



LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED COEDLLAI A PONTBLYDDYN

THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2017.

PRESENT

Councillor J. Caruana, Chairman of the Council (in the Chair)

Councillor D. Rule, Vice-Chairman

Councillors D.K. Crowther, R. Hughes, T. Hughes, C.E. Jones JP, J.E. Saul and G. Sherwood.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors J. Atkinson and R. Williams.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2017 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor D.K. Crowther and seconded by Councillor T. Hughes that these minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

17. POLICE LIAISON

PCSO Poppy Hadfield-Jones no longer covers the Leeswood area as she is continuing her role full time as a youth engagement officer working with cadets. Sergeant Mavis Evans met with PCSO Andrea Ellis who has now agreed to take over as PCSO for Leeswood and Pontblyddyn. PCSO Ellis is familiar with the area having covered it approximately 5 years ago. During this time she had made lots of contacts with key members of the community and it was her hope to reignite these contacts. However PCSO Ellis will also be covering a number of other patches which include Buckley, Penyffordd and Treuddyn.

PCSO Ellis was unable to attend this evening's meeting but she did send a report: -

Incident update – Leeswood

ASB nuisance - a complaint was made regarding a number of youths playing on bicycles near to their address.

Incident update – Pontblyddyn

7th May 2017 - Driver stopped on Wrexham Road, Pontblyddyn and arrested for driving with excess alcohol.

7th May 2017 - Driver stopped on Wrexham Road, Pontblyddyn, failed a drug swipe test and a large quantity of Cannabis seized from onboard the vehicle. Offender arrested and conveyed to custody.

PCSO Ellis went onto say in her report that an issue she had been made aware of is speeding through the village of Leeswood during the evenings. If and when she could, she would be happy to attend with a colleague and the speedgun.

18. ACQUISITION OF LAND – CEMETERY REQUIREMENTS

The Clerk advised that she had not heard anything further in regard to the purchase of land to extend the Cemetery. Councillor R. Hughes confirmed that he had nothing to report.

It was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk should try and make contact with Mrs N. Davies of Llewelyn Jones Solicitors to see if any further progress had been made.

Councillor J.E. Saul had submitted the planning application to Flintshire County Council for change of use of use for the land adjacent to the Cemetery. Councillors thanked Councillor Saul for this.

19. CEMETERY

Councillor R. Hughes informed that he had been unable to arrange a meeting with Mr Aled Davies, the Cemetery sub-contractor. However, he would try and see him over the next couple of weeks. The gates had not yet been returned. Councillor R. Hughes advised that he had not heard from the Blacksmith. Comment was made that in general the Cemetery looked very well and that Mr Davies was doing a good job.

20. PLANNING DECISIONS

No planning applications had been received.

21. FINANCE REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/2017

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Finance Reports for the financial year 2016/2017. It was proposed by Councillor T. Hughes and seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor D. Rule that these reports be accepted. All Councillors were in agreement.

22. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Observation was made that there had been no information regarding community transport for some time. It was pointed out that an approach had been made by the Clerk of both Treuddyn and Llanfynydd Community Councils regarding the

possibility of a meeting but nothing had come of this. Councillor R. Hughes had nothing to report on this matter. Comment was made that the questionnaire which was circulated to the Community did not ask the 'right' questions. There had been no place on the questionnaire where members of the Community could indicate whether they would use an evening or weekend service should something be available to them.

It was proposed by Councillor C.E. Jones JP and seconded by Councillor R. Hughes that a letter be sent to Mr Paul Robson, Integrated Transport Manager at Flintshire County Council asking how to make progress on this matter. All Councillors in agreement.

23. HANSON HEIDELBERG CEMENT

Correspondence had been received from David Quick, Operational Support Manager, Hanson Heidelberg Cement, advising that that Hanson Cement is intending to invest around £20 million at the Padeswood works. The intention is to replace three of the existing cement mills with one modern, energy efficient vertical roller mill. A planning application is being prepared for submission to Flintshire County Council later in the year. An additional Liaison Committee meeting is to be held on Monday 8th May 2017, with arrangements for wider public consultation to be made.

Councillor J. Caruana informed that he had attended the Liaison Committee meeting. The intention is for the three existing cement mills to be mothballed. Transportation would now be made by rail rather than road and considerable expense is to be made on infrastructure. Two public meetings have been organised: - 23rd May 2017 at Buckley Library and 24th May 2017 at Penyffordd Legion.

24. LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor G. Sherwood advised that there was little further to report. The transition from Leeswood Community Management Committee as it stands now to the Leeswood Community Centre Charity Incorporated Organisation is making slow progress.

A forthcoming Community Centre Management Committee fundraising event is a Curry Night to be held on Saturday 27th May 2017.

25. CADWYN CLWYD – iBEACON PROJECT

The Clerk reported that she had heard nothing further from Cadwyn Clwyd regarding the iBeacon Project.

It was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk should contact Sarah Jones of Cadwyn Clwyd to ascertain the progress of this.

26. JOINT MEETING WITH FLINTSHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Correspondence had been received from Amanda Haslam, PA to Chief Officers, (Governance) and (Planning & Environment), Flintshire County Council, advising that the next joint meeting with Flintshire Standards Committee and Town/Community Councils is to take place on Monday 2nd October 2017. There also a request for a Town/Community Council to provide the venue for the evening.

Comment was made that it would be nice to host this meeting if the Community Centre was available on the evening. Councillor R. Hughes stated that he would check on the likely numbers that attend the meeting to see which room at the Community Centre would be required. All Councillors in agreement that an offer be made to host the meeting.

27. COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL – NEWS RELEASE

A news release had been received from the Community Health Council advising that the Ockenden Team and Watchdog join forces to review and consider older people's mental health care.

Various events had been organised across all six counties of North Wales during May, June and July of 2017. NHS staff, patients, carers and their families are invited to attend to talk about the care and services that are provided to older people with mental health problems.

This was accepted.

28. WELSH AUDIT OFFICE

Members will find enclosed correspondence from Anthony Barrett, Assistant Auditor General for Wales, Welsh Audit Office regarding audit fees and other matters relating to the 2015/2016 audit.

Since 2011-12, the Auditor General for Wales has published an annual report setting out the overall findings from the audits of all Town and Community Councils in Wales. These reports had highlighted systemic weaknesses in Community Councils' financial management and governance arrangements. Following consultation and extensive publicity over the last three to four years, the Auditor General changed the audit approach for Community Councils for 2015-16 to assist in addressing the weaknesses. The new approach applies to all Councils regardless of their income and expenditure. This is because the Auditor General identified that the systemic issues noted above affected Councils of all sizes. This change in approach was communicated via the Auditor General's annual reports, at One Voice Wales and Society of Local Council Clerks conferences and by local auditors following the completion of the 2014-15 audits. The new arrangements, in response to weaknesses, have increased the amount

of work auditors complete in order to discharge the Auditor General's statutory responsibilities and this has had an impact on the audit fee. In order to help Councils to develop their arrangements, the Auditor General committed to identifying in advance of each financial year, the areas that auditors would focus on as part of the new arrangements. This is also intended to help minimise audit fees. The Auditor General's reports for the 2013-14 and the 2014-15 audits specified the areas that auditors would focus on for the 2015-16 audit. These areas specifically included budget setting and monitoring. The reports were published in sufficient time to ensure Councils would be able to prepare 2015-16 budgets in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

There were three main questions regarding the audit fees: -

1) Why did the Wales Audit Office raise the invoice for the fees when the audit was conducted by an audit firm and not themselves? The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 sets out that the Auditor General for Wales is now the statutory auditor for all Town and Community Councils, therefore, all audit work is carried out on behalf of the Auditor General.

2) Why are there no VAT charges on the audit fee this year? The Auditor General does not charge VAT for the discharge of his statutory functions.

3) Why has the fee changed this year compared to the 2014/2015 audit? In previous years auditors have charged fees on a fixed scale based upon the Council's income and expenditure for the year. Following a change in legislation, the Auditor General now charges a fee to cover the full cost of undertaking the work but no more. The fees now being charged cover the cost of undertaking the audit at each individual Council.

Future governance themes to be examined by Audit are as follows: -

2017/2018 – a) effectiveness of internal audit and b) use of reserves.

2018/2019 – a) compliance with standing orders and b) delegation to Committees.

2019/2020 – a) use of s137 Local Government Act 1972 and b) arrangements for making payments.

2020/2021 – a) employment of staff and b) well-being of future generations.

29. ONE VOICE WALES – NEW COUNCILLOR INDUCTION TRAINING

Information had been received from One Voice Wales about New Councillor Induction Training to take place at Mold Town Hall on Thursday 18th May 2017 6.30pm to 9pm.

This was accepted.

30. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – TRAINING FOR NEW AND EXISTING COUNCILLORS FOLLOWING THE MAY 2017 ELECTIONS

E-mail correspondence had been received from Amanda Haslam, PA to Chief Officers, (Governance) and (Planning & Environment), Flintshire County Council, informing that there are to be three training sessions available to new and existing Councillors following the May 2017 elections.

These are to take place on: -

Thursday 25th May 2017 at 6pm – Llanasa Council to host.

Tuesday 30th May 2017 at 2pm – again Llanasa Council to host.

Thursday 1st June 2017 at 6pm – Council Chamber Room, County Hall, Mold.

This was accepted.

31. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – OPEN SPACE LAND WITHIN YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCLUSION IN A CONSULTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTING OF A DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) IN FLINTSHIRE

Correspondence had been received from Andrew Farrow, Chief Officer, Planning & Environment, Flintshire County Council, advising that there is an intention to consult on a proposed Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to cover the whole county.

PSPOs are intended to prevent individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space where the behaviour is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature, and is, or likely to be, unreasonable.

The proposed prohibited activities agreed by the Council to be included in the Dog Control PSPO are listed as follows, any breaches would result in the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice to the offender.

- a) Dog faeces must be removed immediately from all public land.
- b) A dog owner may be asked to place their dog on a lead, if requested, by an authorised officer, if the dog is causing nuisance or harassment to another dog, person or animal at any public location (there is **NOT** a requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead at all times in public areas)
- c) Dogs to be excluded from the playing areas of marked sports pitches, designated sporting areas (bowling greens, tennis courts), fenced equipped children's play areas and School Grounds.
- d) Dogs to be kept on a lead in Cemeteries.
- e) Dog walkers to have on their person a means of collecting dog waste if asked by an authorised officer.

The PSPO is necessary to replace the current Dog Control Order which will cease in October 2017, and will last for an initial period of 3 years. This matter will be open to consultation from 1st June 2017 and the County Council is currently developing a list of sites within its ownership that will be included in the order.

Councils are asked if they would like to nominate land to be included in the consultation exercise, which would allow enforcement action to be taken against any individual allowing their dog to contravene any of the above orders.

There will be no costs associated with the order for the Town and Community Councils and the cost of the enforcement patrols will be recovered through the income from any fixed penalty notices issued. Some minimal costs in respect of any signage required by the Town and Community Councils will be incurred for each of the nominated sites, which will be agreed between the two parties before the arrangements comes into place.

Nominated sites are to be provided by no later than 26th May 2017 to ensure that they are included in the consultation documents that will be sent out on the 1st June 2017.

It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes that the following Community areas are requested to be included; i) Phoenix Park, Leeswood, including the children's play area, the skate park and the football pitches; ii) the play area to the rear of Ffordd Siarl, Leeswood and iii) the play area to the rear of Bro Alun, Pontblyddyn. This was seconded by Councillor G. Sherwood. All Councillors in agreement.

32. SOUTH FLINTSHIRE POLICE CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT INSPECTOR GERAINT RICHARDS

E-mail correspondence had been received from Sarah Evans, County Based Admin Support Flintshire, informing that it had been highlighted at the South Flintshire Police Consultation Evening held on Tuesday 25th April 2017 that some PCSOs were failing to attend regular Council meetings and also failing to update Councils in their absence. A request was made for a schedule of the meetings to be forwarded so that Inspector Richards can ensure attendance at these meetings.

The Clerk advised that the dates for this year's scheduled meetings have been sent.

33. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) Business as usual – Councillor R. Hughes advised that now the election was over, it was back to business as usual. Any Councillors who had issues that were County Council matters were requested to contact him as soon as possible rather than wait until the monthly meeting of the Community Council. If he wasn't available then contact the Clerk who would be able to pass the information on. The Chairman, Councillor J. Caruana congratulated Councillor R. Hughes on his election win. This was endorsed by all Councillors.

34. MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

a) Cars parking on footpath on Bell's Corner, Leeswood – The Vice-Chairman, Councillor D. Rule once again brought attention to the ongoing issue with cars parking on the footpath on Bell's Corner, Leeswood. Councillor R. Hughes pointed out that Bryn Clyd/King Street Junction, Leeswood is also a problem, in particular for the buses travelling to the OAP bungalows. On one occasion the bus turned up Bryn Clyd but was unable to pass the vehicles parked on the junction and had to reverse. A suggestion had been made that if the bus could not get up Bryn Clyd then perhaps the drivers could go up Heol-y-Goron instead. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to both Steve Jones of Streetscene, Flintshire County Council and the North Wales Police.

b) Footpath to the rear of numbers 24 to 42 Heol-y-Goron, Leeswood – Concern was expressed that the footpath at the rear of the houses numbered 24 to 42 Heol-y-Goron, Leeswood had been blocked off. It was stated that attempts had been made by residents to discover who the landowner was but this had been unsuccessful. Comment was made that the Land Registry should know this information. Councillor R. Hughes advised that he would ask the Flintshire County Council Public Footpath Inspector to visit the site.

35. CORRESPONDENCE

a) localgiving.org – e-mail correspondence received from Emma Jones of localgiving.org giving details of the charity that supports grassroot organisations to connect with their supporters online, improve their digital skills and develop practical fundraising experience. This was accepted.

b) Flintshirecab.org.uk – e-mail correspondence from Clare Madders of flintshirecab.org.uk enquiring if the Community Council offers financial support and if so what are the application processes. Observation was made that this Council had given financial support to the Citizens Advice Bureau. All Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact Ms Madders advising that applications for donations are accepted in January each year.

36. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Miss M Reynolds	Salary/Expenses – April 2017	£567.89	£0.00	£567.89
Miss M Reynolds	Stationery/Postage/Printing	£38.45	£0.00	£38.45
Aled Davies Agricultural	Cemetery – March 2017	£743.00	£148.60	£891.60
Aled Davies Agricultural	Cemetery – April 2017	£488.00	£97.60	£585.60
Flintshire County Council	Street lighting maintenance March 2017	£81.63	£0.00	£81.63
Scottish Power	Street lighting electricity	£345.12	£17.26	£362.38
	Total	£2,264.09	£263.46	£2,527.55

37. INCOME RECEIVED

No income had been received.

38. BANK BALANCES

At present, there is £57,813.56 in the deposit account and £10,905.77 in the current account. These figures are from the statement to 29th March 2017.

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 8.20pm.