

**GWERNAFFIELD AND PANTYWMYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**10 January 2024 / 10 Ionawr 2024**

**1. To record attendance (B) To record apologies**

**Councillors:** Ruth Appleton, Adrian Barsby, Dave Bolton, Rob Challinor, Peter Eaton, Ian Newman, and George Tattum.

(B) **Apologies** – Cllr. Arthur Orme.

**In attendance:** County Councillor Adele Davies Cooke and Mrs Kay Roberts – Clerk to the Council.

**2. Declaration of Interests** – The clerk left the meeting at item 5a and did not take part in the item.

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 6 December 2023.**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Peter Eaton and seconded by Cllr. Rob Challinor and confirmed as an accurate record by the Chair, Cllr. Ruth Appleton.

**4. Matters arising** – Cllr. Dave Bolton re. late items which may be raised not on the agenda particularly in relation to Planning matters. The clerk to consult the adopted Standing Orders and seek clarification with Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance (Town and CC's) at Flintshire County Council.

**5. Chair's Communications**

The Chair informed members of the successful Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch with 87 people (mainly residents) attending and thanked those members/councillors for the raffle prizes. The Christmas lunch in 2025 has been held at the same price by Mold Golf Club £15.00 per ticket. The community council paying £10.00 and residents paying £5.00. Once again, any non-residents would pay £15.00.

The Chair has confirmed Mr David Shiel, AONB Area Manager to coming to the February meeting to outline information about becoming part of a new National Park. (state geographical area.

**5a To review the clerk's salary and expenses**

The Chair proposed the clerk's salary scale following discussion with One Voice Wales which would represent an increase of £664 per annum (New Gross Salary £9796). The community council's employer contribution paid into the clerk's private pension would be 6% of the clerk's new gross salary. The home office allowance would remain unchanged for 2024/2025.

**RESOLVED: All members in attendance agreed to the proposed increase in the clerk's salary from 1 April 2024 and thanked the clerk for her work.**

The clerk rejoined the meeting.

**6. To receive, consider and approve the budget for the budget year 2024/2025 and set the precept accordingly.**

The clerk had circulated a draft budget for 2024/2025 to members in advance of the meeting and each cost centre was discussed and based on proposed expenditure and forecast expenditure to date until end of the financial year, a balance was struck between being able to do new and continued proactive work, utilising reserves and avoiding having to increase the precept unduly.

The clerk provided an overview of the community council's main income being the precept income £35,000 in 2023/2024. An anticipated £1,500 - £1,850 on 2024/2025 Annual VAT reclaim, in addition to a relatively small variable amount of annual bank interest.

The clerk's salary, pension and home office allowance was agreed at item 5.

The Chair's allowance was discussed. The Clerk had liaised with other similar local community councils and £350 was an average figure. This was in addition to the £156 per annum councillor allowance which can be taken together.

General and ring-fenced reserves were considered. Some reserves remain as clarity is still being sought in relation to Pantymwyn Park Lease and Street Lighting renewal providers.

Agreed reserves for Community and Environmental Projects including Planters and the Historical Information Boards for the villages would be utilised. As an amount for community and environmental projects of £500 was being awarded next month by Dwr Cymru, no new request was made for this cost centre for 2024/2025. Also, no further request was made for improvements to play areas.

Other events/ projects agreed – a Community Award / Local Village Hero which previously was well received pre pandemic. An award for someone living or working in the village under 18 and over 18 years of age. Two awards in total of £50 each. The clerk would draft a basic nomination form to be agreed at the February meeting.

A Reserves Policy needs consideration, suggested toward the end financial year 2023/2024. However, earmarking discussed for Street Lighting £10,000 - £15,000. (The street lighting committee need to review information on other providers including Deeco, Mega Lighting and Flintshire County Council.) At present, Deeco Lighting is used for call outs, should a repair be required.  
Community and Environmental Projects - £5,000 - £10,000  
Playground Improvements - £5,000 - £10,000

There is also potential for further play sessions in addition to the Summer Playscheme in the community, which Flintshire County Council's Darren Morris, Play Development Officer will discuss with members at a future meeting.

Following lengthy and detailed discussion, it was agreed for the precept request to be set at £34,932 and to submit this to Flintshire County Council. A modest (0.42%) increase based on Band D charge for 2024/2025. This precept was proposed by Cllr. Tattum and seconded by Cllr. Barsby and agreed by all in attendance.

**Resolved: The precept request to be set at £34,932.**

## 7. Approval of the schedule of January Accounts for payment

January	Payee	Details	VAT	Amount
	K.Roberts	Salary and HOA		705.63
	HMRC	PAYE		176.20
	Scottish Power	Street Lighting Electricity	102.79	616.75
	HSBC	Account charge		5.00

The schedule was circulated in advance of the meeting. At the meeting it was approved by Cllr. Tattum and seconded by Adrian Barsby.

The clerk reported that a payment for printer ink / stationery was made since the last meeting of £65.97.

The clerk is clarifying the dates and cost per meeting with Ysgol Y Waun, if agreed a payment for £300 will be made for 6 meetings for 2023 for community hall hire.

## **8. Clerk's Update and Correspondence**

8a. To receive information on FlintShare's Potato Day 17 February 2024 9am-Daniel Owen Centre, Earl Road, CH7 1AP [www.growvegandfruit.co.uk](http://www.growvegandfruit.co.uk)

8b. One Voice Wales – Training Sessions for Councillors and Clerk (circulated in advance to all members.) Please speak to the clerk directly, if interested in any sessions.

**8c. To receive a communication from Cymru's (Welsh Water) Community Fund offering funding to the community council toward information/historical notice boards for the villages.**

The clerk reported, despite hundreds of applications being received in Wales Dŵr Cymru/ Welsh Water emailed to offer some financial support towards the information/historical notice boards for the villages - £500. The clerk was instructed to accept this on behalf of the community council. The clerk reported Dŵr Cymru's expectation is to start and complete the project within 12 months of the funding award.

**8d. To receive email communication from Gareth Owens, Flintshire County Council Chief Officer Governance informing Town and Community Councils of an available place on the Standards Committee and asking for nominations before Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.**

**8e. To provide an update on community council vacancies. At present there are 3 vacant community councillor seats for the Gwernaffield ward.**

A former councillor from Gwernaffield has informally/verbally expressed an interest which would be confirmed at the February meeting. Perhaps those with contacts at the Women's Institute may know of someone who may be interested.

**8f. Invite to Town and Community Councils to a session to learn more about Community Speed Watch: [GoSafe | Community SpeedWatch](#) and how you could get involved. The session will be held online via Zoom on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 at 7pm.**

**8g. To discuss and agree commencing some restoration of the planters in Gwernaffield which are in a state of disrepair and flowers for the Gwernaffield Park large tyre planter.**

The clerk demonstrated the planters' state of repair, primarily in Y Waen, Gwernaffield which were rotting in places with compost/earth spilling onto the ground.

A local resident and former community councillor, Carl Hopwood has offered to make the new wooden boxes for Y Waen, Gwernaffield. The clerk said she would undertake to purchase spring bulbs for the planters and provide relevant receipts for reimbursement, if agreed.

Those in attendance requested the clerk liaise with resident, Mr Hopwood and commence with renewal of the Gwernaffield Planters once made and thank the resident for his kind offer.

Other planters for underneath main signage in the villages would be required. Cllr. Barsby would start liaising with Woodworks Garden Centre for something suitable and share information in the first instance with the community council.

## **9. To receive any Streetscene Matters**

Matters still outstanding - including the manhole cover on Gwernaffield Road, Dog Waste Bin and MOT signage on Cadole Road.

Hedges on either side of The Links, were noted to be overgrown. However, it is understood work is underway currently to resolve this.

The Christmas tree requires collection. The clerk reported a comment on the village Facebook page, by a resident regarding a more permanent structure being placed into the ground. Cllr. Bolton has previously raised this with Flintshire County Council who refused, as they did not want a permanent potential obstruction for drivers turning out of Pen Y Fron Road onto Cilcain Road.

Road Safety Group - Cllr. Barsby will adjust the school solar panel near to school, which is not reacting as quickly to traffic approaching the turning for Ysgol Y Waun. Cllr. Barsby will also aim to download monitoring data from the speed monitors for a future meeting, to compare speeds being travelled before and after the 20-mph legislation being implemented.

Cllr. Davies Cooke said the monitors were a worthwhile investment by the community council and in particular the speed monitor approaching the junction near High Park as this encourages drivers slow down on their approach to the junction.

#### **10. To receive a verbal update from the Community Council Sub Groups:**

10a. The Events Group 10b. Update on the Community Council Newsletter.

Chairman's communications – agreed date of The Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch with Mold Golf Club, 9 December 2024 with the costs remaining at 2024 prices as would the level of community council subsidy.

Cllr. Eaton proposed a local resident and his band, Mr Wayne Morgan usually £250 (reduced to £200 as a village resident is in the band) to perform two sessions of music at the event. Musical entertainment would be confirmed at a future meeting.

Community / Local Hero Award – agreed for a new Springtime event.

Cllr. Appleton is leading on the annual newsletter and will liaise with Cllr. Barsby once delivery is ready who will be assisted by members and the clerk.

#### **10b. The Street Lighting and Road Safety Sub Committee**

Please refer to Streetscene Matters.

Streetlight still outstanding for investigation near Bodlonfa (not as resident previously reported near Fairacre on Cefn Bychan Road, Pantymwyn) The clerk to liaise with Deeco Lighting.

#### **11.(A) Planning Applications and (B) Decisions**

No new planning application consultations had been received at the time of agenda distribution.

#### **12. The time and date of the next meeting 7 February 2024, Chwefror 2024 7.00pm at Mold Golf Club.**

The meeting finished at 20.50pm.

Cllr. Challinor reported the loss of a long-standing resident, to be remembered and members offered their condolences following his recent passing.