident on Cilcain Road, Pantymwyn and police enquiries are ongoing.

The clerk from Gwernymynydd Community Council had telephoned the clerk to confirm they wish to continue with the current arrangements for their Summer Playscheme separately and added young children can still use both schemes.

5. To consider the vacant seat on the community council and co-option of a community councillor.

The clerk reported she had been in touch with the elections office at Flintshire County Council and an election has not been requested. Therefore, the community council can move to co-op a person onto the community council. The clerk reported 1 expression of interest in the community councillor vacancy to date.

RESOLVED: The clerk to place Co-option notices in the villages and website deadline to express an interest would be 29 March 2018.

6. **Streetscene Matters – to review the letter from Cllr. Carolyn Thomas, Cabinet member for Streetscene and Countryside in response to the community council letter of concern regarding winter maintenance in the villages.**

The community and county councillor had sight of this letter which was posted on the village notice board and notice board on the community council website. The clerk had received further information from Flintshire County Council demonstrating the approximate cost of extending coverage to include all roads detailed in the meeting equated to approximately £30,000 per annum. In his letter, Mr Steve Jones went on to say he would still have reservations and would require legal judgement on the provision if the community council wish to proceed as the County Council would effectively be providing an inconsistent service across County. In respect of Ysgol Y Waun, he notes it would be impossible to turn a gritter around in the entrance to provide priority 1 coverage, however he has asked the local supervisor to ensure the route is treated as a matter of urgency during periods of prolonged ice and snow conditions.

The clerk reminded community councillors the total annual precept for Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council 2018/2019 was £32,500 for all their work/services in the community.

The response was discussed at length and the clerk was asked to write a response to Mr Steve Jones to express the community council's disappointment as there is still a perception that some of the rural routes primarily Pen Y Fron, Pantybuarth and Cefn Bychan Road which were once gritted are not. There was also shock at the quoted figures for this work which were deemed unaffordable for a small community council.

Cllr. Elcock requested the clerk obtain quotes for more salt bins along these roads.

Cllr. Johnson did say that some people do need to drive to the conditions when there is bad weather as she has observed people travelling at excessive speeds in the villages.

RESOLVED: The clerk write to Cllr. Carolyn Thomas and Mr Steve Jones on behalf of the community council.

Unanimous agreement by the community council not to pursue the extended gritting service. It was deemed unaffordable without considerably raising the precept for all residents.

6a To discuss the request for a dog waste bin on Church Lane, Gwernaffield.

Cllr. Hughes raised this on behalf of a local resident who said she has a letter from Flintshire County Council who advised a dog waste bin would be placed on Church Lane, Gwernaffield over a year ago.

Community Councillors agreed there were already a number of dog waste bins in the area and should the resident wish she can contact Flintshire County Council directly. County Councillor Adele Davies-Cooke said it may be likely some local residents do not wish it to be located there hence the work not being completed.

RESOLVED: No further action to be taken.

Cllr. Johnson reported a Silver Birch tree with a loose branch on the Gwernaffield Playing Field and said she would contact Mr Andy Lightfoot.

Cllr. Pritchard asked the clerk to contact Mr Stuart Body, Tree Preservation Officer a second time with regard to the hedges and trees which run parallel to the main road outside Y Waen to check their status and if the community council would be in a position legally to cut them back.

Cllr. Pritchard will obtain a number of estimates in the interim for hedge and tree pruning.

The clerk to contact June Morris at Leisure Services about tree pruning on Y Waen. Cllr. Pritchard reported this as being hazardous due to leaves falling at times on the nearby footpath which now due to the size of the trees can be hazardous.

RESOLVED: No further action to be taken until this guidance is received from Mr Stuart Body, Flintshire County Council in writing.

7. To review and consider the next phase of community LED street lighting in the villages.

The clerk briefed members on the street lighting renewal project and advised it would be timely to look at the next phase of street lighting in the villages to commence in the new financial year.

After careful consideration of the street lighting report and lighting conditions it was proposed by Cllr. Pritchard and seconded by Cllr Hughes to fund another 14 LED lights, 7 in each village – The clerk to check with Deeco Lighting engineer. However, Tan Y Hafod in Gwernaffield and some of Pen Y Fron Road in Pantymwyn were agreed as the next stage. Subject to query about ownership of some lights by County in Tan Y Hafod.

The clerk reported the cost is £475 per LED light as the VAT is reclaimed. For each LED light installed the annual maintenance contract with Deeco is reduced by £40 per street light.

RESOLVED: The clerk to liaise with Deeco Lighting about a further 14 LED streetlights in the villages to replace the older sox lighting.

8. Planning Community Council Events – To receive an update from Cllr. Karen Armstrong.

Cllr Armstrong was not in attendance. Cllr. Johnson reported back from the meeting of the Events Group which consisted of herself, Cllr. Armstrong and Cllr. J Roberts.

They had met and agreed a date for the Annual litter pick of 12 May 2018.

Other considerations included a nature based event for young children, hoping to be held in June 2018.

Scarecrow Competition in October 2018. The Senior Citizens Party will take place on 8 December 2018.

9. Clerk's update and correspondence

- Letter from One Voice Wales - To consider membership for 2018/2019

RESOLVED: Received. Not to pursue membership.

- Letter from Janet Kelly – To consider the Best Kept Communities Competition 2018 entries by 1 June 2018.

Cllr. Pritchard and Cllr. Johnson agreed to complete an entry on behalf of the community council for the Conservation Garden and Gwernaffield Playing Fields. Cllr. Pritchard reported Pantymwyn Village Hall usually enter for Pantymwyn village.

Cllr. Pritchard requested a contribution up to £50.00 toward flowers for the entry. Cllr. Johnson agreed to take on the maintenance of the flower boxes in the villages after the resignation of Cllr. Lynne Vaughan.

The clerk will forward relevant information to Pantymwyn Village Hall Committee via Mrs Pauline Kershaw.

RESOLVED: The Community Council to provide up to £50.00 toward the flowers to for the planters located in (amended) Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn.

- Information from Kidney Wales/Eren Cymru about their 2018 Walk for Life Series
- Community Health Council Wales – To consider a representative from CHC speaking to the Community Council about their work. To receive a report on improvements needed in non-emergency patient transport across Wales.

RESOLVED: The clerk to liaise with the community health council about a future date they can attend a meeting and possibly, if there is interest to extend to neighbouring community councils.

10. Planning Matters and Planning Decisions

No planning information received.

11. To receive accounts for payment

Mar-18			
SO	Clerk's Salary		476
DD	Scottish Power		262.08
100869	Deeco lighting		540
100870	expenses		£76
100871	HMRC		63
100872	Best Kept Communities		50.00
			£1,467.08

12. To receive items for the 4 April 2018 meeting at Ysgol Y Waun, commencing at 7.15pm.

NB. The next meeting of the community council was changed to Wednesday 11 April 2018 as Ysgol Y Waun is closed for the Easter holidays.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.