



LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMDEITHASOL COEDLLAI

THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2013.

PRESENT

Councillor K. McCallum JP, Chairman of the Council (in the Chair)
Councillors J. Atkinson, J. Caruana, H. Evans, R. Hughes, C.E. Jones JP, M. Reynolds, D. Rule, G. Sherwood and R. Williams.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Were received from Councillor E Saul, Vice Chairman, Councillors C Bie, T. Hughes.

PRAYERS

The meeting was opened with prayers led by the Chairman, Councillor K McCallum.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

138. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor C E Jones and seconded by Councillor J Caruana that the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 5th November 2013, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Councillor K McCallum. Resolved.

139. MATTERS ARISING (NOT DEALT WITH ON THE AGENDA)

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

140. REPORT OF INTERVIEW – POSITION OF CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The meeting was told that there had been thirteen expressions of interest for the post of Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. There had been eight applicants, from which four had been chosen for interview. As agreed in the meeting of 5th November, the interview panel had consisted of Councillor K McCallum – Chairman, Councillor E Saul – Vice-Chairman, Councillors J Atkinson, R Hughes and C E Jones. Mr Gareth Roberts had attended the interview process as an observer and to assist in the selection. By a unanimous decision of the interview panel, Councillor M Reynolds was chosen

to fill the vacant post of Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. This decision required ratification at the meeting tonight.

The Chairman, Councillor K McCallum, formally offered the post of Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer to Councillor M Reynolds. Councillor M Reynolds accepted the position and handed in her resignation as Community Councillor. The Chairman, Councillor K McCallum thanked the Clerk for her work in the position of Community Councillor.

141. CHEQUE BOOK SIGNATORIES

It was advised that the present bank mandate had two sections. Section A consisted of the signatures of Community Councillors and section B consisted of that of the late Clerk. The cheques required three signatories, two from section A and one from section B. Many of the Councillor signatories of this mandate were no longer on the Council; the remaining signatories are the Clerk, Councillors H Evans, R Hughes and C E Jones.

It was necessary to complete a new mandate. This, however, consisted of only one section. The four existing signatories were to remain and added to these would be Councillor K McCallum – Chairman, Councillor E Saul Vice-Chairman and Councillor J Caruana.

Councillor C E Jones proposed that this action was taken, seconded by Councillor J Atkinson. **Resolved.**

A copy of rules or a constitution should accompany the mandate. It was pointed out that the Bank should already have a copy of this Council's Standing Orders. The Chairman requested that a 'minute' detailing the discussion and subsequent approval of the filing of a new mandate be prepared. This was to be submitted to the Bank the following day by the Clerk.

142. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Chairman requested that consideration be given to forming a Finance sub-Committee.

He informed Council that he had spoken to HMRC and they had been most complimentary about the work of the late Clerk, stating that documentation was filed on time, also that he was meticulous in his work.

It was agreed that this suggestion be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

143. OUTSTANDING INVOICES

Until the new mandate has been accepted by the Bank the Council are unable to pay any outstanding invoices.

Mr Barry Richards had been issued with a cheque that had been returned unpaid as the signatories were not accepted by the Bank. Since then he had submitted another invoice.

The Water and Electricity Companies had been advised of the situation.

It was agreed that the matter of the Bank mandate should be dealt with in the utmost urgency.

144. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Council acknowledged the erection of these and agreed that they were very nice.

The meeting was informed that Councillor E Saul – Vice-Chairman, had dealt with the lights and had paid £1,234.05 for the twelve sets out of his own money. Initially he had bought one set in order to test them out and then he had purchased the other eleven.

It was pointed out that some bulbs were out. Also, there was a wire hanging loosely on the standard located at the bottom on Bryn Clyd.

145. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman, Councillor K McCallum, advised that there was no correspondence of note.

146. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Dual Carriageway Signs – Pontblyddyn to Hope Section – Council were advised that the dual carriageway road signs in the direction of Hope were correct as there are two carriageways separated by an island. It was pointed out that since the highway in that section had been re-established; it seemed to be a ‘better’ and quicker road. Further comment was made that despite the road now being one lane, there was evidence of tyre tracks on the verge which showed that vehicles made an attempt to overtake.

147. OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN

Flooding at the area of the New Inn, Pontblyddyn – It was brought to the attention of the meeting that there was flooding outside the New Inn and the grid was blocked. Council were informed that the section of highway was to be re-surfaced to take the road to the grid. Currently the road was lower than the grid.

Vehicles speeding through Leeswood Village – A member remarked that a couple of cars could be heard driving at speed through the village. From the way in which these vehicles travelled, that is, to 'bomb down' the village and then do the same back up, it was believed that they were not residents. Comment was made that a particular vehicle travelled through Pontblyddyn at great speed also. **Resolved:** – To invite the Police and Community Support Officer to attend the next meeting to be held on 7th January.

Council were informed that Police and Community Support Officer Lisa Hughes was leaving her post as she had got a new job in Wrexham. She was to be replaced by PCSO Kelsey Evans.

Street Lights – The street light at the factory entrance was out. There are currently ten street lights requiring attention. The details of these have been passed on to the County Council.

5 County Road – hedge – Observation made that the hedge of this property bordering the footpath is overgrown and impeding the pedestrian. **Resolved:** - a letter to be sent to the occupier.

Fly Tipping – field at the rear of Garages, Heol-y-Goron– It was brought to the Council's attention that there have been various episodes of fly tipping in the field neighbouring the Garages on Heol-y-Goron. Remark was made that this was private land and unless evidence of the identity of the people involved was proven, little could be done about it. The land owner could open the waste in an attempt to find out who is responsible. Concern was expressed that such dumping of rubbish could be a health hazard and lead to a rat infestation. **Resolved:** - That a letter to be sent to the Environmental Health Department, Flintshire County Council, advising them of this issue.

Bus Service – Comment made that it was known that the bus service was not making the detour around Heol-y-Goron and Bryn Clyd on occasion. **Resolved:** - To send a letter to the Manager at Arriva Wrexham requesting that he attends a meeting of this Council to discuss this.

Community Council Donations – the Clerk mentioned that it is approaching the time when the Council decide on the donations to be given to Community organisations. It is customary for letters to be sent to the various organisations reminding them to send in their applications which should be accompanied by copies of recent bank statements. Also, there was no issue of the Leeswood & District News before early February. **Resolved:** - That the decision on donations be postponed until an insertion can be put in the Leeswood & District News inviting organisations to apply for financial assistance.