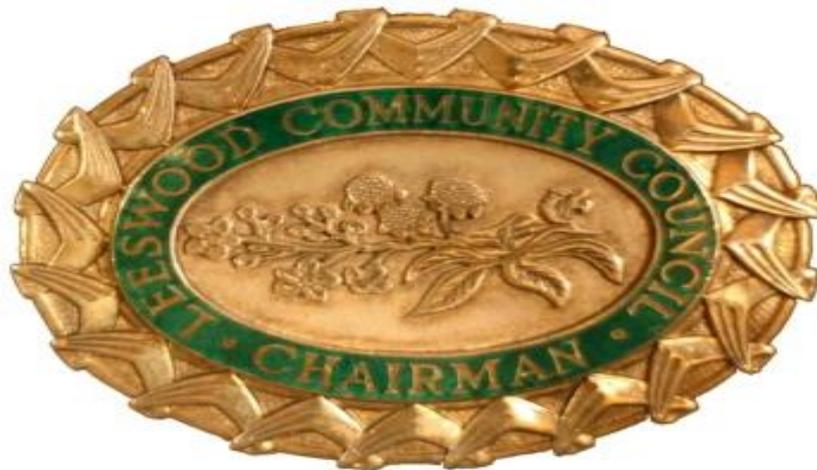


THE REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY 6th APRIL 2021

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 VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 6th APRIL 2021.

PRESENT

Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman (in the Chair),
Councillors J. Caruana, L.T. Coleman, D.K. Crowther, D. Foster, Terry Hughes, 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 Councillors J. Atkinson, Timothy Hughes and R. Williams.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

51. MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor D.K. Crowther and seconded by Councillor L.C. Richardson that these be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

The minutes of the donation meeting held on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 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.

52. POLICE LIAISON

Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, advised that there were no contact details available for the new PCSO covering our area. The Clerk agreed with this, stating that she had been unable to find any information on the North Wales Police website. It was proposed by Councillor G. Sherwood and seconded by Councillor J. Caruana that the Clerk should write to the Inspector at Mold Police Station requesting the contact details of the new PCSO. All Councillors in agreement.

Comment was made that it had been difficult to report the recent incidences of motorbikes on the pavement at the top of Heol-y-Goron, Leeswood and on the Ffordd Siarl playing fields. Councillors expressed concern at the behaviour of the young people on these motorbikes and the potential danger they presented. The Chairman, Councillor R. Hughes advised that he had spoken to officers at Flintshire County Council and the Police regarding this matter.

53. CEMETERY

Members of the Community had praised the condition of the Cemetery, stating that it was looking very well. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, pointed out that Mr Aled Davies and

his team were doing a very good job there. All Councillors were pleased that the Cemetery was receiving these favourable comments.

The Chairman, Councillor R. Hughes referred to the new hedge laurels which were looking yellow in parts. It was agreed by all Councillors that Mr Aled Davies be contacted by the Clerk and asked to keep an eye on these and do the necessary work required to maintain them.

A request had been made to purchase the four graves alongside that of the late Mr Josh Chapman. These graves completed the end of Row B in Plot 5. They had not been allocated in any particular order and the people reserving the graves had been told that this could not be done, they would have to accept they would be used as required. The Clerk advised that she had received the deposits for the graves. At the same time the Clerk requested that Plot 5 be now closed and Plot 6 started. A discussion took place on whether the reservation of grave spaces should have been permitted as the Community Council had made a decision some time ago not to allow this. It was proposed by Councillor G. Sherwood and seconded by Councillor D.K. Crowther that Plot 5 be closed. All Councillors in agreement.

The Clerk is to organise a meeting of the full Council to discuss Cemetery matters.

54. LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor G. Sherwood reported that no groups were meeting at the Community Centre due to the Coronavirus restrictions, although it was hoped that the Tablet Course would start on 19th April 2021. The Doctor's surgery is still using the Main Hall of the Community Centre to provide the Community with Covid vaccinations.

A suggestion was made that the Community Council be given a donation towards the costs being incurred by allowing the Doctor's surgery free use for the Covid vaccinations. Councillor G. Sherwood advised that the Community Centre Trustees would be approaching the Community Council for additional financial support as the Community Centre has suffered badly because of the Covid pandemic with little or no income being received. It was proposed by Councillor J.E. Saul that additional financial support for the Community Centre should be considered and then re-assessed on an annual basis, this was seconded by Councillor J. Caruana. All Councillors in agreement.

55. HANSON HEIDELBERG CEMENT

Councillor J. Caruana reported that Hanson Heidelberg Cement are involved in a project called 'Carbon Capture'. The proposed system will capture emissions of CO₂ at source and pump them to underground cavities which have been emptied over the years from natural gas or crude oil. Emissions captured at Penyffordd will be pumped to the empty gas field out at sea. To achieve this, Hanson Heidelberg Cement will connect the Plant to an existing pipeline that runs along the coast and is already connected to the empty gas field. Funding is being sought from the Government to construct the pipeline which will link the Plant to the main pipeline at a connection point in Connah's Quay. If the funding is secured and the system operational, the CO₂ emissions in the area will be drastically reduced. The Chairman, Councillor R. Hughes thanked Councillor Caruana for his report.

56. DEFIBRILLATOR – LEESWOOD VILLAGE

Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, reported that he had met with Mr Barry Wilkinson, Highway Network Manager, Flintshire County Council on site. They are looking for a location at the top end of the village to put a post and shelter with an electric feed. A suggestion was made that consideration be given to siting it near the location of the old bus shelter on Stryt Cae Rhedyn.

57. NHS, SOCIAL CARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL EVENT

Because of the current covid restrictions no progress has been made with the planning of this event.

58. LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN AGE FRIENDLY STEERING GROUP – BENCH ON VERGE OUTSIDE YSGOL DERWENFA

The Chairman, Councillor R. Hughes reported that he would be meeting with Mr Barry Wilkinson, Highway Network Manager, Flintshire County Council on site to discuss the location of a bench on the verge outside Ysgol Derwenfa, Leeswood.

59. PONTBLYDDYN CROSSROADS AND VILLAGE

It was reported by Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, that Flintshire County Council intend to hold a new traffic survey through Pontblyddyn as soon as possible.

60. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - SUMMER PLAYScheme 2021

Members had been circulated with e-mail correspondence from Janet A Roberts, Play Development Officer, Flintshire County Council, informing that the County Council have now received the mandate nationally and locally to deliver their play services for 2021. To reassure Community Councils, Flintshire County Council is now well experienced in delivering projects to the highest standard of risk management during the pandemic. This was accepted.

61. ONE VOICE WALES – TRAINING SESSIONS APRIL 2021

E-mail correspondence from Wendy Patience, Administrator, One Voice Wales, advising of the training sessions available during April 2021 had been circulated to all Members. This was accepted.

62. ONE VOICE WALES MEMBERSHIP 2021/2022

Members had been circulated with e-mail correspondence from Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales, relating to the renewal of membership details for 2021/2022.

Also circulated were the following documents: -

A letter giving details of what One Voice Wales have been up to on your behalf during 2020/2021 financial year.

A Frequently Asked Questions Leaflet in relation to the work of One Voice Wales.

A Guide to our Services Brochure which explains in detail what your council can expect from One Voice Wales if you are in membership.

One Voice Wales Members Survey 2020.

Councillor G. Sherwood advised that he is still the Vice-Chairman of the Flintshire/Wrexham local group.

63. OPERATION FORTH BRIDGE

Information relating to the protocol involved should the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, pass away during the Covid pandemic which had been provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks was circulated to all Members. The Clerk advised that poppy wreaths to lay at the Lychgate in Pontblyddyn and the Cenotaph at Leeswood had been ordered in preparation of this sad event occurring. It had also been arranged for the RBL standard to fly at half-mast on the flagpole by the Cenotaph and the Union and Welsh Flags to fly half-mast on the flagpole by the Lychgate. The Community Council website was to have a photograph of the Duke of Edinburgh and the announcement of his death on the front page with a statement made on by the Chairman on behalf of this Council. All Councillors accepted this information and the arrangements that the Clerk had made.

64. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) Repairing of potholes in the villages of Leeswood and Pontblyddyn – Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman advised that this remedial work had taken place on the Chester Road in Pontblyddyn and on the Wrexham Road in the area of the Cricket Club, Pontblyddyn. Flintshire County Council were working on the potholes on the main roads before the smaller roads. Work on the Dingle Road would be starting shortly.

65. AGENDA ITEMS AWAITING COMPLETION/FURTHER INFORMATION

a) Parking issues – Bell’s Corner

This item remains on the Agenda as per Minute 274 of the April 2017 meeting. The yellow lines would be painted in once the road re-surfacing had been complete. It is acknowledged that work here remains outstanding and the situation with the pandemic is not helping.

b) Environmental act 2016 – Community & Town Councils duty under section 6

This item remains on the Agenda as per Minute 127 of the October 2019 meeting. The Clerk advised that she has not received any further information.

c) Visibility issues junction of Constitution Hill, Leeswood

This item remains on the Agenda as per Minute 130 of the October 2019 meeting. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman reported that although monitoring is ongoing, the issue in that area has changed at the present because of the Coronavirus restrictions.

66. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

a) Bank mandate – The Clerk advised that at present cheques could only be signed by her and three Councillors, these being Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman and Councillors J. Caruana and J.E. Saul. Each cheque requires three signatures as per the mandate. It was agreed by all Councillors that Councillors D.K. Crowther, L.C. Richardson and G. Sherwood be added to the mandate.

b) Audit 2020/2021 – Correspondence had been received from Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales advising that in October 2020, he announced changes to his audit arrangements for community and town councils across Wales. These new arrangements include a new form of audit that includes a more detailed review of councils’ financial transactions on a three-year cyclical basis which Councils had been told about in December 2020. Since December, his audit suppliers have brought to his attention a significant backlog in completion of the 2019-20 audits across Wales. 2020 has been a

difficult year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the sector has been particularly hard hit. Many councils were unable to meet for a considerable length of time and this caused significant delays in the preparation of the 2019-20 accounts. These delays had a knock-on effect on the completion of audit work. In early January 2021, his audit suppliers reported that the 2019-20 audits for almost 200 councils had not been completed with a significant number of these having not provided accounts for audit by the end of December 2020. The primary reason for the delayed submission of accounts is the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of councils. Given the current ongoing restrictions, the Auditor General considers it to be unlikely that many of the outstanding councils will be in a position to provide 2019-20 accounts for audit before the summer of 2021. Therefore, there will be an increased burden for these councils to prepare accounts for both 2019-20 and 2020-21 in the next few months. Furthermore, the introduction of new arrangements at this time is causing some concern amongst clerks. These concerns expressed include the amount of additional work Clerks will have to undertake to clear multiple audits and additional procedures they will have to follow for the new arrangements. While, in the view of the Auditor General, the new arrangements should not result in any significant additional work by clerks, this is a concern that has been expressed a number of times and will need to be addressed by further communications with the sector. In order to help the sector as a whole to get up to date, he has decided to defer the introduction of the new arrangements for one year. The new arrangements will therefore apply for the audit of the 2021-22 accounts. In previous annual reports on financial management and governance in the sector, it has been highlighted that there is a backlog in accounts submitted for audit. Due to these issues, this ongoing issue has escalated significantly. Deferring the introduction of the new audit arrangements will reduce the pressure on Councils and provide a breathing space for Audit Wales to work with councils where accounts are overdue and to further explain and allay fears over the new arrangements. Over the next few months, the Auditor General's audit teams will contact individual councils to make arrangements for the completion of 2019-20 and prior-year audits alongside the audit of the 2020-21 accounts. It is important for all affected councils to use this time to catch up. It is his intention to have completed up to and including the 2020-21 audits for all councils in Wales by the end of December 2021.

67. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Payee	Detail	Net	VAT	Total
Miss M Reynolds	Salary – March 2021	£673.52	£0.00	£673.52
Aled Davies Agricultural	Cemetery maintenance – March 2021	£264.00	£52.80	£316.80
Came and Company	Insurance 2021/2022	£1,077.27	£0.00	£1,077.27
One Voice Wales	Membership 2021/2022	£337.00	£0.00	£337.00
Royal British Legion	Wreaths	£77.00	£0.00	£77.00
	Totals: -	£2,428.79	£52.80	£2,481.59

68. INCOME RECEIVED

There was no income received.

69. BANK BALANCES

As at 29th February 2021 - deposit account - £46,370.02 and current account - £46,044.78.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.10pm.