



LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED COEDLLAI A PONTBLYDDYN

THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2016.

PRESENT

Councillor G. Sherwood, Chairman of the Council (in the Chair)

Councillor J. Caruana, Vice-Chairman

Councillors Terry Hughes, T. Hughes, C.E. Jones JP, J.E. Saul and R. Williams.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors J. Atkinson, D.K. Crowther, R. Hughes, K. McCallum JP, J. Phoenix and D. Rule.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

30. WITHDRAWAL OF FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

The Chairman, Councillor G. Sherwood, welcomed Mr. Gary Feather from Welsh Border Community Transport to the meeting. Mr. Feather explained that the process regarding the withdrawal of subsidised bus services had started a year ago. WBCT's first communication with Flintshire County Council about this had happened two weeks ago.

As an organisation, WBCT had started up 25 years ago and Mr Feather joined it five years ago. Many of the journeys were of a social nature, providing transport to the shops, the hairdressers, to clubs and social events. Transport is important to the well-being of older people allowing them to get out. Ambulance services were now under review and WBCT journeys that were already in existence taking people to the doctor's surgery now extended to transport to the hospital for outpatient appointments. The ambulance minibus now only took people to hospital if they were to receive treatment. These hospital journeys of which there were about 1,000 per year included Wrexham Maelor, Ysbyty Gwynedd, Gobowen Orthopaedic, Christies Manchester, Broadgreen and the Royal Liverpool. WBCT's constitution covered all of Flintshire as long as passengers met the criteria, they have to be bus pass holders.

There are eighteen volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles to transport passengers. These drivers are retired people and are aged in the 60s and 70s. Each driver could do up to ten/twelve trips per day. Pick-up times are restricted to the hours of 9am to 4pm. The office is very busy and it seems that the telephone does not stop ringing. Because of this the office is closed for a half hour each day at lunchtime.

Four years ago WBCT was financed totally by a grant from the Welsh Assembly Government, a Flintshire County Council grant and income through the fuel duty rebate. Now there is just one grant from Cardiff and every year a bid has to be put in for this. The amount received covers 80% of the funding required to run WBCT. A cost of £1.00 per journey is charged to the passengers, this is considered to be a very reasonable charge and at the same time passengers are aware of how much they need to pay. Community Councils have the opportunity to support WBCT and letters are sent out requesting financial assistance. Nine Community Councils currently give donations. It cost £220,000 to run WBCT last year. 150,000 miles are travelled per annum. There are 3,500 registered users in Flintshire, 40 from Leeswood. For these people it is the only way they can get about, the majority of users are aged over 75.

Total bus passenger journeys in Wales are in the region of 109 million per annum and approximately 49 million of these are bus passes. The bulk of routes are non-profit making and rely heavily on subsidies. Flintshire County Council are trying to put the onus on provision of these bus journeys to Community Councils. WBCT are not in a position to replace the services that are being lost through withdrawal of bus subsidies. Community Councils, however, can run a community transport scheme in order to replace these lost services; this could be funded through their precepts as there is no restriction on the level of money they can raise through the tax payer.

The Chairman, Councillor G. Sherwood thanked Mr. Feather for attending the meeting.

31. MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor J. Caruana and seconded by Councillor R. Williams that these minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 had also been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor C.E. Jones JP and seconded by Councillor R. Williams that the minutes of the monthly meeting be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

32. POLICE LIAISON

The Clerk reported that PCSO Poppy Hadfield-Jones had contacted her prior to this evening's meeting advising that she would try to attend but was not sure if she would be able to make it. PCSO Hadfield-Jones stated that she would send a report via e-mail, but this had not yet been received.

33. FINANCE COMMITTEE

This item had been omitted from the Agenda of the annual meeting. It was agreed by all Council that the current four members Councillor G. Sherwood, Chairman to the Council; Councillors C.E. Jones JP, K. McCallum JP and J.E. Saul should be re-elected en bloc.

34. ACQUISITION OF LAND – CEMETERY REQUIREMENTS

Council were informed that Mr. Owens' daughter had contacted the Clerk and Councillor C.E. Jones JP advising that a way forward with regard to the purchase of the land adjacent to the Cemetery had been found. This was confirmed in correspondence received from Nesta Davies

of Messrs Llewelyn Jones stating that they think that the sale of the land can proceed upon the basis that Mr. Owens can appoint an additional Trustee of the land at this stage so that two Trustees can sign the Transfer document and so that they can give a good receipt to the Council on completion of the sale. They were requesting Mr. Owens to let us have the name of the additional Trustee to be appointed and we shall write to you further as soon as possible.

The Clerk reported that this correspondence, which had come as an e-mail attachment, had been forwarded immediately to Mrs. Sian Jones of Legal Services, Flintshire County Council with a request that the file now be re-opened.

35. CEMETERY

The Clerk advised that Mr. Aled Davies had provided a price for providing top soil at the Cemetery, this is £240. She had spoken with Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman to the Cemetery Sub-Committee and it was agreed to go ahead with the purchase.

Mr. Aled Davies was trying to obtain a price for the removal of clay. Councillors were of the opinion that this could be a costly job and considered whether it would be worthwhile leaving the clay in place as it may be of use with the extension.

Comment was made that the branches at the bottom needed to be removed. All Councillors agreed that Mr. Aled Davies be asked to do this.

It was suggested that the Cemetery by-laws could be put on the Council website. The Clerk pointed out that she was unable to access the notice board at the Cemetery as she did not have a key. She also stated that the notice board was not in the best condition and perhaps there should be consideration given to replacing this.

36. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications.

37. PLANNING DECISIONS

There were no planning decisions.

38. LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

It was reported that the Clerk in her position as Treasurer to the Community Centre Management Committee was to meet with Mr. John Gray of FLVC to go through the process of completing the CIO registration form. This has to be done via the internet and at present there was a problem with being able to access the Charities Commission's online forms. Work on producing the accounts is ongoing, this is proving to be a lengthy and difficult task. A new till had been purchased.

39. CHANGE OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL NAME TO LEESWOOD & PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Clerk advised that an e-mail received from the Boundary Commission had this Council's name as Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council. Following a telephone call to Flintshire County Council, it was confirmed that the Community Council could now officially use the new name.

40. NEW HSBC BANK MANDATE

The Clerk informed that she had been to HSBC Bank and enquired about changing the Community Council name on the bank accounts. It had been necessary to write in, with the letter signed by three of the bank signatories. Information from the Bank was that the change would take approximately seven to ten days and a new cheque book would be issued at that time. In the meantime, the Bank recommended that no cheques were issued in case they would be returned unpaid during the name change process, neither was the Bank mandate to be changed. The Clerk pointed out that no new cheque book had been received yet and the most recent bank statements which had come at the end of last week had been in the name of Leeswood Community Council. She had been to the Bank on Saturday last and was told that they would look into this and telephone during the week with a progress report.

41. MILLENNIUM CLOCK

It was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk should contact Smith's of Derby and request a copy of the maintenance agreement.

42. POND AREA ON PHOENIX PARK

No further progress had been made with this matter. Observation was made that the water was still coming from the ground and running along the pathway adjacent to the pond.

43. SOUTH FLINTSHIRE POLICE CONSULTATION MEETING

Information received about the South Flintshire Police Consultation meeting to be held on Tuesday 5th July 2016 at the Council Chambers, Mold Town Hall between 6pm and 7.30pm. Point was made that this meeting clashed with the next monthly meeting of this Council. It was agreed that on this occasion, apologies for absence would be sent explaining that the Community Council held its monthly meeting on the same evening.

Other information received advised of the change in Flintshire Administrator, Karina Walker has taken redundancy and been replaced by Sarah Evans.

44. NEW CHAIR – FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

From Flintshire County Council, correspondence advising that the new Chair for the year 2016/2017 is Councillor Peter Curtis. His Civic Service is to be held on Sunday 10th July 2016 at St Winifride's Church, Holywell.

45. COMMEMORATION OF COUNCILLOR R. HUGHES YEAR OF OFFICE AS CHAIR TO FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 2015/2016

As the Councillor who had put forward this matter for discussion had been unable to attend this evening, all Councillors were in agreement that it should be included on the Agenda of the next monthly meeting.

A point was made that another Community Councillor, the late Councillor K.W. Richardson, had also been the Chair to Flintshire County Council and perhaps consideration should be given to commemorating this at the same time as it did not seem fair to leave him out.

46. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor R. Hughes was absent from the meeting but information was passed on advising that various works were still being planned with dates of start to be confirmed.

Council were reminded that if they knew of community issues that were County Council related could they please let Councillor Hughes know as soon as possible rather than wait until the Community Council meeting to bring them up.

47. MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

a) North Wales Prison Community Event on 1st June 2016 at the Springfield Hotel, Pentre Halkyn – Councillor J. Caruana had attended this. The new prison in Wrexham is to be a Category C prison and the largest of its kind in the UK. This will be a prison for rehabilitation and Welsh culture and language will be taught there. People employed there will be local to the area. There will be no impact on the NHS facilities as medical treatment will be provided on site.

b) Hanson Heidelberg Cement – There is no environment issue at present. More apprenticeships have been created.

48. CORRESPONDENCE

a) North Wales Marie Curie Fundraising Office – e-mail received requesting that the Community Council assist in promoting the upcoming ‘Blooming Great Tea Party’ season to be held 20th – 29th June 2016. This was accepted.

49. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Miss M Reynolds	Stationery/Postage/Printing	£24.31
Miss M Reynolds	Salary/Expenses – May 2016	£597.78
Aled Davies Agricultural	Grass cutting in Cemetery May 2016	£885.60
Dee Valley Water	Water rates – Cemetery	£9.38
Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£1,171.92
	Total	£2,688.99

50. INCOME RECEIVED

None at the time of the meeting.

51. BANK BALANCES

At present there is £66,282.00 in the deposit account and £5,454.88 in the current account. These figures are from the statement to 29th May 2016.

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 8.05pm.