

GWERNAFFIELD AND PANTYMWYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM (VIRTUAL) MEETING

4 November 2020

1. (A) ATTENDANCE:

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

(B) APOLOGIES: None.

In attendance: Mrs Kay Roberts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.
County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke

2. TO RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None declared.

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

Councillor Coggins Cogan believed the minutes were not accurate. Item 6 Page 2 and felt he had been involved with the discussion at this point. Some councillors felt that Cllr. Coggins Cogan had not led on this agenda item. The clerk advised it is not to record verbatim all conversation for the purpose of the minutes and said as the matter would be being discussed at item 9 on the November agenda should the councillor wish to raise something at this point he would be able to do so.

An adjustment would be made at item 15 page 6 as Councillor Coggins Cogan did not believe he was disengaged and not paying attention as per a communication from The Chair but did involve myself on this. Due to technical problems Cllr. Coggins Cogan explained he could hear but not see at a point during the last meeting and was trying to ascertain the nature of the problem. The Chair was also having some problems with technology at the virtual meeting.

Cllr. Hughes impressed upon Cllr. Coggins Cogan if he was having technical problems, he just had to explain so councillors could understand. Another Cllr. had said he was trying to get back online. Cllr. Armstrong reminded councillors of the feature on zoom if they cannot be seen or heard there is a chat function so this can be used or phone the clerk to advise of a problem.

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

4. Chairman's Communications

Matters Arising from the October minutes.

The Clerk provided an update on the fallen tree in Pantymwyn, near Devils Gorge. The clerk briefed members on her contact with Stuart Jones, Access Officer at Flintshire County Council who agreed to make an approach to the landowner regarding the footpath becoming adopted, he is also meeting with the rangers in Loggerheads regarding the fallen tree. If the landowner is not interested in designating the land a formal approach by an organisation can be made on specific forms which are served on the landowner. It will take Flintshire County Council up to 12 months to determine if the evidence about usage over time is good enough to move this forward.

13d. Independent Remuneration Draft Report – no representations confirmed.

14. Planning Enforcement Training - the clerk requested if Cllr. Coggins Cogan wished to attend, further to an email request she had forwarded to him. The councillor confirmed he should like to attend the online course. The clerk will now confirm with planning aid Wales.

14e. Erw Deg, Pantymwyn - no other communications from Planning Enforcement. County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke has emailed Planners Mr Glynn Jones and Ms. Mandy Lewis and had nothing further.

Councillors expressed some concerns about the time taken for Planners to respond and in some cases do not respond at all. This is something the community council will monitor.

(The clerk asked councillors to check if any background noise being experienced at the meeting was from their home. The source was identified, and an appliance turned off.)

Chairman's Communications continued.

The Chair encouraged attendance at the forthcoming code of conduct training something which is requested within 12 months of joining the community council and noted we all have a duty of care and to give respect to one another, working together not unilaterally. If residents, ask us to act we bring this back to the council unless relatively minor and / or something urgent crops up (or has financial considerations) or other implications. A few incidences recently following conversations with Mr Andy Lightfoot who has raised issues and had to verify with the community council.

With regards to attendance/participation councils the council is learning as we go and we should behave on zoom as we are physically in a room, show of hands on voting matters are fundamental basics / respect others not being distracted and concentrate on what we are here to do. Not leaving a meeting with no explanation and again showing respect to each other.

The Chair informed members there had been a recent request for public participation at this meeting.

Unfortunately, there was no provision of details after a request and the Chair felt uncomfortable to admit with only a "journalist" as a response who admitted he had not seen the agenda. A learning curve for all. Standing Orders written pre COVID and admission into a meeting and participation a person would normally advise who they are and their interest in being there. Perhaps a consideration for the next meeting is to consider a simple procedure including a period of notice to attend.

Cllr Tattum did not agree with exclusion of a member of the press and said they had a right to attend.

Cllr Bolton who during his career had worked as a journalist expressed it was very strange to withhold where you are from, which paper.

County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke commented we are all having to work in very different circumstances which are unprecedented. On this occasion let common sense prevail and should the journalist request attendance at the next month attendance it will be reconsidered.

5. To consider any community councillor Vacancies

The clerk reported on two vacancies Cllr. Jackie Roberts and Cllr. Rod Morgan. The clerk will follow the casual vacancy procedure and place a notice on the community council website and await notification from the election's office as to when the community council can move to co-option.

The councillors have both been thanked by the clerk for their time with the community council.

7. To receive an update from Cllr. Adrian Barsby on The Heritage Fund Application.

Cllr. Barsby reported the council may hear about this funding application in the next month. Cllr. Barsby thanked the clerk and Cllr. Tattum for information which assisted with the submission.

8. To receive an update from Cllr. Armstrong (and clerk) about the Community Council Website.

Cllr. Armstrong reported on work with the clerk to upgrade the existing community council website in early 2021. At present there is room for improvement some links are broken, improvements to headings to make the website clearer and easier and more intuitive. A full refresh with the existing provider for under £200 was considered. Work has begun refreshing the home page and there is an intention to dig down to provide further detail about what the website might look like at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: Members in full agreement to the new refreshed website in 2021.

(Councillor Edwards received a phone call and had to leave the meeting due to personal reasons.)

9. To discuss use of social media and facebook for communications.

Cllr. Armstrong reported that alongside the clerk they have been researching good practice and what other Town and Community Councils are doing. It is the intention to present a policy in draft for the next meeting in terms of basic principles. Cllr. Armstrong asked councillors if they wished to add anything further at this point, no further comments received.

10. To receive an update from Cllr. Bolton on The Pantymwyn Christmas Tree.

Cllr. Bolton reported Cefn Mawr quarry will provide a tree for Pantymwyn and he will co-ordinate the rest including liaison with Deeco lighting about the lighting.

Pantymwyn Village Hall have informed the council they will also have their own tree this year in the car park to help brighten the village. There is now guidance that small groups are permissible in village halls which has been shared with relevant people.

11. To receive the Clerk's Update and correspondence

11a. To receive a letter from Mr Barry Wilkinson, Flintshire County Council on Winter Maintenance.

The Community Road Safety Group will follow up areas in the letter i.e. winter treatment / maintenance and will feedback at the December meeting. Cllr. Hughes and Cllr Johnson would check the community shovels and grit/salt in store at the village halls.

Some streetscene matters raised by Cllr. Coggins Cogan were agreed should be referred to the Community Road Safety Group for example a suggestion of inclusion of more roads for gritting within the village on the priority salting route was escalated in recent years and the community council were given the quote of in the region of £32,000 (the community councils annual budget at that time). This the clerk reported demonstrates the importance for councillors to consult and liaise back with the community council to ensure of an awareness of previous decisions & negotiations. Furthermore, the community council were advised against doing any gritting themselves due to the fact that when County respond it is to a specific weather advice and if an area was missed inadvertently there could be potential for a claim.

With reference to a suggestion of street lighting being turned off overnight this would be referred to the Sub Lighting Group.

11b. Awel Y Mor Virtual consultation Monday 30 November 2020 www.awelymor.cymru

The clerk provided details of the above and directly councillors to the website for further information.

12. To receive an update on Council Community Events until end 2020.

Cllr. Johnson has informed the Golf Club of the decision not to proceed with the senior citizens' lunch.

A recent "spot the snowman" in the winter community council newsletter went well with local children taking part and many positive comments generally.

A resident proposed a best decorated Christmas house on Facebook. Councillors in attendance thought this was a good idea and County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke offered to provide a hamper for the winner.

Cllr. Appleton suggested, as not all people access facebook/internet perhaps other communication methods such as a leaflet to enable inclusivity for certain events.

There will be attendance at the next remembrance service and a wreath has been organised.

Cllr. Johnson has received bulbs for the butterfly garden in Gwernaffield.

The community events team is led by Cllr. Armstrong and supported by Cllr Johnson, and Cllr. Appleton - other volunteers were reminded they are welcome to support events.

The Chair asked Cllr. Coggins Cogan was a Christmas event being organised in the villages? Cllr. Coggins Cogan advised it was separate to the community council. Cllr Barsby expressed his disappointment that the community council were not informed. In particular, as this may involve a road closure, which the clerk was notified of in the 1st instance by the Streetscene Co-ordinator it was reiterated that we work together and it is basic common courtesy to inform colleagues of an event taking place in their areas. In not bringing this event to the community council there was no option to participate. Councillors expressed it would be courteous and helpful to provide such information. Cllr. Coggins Cogan expressed previous suggestions were turned down.

Cllr. Coggins Cogan said a leaflet would be circulated in due course and there would be a road closure for 90 minutes on 20 December 2020.

At this point, Cllr. Johnson said she apologised for a personal comment made at the October meeting and wished to extend an olive branch so work can continue in a productive and positive manner with Cllr. Coggins Cogan.

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

- (A) Planning Application: 061994 LOCATION: Gwernaffield Road, Mold.
PROPOSAL: Residential Development one, two, three and four, bedroom homes together with associated public open space and infrastructure inc. a new link road between Gwernaffield Road and Denbigh Road to enable Pool House Lane to become a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian route in part.

County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke reported councillors in Mold have been discussing this proposal and its impact on traffic and noted County Councillor Bithell was a good voice in Mold. No further comments from the community council.

- (A) Planning Application 061944: LOCATION: Holmscales, Cilcain Road, Pantymwyn, Flintshire, Fell 1 N0 Monterey Cypress (Application to Top Lop Fell Tree Preservation Order).

The community council had spoken with a resident who in turn had contacted County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke regarding a Monterey Cypress tree which was the County Councillor explained was a worry in 2008 the roots were pulling up his driveway and becoming a potential hazard, if it fell into the road. After listening, members agreed to submit no objections to County.

RESOLVED: The clerk to submit no objections.

- (A) Planning Application 061911: LOCATION: Cornerways, Cefn Bychan Road, Pantymwyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5EL. PROPOSAL: Application for the approval of details reserved by condition NO. 5 (contaminated land investigation) attached to planning permission Ref: 057710

RESOLVED: No comments – not yet open for comment.

- (A) Planning Application 061804: LOCATION: The Bungalow, Hafod Road, Gwernaffield, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5ES. PROPOSAL: Replacement Dwelling.

Cllr. Hughes reported he believed that in terms of material considerations the scale was out of character and keeping with the surrounding area and thus an overdevelopment of this site. This was seconded by Cllr. Bolton.

RESOLVED: To submit an objection.

With the Chair's permission the clerk submitted a late correspondence from residents in relation to a previous planning application for Muirhead, Pantymwyn - an approved planning application expressing their concerns in relation to a lack of planning consultation/communication. The clerk would make enquiries with planning at County. Communications had not been assisted as the Planning Officer has had periods of time off, away from the office and this the residents need to take up with County. County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke has responded.

RESOLVED: The clerk was asked to make enquiries with County and respond to the residents as appropriate on behalf of the community council.

14. To approve the November accounts for payment

SO	K.Roberts	Salary and home office allowance.		744.16
DD	Scottish Power	Street lighting – electricity	4.5	94.5
101030	Richard Hughes	Newsletter - Winter Issue		213.00
101031	Flintshire County Council	Summer Playscheme and snack		1711.64
101032	Flintshire County Council	Gwernaffield Play Area - Equipment		2500.00
101033	Councillor D Bolton	Screw Fix - Christmas Tree Prep.		27.32
101034	HMRC	PAYE		12.80
101035	VOID			
101036	HMRC	PAYE		238.80

15. To receive items for the 2 December 2020 agenda.

The clerk asked to speak and addressed the council to state she had not intentionally omitted a statement from the minutes and found the last meeting very difficult. In particular, the clerk was upset by Cllr. Coggins Cogan's behaviour for which he apologised for any upset caused particularly in the workplace and said this is something he regretted. As the employer of Mrs Roberts, he will apologise but this was to the clerk not the council.

The meeting finished at 21.09.