

GWERNAFFIELD AND PANTYMWYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM (VIRTUAL) MEETING

7 October 2020

1. (A) ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: Ruth Appleton, Adrian Barsby, Dave Bolton, David Coggins Cogan, John Elcock, Karen Armstrong, Richard Hughes (Chairman), Kate Johnson (Vice Chair), Jackie Roberts and George Tattum.

(B) APOLOGIES: Councillor Robin Edwards. **Non-Attendance:** Councillor Rod Morgan.

In attendance: Mrs Kay Roberts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

2. TO RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None declared.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ON 2 September 2020.

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Cllr. Tattum and seconded by Cllr. Johnson and approved as an accurate record and will be signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Communications – The Good Councillor Guide (Wales) – councillors acting alone and councillor attendances. 4a Autumn newsletter update.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, he said that sadly this will be Councillor Jackie Roberts last meeting for personal reasons, and she will be resigning after his meeting. Members thanked Cllr. Roberts for her work and wished her well.

The Chairman reaffirmed information circulated about the importance of attendance at meetings. Apologies to be provided to the clerk with a reason prior to 5pm on the day of the meeting should a member not be able to attend, which will be considered by council. Should a member not have attended since June their seat under the 6-month rule may become vacant, unless they put something in writing via the clerk explaining the circumstances of their absence to the council.

The Good Councillor Guide (Wales) recently circulated prior to this meeting by the clerk, a publication provided to all councillors upon their commencement in office. This is an updated version which councillors to read and adhere to.

The community council newsletter is almost complete, and it is anticipated will be circulated by the middle of the month. Cllr. Tattum and Bolton offered to proofread.

5. To receive an update on options for Pantymwyn Play Area – Cllr. Dave Bolton and clerk.

Cllr. Bolton had met with Mr Richard Roberts, Aura Play and Leisure Services and discussed a football goal (as per the September meeting), however this would be restrictive and the only area for it would mean it potentially would send the ball into the trees. The toddler slide has approximately 2 more years of economic life left, and it was suggested a climbing structure such as a "trim trail" would be a new piece of equipment for slightly older children. The details had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and Cllr. Hughes again showed a picture via his computer screen.

Councillors voted unanimously this would be a good addition to the Pantymwyn Park. The trim trail was proposed by Cllr. Tattum and seconded by Cllr. Johnson. Unconfirmed if match funding would be available for this piece of equipment due to the short-term nature of the land lease. Further discussion under Item 9.

RESOLVED: The clerk to confirm the purchase of the Trim Trail with Mr Richard Roberts at Aura.

6. To discuss the community survey and community engagement – Cllr. Karen Armstrong and Cllr. David Coggins Cogan

Cllr. Armstrong discussed how as a council we might strengthen community engagement in particular prior to precept setting in January 2021. To ensure the council priorities are shaped by the residents of the two villages. Cllr. Armstrong agreed to lead on this, initially placing something in the next newsletter.

Councillors agreed this was in general a good idea. However, it was also important that there was an understanding of what the community council is there to do and sometimes there is a misunderstanding of our role and that of County. A discussion commenced about the use of Facebook for communications, included some conversations which can quickly escalate and become overheated i.e. The Playscheme as an example. This discussion was deferred to the November meeting to enable sufficient time to discuss further. At present main communications (other than announcements about Community Events via website and Facebook Community Page) take place on the community council website and notice boards both electronic and x3 in the villages x2 Gwernaffield x1 Pantymwyn. Comments made about the recent success of The Villages Scarecrow Competition and how facebook had been largely positive in this sense of engaging residents (although it was noted not all residents would engage this way).

Agreement that a broader discussion about the community councils use of social media including facebook would be discussed at the November meeting.

7. To discuss Streetscene Matters

The fallen tree on the unadopted footpath which goes down to Devils Gorge/Leete path was discussed. Even though some years ago the community council asked FCC that this footpath be adopted there was no response.

Cllr. Tattum agreed to follow this up with the clerk.

7a. To consider costs associated with ground preparation to receive the annual Pantymwyn Christmas tree. (Gwernaffield Tree already in situ in the conservation garden).

Brief discussion about approaching streetscene to drop the Christmas Tree into the ground, something that can be used on an annual basis. Costings £24.39. Members agreed to this.

Dog bags need replacing at the end of Cefn Bychan Road.

Cllr. Richard Hughes reported it had recently transpired following a discussion with the area co-ordinator at Streetscene that instructions had been provided to the streetscene team from an individual Cllr. which had not been discussed or agreed at Council.

Cllr. Richard Hughes reiterated that this was not how the council worked and matters raised with Streetscene should be agreed by Council and the clerk, Chair and Vice Chair copied into any emails to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

Cllr. Richard Hughes asked if any instructions provided to County be emailed to the clerk which Council may have not been made aware of.

8. To approve the October accounts for payment

SO	K.Roberts			696.12
DD	Scottish Power		27.21	163.28
101023	Scarecrow & Sunflower Comp.	Community Events		110.00
*101024	K.Roberts	Salary Scale difference 20/21		48.04
101025	Planning Aid Wales	Planning Applications online Training x3		90.00
*101026	K.Roberts	Backdated Pay 20/21 April - Sept		106.08
101027	HMRC	PAYE		12.80

Accounts proposed by Cllr. Tattum and Cllr. Bolton.

9. To consider and review the budget and half year expenditure (1 April 2020 – 30 September 2020)

The clerk had circulated the budget for councillors' consideration. There are areas in the budget which may be underspent and in this instance the piece of equipment for Pantymwyn Park - The trim trail suggestion from Aura was agreed, (it is uncertain whether match funding would be available). The Trim Trail would be in the region on £7,000 including installation.

Speeding measures would also be considered by a future council subgroup.

No other questions on the budget were received.

10. To discuss Community Council owned Street Lighting outstanding matters and review membership of the Lighting Committee.

The clerk had received email correspondence updating the council on street lighting matters. The repair on Pen Y Fron had been dealt with and a new LED had been installed by Norlands, Pantymwyn and safety checks were starting to be undertaken. The old lamp post column in Y Waun was agreed to be replaced. The clerk will liaise with Deeco lighting.

11. To discuss speed calming measures and consider any relevant costings. – Cllr. Adrian Barsby and clerk.

Cllr. Barsby suggested a Task and Finish Group to enable road safety and speeding to be looked at holistically. Councillors were asked to volunteer to join this group, Cllr. Bolton, and Cllr. Tattum would join Cllr. Barsby and the clerk would provide long arm support to this group. Cllr. Barsby would bring a term of reference to the November meeting. Various speed calming measures would be considered ANPR, Speed Signage and VAS.

The Road Safety Officer at Flintshire Council had not yet provided the accident report data.

12. To receive an update on community events – Cllr. Kate Johnson and Cllr. Karen Armstrong including to discuss and hear any suggestions for Christmas.

Cllr. Johnson and Cllr. Karen Armstrong provided an update on successful events including the T-shirt competition, sunflower competition and scarecrow competition which have all engaged the community and received much positive feedback from residents.

A detailed discussion took place about the Christmas lunch, councillors felt that reluctantly with the current climate it would be best to postpone this event until 2021. Cllr. Johnson will advise the golf club. This would be explained in the next newsletter.

Resolved: The decision not to proceed with a Christmas meal / event was unanimously agreed by all councillors present and was proposed by Cllr. Elcock and seconded by Cllr. Roberts.

(The clerk at this time asked councillors to move to mute if they had not been given permission to speak by the Chair as significant and constant background noise was permeating from a source and as a fellow councillor was speaking this was not acceptable and deemed rude and inconsiderate).

Cllr. Johnson suggested a Christmas Card / picture idea which could be created by the pupils of Ysgol Y Waun and circulated to all pensioners in the villages. This was agreed as a good idea to make enquiries about. Cllr. Johnson will furnish councillors with further information at the November meeting.

13. To receive the Clerk's Update and correspondence

13a. A thank you card was received from Gwernaffield Church for financial assistance toward ground maintenance.

13b. Code of Conduct Training – the clerk advised to date 4 councillors – Cllr. Armstrong, Cllr. Coggins Cogan, Cllr. Barsby and Cllr. Bolton a place had been booked on the online training.

13c. To consider correspondence from Lynne Pritchard, Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Fields. In relation to Gwernaffield Play Area – including a request for financial assistance toward Play Equipment in 2020/2021.

An email correspondence from FOGPF lead Mrs Lynne Pritchard was read out by the clerk. A short fall to meet the play equipment was requested of £89.00. After which, the FOGPF account would be closed.

RESOLVED: Unanimous agreement that financial assistance would be provided of £89.00 to FOGPF for their final pieces of play equipment. The clerk would administer and inform Mrs Lynne Pritchard.

13d. To receive the Independent Remuneration Panel Draft Annual Report 2021/22. Any comments by 23 November 2020 (section 13 relates to Community and Town Councils). Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2021

Received, any comments to the clerk prior to the next council meeting.

14. To receive any (A) *Planning Applications (B) Planning Decisions 14a To review and confirm membership of The Planning Sub Committee.

14a To review and confirm membership of The Planning Sub Committee

The Planning Committee members are currently Cllr. Dave Bolton and Cllr. George Tattum – coordinated by The Chair, Councillor Richard Hughes in liaison with the Clerk for submission of comments to the Flintshire County Council Planning Portal.

Other councillors were asked to join, however, no other councillors volunteered at this time.

The clerk to enquire when the next Planning Aid Wales influencing planning applications runs as Cllr. Johnson and Cllr. Appleton are interested in attending. Cllr. Bolton, Cllr. Coggins Cogan and the clerk had attended earlier in the month and found the course basic but a useful refresher.

14b Planning Application 016742 Cornerways, Cefn Bychan Road, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EL – erection of garage / workshop with office space.

Following discussion an objection had been submitted by the clerk via the planning portal. Objecting primarily to the size and scale of the suggested garage workshop, which was felt inappropriate and more commercially size based.

Planning Application 061270 Erw Deg, Pantymwyn (REFUSED) – erection of domestic garage and store was refused by planning as it would “unjustifiably further extend the build development into this part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with an even greater detrimental impact on its character and visual appearance thereby contrary to policies GEN1, GEN3, D2 and L2 of the adopted Flintshire Unitary Development Plan.

14c Planning Application 061791 Mold Golf Club, Cilcain Road, Pantymwyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5EH Small store extension and rear pergola and fencing to the patio.

14d Planning Application 061754 Thornlea, Pen Y Fron Road Pantymwyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5EF. The application is for the erection of a garage/shed. The garage is to be constructed from locally sourced timber and is to have a dual pitched roof. This is so the building will fit into the local surrounding area.

As 14c and 14d were not yet available to comment via the planning portal. Members of the Planning Sub Committee would monitor and submit any comments to the Chair and Clerk in due course.

14e. To consider communications from Flintshire County Council Planning Enforcement.

Concerns voiced over lack of acknowledgment from Planning Enforcement in relation to Erw Deg, Pantymwyn. It was acknowledged the planner involved had been away from the office for a period.

County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke who was anticipated to provide an update was unfortunately not present at the meeting having had problems joining virtually.

15.To receive items for the 4 November 2020 agenda.

During the meeting Councillor Coggins Cogan left the discussion. Some councillors present (after engaging with residents) were concerned about some confusion between the endorsed community council newsletter and his leaflet. Councillor Richard Hughes asked Cllr. Coggins Cogan if he was still present at the meeting and for his response however no response was provided. The clerk said she had not had sight of this communication and suggested it might be an idea if all councillors (some who had received the leaflet, others who had not) were sent it and offered to circulate this onward to members if provided with it from Cllr. Coggins Cogan.

Councillor Coggins Cogan returned to the meeting after appearing absent and unresponsive on screen and said he did not believe his leaflet/communication was confusing. The Chair asked Cllr. Coggins Cogan to amend his tone and conduct and as a result the meeting was ended. (It was acknowledged some of the technical issues being experienced at the virtual meeting on this occasion did not assist communications.)

The meeting ended at 9.40pm