

# LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR GYMDEITHASOL COEDLLAI



THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2014.

### **PRESENT**

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

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Were received from Councillor C. Bie.

### **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.

### **225. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting with representatives of One Voice Wales held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February and the monthly meeting of Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March had 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 meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February be accepted as a true record of proceedings. Councillor J. Caruana proposed and Councillor G. Sherwood seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors were in agreement and each set of minutes to be signed by the Chairman, Councillor K McCallum.

### **226. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – COUNCILLOR TERRY HUGHES**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Terry Hughes to the meeting. Councillor Terry Hughes thanked the members for co-opting him onto the Community Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by Councillor Terry Hughes and witnessed by the Clerk.

**227. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**228. POLICE LIAISON**

PCSO Kelsey Evans had contacted the Clerk advising that she would be unable to attend the meeting.

**229.** By full agreement of the Council this Minute is excluded.

**230. ACQUISITION OF LAND – CEMETERY REQUIREMENTS**

The Clerk advised that the report from the Valuation Officer had been received.

From the report: -

**Valuation Methodology/Approach and Reasoning** – For the purpose of this valuation report consideration has been given to the land's existing use value as agricultural pasture land. Regard has also been given to the demand for land for the extension of the existing cemetery and to the affordability to the Community Council.

**Comparable Evidence** – A range of comparable sales evidence for agricultural land in the locality has been identified and considered. Consideration has also been given to comparable transactions of similar areas land for playing field and amenity use.

**Opinion of Value** – I (Nicola Hall – Senior Surveyor) am of the opinion that the Market Value of the freehold interest in the subject land is **£20,000** (twenty thousand pounds) as at 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Comment was made that it was pleasing that the value of the land had been quoted at £20,000. Mr Owens, the landowner, was asking a price of £27,000. It was suggested that it may possibly be worth meeting with Mr Owens and advise him of the professional valuation. Attempt could be made to try and bring him down in price.

Observation was made that the Council should seek the legal position of spending over the valuation as there is a duty to spend money wisely. It was pointed out that there had been a previous valuation of £42,000 made by professional representatives of Mr Owens. Question arose as to where do you find the true level of costing. Remark made that the Council are entitled to their opinion of the land's worth. Further comment was made that once the land is purchased it would be necessary to put up boundaries in order to make it secure. The County Councillor was to approach Mr Gareth Owens of the Legal Department, Flintshire County Council to establish what leeway if any would be allowed.

Possible difficulties in regard to negotiation were referred to – Mr Owens may agree to a smaller offer but then he may not. This Council had examined all areas where a proposed Cemetery could be situated and the best location had been considered to be an extension to that already in existence.

A suggestion was made that a group of four Councillors and the Clerk should meet with Mr Owens. The Clerk was also to contact the grave digger regarding the trial holes.

**231.** At this point Romilly Scragg, Reporter from the Flintshire Leader entered the room. The Chairman welcomed her to the meeting.

**232. CEMETERY RECORDS**

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

**233. ONE VOICE WALES**

The Clerk informed the Council that she had received an e-mail from Mr B Grew of One Voice Wales advising that a year membership would cost £127. Comment was made that the way the organisation was run did not seem appealing, in particular with regard to Officers working from home. It was pointed out that it was a relatively small organisation and there was an office based at Ammanford. Reference was made to 'agile working' which was a concept where employees worked from home. Observation made that if it was beneficial to the Clerk then it may be worth joining. The Clerk pointed out that all Councillors would be able to access the One Voice Wales website and they may find this beneficial. It was proposed and seconded that the Council try out membership for a year. A vote was taken – seven Councillors for; three Councillors against and one Councillor abstained.

**234. ZURICH INSURANCE**

Correspondence had been received from Zurich Insurance advising the charges for Insurance. There were three different quotes: - £1,231.16 for a year agreement; £1,175.56 for a three year agreement and £1,119.96 for a five year agreement. It was agreed that a five year agreement would be undertaken.

**235. CADWYN CLWYD – NOTICE BOARD/SEAT FUNDING**

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Sarah Jones of Cadwyn Clwyd. In this she stated that the decision on funding would be made on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**236. MEMORIAL – LATE CLERK G.N.I. JONES**

It was agreed that two trees be planted in memory of the late Clerk G.N.I. Jones. Flintshire County Council had indicated that it would not be

acceptable to plant a tree in the area of the Pontblyddyn Crossroads. The suggested locations were on the Cricket Field at Pontblyddyn and on the grassed area at the bottom of Bryn Clyd. A willow tree was to be planted in Pontblyddyn and a cherry tree in Leeswood. The County Councillor would enquire of prices and suitable time for planting from Mr Dewi Hughes the Flintshire County Council tree man. Also, he would seek permission for the planting in Leeswood from the Flintshire County Council and the Clerk was to write to the Pontblyddyn Cricket Club.

**237. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

A report from Councillor J Caruana had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Caruana informed that a lunch was being held at Llandudno on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014. He would be happy to attend as representative of the Council if he was able to get the time off work. All Councillors were in agreement.

**238. HANSON CEMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Councillor J. Caruana handed out a report to all Councillors. This report detailed a meeting between himself and Victoria Smith of Hanson Cement relating to the proposed removal of a monitor located at Penyffordd School. The monitor at the School had not given any substantial evidence of pollution. It may give residents peace of mind, although this peace of mind could be psychological. However, it was believed that it would be useful to have the monitor at the School in case something should escape their monitoring system.

The Public Enquiry of 2010 had determined the size of the particulate but not the chemical composition. A statement was made that there is no technology available that could measure the chemical composition. There could be anything in the particulate. Observation made was that if the monitor had not provided any data then there was nothing to claim pollution. It was known that there had been an issue regarding dust, but this dust may not be a result of emissions from the Plant. The monitor at the School was to be retained.

**239. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

It was reported that a site meeting had taken place at Britannia Road. At the same time of the other areas of concern in the village were also looked at. Councillor R Hughes confirmed that Leeswood was now on the list for Civil Parking measures.

**240. BUS SERVICE**

The Clerk informed that she tried to contact Arriva Wales but had been unable to do so. It was brought to the Council's attention that two buses on the Mold-Wrexham route had gone on fire last week. Concern expressed

that this was a safety issue regarding members of our community and an enquiry should be asked for. Observation made that 'smoke' or 'fumes' may not necessarily mean that the vehicle is on fire, there are other reasons for this such as overheating. Old stock is used on this route and the road from Mold to Leeswood requires a lot of gear changing. Remark made that this Council needs to tread carefully before anything is said as there is a big difference between a vehicle fire and overheating. It was noted that the Flintshire County Council do not subsidise the bus service, this is run commercially. Further comment was made that the Mold-Wrexham route is heavily used and there are many passengers standing. However, a point was made that smaller buses are more than likely used due to the difficulties in travelling around Bryn Clyd and Heol-y-Goron.

**241. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Correspondence had been received from Flintshire County Council regarding the preparation of a Local Development Plan for the county. Question was raised if more development was wanted in the community and if so where. It was remarked that if individuals who had planning permission on certain pieces of land did not use it then this would stop any would be development. Agreed: - that this letter is put on the Community Council website.

**242. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – SUMMER PLAYScheme PROGRAMME 2014**

Correspondence had been received from Flintshire County Council in relation to the match funding available for this the Summer Playscheme. The cost to this Council would be £898.20 for three weeks plus £250.00 per week for any additional weeks. It was agreed that a five week scheme be requested at a total cost of £1,398.20.

**243. DOVECOTE**

Observation made that the Dovecote was now looking 'worse for wear'. It was pointed out that there were no grants available from the Flintshire County Council. Agreed: - that a letter is sent to Mrs J Jones.

**244. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

**Street Lights** – comment was made on the new street lights in the community. Council were informed that the lights were now an energy efficient 60 sox rather than 90 sox. This would cut the energy bills by a third.

**Traffic Calming on County Road** – a petition had been handed into the County Council. It was likely that a survey of the traffic would be carried out. Observation was made that traffic calming measures may present problems for the vehicles of the emergency services.

## 245. MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

**Councillor D Rule** – Councillor Rule advised that he wished to request a leave of absence if possible as he was being transferred to Bristol with work for approximately six months. It was pointed out that a Councillor needs to attend one meeting in six.

**Dog fouling bin, Pontblyddyn** – Council were informed that there was an issue with dogs fouling on the Cricket field. Query was raised if there could be a dog fouling bin placed in the vicinity of the Cricket Club, possibly on the grassed area outside. Advice received that if a bin was placed close to dwellings then there would need to be consultation with the immediate residents.

**Satellite Dishes, Alyn Terrace, Pontblyddyn** – Residents in the terraced row Alyn Terrace were being asked to take down their satellite dishes as they were in a conservation area. This request had come out of the blue and many of the satellite dishes had been up years. Signals were quite poor even with satellite dishes. It was pointed out that it was possible these buildings were listed Grade 2.

**Black Bin in Cemetery** – Members were advised that an additional black bin was to be located at the Cemetery. Mr Barry Richards had planted some plants by the entrance in memory of the late clerk, G N I Jones.

**Flintshire County Council grass cutting charges** – It was brought to the Council's attention that Flintshire County Council were now making charges to cut grass.

## 246. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Flintshire County Council – new declaration of interest form – this was adopted and the Clerk was to keep copies.

b) Flintshire County Council – Town and Community Council Footway Lighting – the Community Council presently is responsible for some of the footway lighting in the community. These are maintained by the County Council but if the members wish for them to be adopted by the County Council then they would have to be brought up to the required standard.

## 247. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Amount</u>
B. Richards	Cemetery Maintenance Disposal of Cemetery Waste Litter Pick	<b>£582.00</b>
Miss M Reynolds	Stationery/Postage/Printing	<b>£49.08</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£631.08</b>

**248. INCOME RECEIVED**

<u>From</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Amount</u>
H.J. Williams	Grave – Eric Edwards	<b>£90.00</b>

**249. BANK BALANCES**

The bank statements to end of March had not yet been received.

**250. ANY MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS NOT YET RESOLVED**

- a) Bryn Clyd/Heol-y-Goron Bus Route – Minute No. 69 – 09.07.2013 – a response is awaited from Arriva Wales.
- b) 5 County Road Hedge – Minute No. 147 – 05.12.2013 – the Chairman advised that he has spoken to the resident and the matter will be dealt with – this item is to be removed from the Agenda.
- c) Fly Tipping adjacent field to rear of Garages Heol-y-Goron – Minute No. 147 – 05.12.2013 – this item is to be removed from the Agenda.
- d) War Memorials Trust – Minute No. 165 – 07.01.2014 – a reply is awaited from London.
- e) Footpath A5104 bottom of the Constitution Hill to the A541 – Minute No. 149 – 07.01.2014 – the Chairman advised that he had walked the path and it was free from obstruction – this item is to be removed from the Agenda.