

**GWERNAFFIELD AND PANTYWMYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ZOOM (VIRTUAL) MEETING**

**17 November 2021 / 17 Tachwedd 2021**

**1.(A) Attendance (B) Apologies**

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

**(B) Apologies - Cllr. Rob Challinor**

Not in attendance Cllr. John Elcock.

**2. Declaration of interests in relation to the listed agenda items.**

Agenda Item 10. Cllr. Coggins Cogan regarding a financial request for the Santa event in the villages.

Agenda Item 12. Cllr. Adrian Barsby – Planning Application: 063697.

The Councillors were not present during the discussion of these two items due to declaring an interest.

**3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 October 2021.**

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Cllr. Appleton and seconded by Cllr. Barsby and will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Chairman's Communications – To welcome to the meeting Mr Andy Lightfoot, Flintshire County Council Streetscene Area Manager.**

**4a. To raise any Streetscene Matters – dog waste bag dispensers being taken in bulk and left empty after complete fills the previous day.**

Cllr. Bolton welcomed Mr Lightfoot to the meeting who advised workmen had been active around the villages doing drainage repair at The Hand, Crossroads, improvement to footpaths, the road surface works through the villages in addition some road surfaces having been redressed in 2021, hedging reduced in Gwernaffield and rumble strips replaced by the vicarage.

Mr Lightfoot will follow up on Japanese knot weed concern in Pantymwyn. Cllr. Barsby asked about the possibility of red/white markers coming away from Cadole Road when risk assessment was carried out as part of highway inspections, could these be used in addition – Mr Lightfoot will refer this to Claire Parry, Flintshire County Council's Road Safety Unit.

It was noted in 2023 the Welsh Government are considering a 20mph limit in residential areas, changes are anticipated.

Cllr. Coles – noted the state of disrepair of the road outside Cefn Mawr Quarry, the degradation of the road is problematic not only for cars but also for cycles, motorbikes and there are frequent wing mirrors and plastics found along this length of road and it is getting worse. Mr Andy Lightfoot will discuss with Claire Parry, Road Safety at FCC they would have to score the road and likely require a bid to Welsh Government, it depends on its scoring.

Column / Pole – Cadole Road – an enquiry can it be moved?

Dog bin dispenser, on the road / pathway down to Devils Gorge – multiple bags up to a case of 80 removed overnight, consider a request to move the dog waste bag dispensing unit to a more visible location to act as a deterrent.

**4b. An outstanding concern about the sunken drain in Cadole Road, near Cartrefle. Mr Lightfoot will check when doing the next highway inspection.**

Mr Lightfoot would look at this as part of his Highways Inspections.

A discussion about speed monitor options for the villages, Mr Lightfoot suggested Mr Daryl Jones, Flintshire County Council Officer, would need to be contacted about an approved supplier as another Flintshire community council recently installed a monitor which County are not satisfied with. Mr Lightfoot requested the road safety group email specifications from providers to him initially.

Cllr. Tattum requested if having a portable speed monitor and moving it from site to site would require extra sanctions?

**RESOLVED: Mr Andy Lightfoot undertook to make enquiries and follow up on issues raised.**

**4c. The Gwernaffield Park (Playing Fields) – memorial bench for former Councillor Lynne Pritchard and general update on the park area.**

The memorial bench for former Councillor Lynne Pritchard has been installed and was well received by Lynne's family and residents and publicised by the local press with very positive responses, a fitting tribute to a dedicated, long-standing councillor.

The clerk updated councillors on the costs for the trim trail and its installation in Pantymwyn together with the supply and installation of the picnic table £8249.70 which Aura have agreed to match fund making the cost to the community council of £4124.85. Cllr Edwards commented as this was below the amount originally ring fenced in the budget in January, can council consider options for a replacement piece of equipment in 2021/2022 for the slide structure, which was the next piece of equipment due to be replaced. The clerk was requested to approach Aura Play and Leisure Services and request an option/s to replace the existing structure with costings for the December meeting.

**4d. Feedback from meetings with Mold Golf Club, Northop Hall Community Council and Cae Rhug Farm, Gwernaffield. An update on Christmas Lighting in the villages.**

Cllr. Bolton has discussed with Debbie Barton, Manager of Mold Golf Course the risk assessments for covid required and she has given assurances that the club has implemented the recommendations including social distancing etc. The Manager advises they are allowed up to a maximum of 110 people.

In relation to Northop Hall Community Council – please refer to the Road Safety Group update.

Cae Rhug Farm, Gwernaffield – Councillors are welcome to go and see what is on offer for the community at the Farm including organic fruit vegetables being close to nature and wildlife.

Remembrance Sunday – Cllr. Coggins Cogan asked what takes place in terms of a wreath being presented on behalf of the community council at this time. The clerk reported at one time previous / past Councillors presented a wreath at the church on behalf of the community council. The council is aware some churches were not accepting wreaths in Flintshire this year. Next year, Councillor Coggins Cogan offered to take a wreath to the Church for this event, as a representative of the community council.

**5. To receive a verbal update from the Road Safety Sub Committee. 5a. To consider a briefing paper on Speed Monitors.**

Cllr. Bolton distributed an A4 briefing for members (via the clerk) on speed monitor options for consideration prior to the meeting. The speed monitors were further discussed in 4a with Mr Andy Lightfoot, Streetscene Manager.

**6. To receive a verbal update from the Events Sub Committee. 6a. Carol singing in the villages. 6b. Christmas meal at Mold Golf Club. 6c. Date for planting of daffodils and tulips in the villages.**

The events committee had recently met and requested a "bumper edition" of community council news which is being finalised. As the budget is underspent in this area at present, it was agreed.

Cllr. Armstrong suggested a forward work programme for months of the community council year. This was agreed for the events programme.

The clerk already has her own statutory / duties calendar.

Flower Planting – Cllr. Coles has purchased daffodils and tulips. Suggested locations Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Parks, underneath the new notice boards, Gwernaffield and Cilcain Road and Pantybuarth crossroads.

## 7. Clerks update and correspondence

To receive the draft Independent Remuneration Panel Report for February 2022 – follow the link [Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: draft annual report 2022 to 2023 | GOV.WALES](#) comments by 26 November 2021.

The clerk summarised the proposed changes in the draft report including groupings changing for councils from groups by income/expenditure to grouping by numbers of electorates which places Mostyn in group 4 from 1,000 – 4,999 electors.

The mandated payment of £150 for all councillors will be retained except for group 5 under 1,000 electors.

Summary – Group 4 (Electorate 1,000 to 4,999 proposes: Basic Payment Mandatory for all members, Senior Role Payment – optional up to 3 members, Attendance Allowance – Optional (New for all councils who can introduce up to £30 to support members with caring responsibilities), financial loss – Mandatory, Travel and Subsistence – Optional, Cost of Care – Mandatory.

The clerk reported once the IRP approve the final report it will be brought back to the council meeting and discussed prior to Spring 2021.

## 8. To receive feedback from Cllr. Sue Coles, Governor Ysgol Y Waun on relevant school matters.

Cllr. Coles reported from a recent Ysgol Y Waun, governors meeting regarding a new charging policy being considered for hire of the community centre.

Cllr. Tattum suggested the community council, other local groups should be given a concessionary rate. In general, members were sympathetic to the school as they acknowledge budgets are diminishing for maintenance etc and the focus must be on pupil education not subsidising the centre.

The clerk reported the community council agreed pre covid to pay an annual amount for monthly usage of the centre and would report back on this.

Cllr. Armstrong stated Flintshire County Council had reviewed fees and charges in recent years to her knowledge.

## 9. To approve the November accounts for payment. 10a. To review half yearly expenditure against budget 2021/2022.

NOVEMBER	Payee	Details	*VAT	AMOUNT
SO	K.Roberts	Salary and Home office Allowance		767.56
DD	Scottish Power	Street Lighting	28.11	168.65
Bank Transfer	HMRC	PAYE November		7.40
Bank Transfer	One Voice Wales	Councillor Training - Ruth Appleton		30.00
Bank Transfer	Street Master	Stainless Steel Plague - engraved	24.94	149.64

\*The community council do make an annual VAT reclaim in May/June each year.

NB. Two payments were made between the October and November meeting of £101.10 to JRB Enterprise Ltd for degradable dog bags x 3 cases (inc. carriage) and £37.00 HMRC /PAYE

The clerk informed members of HSBC starting to make a monthly charge for holding an bank account with them as they are ceasing some the types of free accounts they offer. It may be worth reviewing what other banks can offer in 2022.

**RESOLVED: The November accounts for payment were proposed by Cllr. Edwards and Cllr. Bolton.**

The clerk had circulated a half year expenditure to budget spreadsheet for councillors' information. It was noted that expenditure was less than anticipated for the time of year. However, the next quarter will see significant expenditure for Play Equipment, Summer Play Scheme, \*Senior Citizens Lunch and possible speed calming measures potentially in the region of £11,000.

\*This year the community council will pay the full cost for residents Christmas meal, as no event could take place last year due to covid restrictions. Non residents who wish to attend would be liable for the full cost.

Community Street Lighting renewal had a nil spend against £2,000. The clerk will contact Deeco Lighting about the new lighting column for Y Waen which had been factored into the budget for 2021/2022.

The clerk was thanked for her work on budget monitoring to date by members.

**10.To consider a request for financial assistance toward the Christmas/ Santa Visit Event on 19 December 2021 for Children in Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn.**

Cllr. Coggins Cogan reported on a successful event held last year and provided an overview which he hopes to similarly repeat in December. This will involve a 2 - hour road closure along Gwernaffield and Cilcain Road. He is hopeful members of the Women's Institute will cook 150 cookies for local children to be distributed. At this point Cllr. Coggins Cogan left the meeting and was not involved in the decision making about the financial request.

The clerk provided information from a letter Councillor Coggins Cogan had sent prior to the meeting.

Members discussed the request and commented that last year this event was well received by residents and their families in the village/s.

**RESOLVED: £50 was agreed toward the Santa Event.**

A note of caution that the cookies from the group to be distributed at the event are clearly labelled as to their content.

Councillor Coggins Cogan returned to the meeting; he gave assurances that any cookies would follow strict guidance as per their content.

**11. To consider a request for financial assistance from The Rainbows (Brownies) Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn toward their books.**

The Co-leader of the Brownies Kate Johnson had emailed the Council a financial request toward badge books for the Rainbows (Brownies) of which there are currently 15 members, who are all local except for 1 child from Mold. Funding would go toward their badge books which are £6.00 each.

Members discussed the request and agreed to £100 financial assistance toward the badge books.

**RESOLVED: £100 was agreed toward the Rainbows (Brownies) Badge Books.**

**12. Planning Applications (A) Planning Decisions**

Planning Application Reference 063594 Green Acres, Cilcain Road, Pantymwyn, CH7 5NJ

Proposal: Erection of one dwelling. Deadline 11 November 2021. **RESOLVED: No objections.**

**Planning Application Reference: 063733 Bryn Goleu, Rhydymwyn Road, Gwernaffield, CH7 5DX  
Proposal: Change of Use to extend rear garden of part of field and erection of large garage on extended domestic garden.**

A discussion commenced about this application. Comments made that this is outside of the village boundary, extending into agricultural land which has been previously refused. It was important any build was within the village boundary. Other such applications have been refused.

Cllr. Coggins Cogan wished to abstain as he had not had opportunity to consider the planning application proposal.

**RESOLVED: To object to the proposal.**

**Planning Application: 063697 Erw Deg, Cefn Bychan Road, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EW**

**Proposal: Erection of domestic garage and store.**

A discussion commenced about this application and a similar application by the applicant previously considered and refused by Flintshire County Council PA: 061270 - erection of domestic garage and store. Concern was expressed as this is another building into the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The condition of the previously approved application for the dependant relatives to reside in the annexe only and that this should not be occupied as a separate dwelling and as such requirement of an additional separate building was felt to be unjustified.

As such the clerk was instructed to submit objections.

**RESOLVED: To object to the proposal.**

**13. To receive items for the next meeting on Wednesday, 1 December 2021.**

Meeting closed 9.09pm.

**The next meeting is 1 December 2021. NB. The first meeting of January 2022 will be 12 January 2022.**