

GWERNAFFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Gwernaffield Community Council held on 14 January 2015 at Pantymwyn Village Hall.

PRESENT

Councillor A Barsby, Councillor D Bolton, Councillor R Edwards, Councillor J Elcock, Councillor C Garrett, Councillor R Morgan, Councillor A Orme, Councillor L Pritchard, Councillor S Smith, Councillor G Tattum, Councillor K Williams.

Clerk K Roberts

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Clayton and Councillor A Davies-Cooke (Flintshire County Councillor).

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved by Cllr. K Williams and Cllr. G Tattum.

4. Matters Arising

Pg 1. The community lighting meeting should read December not January.

Councillor Edwards noted his disappointment that Councillor Clayton did not attend the community lighting meeting as agreed.

Councillor Pritchard updated members with regard to the Youth Club in Gwernaffield which she learned had not taken place since June 2014. Should a bill arrive the clerk will withhold payment.

The clerk said valuation and estates have confirmed Flintshire County Council do not indeed own Gwernaffield Play area so it is not an asset to be transferred.

Members requested an update on the planned Scout Hut. Councillor Tattum in addition required clarification about the 25 year lease from Flintshire County Council. Any letter would be copied to the Scouts.

5. Declaration of Interests

No declaration of interests.

6. Clerk's Update

Information on the Urdd National Eisteddfod to be held in Flint 2016 was distributed.

A letter was circulated from Beth Ditson, Community Events Officer for the Arts, Culture and Events Section of Life Long Learning in Flintshire County Council.

Members agreed to ask her to attend a council meeting in February or April to discuss art and cultural projects in Flintshire.

An email was read from J.E. Davies and Son requesting support/views regarding an application for a crematorium in Flintshire. Members would write to support a general need for a crematorium not any specific application.

Councillor Pritchard requested agenda item 11 be brought forward on the agenda.

11. Clerk's Review and Contract

The clerk left the room at 8.15pm and returned at 8.40pm.

The clerk's contract of employment, job description and annual appraisal were considered and discussed. A new job description and contract of employment were agreed by members for Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the council.

Resolved The clerk would be paid at point 19 on the relevant NJC Scale from April 2015. An annual salary of £4,249.80. This concludes the review of pay and terms and conditions of employment. Members undertook to complete a review of the clerk's pay and conditions annually.

7. Renewal of Footway lighting

Councillor Edwards circulated information on a proposed footway lighting renewal project 2015/2016.

Community lighting is set to continue to be a significant item of expenditure for the council. (with nearly all current lighting needing to be replaced due to unavailability of parts for existing provision). Consideration needs to be given to affordability in relation to replacement of lanterns (including LED's) which longer term will require less maintenance. At present a calculation on energy saving has not been completed.

Options needing consideration were increasing the precept, allocation of some council reserves, application of an interest free loan from three options including Salix. Another community council in South Wales have funded their community lighting through Salix. Green Investment Bank and from WRAP / Carbon Trust.

Discussion took place about funding applications to WRAP - waste reduction action plan and the carbon trust to assist with the community lighting expenditure.

Resolved: The subcommittee for community lighting would meet and look at making relevant funding applications in the first instance. Cllr Edwards was authorised to make an "Expression of Interest" to WRAP / Carbon Trust for specialist consultant support so as to evaluate current usage of electricity and the long-term options for the provision of lighting including the creation of a lighting specification which will allow the council to seek best value options.

It was hoped if the funding applications were successful this may enable funds to be utilised for other projects and help the community council have a greater pro-active approach to community need.

The clerk raised the matter of a resident in Gwernaffield who had emailed her again as she has not had a replacement footway light as previously agreed. It was agreed she would receive an LED light as Councillor Edwards confirmed the existing lighting was obsolete.

8. Budget and Community Council Precept 2015/2016

There was a general consensus that the current precept was too low given the community council's forecast expenditure.

Resolved: A majority vote by members to request an increase in the Precept to £22,000 for 2015/2016.

9. Flintshire Local Development Plan

This item was deferred to the February meeting.

10. Councillor Reports/Updates

Councillor Bolton has had a resident complain about rubbish blowing out of a skip which is located outside the garage by the shop in Pantymwyn. The skip is presently not there. Clarification would be obtained about location of the skip in a residential area before any approach to the owner by a councillor.

Councillor Pritchard requested items for the next newsletter which would be distributed in February 2015.

Councillor Williams - **Planning Application** Ty Tawel, Church Lane, Gwernaffield, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5DT. Planning Application Reference 052950

Resolved – No objections.

Councillor Clayton had forwarded a letter to the clerk from a local resident in Gwernaffield. Expressing concern about the state of the cut through that runs along the boundary of Ysgol Y Waun school grounds. The resident states it is covered in dog mess and is overgrown causing it to be treacherous throughout the year. Members requested a response to the resident to confirm action would be taken this year. Clarification of ownership would be required.

The meeting ended at 9.39pm.

The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 4 February at 7.30pm at Ysgol Y Waun.