

**THE REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 6th AUGUST 2024**

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 LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 6th AUGUST 2024.

PRESENT

Councillor J. Caruana, Chairman (in the Chair),
Councillors J. Atkinson, D. Foster, R. Hughes, J.E. Saul, G. Sherwood and M. Thomas.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors A. Bond, T. Hughes, S. Owen and R. Thomas.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

38. MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2024 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor G. Sherwood and seconded by Councillor R. Hughes that these be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2024 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes and seconded by Councillor G. Sherwood that these be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2024 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor D. Foster and seconded by Councillor G. Sherwood that these be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor J.E. Saul and seconded by Councillor D. Foster that these be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

39. RESIGNATION – COUNCILLORS S. PRITCHARD AND L.C. RICHARDSON

The Clerk reported that there had been no requests for an election to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of Councillors S. Pritchard and L.C.

Richardson. A notice of co-option would be put up on notice boards in due course.

40. POLICE LIAISON

The Clerk confirmed that she was trying to arrange a meeting with the PCSOs at a date and time suitable to all. It was understood that the PCSO shifts may not coincide with the monthly meetings of this Council.

41. CEMETERY

a) Cemetery Extension

The Clerk advised that work was continuing on site. Whilst land work was being carried out AJK Plant Hire had found a pipe in the ground of the new Cemetery and it would seem that this was a drainage pipe but it is not on any of the drainage plans. AJK Plant Hire chased the pipe back for about three metres when it stopped. It has now been removed from the burial areas and capped off outside the burial areas.

Councillors J. Atkinson and R. Hughes informed that they had attended the Cemetery to visit family graves and had seen the work carried out so far. They were very impressed with this and pleased with the progress. All Councillors appreciated these comments. Query was made as to whether it would be necessary to close the Cemetery while the work on the existing road took place. The Clerk reported that all work on the existing road was completed and there had been no disturbance to anyone accessing the Cemetery.

b) Cemetery

Councillors J. Atkinson and R. Hughes commented that the Cemetery was in excellent condition and Mr Aled Davies and his team were doing an excellent job there. The Clerk confirmed that she had been told by a number of visitors to the Cemetery how pleased they were with the condition.

42. LEESWOOD ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk informed that she, Councillor S. Owen (in the Chair) and Councillor G. Sherwood had met with a number of the allotment holders at the Leeswood Community Centre on Wednesday 17th July 2024. A number of issues had been raised at the meeting.

a) Tenancy Agreement – it was noted that those tenants who had been allotment holders since 2010 had an original tenancy agreement from this Community Council. The Clerk had pointed out at the meeting that those tenants who came later did not have this, and these allotment holders concurred. Councillors observed that there had clearly been a breakdown of communication between this Council and the Allotment Association.

b) Trees on individual plots – the Clerk reported that the landowner, Mr B. Williams, as part of the lease agreement with this Council, had requested that no trees be planted on individual plots without consent of the landlord or his agent. Unfortunately, trees had been planted without permission and Mr Williams had contacted the Clerk via e-mail to advise that some of the trees that had been planted were not fruit trees and there was a tree approximately 15ft high which seemed to be an abandoned allotment. Mr Williams' view is that if an allotment is abandoned this then becomes someone else's problem. Councillor G. Sherwood advised that the allotment holder who had planted this tree was present at the meeting, and he had informed that the tree had grown to an unexpected height, but he was unable to do anything about it at present as he was working on his master's degree. It was noted by Councillors that this was an unsatisfactory response. Since the meeting queries had been raised by allotment holders as to whether there could be fruit bushes on the plots. All Councillors agreed that Mr B. Williams, landlord of the site, be asked to attend a meeting of this Council to determine what was acceptable on the allotment plots.

c) Allotment rent – it was pointed out by the allotment holders that the rent they paid to the Allotment Association included their membership, insurance and other communal costs such as fuel for machinery. The Clerk advised that she had not been aware of this, and Council would need to give serious consideration to the rent charge in future. Councillor G. Sherwood stated that it was important that the rent for the allotments was discussed at the next monthly meeting so that the tenants could be informed of the increase that would take place in October 2025. All Councillors were in agreement.

d) Sheds/Greenhouses – requests had been made by allotment holders as to whether they could have sheds or greenhouses on their plots. Mr B. Williams, landlord of the site advised that he would not accept any of these structures on site.

e) Compost boxes on individual plots – it had been noted that allotment holders cleared their plots and put this in a pile on the allotment compound which was unacceptable. The Clerk had advised all present at the meeting on 17th July 2024 that this had been removed at a cost to this Council. In future allotment holders were to have boxes for compost on their individual plots and other waste that was not compostable was to be removed from site.

f) Allotment Association Committee – it was noted that at this time the Allotment Association did not have a working committee and all the work fell to their Chairman, Councillor J. Caruana and Secretary, Mr M. Brown. The Clerk had advised the allotment holders that they needed to hold an AGM to

appoint a committee. Two Councillors would also be appointed to this committee by the Community Council.

The Clerk advised that she had visited the allotment site on Thursday 18th July 2024. Mr B. Williams had advised that there were weeds on site that were encroaching on another landowner's field. This was not the case, and no work was required. There was a plot which was shown not to have been touched during this season although the allotment holder had paid rent. An e-mail had been sent to this allotment holder requesting that they attended the plot and carried out some work within a month otherwise they would have their tenancy withdrawn.

43. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

a) Pontblyddyn Crossroads and Village – Councillor J.E. Saul advised that he still had not received a response to his follow up e-mail to Mr Anthony Stanford, Transport Manager, Streetscene & Transportation, Flintshire County Council. Councillors once again expressed their dissatisfaction at the time it was taking for Mr Stanford to respond to Councillor Saul's e-mail.

b) New vehicular access on land belonging to Druid Cottage, Pontblyddyn - Councillor J. Atkinson expressed concern at work that had been carried out on this site. She informed Council that fences had been erected on the site which was out of character with the local environment. Furthermore, the development of the site has resulted in significant damage which has resulted in a loss to the wildlife and wild plants/flowers. Drainage channels have also been constructed to drain the site which is a flood plain and this has a potential to cause more flooding downstream in the River Alyn and have a detrimental effect on Pontblyddyn village. Councillor J.E. Saul concurred with these remarks and pointed out that the new junction was close to other existing junctions to property and busy car parks which is contrary to road safety recommendations. There are also flooding issues in this area and in the last month a flood on this part of the highway had resulted in a restriction to single lane traffic. All Councillors agreed that a letter be sent to the planning department at Flintshire County Council regarding this.

44. SCOTTISH POWER – EXIT FROM INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL MARKET

The Clerk advised that the Society of Local Council Clerks had suggested that 'npower' is approached as a potential provider for the unmetered supplies.

45. HANSON HEIDELBERG CEMENT

Councillor J. Caruana reported that there some work had been carried out

at Hanson Heidelberg Cement, Padeswood Works with noise which had been completed within the required limits.

46. LEESWOOD AND DISTRICT NEWS

Councillor J. Caruana informed that the following the resignation of the Editor, the Leeswood and District News were hoping to find an administrator to collect reports from the local organisations for insertion in the Newsletter.

47. MILLENNIUM CLOCK AND TOWER, BELL'S CORNER, LEESWOOD

Smith of Derby had sent an e-mail explaining that their engineer John attended site recently to complete the annual service of the clock in Leeswood. On this visit it was reported that the lighting within the clock is barely working (one is practically invisible at night). In addition to this, the weathervane has been pushed over slightly by a nearby tree. The engineer has installed a temporary fix for this, but it does require further work. Due to these findings, Smith of Derby proposed for one of their engineers to attend site, access the clock and replace the old circular lights with energy efficient LED tubes. In addition to this, they would also install new fixings to secure the weathervane to stop it moving in future. This proposed work will cost **£927 + VAT**, and it has been costed for it to be done with other work in the area to bring the costs down which may affect lead time.

The Clerk reported that the bulbs in the Millennium Clock were supposedly changed to LED in early 2022 following the proposal for upgrade received on 15th December 2021. Councillor J.E. Saul observed that the bulbs installed following the upgrade should not be in the non-working condition that they are now. It was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk respond to Smith of Derby querying as to whether the initial upgrade was actually carried out. The Clerk confirmed that this Council had paid for the upgrade.

48. ONE VOICE WALES – LLAIS – WALES AIR AMBULANCE

Members had been circulated with a copy of an e-mail received from Sue Irlam, Regional Operations Manager, Llais Cymru, advising that Geoff Ryal-Harvey had spoken at a meeting of the One Voice Wales North Wales Committee about the Wales Air Ambulance. There is an on-line petition to demand a full public enquiry into the closure of Welsh Air Ambulance bases in North and Mid Wales which they encourage to share and sign.

49. WELSH GOVERNMENT – COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS – COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES AND HOMEWORKING ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSUMABLES

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Sara Rees, Welsh Government. Also circulated were copies of the guidance

and frequently asked questions from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales regarding Community and Town Councils - Councillor Allowances - Homeworking arrangements and consumables.

50. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS – FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**

a) D-Day Service at the Cenotaph 6th June 2024 – Councillor R. Hughes thanked Miss Cheryl Francis for organising the D-Day Service on behalf of the Leeswood Royal British Legion at the Cenotaph on 6th June 2024. It had been a difficult time with the recent loss of Standard Bearer Terry Hughes. A Minute's Silence for Mr Hughes had also been held at the time. All Councillors expressed their appreciation to Miss Francis for the work she does for the Leeswood Royal British Legion.

b) Bryn Estyn, Leeswood seat – Councillor R. Hughes informed that following the vehicle accident on Bryn Estyn, Leeswood, the seat had been destroyed and was removed by Flintshire County Council. A request has been made to Flintshire County Council that this be replaced if they have a spare seat available.

c) Leeswood Playscheme – Councillor M. Thomas advised that he had visited at the Playscheme being held on Phoenix Park, Leeswood. It was well attended, and the Leaders had reported no issues. All Councillors were pleased to hear this.

51. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Payee	Detail	Net	VAT	Total
Miss M Reynolds	Salary – July 2024	£809.63	£0.00	£809.63
Aled Davies Agricultural	Cemetery maintenance – July 2024	£671.00	£134.20	£805.20
HMRC	PAYE/NICs Q1 2024/2025	£585.63	£0.00	£585.63
Flintshire County Council	Street lighting maintenance Jan.-Mar. 2024	£274.98	£55.00	£329.98
Flintshire County Council	Street lighting maintenance April-June 2024	£274.98	£55.00	£329.98
<u>Totals: -</u>		<u>£2,616.22</u>	<u>£244.20</u>	<u>£2,860.42</u>

52. **BANK BALANCES**

At 29th April 2024 - deposit account - £115,473.62 and current account - £55,475.03.