

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 2nd OCTOBER 2018.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Rule, Chairman (in the Chair),
Councillors J. Atkinson, J. Caruana, D.K. Crowther, L.C. Richardson, J.E. Saul and G. Sherwood.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds - Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillor R. Hughes, Vice-Chairman and Councillors C. Coleman, L.T. Coleman, D. Foster, T. Hughes, R. Williams.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST - MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

125. IAN WILLIAMS, AREA CO-ORDINATOR, STREETSCENE, FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor D. Rule, Chairman, welcomed Ian Williams from Streetscene, Flintshire County Council. Mr Williams was appointed the Area 8 Co-Ordinator, responsible for the Communities of Penyffordd, Higher Kinnerton, Hope, Caergwrle, Leeswood, Treuddyn and Llanfynydd at the beginning of August 2018. This is a very similar rural area to where he was previously. Mr Williams explained that he thought it was easier to meet with Community Councils face to face to discuss any issues in their area.

Reference was made to the 30mph signs on Stryt Cae Rhedyn, Leeswood, which are situated just around a blind bend and gives insufficient notice of a change in the speed limit. It is understood that the moving of these signs to the approach up to the bend has been requested but nothing has yet been done about it because of complications involving the staggering of the reduction in speed to 40mph then 30mph. Comment was also made that the hedging is growing over these signs and needs to be cut back. Mr Williams advised that he would look into this.

Observation was made to the pot holes on the Chester Road, Pontblyddyn, in the area of Bank Farm. It was believed that these could cause damage to smaller vehicles. Mr Williams advised that he had picked up on these and they would be attended to. Further in Pontblyddyn, the 'Give Way' sign by the old bridge was obscured by ivy growing over. This would be looked at.

A general issue about gulleys in the Community that required clearing due to the build up of soil and foliage. It was acknowledged that this is not always

possible as vehicles were parked close to or over them. Comment was made that the gulleys in Pontblyddyn are cleared regularly.

Road signs in the County in general were referred to. Some of these are misleading, in particular those on the approach to roundabouts and indicate exits which are not accurate. Hedgerows are also covering the signs. Query was also made as to why the speed limit signs near Schools are 20mph in a black circle, rather than in a red circle. It was pointed out in other Counties these signs are in a red circle. The Clerk informed that she had e-mailed Steve Jones of Streetscene requesting that the signs by Ysgol Derwenfa be changed but the reply had been somewhat confusing as it appeared to indicate that it was believed these signs were in a red circle.

Reference was made to the sink hole on the roadside near to the entrance of the Bridge Inn car park, Pontblyddyn. Mr Williams would look into this.

The Chairman, Councillor D. Rule, thanked Mr Williams for his attendance.

126. MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 4th September 2018 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor J. Caruana and seconded by Councillor G. Sherwood that these be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

127. ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA)

One Voice Wales, AGM - Saturday 29th September, 2018

Councillor G. Sherwood reported that he had attended the One Voice Wales AGM, on Saturday 29th September 2018, held at the Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells. There were many interesting exhibitors present. Unfortunately, the Speaker was unable to attend so a presentation was given by the Chair of the Welsh Government Association.

An independent panel has been reviewing changes to Town and Community Councils, the final report is to be given to the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary. What is quite clear is that with austerity County Councils have less money but more obligations. Education and Social Care are statutory provisions from Local Authorities. The number of people requiring Education and Social Care are going up but there is less money to provide it. Optional services, such as street lighting and the maintenance of Parks/Recreation Areas may possibly come under the remit of Town/Community Councils as they are able to obtain funds to pay for them through the Council Tax.

Town/Community Councils are expected to have more accountability. Any Councillor co-opted should be only for one term. They are then to stand in elections. Regular reports should be issued and an annual Public Meeting should be held. There will be compulsory training for Councillors and Town/Community Councils are to ensure that their Clerks are trained.

The services provided by County/Town/Community Councils are random. Some Community Councils such as ours are in charge of their Cemeteries, others may be responsible for their street lighting. We pay for the maintenance and energy for some of the street lighting in the Community.

Summer Playscheme 2018

The Clerk advised that a response to the query raised about the issues at the Playscheme in Leeswood this summer had been sent by Janet Roberts, Play Officer, Flintshire County Council to County Councillor Carolyn Thomas. In this e-mail Janet Roberts explained that she was aware of incidents relating to the scheme at Leeswood but not at Pontybodkin? Reports were being prepared for the Council. Darryl Peers, the Area Supervisor for the scheme, was to be contacted for his comments with regard to this. It was known that Darryl had spent time supporting the teams, visiting both teams on a daily basis. With regard to Leeswood, there were some nasty incidents with incidents of racist remarks directed at children. The County Council worked with the family affected by this and the police, to support the children to continue attend playscheme, which they did. Darryl's view on all of the matters was to be obtained.

Comment was made that when the issues at the Playscheme were brought up at the meeting with Inspector Whibberley at Mold Police Station, indication was given that they were unaware of the problems.

128. POLICE LIAISON

PCSO 3684 Peter Jones was unable to attend. He had sent a report in his absence.

Crime Issues / Trends

2x Shoplifting - Queen Street, Leeswood - suspect was identified, not a local. They have been dealt with.

ASB Issues

None to report.

Other News/PCSO activities:

Unfortunately, PCSO Jones did not get accepted for the funding in relation to the Hate Crime Event he wanted to set up. He had applied for £425 but due to the amount of applications that they had received he was un-successful.

The Clerk reported that along with Councillors R. Hughes, Vice-Chairman and Councillor L.C. Richardson, she had met with Inspector Darren Whibberley at the Mold Police Station on Monday 24th September 2018 at 6pm. Inspector Whibberley explained that compared to other Communities in the South Flintshire Policing area, Leeswood did not have a very high crime rate. Concern was expressed that there was Hate Crime in the Community and this was causing distress for the families involved. It was acknowledged that there was an element of this in the Community and steps were being taken to deal with it.

The Inspector further explained that there would be some crime within the Community that PCSO Jones is unable to report on due to the sensitive nature of it. It is important that the Community help the Police when incidences of crime take place and report it. If the Police are unaware of what is going on they cannot take steps to address the problems. Comment was made that incidences are being reported but it seems that nothing is being done. Inspector Whibberley informed that there is insufficient manpower and time available to keep complainants up to date. Complainants can contact the Police for a progress report.

129. ACQUISITION OF LAND - CEMETERY REQUIREMENTS/CEMETERY

Councillor J.E. Saul confirmed that he had put out requests for tender for the preliminary works. He was now awaiting responses. A meeting of the Cemetery Committee was to be arranged for Tuesday 16th October 2018.

130. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no Planning Applications received.

131. EXTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW 2017/2018

The Clerk advised that External Audit of 2017/2018 had not been completed by 30th September 2018. There was an outstanding issue relating to the numbers submitted on the Annual Return. This had been done in exactly the same way for the last five audits', so it was difficult to understand quite what the issue with the External Auditor was. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the External Auditor to find out the exact issue and to enquire if there needed to be any changes on this Council's part.

132. AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Councillor G. Sherwood informed that the Steering Group have met. An interim Committee has been established, which consists of Mrs Shereen Devine, Age Friendly Communities Project Leader; Mrs Helen Jones, Older People's Strategy Co-Ordinator, Flintshire County Council and Mr Rob Jackson. This Committee has adopted a Constitution and set up a bank account. The Community Café sited in the Clinic Area of the Community Centre is doing very well and most weeks spills out into the Main Hall. Those residents that use the Café stay awhile. Rent is paid to the Community Centre for the hire of the Clinic Area as a Café. It is hoped that the Café will keep going once Mrs Devine is no longer the Project Co-Ordinator. People are very happy to help but they do not seem to want to lead.

133. LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor G. Sherwood reported that there was little to update. The Asset Transfer is still moving slowly, Councillor R. Hughes was going to talk to someone at Flintshire County Council once he returned from his holiday. Hopefully, progress will be made to the next stage which will be the draft lease. All that had taken place so far was the Condition Survey.

134. PARKING ISSUES – BELL’S CORNER AND JUNCTION OF BRYN CLYD/KING STREET

The Clerk reported that she had e-mailed Lee Shone of the Highways Department, Flintshire County Council to obtain a progress report. In his response, Mr Shone had stated that he was going to a meeting and would give an update following this. No further information had been received.

135. CADWYN CLWYD – iBEACON PROJECT

Councillor J.E. Saul advised that Mrs Jo Danson had met with the Headteacher, teachers and pupils at Ysgol Derwenfa. The project has now been extended to go live in March 2019. All Councillors agreed that the iBeacons will be a great asset to the Community once the project has been completed.

136. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - BEST KEPT COMMUNITIES COMPETITION 2018

Councillors agreed that improvements could be made to the Community following the comments of the Judges of the Best Kept Communities Competition 2018.

Councillor D. Rule, Chairman, informed that he had attended the Presentation Evening on Friday 21st September 2018, along with Councillor R Hughes and Mrs G Hughes. Also, in attendance representing the residents of Heol-y-Dderwen, Leeswood were Mrs Dorothy Davies and Mrs Elizabeth Williams. The Chairman stated that it had been a very interesting and pleasant evening.

This item was to be put on the Agenda for the next monthly meeting.

137. FORMATION OF A VILLAGE PLAN

This item was to be put on the agenda for the next Community Council meeting.

138. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, PONTBLYDDYN CROSSROADS

Observation was made that a van had been attempting to turn from the main Wrexham/Mold Road up the Chester Road when a car came from the Mold direction and could have potentially caused an accident. The car was not travelling at excess speed, but it was considered that because visibility is restricted, this is causing problems for drivers. It was agreed by all Councillors that a site meeting needs to be held in Pontblyddyn soon. The Clerk explained that she had requested a site meeting with Mr Lee Shone of the Highways Department, Flintshire County Council, sometime in the morning during the week beginning 8th October 2018 as Councillor R Hughes would then have returned from his holiday.

139. PONTBLYDDYN VILLAGE SIGN

The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Mark Middleton, Operational Manager, Streetscene, Flintshire County Council, regarding the siting of a village sign stating Pontblyddyn. This sign is to be white with black writing and is to be sited on the rear of the ‘Pontybodkin’ village sign on the Nant, Pontblyddyn. Mr Middleton informed that he would attend to this and ask Ian Williams our

Area Co-Ordinator for Streetscene to let the Community Council know when it is to be installed. The cost of this is £250.00.

140. COUNCILLOR D. RULE, CHAIR TO THE COUNCIL - CIVIC SERVICE

Councillors are reminded that the Chairman, Councillor D. Rule's Civic Service is to take place at Christ Church, Pontblyddyn on Sunday 14th October 2018 at 11.15am.

141. NORTH WALES POLICE, SOUTH FLINTSHIRE CONSULTATION MEETING ON THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2018

The Clerk reported that Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council will be hosting the North Wales Police, South Flintshire Consultation Meeting on Thursday 15th November 2018 at the Leeswood Community Centre.

142. ARMED FORCES COVENANT TRUST

E-mail correspondence had been received from Sam Perry, Corporate Business and Communications Support Officer, Corporate Services, Flintshire County Council. Further information about the Armed Forces Covenant Trust which is running a programme to fund the costs of up to ten silhouettes for Schools, Community Groups, Places of Worship and local Charities was included. The cost of purchasing a silhouette is £250.00 and the payment is to be made to the Royal British Legion. It was agreed by all Councillors that a silhouette be purchased and that this is to be sited by the Cenotaph on Bell's Corner, Leeswood.

143. NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

E-mail correspondence had been received from Sam Perry, Corporate Business and Communications Support Officer, Corporate Services, Flintshire County Council, also information about the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Consultation on ensuring affordable Fire and Rescue Services. The closing date for responses is 2nd November 2018. This was accepted.

144. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

Received from Tracey Cunnew, PA to Chief Officer, Governance, Flintshire County Council, an e-mail advising that Members Code of Conduct training will be taking place on Wednesday 17th October 2018 at Oddfellows Hall, High Street, Saltney at 6pm. This was accepted.

145. JOINT MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Again received from Tracey Cunnew, PA to Chief Officer, Governance, Flintshire County Council, an e-mail advising that a Joint Meeting of the Standards Committee and Town & Community Councils will take place on Monday 12th November 2018 at Caffi Isa which is situated within Mynydd Isa Library Community Centre on Mercia Drive, Mynydd Isa. The café will be open on the evening and there will be an opportunity to purchase refreshments as a means of supporting Caffi Isa who have kindly offered to host the meeting. Councillor J Caruana volunteered to attend on behalf of this Council.

146. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

None other than those already discussed during the meeting.

147. MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

a) Festive Lights 2018 - a request was made for the Festive Lights to be installed earlier this year, mid to late November. Councillor J.E. Saul would attend to this.

b) Air gun in Blast Woods, Leeswood - it was brought to the Council's attention that there was a resident of the Community was in the Blast Woods with an air/pellet gun. Comment was made that this is a lethal weapon. Councillors expressed concern at this. The Clerk is to e-mail PCSO Peter Jones informing him about this.

c) 150th Anniversary of Mold Riots 2019 - Councillors considered that it would be nice to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Mold Riots. The Clerk is to e-mail the Clerks of Mold Town Council and Llanfynydd Community Council to see if they would like to put on a joint event.

d) Clerk pay increase - the Clerk advised that she was still being paid on point 23, but this should have risen to point 25. It was observed that there had been an agreement for the Clerk to go up a spinal point each year. All Councillors agreed that the Clerk should now be paid on point 25 and this was to be backdated to April 2018. It was further agreed that the Clerk should also receive back pay of spinal point 24 for the year 2017/2018.

148. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Payee	Detail	Net	VAT	Total
Miss M Reynolds	Salary/Expenses - Sept. 2018	£573.11	£0.00	£573.11
Miss M Reynolds	Postage/Printing/Stationery - Sept. 2018	£34.02	£0.00	£34.02
Miss M Reynolds	Civic Service expenses	£43.50	£0.00	£43.50
Flintshire County Council	Street lighting - maintenance	£234.81	£0.00	£234.81
The Church in Wales	Right of Way fees	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00
Hafren Dyfrdwy	Water rates - allotments	£82.64	£0.00	£82.64
One Voice Wales	AGM attendance fee	£95.00	£0.00	£95.00
HMRC	PAYE/NICs Q2	£373.60	£0.00	£373.60
	Totals	£1,441.68	£0.00	£1,441.68

149. INCOME RECEIVED

None at the time of publishing the Agenda.

150. BANK BALANCES

As at 29th August 2018: - Deposit account - £40,484.10 and current account - £9,191.15.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm.