



CYNGOR CYMUNED CHWITFFORDD / WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of The Meeting of Whitford Community Council

Held at St. Paul's Church, Gorsedd,

On Thursday the 13th June, 2024, at 7.00pm

1(A). 129/24

PRESENT

Councillor Billy Glynn (Chair)
Councillor Caradoc W. Jones (Vice Chair)
Councillor Tim Barks
Councillor Matthew J. Marshall
Councillor Gareth Sharp
Councillor Paul Urquhart
Councillor Melanie Wallis
Councillor Steve Watts

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(B). 130/24

APOLOGIES

Councillor Richard Dolphin
Councillor Emma Warbrick
Councillor Joseph Williams

1(C). 131/24

ABSENT

None

2. 132/24

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

- (1) Concern expressed in relation to high volume of vehicles exceeding the speed limit on Llwyn Ifor Lane, with a suggestion the traffic is visiting a nearby park site. The correspondence had been copied by the writer to County Councillor Chris Dolphin, Wayfind Pennant Park, together with others.

County Councillor Chris Dolphin had advised the resident that he would discuss with County Highways and possibly arrange a site visit to the area, which would include this Community Council. Councillor Dolphin will also request Go Safe visit the area.

- (2) Concern expressed in relation to high volume of vehicles exceeding the speed limit on the A5026 Road in Carmel (near area of former Halfway House). The Clerk advised that he had forwarded the concern to County Councillor Chris Dolphin, who will discuss with a Highway Officer. The Clerk had also forwarded to the resident a link to the Go Safe web site whereby a request could be made to carry out observations.
- (3) Report that a number of Community Council street lanterns were faulty in Lloc. Following investigation the lanterns were in the ownership of the County Council but were not listed on their lighting system. The lamps have been repaired.

3. 133/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

4. 134/24

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH MAY, 2024

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Caradoc Jones and seconded by Councillor Paul Urquhart and formally agreed by the Members present.

5. 135/24

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) **Red K6 Telephone Box in Whitford:** Prior to the meeting Councillors received a pdf which contained hand drawings by pupils of Ysgol Y Llan primary school in Whitford, who had kindly provided their thoughts for the future usage of the Red K6 telephone box – which is sited nearby the school. Members also viewed the document on screen and were pleased that the pupils had provided their drawings and suggestions. It was noted that the majority of pupils suggested the box be used as an information centre and book store.

Members agreed the following: (1) The Clerk to make contact with the Secretary of the Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant Society to seek their views on the Society providing historical information / literature for the phone box (2) The Clerk to thank the Ysgol Y Llan pupils for their hand drawings and suggestion, which was appreciated.

- (2) **Ysgol Bro Carmel:** Correspondence received from the Head teacher of Ysgol Bro Carmel, which provided details for an environment wildflower project which will provide the pupils with first hand experience of a natural habitat and enhance their understanding of the importance of caring for our environment. The funds allocated by the Council will be of tremendous benefit and make a significant difference to the children and biodiversity.

Members agreed the following: Were extremely pleased that the school had identified this environmental project and were pleased to confirm, the transfer of funds to the school of £2,500.00. (Minute number 10. 145/24 on page 9 below).

- (3) **Community Councillor Vacancy:** The Clerk confirmed to Members that a Public Notice advertising the Councillor vacancy had been displayed on all Council notice boards, the Council's web site and would appear in the next edition of the Five Villages Chronicle.

The closing date for Expressions of Interest is 12 noon on Thursday 4th July, whereafter Council will consider applications at the 11th July meeting.

- (4) **Grass cutting contract:** The Clerk advised that the newly contracted road litter picking contractor named Treetops Environmental had confirmed the following: Insurance cover is in place; required personal protection equipment is held; the disposal of litter and other items will be taken to Thorncliffe's in Ewloe and transfer notes will be kept.
- (5) **Children's play area, Whitford – Site meeting:** The Clerk advised that a site meeting held been arranged at the Whitford children's play area with Richard Roberts (Aura Leisure) on Thursday 4th June. Councillors' Billy Glynn (Chair of Council) and Councillor Caradoc Jones (Vice Chair of Council) attended.

Councillors' Billy Glyn and Caradoc Jones reported that the upgrade to the tennis courts area was of a high standard. Ideas for new play equipment were discussed. Concerns were expressed with the lack of grasscutting in the areas of the play equipment and football pitch, including the usage of the football pitch by the adjoining primary school. The sand pit area was also discussed with a view to its possible removal.

It was reported that Richard Robets (Aura Leisure) would prepare draft plans for new equipment in the play area for consideration by this Council.

Members agreed the following: Confirmed their commitment to allocate from ear-marked reserves the sum of £10,000 – towards additional children's play equipment in Whitford.

- (6) **Pen Y Gelli Nature Reserve:** The Clerk advised the following: (1) There had been no reply from Davies Land & Sea to the request for information following the County Tree Officer's report (2) The work to remove the most urgent trees in the nature reserve that are infected with ash die back disease, together with the removal of the large tree adjacent to the A5026 has not been completed despite a Work Order being issued in March of this year.

Councillor Tim Barkes advised that he had spoken with the proprietor of Davies Land & Sea, whereby the delay had been to broken machinery. The work would commence during week commencing 17th June.

- (7) **The Bryn, Carmel:** The Clerk read out to Members a reply from the County Biodiversity Officer, who advised the following: 'Although the damage is significant, we are confident that the wildflowers will come back to the area'.
- (8) **Gorsedd Cross Roads – Parking Concerns:** The Clerk advised that following correspondence to Police Inspector W. Williams, the following reply had been received. 'The Neighbourhood Team have visited the area on regular occasions and there were very few vehicles causing issues. The Team will maintain their attendance to gain a greater understanding. Possibly a meeting between the Council, Police and the premises owner could be considered'. County Councillor Chris Dolphin had been copied into the correspondence.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to write further to Inspector Williams seeking that his Neighbourhood Team visit, in particular, during the following days and times: Weeknights between 5pm to 8pm and Saturday and Sunday between 12 noon to 2pm.

- (9) **Pavement Extension between Lloc and Pany Y Wacco:** The Clerk advised that following correspondence sent to County Councillor Chris Dolphin, the County have agreed that a survey of the area will be undertaken. This may take some time.

- (10) **Pavement Extension in Gorsedd:** The Clerk advised that a video meeting had been held with Lee Shone (County Technical Officer), County Councillor Chris Dolphin together with Councillor Billy Glyn and the Clerk to discuss the outstanding footpath extension in Gorsedd. A number of minor changes to the specifications were advised, the speed limit and narrow road sign will be relocated. It was confirmed by Lee Shone, that the funding for new village signs, bicycle racks and bench seating is still held.
- (11) **Community Award:** The Clerk confirmed, the Community Award Public Notices have been placed on all the Council's village notice boards, including the web site. The notice appears in the recent edition of the Five Villages Chronicle. The closing date for nominations is 12 noon on Thursday 4th July, whereafter Council will consider at the 11th July meeting.

6(A). 136/24

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received, that was required to be either advised to, or dealt with by the Members:

- (1) The Clerk advised, that the following criminal offences had been reported to the North Wales Police, that had occurred within the Whitford Community Council area:

Carmel - 2 x Violence

Gorsedd - 1 x Violence

Lloc - 1 x Violence

Lloc (Services) – No crimes reported

Pantasaph - 1 x Anti social behaviour

Whitford - No crimes reported

- (1) Request received from the Church Warden at St Mary's and St Beuno's Church in Whitford, for the Community Council to provide public conveniences in the village. The correspondence refers to the usage of the Glebe field (Children's play area) together with the visitors to the Church. Members viewed the correspondence on screen.

Members agreed the following: The cost to the Community Council would be prohibitive to build both the facility and thereafter provide funding for the yearly running costs. It was therefore not possible for the Community Council to agree to the request.

In reaching their decision the Council also took into consideration that they do not own the Glebe Field which would negate any application for funding towards a new building. Flintshire County Council have over the past couple of years closed all their public conveniences, apart from two. The yearly costs to keep open, male, female and accessible toilets is in the region of £18,000. The Clerk advised that there were no known public conveniences adjacent to children's play areas within the County of Flintshire.

- (2) Request received from Ron Bailey on behalf of Lord Don Foster (House of Lords) seeking that this Council support a Bill to improve the safety of lithium batteries – as used in e-bike and e-scooters, including their disposal. The Bill is supported by a number of national organisations, including Electrical Safety First, National Fire Chiefs, Association of

Ambulance Chief Executives, The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and Royal Society for Public Health.

Members agreed the following: The Clerk to reply to Mr. Bailey to confirm this Council's support to a Bill to improve the safety of lithium batteries.

The following correspondence was forwarded by e-mail to Members:

- ❖ Welsh Government: Survey named 'Give Feedback' on roads with a 20mph speed limit review. Councillors to respond on a personal basis:
 - (1) Change from 20mph to 30mph
 - (2) Change from 30mph to 20mph
 - (3) Stay at 20mph
- ❖ Flintshire County Council: Notification in relation to the above Welsh Government speed limit review
- ❖ Welsh Government: Notification from Ken Skates MS Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport, in relation to the Welsh Government's 'Our Listening Programme on 20mph'.
- ❖ One Voice Wales: Courses available named; Biodiversity 1, Biodiversity 2 and Nature Project Management. Councillors to advise the Clerk should they wish to attend
- ❖ One Voice Wales: Courses available over the following three months. Councillors to advise the Clerk should they wish to attend
- ❖ Flintshire County Council (Aura Leisure): Summer play scheme details (Councillors asked to upload to the various village Facebook pages)

6(B). 137/24 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised Members in relation to the following:

- (a) Community and Town Council's in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2024. The Clerk confirmed the following:
 - (i) Requested information and documents have been submitted to Audit Wales
 - (ii) Notice of Appointment of the date for the Exercise of Electors' Rights. Date of announcement 4th June 2024, commencing on 1st July to 26th July. Public Notice placed on Council's notice board (photograph taken) and uploaded to Council's web site
 - (iii) The Whitford Community Council is subject to a full audit for the year ending 2023 / 2024. The requested additional documents will be sent by courier to the Audit Wales Office in Cardiff in July, as per instructions
- (b) Budget / Precept information sent to Council Members in relation to all Town & Community Councils in Flintshire.

- (c) Request from the County Bio-diversity Officer to install an information wooden nature area post with QR code in The Bryn, Carmel at no cost to this Council. The Clerk advised that he had consulted with the Chair and Vice Chair of Council, who had agreed the post installation
- (d) The Clerk recollected Members to an agreement made in 2023 to allow the contractors carrying out work at Ysgol Y Llan primary school in Whitford to gain access through this Council's land and to temporarily remove a fence. The work at the school had been completed with the fence and groundworks reinstated. Councillor Billy Glynn advised that he had visited the area and confirmed, that there was no concern with the work completed.

Councillor Glynn further advised, that there are a number of grassed areas that should have been included in the annual grass cutting schedule.

Members agreed the following: (1) The Clerk to seek a separate quotation from Treetops Environmental to cut the grass in the Council's car park adjacent to Ysgol Y Llan in Whitford - for three cuts at the end of the following months: June, July and August (2) The Chair and Vice Chair of Council to consider the quotation in-between meetings.

The Clerk advised that Councillor Steve Watts had completed a New Councillor Induction course provided by One Voice Wales

6(C). 138/24

TO DISCUSS: STREET LIGHTING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT

The Clerk recollected Members to the previous correspondence received from Scottish Power who advised that they would cease to provide electricity supply to street lanterns during 2025.

The Clerk advised that he was in contact with other Council Clerk's who were all endeavouring to source a new supplier. This was proving difficult as there are numerous Council's across the country seeking similar. The Clerk further advised in relation to one quotation which was an increase of £2,472.00 to the present yearly cost. The Clerk would report further at the July Council meeting.

6(D). 139/24

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS DOLPHIN

The Clerk advised in relation to the following received from County Councillor Chris Dolphin:

- (1) Speeding concern in Llwyn Ifor Lane. A site meeting has been held with Street Scene to establish if the signate is appropriate for the area
- (2) The surface water drains have been unblocked in Llwyn Ifor Lane
- (3) Site meeting held on Monastery Road in Pantasaph. It was agreed that the road requires re-surfacing. This will be further raised with the Technical Officer.

6(E). 140/24

STREETSCENE SCHEDULE (FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

The Clerk advised in relation to the following concern that had been reported to StreetScene, since the last Council meeting:

- ❖ Monastery Road in Pantasaph: Protruding hedge causing difficulty for a local resident with a perambulator. The hedge commences from the former Fielding Arms towards the junction to Babell and Gorsedd.

The Clerk provided the following update from Mr. Nigel Seaburg (StreetScene) Officer

- Councillor Billy Glynn advised Members that he has spoken to Mr. Nigel Seaburg (Street Scene) in relation to the hedge concern in Pantasaph – as reported above. Mr. Seaburg has made contact with the land owner and requested the hedge to be cut back away from the footway.

Members brought the following concerns to the meeting:

- (1) Gorsedd Road: Pot hole – across from Llys Orsedd. This was filled in some two weeks ago but is defect again
- (2) Glol Woods: Broken Right of Way gate

The Clerk advised, that the above concerns would be brought to the attention of StreetScene.

7. 141/24

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

There were no reports specific to the Local Committees and Outside Bodies schedule, or Council Members who had attended meetings on behalf of the Council.

8(A). 142/24

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application was considered by Members at the meeting:

- (1) Application number: FUL/000084/24 – for amendment to submitted application for extension to existing access, including two metre high boundary wall and new field gate, at Groesffordd, Llwyd Ifor Lane, Whitford.

Comment by Council: Object to the application for the following reasons:

- (a) Flintshire Local Development Plan (LDP) – Section PC2: This development would urbanise the entrance to an open field in the open countryside.
- (b) The following is noted from the planning application form:
 1. Trees and Hedges: The applicant has answered NO to the question on the application form when the correct answer is YES. The trees, hedges have been affected and removed.
 2. Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: The applicant has answered NO to the question on the application form (iii) item 3 when the correct answer is YES
 3. Referring to the drawing DWJ IJ07 – Existing and proposed: The work has already been completed – trees, hedge and small stone wall removed.
 4. Referring to the drawing DWJ IJ02 – Existing entrance into the field: This is a new entrance and not was existing when the application was made.

5. Referring to the drawings DWJ IJ06 – Block plans of existing and the proposals: The existing is a new break through with trees, hedges and small stone wall removed completed in readiness for this application. This boundary breakthrough is a newly constructed entrance from the public highway.
6. The entrance into the field is a new entrance and not an old existing entrance - having the trees, hedge and stones removed.

(2) Application number: FUL/000341/23 – for amendments to submitted – for the demolition of a previous two-storey extension and replacement with a new two-storey extension along with associated internal layout alterations, a new first floor extension, new raised timber decking, relocation of the driveway entrance and a detached, single-storey pitched-roof garage, at Pickpocket Hall, Babell Road, Pantasaph.

Comment by Council: Subject to compliance with relevant policies and planning guidance notes, then no objections raised.

8(B). 143/24

PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council:

- (i) Application number: DET/000194/24 - Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 7 Planning Ref 055855 Bryn Mair, Gorsedd. Partially Discharges
- (ii) Application number: FUL/001011/23 – Application for Steel Storage Shed for animal holding and equipment & new access Sarn Mill, Sarn, Whitford. Approved
- (iii) Application number: NMA/000715/23 - Application for non-material amendment following grant of planning reference: 05 at Pennant Park Golf Club, Mertyn Downing Lane, Maes Pennant, Mostyn. Approved

9. 144/24

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (April - Street Lighting Electricity Account - payment dated: 21/05/2024)	533.42	106.68	640.10
	Direct Debit: HSBC Bank (charges) Payment dated: 31/05/2024	5.00		5.00
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for May) Payments dated: 03/06/2024			
	<u>Payments for consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			

	One Voice Wales (New Councillor Induction Training fee – Steve Watts)	40.00		40.00
	Audit Wales (Audit fees for 2021 / 2022)	235.00		235.00
	Audit Wales (Audit fees for 2022 / 2023)	200.00		200.00
	Treetops Environmental (Litter picking contract for May)	700.00		700.00
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (May - Street Lighting Electricity Account - payment due: 18/06/2024)	551.22	110.24	661.46

10. 145/24

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	<u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u> Ysgol Bro Carmel (Application to release ear-marked funds of £2,500.00 to the School for environment projects) (Section 137 LGA 1972) (Minute number: 5. 135/24 (2) on page 2 above)	£2,500.00

11. 146/24

Members agreed the payments of the above accounts and financial support as listed.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

SIGNED BY CHAIR OF COUNCIL:.....

DATE OF APPROVAL:.....