

GWERNAFFIELD AND PANTYMWYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM (VIRTUAL) MEETING

2 December 2020

1. (A) ATTENDANCE:

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

(B) APOLOGIES: Robin Edwards

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

2. TO RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillor George Tattum explained Planning Application Ref: 062103 at 15b on the agenda is a neighbour and he would not be commenting.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ON 4 November 2020

Matters Arising

The clerk read an email received from Mr Stuart Jones, Access Officer at Flintshire County Council and requested if she should contact the AONB team at Flintshire regarding the fallen tree. This was agreed. Mr Jones will contact the landowner re. dedication of the land prior to Christmas and feed back to the community council once he has received a response.

The clerk advised she had responded to the complaint from residents regarding the approved Planning Application Ref: 061242 Muirhead and informed them, after contacting Flintshire County Council Planning Department that letters inviting comment on this application were sent on 18 June 2020 and that the planning officer Mr Alan Wells had completed a neighbour assessment which is in his officer's report and this had been forwarded to the residents concerned.

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Cllr. Karen Armstrong and seconded by Cllr. George Tattum.

4. Chairman's Communications

A discussion commenced regarding public participation at meetings in relation to virtual meetings which are now required in the current climate. The clerk had contacted Flintshire County Council monitoring officer, Mr Gareth Owens who confirmed there is no National Guidelines and that it is up to individual councillors' discretion to allow or prohibit attendance at meetings.

Cllr. Johnson raised concern about recordings of meetings which is against our community council standing orders and which an individual accessing the meeting could still potentially do.

Legislation allows the community council to set their own rules and how these are managed about access.

Mr Owens confirmed it would be acceptable to request someone wishing to participate basic information and their interest in the agenda but not necessary should they just wish to sit in.

RESOLVED: The clerk will produce a basic procedure for Councillors perusal which will apply to meeting held in 2021.

5. To provide an update on community councillor vacancies and consideration of a youth representative.

The clerk explained the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 has enabled the appointment of a Youth representative by cc. The rules include that there be no more than two, over the age of 15 but not attained 26 and a person the community council considers suitable to act as a community youth representative for young people of that age, it is up to the community council to set the terms of the representatives' appointment. The clerk will work on something and circulate with the two general vacancy adverts once permission is given by County that the community council can move to a co-option.

6. To raise any Streetscene Matters – issues raised by residents.

Requested footpath clearance

The clerk reported the sweeper had been along the footpaths in Y Waen. A resident had been in touch and thanked the community council for their invention.

Request of change to a stile off Cefn Bychan Road

Stile, off Cefn Bychan Road – Cllr. Johnson to follow up with Mr John Hill, Rights of Way Officer at Flintshire County Council. The clerk commented that as the stile is fit for purpose it may be unlikely to be replaced with a gate.

Improved signage requests

A resident has contacted the community council thanking them for their work on the Gwernaffield Playing Fields. The resident went on to comment that some of the road signs were looking in a state of disrepair and could they be improved. The Community Council asked County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke to follow this item up with County.

RESOLVED: County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke to follow up the signage improvements request with Streetscene.

Street Lighting Matters – Cllr. Bolton reported in response to a request by Councillor Coggins Cogan to consider turning off the community council street lighting in the villages over night to save costs. This had been reviewed by members of the lighting committee (Cllr. Dave Bolton and Cllr. Rob Edwards) who in recent years have supported the community council with the long-term investment in the lighting renewal project, replacing the high energy orange sox lighting with the white LED energy efficient and cost saving lighting, which does not require the same maintenance. The lighting committee said it is a fair request however, given the semi-rural location of the villages, the fact that lighting had already been reviewed and adjusted and significant savings and carbon footprint reduced and the impact on the number of older people in the villages this was not supported. Members at the meeting were in general agreement.

Cllr. Elcock said there was a fall/stumble in recent months on Cefn Bychan Road, which he feels has dark areas and believes there should be more illumination.

Cllr. Bolton stated some LED lights he thought needed raising higher a long Cilcain Road, possibly Cefn Bychan Road. All Cllrs. requested to look at their areas and street lighting around them.

Cllr. Johnson commented Pen Y Fron Road near the white cottage before the Llyn Y Pandy turning it is very dark too.

The clerk will raise these matters with Deeco Lighting the community councils lighting engineer.

The clerk suggested thanks be conveyed to Streetscene prior to the year end for their work in the villages. This was agreed.

7. To receive a verbal update from the Community Road Safety Committee. (CRSC)

Cllr. Bolton summarised information for councillors which he had received from various sources including Flintshire County Council Road Safety Department. The clerk too had circulated notes from the last November 2020 meeting earlier that day to all councillors for information. Cllr. Bolton reported 1 road traffic accident in 3 years and average speed monitored was 32 miles per hour.

The Road Traffic Safety Group is considering information on speed cameras, speed restrictions and chicanes.

Councillors thought a summary of this information for residents would be useful for the January newsletter, the CRSC to forward relevant information to Cllr. Johnson for inclusion.

The Mold Development (PA N0 061994) was raised as a matter of concern in relation to the increased traffic from the proposed development – plan for a new road linking Denbigh Road and Gwernaffield Road and the A494 Mold-Ruthin Road and vice-versa. It was agreed to submit the concerns raised by Cllr. Tattum from any proposed development and its impact and the community council object on such grounds.

Cllr. Johnson asked councillors to be aware/sensitive given a fall from a cyclist off his bike in Gwernaffield in November.

Winter Gritting to be dealt with by full Council as without a change to Flintshire County Councils rural village winter maintenance or significant investment way beyond what is affordable by a community council there is no complete solution.

8. To ask members consider a draft communications and engagement policy and provide feedback to the clerk in the first instance prior to the January 2021 meeting.

Councillor Armstrong advised the document has been circulated by the clerk and would welcome feedback prior to the next meeting from all Councillors.

9. To receive feedback from Code of Conduct training attended by Councillors

Councillors who attended expressed it was succinct, focused on areas they needed to be aware of including the Nolan Principles on expectations of behaviour. A good session very informative. A councillor thought it was a little long and the information provided could have

been better utilised. The clerk will offer this feedback to Mr Gareth Owens, Monitoring Officer at County.

10. To receive Clerk Update and Correspondence

11. To consider the community councils annual membership of One Voice Wales at £292.00.

Agreement to subscribe to membership for 2020/2021 and review benefits of joining again next year.

12. A complaint submitted to the Public Ombudsman for Wales did not meet the ombudsman criteria and would not be investigated. (Further information about the work of the ombudsman can be obtained by visiting www.ombudsman.wales)

Item 12 was provided for information only. The clerk advised she was not at liberty to discuss anything further as instructed by the Ombudsman's office.

13. To receive a verbal update from the Community Events Group

Cllr. Johnson reported that the best decorated Christmas window display and outdoor display for the garden competition had been posted on the community facebook page.

Cllr. Bolton reported the Christmas tree will be delivered on 8 December 2020 and hopefully alight.

14. To approve the December 2020 accounts for payment.

Approval of Accounts for Payment

December				
SO	K.Roberts	salary and home office allowance		744.16
DD	Scottish Power	Electricity street lighting		163.28
101037	Deeco Lighting	Repairs Pen Y Fron/Ty Arian Pen Y Fron		432.00
101038	One Voice Wales	Annual Membership		292.00
101039	Planning Aid Wales	Councillor Training		30.00

The clerk had also circulated in advance of the meeting 1 April – 30 September 2020 Bank reconciliation demonstrating income and expenditure to date and a bank balance of £38,897.93.

The accounts were proposed by Cllr. Kate Johnson and seconded by Cllr. Karen Armstrong.

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

15a. To receive a letter from Flintshire County Council Planning Enforcement acknowledging the community council's communication from May 2020 regards to an alleged breach of planning permission in Pantymwyn.

RESOLVED: Received, no further action at this time.

15b. Planning Application Ref: 062103 Location: Bryn Y Haul, Cilcain Road, Gwernaffield, Mold, CH7 5DJ Proposal: Single storey unit, conversion of garage into a games room and replacement roof. Following discussion, the clerk was instructed to submit no objections. **RESOLVED: No objections.**

15c. Planning Application Ref: 059396 Copsy Farm Development. The community council were requested to submit a statement of their objections to the Planning Committee which was submitted by the Planning Sub Committee on 24 November 2020.

The clerk reported the objection was submitted and today she received verbal feedback from County that the application had been refused and summarised for members the conclusion of the officer's report refusing the application. Much of the summary to follow supports the salient points made by Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council in their statement to the Planning Committee. This confirmed such a scale of development was not appropriate or sustainable in Gwernaffield. Contrary to the spatial strategy in both the Unitary Development Plan and Emerging Local Development Plan. Other technical issues why the proposal is unacceptable include ecological issues on site. Affordable housing, Public Open Space, Housing Mix and regard to sufficient amenity space provision. In such the recommendation by Flintshire County Council was refusal

(B) Planning Application Reference: 061742 Cornerways, Pantymwyn – Approved.

(B) Planning Application Reference: 061944 Holmscales, Pantymwyn – Approved.

16. To receive items for the 6 January 2021 agenda.

Engagement and Communications Policy
Budget – Precept
CRSG
Signage.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm.