

GWERNAFFIELD AND PANTYMWYNN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday 22 January 2025

1. (A) To record attendance

Cllrs, George Tattum, Peter Eaton, John Griffiths, Ian Newman, Andy Tunncliffe

(B) To record apologies

Cllr. Ruth Appleton, David Bolton

Non-attendance Cllr. Richard Davies and Cllr. Rob Challinor.

(C) To record declarations of interest

None declared

In attendance: Kay Roberts - Clerk, County Councillor Adele Davies and County Councillor David Coggins Cogan. **Public Gallery:** No members of the public attended this meeting.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 4 December 2024.

The minutes of the meeting were proposed by Cllr. George Tattum and seconded by Cllr. Peter Eaton and will be signed as an accurate record by the Chair.

3. To receive any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting.

The clerk provided updates – Page 1 Item 3

Councillor Vacancies - Cllr. Dave Bolton has advised the clerk there are two pending observers for a future meeting.

Page 3 Item 9 viii The clerk has requested payee details at the end of 2024 to extend the warranty period from Elan City for the interactive speed monitors in the villages, there has been no response. The clerk will try again.

Item 10 i. Progress has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. It is unlikely the small grant will be recovered; the clerk had informed of the circumstances causing delay. Hopefully progress in 2025 will be made.

Item 11 vii The community council risk assessment will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Page 4 item 12 – a small adjustment to the amount paid to the caterers for the senior citizens lunch £18 more.

Correspondence from the community council would be sent to Mrs Margaret Narburgh, for her continued support of the community council to date. A card had already been sent wishing her a speedy recovery.

4. At the Chair's discretion an item not on the agenda was allowed for discussion, to update councillors. This related to ceasing of the N0 6 Townlynx Bus at relatively short notice. (abandon standing orders)

County Councillor Coggins Cogan updated community councillors on the current situation and advised that after much discussion at County. P&O Lloyd coaches would be delivering a service F6 from 27 January 2025. The County Councillor had shared information including the new time table on the community Facebook page. He advised this will be reviewed in April at which point there may be available subsidies and grants which Flintshire County Council can apply for to continue the service.

There was an exchange of information and views. It was hoped the service may be adjusted in the future to allow for usage at the busiest times of the day. A question as to whether the school bus could be used, the County Councillor said he would follow up.

The community council agreed in principle (if required) to provide a letter of support for a targeted service to the traffic commissioner to support a future service.

County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke expressed some concern about sharing information regarding the new service too early which may have been commercially sensitive. County Councillor David Coggins Cogan had discussed with Flintshire County Council Officer Katie Wilby who had confirmed he was free to share information.

5. To receive, consider and approve the budget for 2025/2026 and set the precept accordingly. The clerk had emailed a draft budget in advance of the meeting and councillors.

In particular an increase in financial audit fees, summer playscheme – due to wage and NI increases as advised by Flintshire County Council and electricity for street lighting renewal and maintenance.

The current financial reserves statement will require reviewing at a future meeting.

After consideration and discussion, councillors agreed to increase the current precept for 2025/2026 from £34,932 to £36,500 an increase of £1,568, an overall increase of 4.55%. The Chair of Council, Ruth Appleton to sign the precept requirement form for 2025 / 2026 and the clerk to advise Flintshire County Council in respect of the Town Council's financial requirements (precept) for 2025 / 2026.

(NB. The clerk did not take part in the discussion relating to salary.)

The clerk's salary was reviewed and agreed as to the draft budget – bringing this in line with local government services pay agreement 2024/2025 SCP 19 (pro rata for 12 hours per week) from April 2025. The expenses and home office allowance would remain at £1,410 per annum as would the annual 6% pension contribution based on gross salary.

Councillors agreed to this modest increase in the budget which struck a balance between continuing to provide a service whilst not imposing a significant increase on residents.

RESOLVED: The precept was proposed by Cllr. George Tattum and seconded by Councillor Ian Newman.

6. To consider and approve the January accounts for payment.

January Accounts for payment				
Payment Type	Payee	Detail	VAT	Amount
SO	K.Roberts	Salary & HOA		747.23
BT	HMRC	PAYE		186.60
DD	HSBC	Account Charge		5.00
DD	Scottish Power	Street Light Electricity		TBC
BT	Margaret Narburgh	Acting Clerk - Administrative work December		116.69
BT	K.Roberts	(Clerk) Annual Employer Pension Contribution		588.00
BT	K.Roberts	A4 Office Printer Paper		4.90
BT	Deeco Lighting	Supply and Installation of Christmas Lights	36	216.00
BT	Room Hire	Mold Golf Club Ltd August - December	33.33	200.00

The clerk advised of an adjustment, following a query with the golf club who had charged for 5 meetings in error and it was 4. August is recess and the council does not meet. Therefore the £200 invoice was amended/reduced to £160 and will be paid.

The third and final precept payment via Flintshire County Council was paid in December £11,644.

Resolved: The February accounts were approved by Councillor Andy Tunnicliffe and seconded by Councillor Ian Newman.

Some future meetings will be conducted remotely, this will assist to accommodate the present situation with clerks going forward.

7. **To consider Streetscene Matters**

7a. Salt/grit bins - the clerk thanked Cllr. Tunnicliffe for reporting grit bins requiring attention namely in Pantybuarth. A report to streetscene is also being considered re. the signage in Pantybuarth and Mr Lightfoot has agreed to visit the area and complete an assessment. A new grit bin has been agreed for The Links, Gwernaffield (discussions at previous meetings) and a refill of a community bin in Pantymwyn on a steep hill, close to Tai Tudors.

The clerk had circulated, requested information to all councillors on the frequency of grit bin inspection and locations of dog waste bins received from County.

7b. Dog waste bins – a request for a dog waste bin via County Councillor Coggins Cogan has come to the community council. This was agreed, to request streetscene consider the location on The Lette Path near Trail Hill.

7c. A reminder to councillors if sheep are loose on the road to report to the Police using 101, as there have been incidents of sheep loose again on Gwernaffield Road, which could cause an accident. Caution to be taken in the use of social media in this respect which historically can become very quickly heated and argumentative in relation to this issue.

7d. The clerk will circulate the communication and engagement policy for the community council which aims to set the standard for communicating and engaging with the public. Particularly as there is a new councillor.

7e. **Maintenance and Repair – Community Council Street Lighting Matters.**

There have been numerous emails received re. faulty street lighting and these have been followed up with Deeco Lighting to investigate and will report back when he has visited the area.

8. **Correspondence**

8a. Flintshire County Council – to receive an invite to the Chair's Charity dinner 21st March in aid of the Alder Hey Children's Hospital, £38.00 per ticket. RSVP by 10 February 2025. **Received, no further action required.**

8c. **Training for Councillors – to confirm who has completed the Code of Conduct Training.**

The clerk asked for confirmation of Code of Conduct Training, the majority of councillors had attended those two councillors still to attend had viewed the training documents circulated by Laura Turley, PA to the CEO at Flintshire County Council.

8d. **To review the membership of relevant internal sub committees.**

As the Cllr. Ruth Appleton had requested this item and due to difficulty connecting, this would be deferred to a future meeting. It is hoped responsibility would be shared between councillors. Cllr. Bolton had requested he remain on Planning Sub Committee.

9. **Planning Matters Applications (A) Decisions (B)**

(A) Applications: Ful/001032/24 proposal: proposed single storey extension, porch extension, car port/garage conversion and first floor extension works. Location: Whipstaff, Pantybuarth, Pantymwyn, Mold, CH7 5ER. Cllr. Griffiths and Cllr. Tattum had viewed this application and advised of no objections. **Resolved: No objections to this planning application consultation.**

(B) Decisions: Etonfield, Gwernaffield Road, Mold, CH7 1RQ – Approved.

The next meeting will take place on 5th February 2025. This may via a ZOOM meeting and will be confirmed as soon as practically possible.