

GWERNAFFIELD AND PANTYWMYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday 6th November 2024

1. To record attendance (B) To record apologies

(A) Cllrs. Ruth Appleton, George Tattum, Ian Newman, Peter Eaton, Cllr Richard Davies, Cllrs. David Bolton, John Griffiths

(B) Cllr Robert Challinor

In attendance: Margaret Narburgh, temporary Clerk

Public Gallery: 2 Residents

2. Members of the Public

The 2 residents asked if the Council could make a contribution towards repairing the wooden floor in the Church hall. The Chair stated that it would depend on who is responsible for the building. If it is the Church then the Local Government Act 1972 prevents Councils from providing financial support but if the hall is leased to and managed by the Community then it would be considered. Action: Residents to confirm who is responsible for the building and return the completed Financial Assistance form to the Clerk.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 4th September 2024.

The minutes of the meeting were proposed by Cllr Appleton, seconded by Cllr Newman and signed as an accurate record by the Chair. Action: Clerk to forward electronically signed copy to Kay Roberts for posting on website.

4. Councillor Vacancies

- i. Mr Andy Tunnicliffe had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor and sent his CV and confirmation that he meets the qualifying criteria to be considered for the post. After due consideration Cllr Appleton proposed he be appointed, Cllr Newman seconded and all other Councillors voted in favour. Action: Clerk to ask Mrs Roberts to confirm his appointment.
- ii. The Chair stated that there would still be 3 vacancies and proposed advertising them around the area. Action: Clerk to design poster and circulate for approval.

5. Training Events

Cllr Appleton asked Councillors to consider the training events available, especially those suitable for anyone considering taking over as Chair when she steps down in April 2025.

6. Correspondence

Aura have submitted their invoice for £11,000 for the installation of the play equipment in the park. Cllr Bolton proposed paying it and Cllr Newman seconded. Action: Cllr Appleton to forward the invoice to Mrs Roberts for payment.

7. Membership of One Voice Wales

Councillors were unsure if the Council was still a member of One Voice Wales and agreed it should be. The Clerk stated membership was around £150 per year. Cllr Davies proposed either renewing or becoming a member as appropriate, Cllr Newman seconded. Action: Clerk to arrange with Mrs Roberts.

8. Maintenance & Repairs

- i. Cllr Eaton reported that there is still a mess outside the property by the bus stop following the hedge being trimmed and that the hedge is so overgrown that people have difficulty getting on the bus. Action: Cllr Griffiths offered to ask a local tractor owner if he would cut the hedge back.
- ii. The lamp post owned by the Council and damaged when the bin wagon reversed into it has not been repaired. Neither the police nor Flintshire CC have contacted the Council. The position

Signed: Ruth Appleton Date: 6/11/2024 Page 1 | 3

of the light makes it susceptible to further damage and Councillors agreed it could be removed as there was sufficient light in that area already. Action: Clerk to ask Streetscene for a quote to remove it and report back to Council.

- iii. The light opposite Mold Golf club outside Arfryn on Cilcain Road is not working. Action: Clerk to ask Decco lighting to fix it.
- iv. Cllr Challinor has not been able to clean the spray paint off the speed awareness camera outside the school. Cllr Bolton suggested contacting the supplier for advice and asking if there was a 'film' that could be adhered to a new screen that could be peeled off if it happened again. He also suggested put a notice on Facebook reminding people that the sign was there for child safety and should not be defaced. Action: Clerk to draft wording for approval from Council before asking the school if they too would put a reminder of their Facebook page. Cllr Bolton asked if the sign could be re-programmed to change the colour of the text to green instead of red as this might make it less vulnerable to attack. He thought the programme for doing this was put on ex Cllr Barnsby's laptop. Action: Clerk to ask Mrs Roberts and make arrangements for it to be put onto her laptop for future use.
- v. Cllr Appleton reported that the new play equipment had been installed and looked very good.

9. Updates from Sub-committees and Outside Representatives

- i. No further progress had been made regarding the proposed information boards. Action: Cllrs Tattum, Bolton and Eaton to arrange meeting to agree specification and report back at the November meeting.
- ii. No planning matters had been received.
- iii. News from Flintshire County Council.
 - 50 mph now in place on Cadole Road
 - Cllr Ian Roberts has resigned and Cllr Dave Hughes has been elected as the new leader of the Council and a Rainbow coalition. Backbench independents are not happy because their membership is now 'nonaligned'.
 - Audit Wales have issued a damning report stating that Officers do not share enough information and Council arrangements do not provide assurance of comprehensive budgeting putting the Councils' sustainability at risk.
 - The proposed three weekly black bin collections could not be discussed fully as the meeting ran out of time.
 - There are plans to equalise Council tax premiums on long term empty properties and second homes.
 - The budget deficit is so large that FCC is considering a S.114 notice, equivalent of declaring bankruptcy.
 - A Merchant Navy roll of honour is planned for all those who died with a strong connection to Flintshire.
 - Members called on the new leader to write to the Prime Minister asking for the decision on winter fuel payments to be reversed.
 - Aura will cease trading on 31st October and their role will be taken over by Flintshire CC on 1st November.
 - They are planning to reduce the £40 million budget deficit to £11 million during the coming financial year.
- iv. Cllr Appleton suggested preparing the 2025 Newsletter ready for distribution in January/February 2025. It was agreed that it should only include Council initiatives i.e. Easter, Halloween and Christmas events, Councillor contact details, dates for litter picking etc. She also suggested reducing the number printed from 800 to 500 to save money. Action: Cllr Appleton to obtain quote for printing and design and report back at next meeting.
- v. A member of the public asked if the 2024 Village Hero nominations had been considered and awarded. Action: Clerk to ask Mrs Roberts.

10. Events

- i. Mrs Roberts had delivered the poppy wreath for remembrance Sunday to Cllr Appleton who agreed to place it on the memorial on 10th November.

- ii. Councillors agreed the design of the Scarecrow competition poster. Action: Clerk to send to Cllr Davies for printing, laminating and deliver to Cllr Appleton to put up around the village. Cllr Appleton to arrange to put the banners up outside the quarry and farm and have straw delivered to the school.
- iii. Christmas lunch has been booked at Mold Golf Club on Monday 9th December. Catering has been arranged by Debbie Becton with The Gathering and staff will be recruited from Catering Angels. The two course lunch will cost £18. Cllr Eaton proposed charging residents £6, Cllr Appleton seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. Action: Clerk to design, number and print 90 tickets which will be sold in the Post Office and by Sheila Smith via Gwernaffield Social Club.
Cllr Eaton has booked the ukulele band costing £250. After due discussion it was agreed to ask the 7 band members if they wanted to order lunch at £6 per head. Action: Cllr Eaton to ask the band to send the Council an email confirming the booking and their cost.
Cllr Appleton stated the event would start at 12.30 with the band playing until lunch at 1 o'clock. The band will then play from 2 until 2.30 after which the raffle will take place. The event should end at 3 o'clock to enable people to catch the bus. Action: Councillors to donate raffle prizes.
- iv. Christmas tree and lights. Action: Cllr Bolton agreed to check with Jason Parry that the Quarry can still donate a Christmas tree and ask ex Councillor Adrian Barsby if he is willing to supply the electricity for the lights if the tree goes up outside his home.
- v. The Mayor of Mold is holding a Charity Dinner at the Beaufort Hotel on Saturday 5th April 2025. The cost is £45 per person and Councillors should make their own arrangements if they wish to attend.

11. To consider and approve the October Accounts for payment

October	Payee	Detail	VAT	Amount £
SO	K. Roberts	Salary & HOA		747.23
DD	HMRC	PAYE		186.60
SO	Scottish Power	Street Lighting Electricity		Await invoice
DD	HSBC	Account Charge		5.00
DD	Mrs M Narburgh	Acting Clerk (Administration)		83.36
DD	Deeco Lighting	Repair - Celyn, Cilcain Road, Pantymwyn	36.00	216
DD	K. Roberts (reimbursement)	Royal British Legion - Remembrance Wreath		24.49
DD	Nightingale House Hospice	Financial Assistance		50
DD	K. Roberts Scarecrow Competition	(reimbursement end October) Prize Money (1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd)		50

Cllr Newman proposed paying all the bills, Cllr Eaton seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. Action: Clerk to notify Mrs Roberts to pay.

The Clerk stated that Flintshire CC had submitted an invoice for £45 contribution to the summer Playscheme. Councillors were unaware of the charge. Action: Clerk to query with Mrs Roberts.

The Clerk stated that on 23rd September the combined Savings and Current Account balances at the bank were £56,993.33.

12. 2025 Budget

Cllr Tattum asked about the arrangements for preparing the 2025 precept given Mrs Roberts absence. Action: Clerk to speak to Mrs Roberts.

Cllr Appleton proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Newman seconded and the meeting was closed at 8.20 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at Mold Golf Club