

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 6th MAY 2014.

PRESENT

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

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillor J. Atkinson, C.E. Jones JP and D. Rule.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

9. POLICE LIAISON

This item was discussed before the annual meeting of the Community Council as PCSO Kelsey Evans was in attendance.

PCSO Evans advised Council of the following issues with criminal activity in the Community:

Leeswood

13th April 2014 – criminal damage at Derwen Deg, where two motorcycle tyres had been stabbed.

20th April 2014 – at around 6.30pm there was an occurrence of shoplifting at the Co-Op. There was CCTV footage and a male has been dealt with in regard to this.

20th April 2014 – a few hours later there was another incident at the Co-Op – this time it was an armed robbery. PCSO Evans informed that there had been positive enquiries regarding this incident.

21st April 2014 – another shoplifting at the Co-Op. The Vice-Chairman, Councillor R. Williams, informed that neighbours had given a full description of the person involved but the Police had not called on them as witnesses. PCSO Evans stated that she had no further update on this incident, but was aware that there was CCTV footage. The Officer dealing with this was on holiday but PCSO

Evans would mention the descriptions.

22nd April 2014 – a burglary of one property on County Road. Enquiries are ongoing.

1st May 2014 – theft of a tool box at the Council Garages on Heol-y-Goron. It had also been noted that a few items had been going missing over a period of time.

5th May 2014 – damage to the Coedllai Sports and Social Club – access gained and a resident saw two males on Sunday night.

Pontblyddyn

25th April 2014 – Storage Garage at the Cricket Club broken into, but nothing was taken. It was believed that this was because the items stored were too heavy to move.

30th April 2014 – a fatal RTA on the A541 – two cars were involved. At present, the cause of the accident was unknown, there was to be a post mortem and an inquest.

Councillor C. Bie stated that there had been an incident of two cars racing along the A541 two days earlier, fortunately there was no fatality.

Councillor R. Hughes referred to a RTA in Llong on 5th May 2014. This involved a vehicle overtaking a number of cars.

Members expressed great concern in regard to the armed robbery at the Co-Op, Leeswood and the fatality in Pontblyddyn.

PCSO Evans was thanked for attending the meeting.

10. MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 1st April had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor K. McCallum JP and seconded by Councillor R. Williams that these minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.

11. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor G. Sherwood reported that he had attended the area meeting of One Voice Wales members held on 3rd April 2014. Member Councils in attendance were of a geographical range from Chirk to Whitford. These Councils were a cross section from the very large to small rural, Leeswood was somewhere in between. One Voice Wales has a new website and this was available to all Councillors. It was noted that a lot of Town/Community Councils were taking over assets, in particular in the Wrexham area.

12. By full agreement of the Council this Minute is excluded.

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

There had been no comment about the difference between the Valuation Officer's estimation of the worth of the land and the asking price of the landowner from the Legal Officer at Flintshire County Council. It was suggested that advice could possibly be sought from One Voice Wales regarding the difference. The consensus of opinion was that the group to meet the landowner should make an attempt at negotiation – agreed that the £27,000 asking price should include the legal costs. Opinion put forward that the Clerk should try and establish the potential legal costs involved by contacting the Valuation Officer as the landowner would want to know how much he would actually be getting from the sale. Additional costs to be considered were the fencing of the land – this was a necessity for planning reasons and the possible extension of the drainage system in place at the Cemetery. The Clerk stated that she had left a message with the grave digger regarding the digging of trial holes at the site and she was waiting for him to get back to her. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr Owens to arrange a meeting.

14. By full agreement of the Council this Minute is excluded.

15. **CEMETERY BY-LAWS**

Comment was made that the new by-laws as laid out were acceptable, but suggestion put forward that the information regarding Memorials should be laid out in big print and in bold. It was also important to highlight that Memorials should not be erected until at the very least a six month period following interment.

Also, a clear statement was to be made that no artificial grass was to be permitted in the Cemetery.

16. **CEMETERY FEES**

The Clerk provided comparative figures of burial/cremated remains interment from Mold Cemetery and Flintshire County Council.

<u>Burial Authority</u>	<u>New Grave</u>	<u>Re-Open</u>	<u>Cremated New</u>	<u>Cremated Re-Open</u>
Pontblyddyn	£350.00	£300.00	£150.00	£100.00
Mold	£709.50	£266.20	£213.40	£107.80
Flintshire CC	£815.00	£565/£490	£200.00	£125.00

Observation was made that this Council does not have the overheads of other Cemeteries, such as Mold and as long as money is not being lost then charges

should be kept as a minimum. It was pointed out that the Cemetery maintenance ought to be funded by the income from the charges. Finally, agreed that the charges should be put on the Agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

17. CADWYN CLWYD – NOTICE BOARD/SEAT FUNDING

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Sarah Jones of Cadwyn Clwyd. It was advised that Cadwyn Clwyd would provide a grant, but this was for six notice boards and six seats as opposed to the eight of each requested. A meeting with Ms Jones was arranged for Tuesday 13th May in order to discuss the project going forward.

18. MEMORIAL – LATE CLERK G.N.I. JONES

Trees to be planted in the memory of the late Clerk, Nigel Jones, would cost £30 each. Permission had been granted to plant a tree at the bottom of Bryn Clyd. The Clerk informed that she had spoken to the Chairman of Pontblyddyn Cricket Club and she and Councillor R. Hughes were to meet with him on Wednesday 7th May to discuss a suitable location for the planting. It was suggested that slate plaques be arranged for erection at the area of the trees.

Members were advised that the family of the late Clerk had arranged a memorial cricket match on Sunday 25th May. A new bridge had been erected from the Cricket Pavilion to the field as was Nigel's wish. This was to be opened on the match day.

19. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There was no further information to report at this time.

20. HANSON HEIDELBERG LIAISON COMMITTEE

No meeting had taken place; therefore, there was nothing to report.

21. BUS SERVICE

Councillor R. Hughes advised that he had spoken to the Wrexham Depot of Arriva Wales in his capacity as County Councillor. Arriva Wales had apologised for the issues with the service travelling around Bryn Clyd and Heol-y-Goron. If there was a problem being able to travel in one direction around the estate, then the drivers had been instructed to reverse the route on these occasions.

Regarding breakdowns, these were unfortunate, but unforeseen and problems would be rectified as soon as possible. It was agreed that this item be removed from the Agenda.

22. PRESS PRESENCE AT MEETINGS

The Clerk advised that Romilly Scragg had contacted her regarding the issue with the bus service requesting a copy of the letter to Arriva Wales 'if it had been written'. Members were reminded that this letter had been sent in December 2013 and did not relate to the matters discussed in the April meeting. A copy had not been passed on and the Clerk had told Ms Scragg that she could not discuss any Council issues with her unless the Members had agreed it. Observation was made that there had recently been some items of a particularly sensitive nature where Press presence would have to be excluded. The Chairman, Councillor J.E. Saul, pointed out that as an individual all Members could make a point or a complaint, but should not refer to the Community Council or use their Councillor status.

23. DOVECOTE

No further information had been received – it was agreed that this matter be removed from the Agenda.

24. COMMUNITY REVIEW UPDATE

Information had been received from Flintshire County Council. One dwelling had been removed from the Community and taken into the Penyffordd Community.

25. COUNTY FORUM MEETING

The minutes from the last meeting held on 20th February 2014, had been received. Councillor J.E. Saul, Chairman, informed that he would make an effort to attend the next meeting to be held at Flint Town Council on 12th June 2014.

26. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

The Nant, Pontblyddyn – it was advised that the Nant was to be closed 10th/11th May 2014, in order for works to be carried out.

27. MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

Fatal RTA on A541 Pontblyddyn – it was distressing that there had been yet another fatal road accident in Pontblyddyn. Observation was made that a speed camera along this stretch of road seemed to be the only answer. A lot of money had been spent on this highway in an attempt to control the issue with speeding traffic. Comment made, that vehicles still tried to overtake on the Pontblyddyn to Hope side of the road despite that it had now been reduced to a single carriageway and also that overtaking was occurring on the dual carriageway on the white lines. It was pointed out that this was illegal in both cases.

Suggestion made that signs advising of fatalities on the road could be erected. However, whilst this happened in other counties, it was not the policy in Flintshire. Further comment was made that if drivers want to get past you, they will accelerate to do so. No matter what speed limit is set there will always be someone who wants to break it. In the instance of this recent fatality, it was unknown what had happened – the results of the investigation should be waited for. Finally, agreed that a letter be forwarded to Neil Cockerton, Head of Highways at Flintshire County Council, requesting consideration for cameras to be placed on both the stretch of dual carriageway from Llong to Pontblyddyn in the location of the bridge at the start and in the area of the A541 in Pontblyddyn where the dual carriageway becomes single carriage.

Waste Collection – it was brought to the Council’s attention that a resident was not having their waste collected. Councillor R. Hughes would attend to this matter.

Grass Cutting at Pensioners Bungalows – complaint received that the recent grass cutting at the area of the Pensioners Bungalows had left a significant amount of grass waste that had not been picked up. This grass waste could possibly blow into the residents’ gardens which would be unacceptable. It was advised that the local authorities do not possess a machine that is able to pick up the grass waste. Also, the grass waste had never been picked up following a cut. The County Council have to make significant cutbacks and savings, this year there will be one less cut. Because the weather had been more favourable this year as compared to the wintry conditions of last year, it had resulted in a quicker growth. It was believed that this response was not satisfactory and it was intended to take the matter further.

28. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Welsh Assembly Government – Governance in Small Public Bodies – a Finance Committee had been formed previously that would deal with this.

29. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Amount</u>
B. Richards	Cemetery Maintenance Disposal of Cemetery Waste Litter Pick	£602.00
Miss M Reynolds	Stationery/Postage/Printing	£40.21
Scottish Power	Electricity Jan. to Mar. 2014	£362.00
Zurich Municipal	Insurance 2014/2015	£1,119.96
	Total	£2,124.17

30. INCOME RECEIVED

J.M. Hughes	Re-open out of area	£400.00
Cynthia Sides	Re-open out of area	£400.00
Angela Poglettke	New Grave	£140.00
Lawrence Garston	Memorial	£150.00
	Total	£1,090.00

31. BANK BALANCES

At 29th April 2014, the bank balances are as follows: –

Business Money Manager – £35,043.52

Community Account – £2,978.76

32. 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 – this item to be removed from the Agenda.

b) War Memorials Trust – Minute No. 165 – 07.01.2014 – a reply is awaited from London.