

GWERNAFFIELD AND PANTYWMYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING 7 September 2022 / 7 Medi 2022

1.(A) Attendance (B) Apologies

(A) Cllrs. Ruth Appleton, Adrian Barsby, Dave Bolton, Rob Challinor, Sue Coles, George Tattum and Arthur Orme.

In attendance: County Councillors: Adele Davies Cooke and David Coggins Cogan.
Mr Peter Eaton, Kay Roberts – Clerk.

(B) Apologies – none.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting on 6 July 2022

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr. Appleton and seconded by Cllr. Tattum and were signed by Cllr. Bolton as Chairman.

(This next item was taken earlier in the meeting at the Chairman's discretion.)

To receive any Streetscene Matters and welcome Mr Andy Lightfoot Streetscene Co-ordinator to the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Lightfoot to the meeting. Mr Lightfoot expressed his disappointment that a member of the Road Safety Unit was not present, as he was aware the community council had requested this. Mr Lightfoot stated he was not able to speculate about the accident and doing so would be disrespectful to the family of the young man who died. All in attendance expressed their condolences.

Other streetscene matters discussed were excessive growth of some hedges in the village needing attention. Mr Lightfoot explained they are lopped once a year but agreed the hedgerow which runs along Gwernaffield Road on either side of Y Waen, needed more pruning back and would be speaking with his team.

The clerk had responded to a resident's concern about the hard cutting back in mid-August of the hedgerow by Mold Golf Club (MGC) from the Golf Club Entrance down to Pantymwyn Park entrance during the main bird nesting season. This was raised with Debbie Barton, MGC Manager who responded to state the Golf Club support the flora and fauna of the golf club area and the hedgerow had been checked for nesting birds prior to the cut. Hopefully, the Golf Club will now delay its hard cut back until the end of the bird nesting season in 2023. The Golf Club were invited to contribute to the Autumn newsletter about their work to support both flora and fauna.

Cllr. Tattum commented on bird nests in trees by Gwernaffield Road / Y Waen and that the local authority had said at this time to leave this alone until the end of the bird nesting session.

Report of fencing damage around Gwernaffield Park – Mr Lightfoot would investigate this.

There was some concern expressed about an open meeting discussing road/public safety which had been placed on the village facebook page some days before it took place. The community council were not invited or given that they have a proactive road safety group which considers such matters disappointed that there was not the sufficient opportunity to attend.

County Councillor Coggins Cogan advised he had only responded to those residents who had emailed him and apologised that he had not invited the Community Council. Cllr. Challinor who as a resident had attended, commented that he thought it had been unusual the wider community council had not attended, as did other residents, and now understood why. It was agreed a facebook post, days prior is not a sufficient main form of communication. The community council asked that they be formally made aware of any future meetings impacting on their area particularly of this nature. Giving the community council reasonable notice for their members to be informed and attend. This should be sent via the clerk to enable her to disseminate the invite / information to all members.

County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke confirmed she was not made aware of the open meeting.

County Councillor David Coggins Cogan apologised, and this was accepted. Members asked that a concerted effort be made to communicate and work in partnership with the community council going forward.

Councillor Orme asked was the recent accident / fatality on Gwernaffield Road discussed at the open meeting? County Councillor Coggins Cogan responded it was not, it was a discussion generally about the roads.

A summary of the outcome and findings of the meeting was requested from County Councillor Coggins Cogan.

Cllr. Coles commented a parent was concerned for her young son who had to walk up Cadole Road to school. A suggested way forward - the resident may wish to contact the community council to explain further which may help to influence action.

County Councillor Coggins Cogan commented that at times some members of the community had felt angry and let down.

Cllr. Ruth Appleton stated the newsletter is kept up to date with information including a regular piece from the road safety group (this is also a rolling agenda item monthly), all meetings are open to members of the public, notice boards are updated and the community council website shares the approved minutes with information for members of the public. All agreed that a collective partnership going forward would benefit the wider community.

The Chairman would meet Mr Andy Lightfoot tomorrow to explore how the community council might in the future contribute toward any speed calming measures. The community council speed monitor may also change location and suggested areas were Cadole Road and possibly Cilcain Road/Trail Hill.

Other streetscene matters - Mr Lightfoot commented that Rhydymwyn Road would be being resurfaced soon.

RESOLVED: Mr Lightfoot was thanked for his attendance and information provided.

4. To receive an update on community council vacancies and welcome observers to the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Peter Eaton to the meeting who had expressed an interest in becoming a community councillor for the Pantymwyn Ward. Mr Eaton was proposed by Cllr. Bolton and seconded by Cllr. Barsby and agreed to be co-opted onto the council. At the October meeting the community councillor declaration of office would be signed, and Peter would join the meeting.

5. To receive a verbal update from the Road Safety Committee

Condolences were expressed following the tragic accident of a young man on Cadole Road on 19 August. Respectful of the brief period of time since the accident further comments were discouraged particularly as this would have been premature given the outcome of any ongoing investigation and inappropriate to draw conclusions during this time.

A discussion ensued about various road calming measures and considering recent events the road safety group undertook to write to Claire Parry at Flintshire Road Safety Unit to ask them as the Highway Authority to review previous requests and suggestions made by the community council.

The Road Safety Group members shared information provided by the road safety unit at Flintshire County Council which demonstrated Cadole Road Southbound 41.9 mph, Northbound 40.2 mph / Cilcain Road Southbound 30.3 mph, Northbound 30.5 (7-day average speeds.)

RESOLVED: The Road Safety and Street Lighting Committee would write to Claire Parry at Flintshire County Council Road Safety Unit to ask for a review of road calming measures.

5a. To receive correspondence from a resident regarding the recent road traffic accident in Gwernaffield.

This was circulated to all members of the community council prior to the meeting. The resident had raised the matter of concern about the Cadole Road including the current speed limit and the danger to other road users on the blind summit just before the 30mph signs. Pedestrians, runners, cyclists are particularly vulnerable and the potential for a pavement. There were some issues which have been raised previously with County as the Highway Authority and would be reflected in the letter to be sent as per the resolution at item 5.

6. To receive any Streetscene Matters and welcome Mr Andy Lightfoot, Streetscene Co-ordinator to the meeting.

These matters were discussed earlier in the agenda at the Chairman's discretion.

7. To receive a verbal update from the Events Committee.

Cllr. Appleton said as yet she has had no response from Richard Roberts in relation to placing a tractor tyre in Pantymwyn Park with Plants. The clerk will follow up.

The quarry has offered to provide some topsoil for the planters and Cllr. Appleton would share further information with the clerk so relevant individuals and groups involved could be thanked for their input.

Plans are underway for the Annual Scarecrow Competition – entries need to be confirmed by Saturday 5 November and will be judged on Sunday 6 November.

The clerk was instructed to pursue a banner to advertise the competition which can be used annually, and dates changed each year. She has obtained a quote from a local firm £60 exc. VAT. Agreed. The initial contacts given by County had not responded.

The plans for the Autumn newsletter are underway. Trevor Arnold's team delivers to Gwernaffield. More volunteers are required for Pantymwyn – Cllr. Challinor and Cllr. Barsby offered to lend their support.

8. To receive information on the next Code of Conduct Training for members 12 October 2022 – 6pm via ZOOM.

The clerk emphasised that this training is mandatory as County want all community councillors to have access to this as refresher training, to support them in their public role in office.

The clerk will circulate more information once received, as there is likely to be a second training date on 25 October.

9. To receive and approve the draft Financial Assistance Form for local groups and organisations.

The clerk had circulated in advance of the meeting a draft Financial Assistance Form for local groups and charities 2022/2023. The clerk reminded members that any group which applies for financial assistance must have a bank account in the name of the group/charity. A maximum of up to £100 per group was agreed, Cllr. Coles suggested this sum should be indicated at the top of the form and all agreed this would be helpful for applicants. Also, a deadline for applications of 7 December 2022. This application process would be advised on in the Autumn newsletter.

10. To approve the August / September Accounts for payment.

AUGUST			
*SO	K.Roberts	Salary and Home Office Allowance	647.38
Bank Transfer	HMRC	PAYE	161.80
*Direct Debit	Scottish Power	Street Lighting Electricity	618.47
Bank Transfer	HSBC	PAYE	5.00
Bank Transfer	Dog Bin bags	Bags	144.36
			1577.01
SEPTEMBER			
*SO	K.Roberts	Salary and Home Office Allowance	647.38
Bank Transfer	HMRC	PAYE	161.80
*Direct Debit	Scottish Power	Street Lighting Electricity	618.47
Bank Transfer	HSBC	Account Charge	5.00
			1,432.65

11b. To receive an invite from the Chairman Cllr. G Sherwood of Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council to his Civic Service to be held at Leeswood Methodist Church, Sunday 18 September 2022 at 2.00pm.

The clerk to give apologies from the Chairman on this occasion.

12. To receive any update on the Welsh Government's resilient communities' grants scheme

Cllr. Barsby's had looked further at grant details, and it did not look like the types of expenditure would be eligible and as the project deadline is 19 September there would not be a sufficiently developed project to meet it. It is likely the Community Council could be the applicant should there be another call for future projects.

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

No new planning applications received.

14. The time and date of the next meeting 5 October 2022/ 5 Hydref 2022 - Ysgol Y Waun, Gwernaffield at 7.00pm.