

PEN-Y-CAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COVID-19

Minutes of the the Pen-y-Cae Community Council Meeting held by ZOOM on Monday 23rd November 2020.

PRESENT

Chair – Cllr. Dr S. Evans

Cllr. C. Davies
Cllr. P. Matthews
Cllr. J. Lowe
Cllr. K. Gilpin
Cllr. A Tynan
Cllr. G. Edwards

Cllr. A. Phillips
Cllr. J. Jones
Cllr K. Phillips
Cllr. J.C. Phillips
Cllr. H. Davies

(20)112 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr. S. Jones
Cllr. P. Davies

Cllr. A. Phillips was having difficulty maintaining connection to the meeting therefore Cllr. Dr. S. Evans took the Chair.

(20)113 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest from members present.

(20)114 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th October copies having previously been circulated, were approved and adopted

(20)115 MATTERS ARISING from the minutes

1. **Interactive Speed Signs**

The remaining interactive signs had now been installed and some positive feedback had been received from the ones installed on Stryt Issa. Cllr. J. Phillips asked if the Clerk could arrange for someone from Highways to take a look at the reinstatement of the civils around the base of the sign adjacent to the car park to ensure that it was up to standard. Cllr. J Phillips asked if there was any update on the potential faulty sign at Plas Bennion. The Clerk advised that MEGA had collected the sign as they had noted it was displaying an amber fault light and were due to deliver it to TWM for repair. Cllr. J. Phillips asked if the Clerk could chase for an update on the progress.

Resolved: That the Clerk would chase for an update on the repair of the sign.

2. **Maes-y-Nant Path**

No update had been received regarding the path, Cllr, Dr S. Evans would check on this and report back to the Clerk.

Resolved: That the Clerk would await contact from Cllr. Dr Evans.

3. Maintenance Contract for the leased area of the MUGA

Carla Hughes of WCBC had written to advise that it had been agreed by Streetscene to add the MUGA area for grass cutting to the service level agreement going forward. This would guarantee 4 cuts per year, the costs confirmed for 19/20 were £166.50 for the four cuts and there would be an anticipated rise of 2% for 20/21. Carla advised that the revised SLA would be sent out early 2021. All members were in favour of accepting this and adding this to the SLA.

Resolved: To await the revised SLA.

4. Land at old BMX Track

The Clerk had made initial enquiries with GHP Legal, Allington Hughes and Cyril Jones in respect of the boundary encroachment issue at the old BMX Track land. The advice offered had been that once plans and deeds had been viewed by a solicitor, a letter of claim could be raised on council's behalf in order to confirm the encroachment had taken place. Initial costs at this stage would be around £500 + VAT. If the case escalated to court proceedings then this would incur further costs. Members agreed that this initial first step should be explored further as more land could be taken if nothing was done to prevent it. All members were in favour of engaging a solicitor in the initial proceedings and that subsequent discussions following this meeting should be held under part 2 in accordance with Local Government Act 1072 Schedule 12A.

Resolved: That the Clerk would liaise with the solicitors and begin initial contact.

5. Citizens Advice Bureau

The CAB had confirmed that they were engaging social media platforms to advertise their services and were trying to ascertain when they would be permitted to begin face to face services again. Gaynor Roberts CEO of the CAB advised that they had not received clear indication of when the libraries would reopen. Cllr. J. Lowe advised that no date had been decided on for the reopening of libraries as yet and that it would not be before the New Year. Cllr. J. Jones advised that it was vital that the service should continue to be supported as the number of Universal Credit Claims would likely be on the increase due to the current economic climate and their help would be invaluable over the coming months.

Resolved: That the situation should be monitored closely.

6. Remembrance Day Service

Cllr. J. Jones advised that she had received some very positive feedback regarding the changes made to the war memorial garden. Cllr. J. Phillips wished to thank the Clerk for organising the installation of the poppy road markings outside the war memorial. Cllr. Dr Evans advised that it had been a very different service this year but still very moving nonetheless and a member of the public had passed on their thanks for observing the act of remembrance under these exceptional circumstances.

Resolved: noted.

7. New Light at Tainant

Cllr. G. Edwards had made initial enquiries with MEGA regarding the installation of a potential new light near cherry tree cottage in Tainant and wanted to raise some observations regarding the proposal. As confirmed with Scottish Power, no permission would be granted to install a pole bracket on the existing service, there would need to be

a new column and connection which would cost in the region of £1500 - £2000 with connection fees of around £600+. It would also depend on the permissions from the adjacent land owners to excavate on their land. Cllr. G. Edwards also raised concerns that the request for the light had been born out of safety concerns for the residents and the security of their property and that as the lighting authority it was simply not our duty to provide lighting for this purpose; it was only for highway safety. If residents had security concerns then they should look to install security lighting. Cllr, Edwards was also concerned that installing a single light in a remote area would not be as effective as hoped and that it would set a precedent to installing lights in other areas where previously not needed or required. Cllr. J. Phillips thanked Cllr. Edwards for his comments but wished to add that a legitimate request had been made on behalf of elderly residents who had concerns for their safety when using the lane on foot and that lighting would improve this. Cllr. J. Phillips advised that he didn't think that it would set a precedent for installing lights elsewhere and the fact that it was a remote rural area was of no consequence when raised as a safety concern. Cllr. J. Lowe wished to add that she shared Cllr. Edwards' concerns and that external security lighting should be installed by the property owners. Cllr. J. Phillips proposed to accept the quote and move forward with the installation, was seconded by Cllr. C. Davies and was voted for as follows -

For: 11

Against: 2

It was agreed to accept the quote and move forward with the installation. Cllr. G. Edwards advised that the residents in the neighbouring properties should first be consulted on the proposal to avoid any complications further down the line.

Resolved: To accept the quote and begin works as soon as possible.

8. **War Memorial Garden**

The Clerk had not yet been able to find quotes for the works to be done at the war memorial garden and the planted areas on Stryt Issa, she asked if anyone had contact details for local contractors so that they could be contacted to arrange quotes. Cllr. J. Phillips advised that he had a number to pass on to the Clerk for a local gardener and would send via email. Cllr. G. Edwards read out contact details for a local landscaper by the name of RKJ. The Clerk asked if anyone had any other suggestions then to pass them to her directly.

Resolved: That the Clerk would arrange for 3 quotes for the works to be done.

9. **Photography Competition**

Cllr. A. Tynan had advertised on social media that the deadline for the competition had been extended to September the following year to enable more people to enter and to allow for the changes in seasons to be captured.

Resolved: Noted.

10. **Community Food Growing Project**

Through further discussions with Fields in Trust it had been suggested that the deed of dedication could be transferred from the existing site to the MUGA area with the permission of WCBC. This would enable the existing site to be freed for use and the terms of the dedication would be satisfied by transferring to the new area as it was a well maintained public recreational space. Members were in favour of taking this option

and advised that the Clerk should begin the process to allow progress to be made on the site. Cllr. Dr Evans advised that a letter drop should be made to the surrounding properties to inform them of the plans for the garden.

Resolved: That the Clerk begin the process of transferring the deed of dedication and prepare a letter drop to the immediate surrounding properties.

(20)116 POLICE MATTERS

To date there had still been no further response to the request for a meeting with the Inspector. Cllr. Gilpin advised that he would try and find out who the matter could be escalated to in order to find a resolution.

Cllr. A Tynan suggested contacting the neighbouring communities to ascertain whether they had any more positive contact with the local police.

Cllr. J. Phillips noted that the social media pages used by NWP often showed the PSCOs out on their rounds in neighbouring visits but never in Penycae and was concerned about the image that this portrayed.

Cllrs C Davies and H Davies noted that the issue with parked cars on Ffordd Llanerch near the park had escalated again and was not being addressed. Cllr. J. Jones advised that this was a recurring issue on Cae Gabriel and concerns that emergency vehicles could not gain access had been raised on many occasions.

Cllr. J. Phillips had been approached by a member of the public who had concerns about substance misuse activities taking place on the Rec, Cllr. Phillips had advised the resident to take down details and notify the Police.

On the whole members noted that they felt let-down by the local Police and the Penycae did not get a fair representation compared to other communities.

Resolved: That the Clerk would liaise with Cllr. Gilpin and make contact with someone at NWP who could help.

(20)117 ISSUES RELATING TO OLDER PEOPLE

Rachael's report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Matters raised by members

The Chair asked if members had anything they wished the Clerk to pass back to Rachael. Members were satisfied with the report and had no further comments to make other than they were happy with her progress and to keep up the good work.

Resolved: noted

(20)118 STREETLIGHTING

Cllr. A. Tynan proposed that a quotation should be sought for the installation of a solar light near the front of the bungalows at Trofryn. All members were in favour of this.

Cllr. K. Gilpin advised that the hedge had been cleared around the base of the light at the rear of the Trofryn properties. Cllr. J. Phillips asked for an update on the remaining 3 lights yet to be replaced by LEDs. The Clerk advised that there were initially only 2 lights and was not aware of a third. Cllr. J. Phillips listed these as Awelfryn, Trofryn and Mill Lane but would confirm. The Clerk advised that she had written again to the residents at the Mill Lane property and still not received a response. It was agreed that they should be written to once more stating that the works would be undertaken by the contractor and recharged to the property owner following their failure to comply with the request. With regards to the other two lamps the Clerk was asked to confirm with the contractor that they could now be replaced.

Resolved: That the Clerk obtain a quote for the installation of a solar light at Trofryn.
That the Clerk liaise with the contractor regarding the remaining LED replacements
That the Clerk write to the residents at Mill Lane regarding the hedge.

(20)119 MATTERS RELATING TO PENYCAE – Placed on the agenda by Cllr. J. Jones

Cllr. J. Jones wished to inform members of some very serious criminal incidents that had taken place on Cae Gabriel within a 4 to 6 month period. These incidents had been so severe that they posed a threat to life and Cllr. Jones felt that the matter needed to be discussed and recorded in a public forum to make people aware of the severity.

There had been two incidents of arson and attempted arson to vehicles on driveways in very close proximity to the dwellings and an incident involving a car being driven or pushed into the wall of a property. Cllr. Jones advised that the incidents were being investigated by the police but asked if council could once again consider the proposal to install CCTV in the area and consider Cae Gabriel as a location for this. Cllr. C. Davies advised that she understood private CCTV footage had been surrendered to the Police regarding one of the incidents above but had been dismissed as the individuals could not be identified.

Cllr. J. Phillips advised that the matter should be discussed again as he was aware that there was no CCTV in operation around the top of the village at present and that a rolling program of CCTV installation could be looked at in stages and increased as needed. Members were in agreement that progress would need to be made on this and the Chair asked members if they wished to make the initial decision to invest in such a project so that pricing and more information could be sourced. All members were in favour of this.

Resolved: That a programme of CCTV Installation be looked into at a future meeting.

(20)120CHRISTMAS EVENTS

An emergency meeting had been held on the 16th November to discuss Christmas events, the first being the possibility of providing free Christmas Dinners to those over the age of 65 in Penycae who were likely to be alone or isolated over the Christmas Period. This was following a discussion held between Colin Jackson of the Football Club and Cllr. J. Phillips. The proposal was to share the costs equally with the football club and provide a 2 course lunch to be provided both in house or delivered to residents depending on their preference and all social distancing measures being adhered to. A further meeting had been arranged with the Football club on the 2nd December at the Football Club to determine the delivery of the initiative.

Cllr. G. Edwards asked members to consider ring-fencing an amount to put against this now to avoid discussions going back and forward given the lack of time at hand. Members agreed on a maximum spend of £250 to be allocated to this project.

Rachael had been working very hard on contacting organisations for donations to make up care packages for isolated people in the community over the Christmas period and had asked if there was a possibility of some additional funding that could be allocated to this. Members agreed that the last donation of £130 from the resident who had donated to the food bank could be diverted to this following permission from the donor herself. Rachael had also been contacted by a resident who was keen to offer her services as a volunteer for the Christmas activities. Members advised that as she did not have a DBS and was not a volunteer registered with Council this would not be possible due to GDPR however Rachael could point her in the direction of AVOW who may be able to help her.

It had been discussed that the community council could provide its own Santa float this year as we had received no contact from the Friends of Ruabon and assumed that due to the current COVID situation that they would not be attending this year. A vehicle had been sourced and Cllr. A. Tynan had made preparations for the design and decoration of the float. A route was being finalised and a date had been set for the 5th December at 5.30pm. Cllr. K. Gilpin advised that the Christmas Trees would be installed this coming Saturday morning.

Resolved: .To await the outcome of the events.

(20)121 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

FW: Playlist For Life - Music Dementia Charity - FREE New Resources and Information – emailed over to Community Agent

Wendy Owens Rhos CC – Food banks update – request for information on how we were likely to manage duplication of delivery of food parcels to addresses in Rhos, Johnstown and Ponciau. Responded to advise that food parcels were only given out in Penycae and to advise if they had any referrals for food parcels from Penycae then they could divert them to us instead.

DIWEDDARU Arolwg o'r Trefniadau Etholiadol ar gyfer Wrecsam- Argymhellion Terfynol / UPDATE Review of County Electoral Arrangements for Wrexham - Final Recommendations – Sent by Cllr. J. Lowe – emailed out to members

(20)122 MISCELLANEOUS

Resolved: To note receipt of the following:

FW: WG Electoral Newsletter - October / Newyddlen Etholiadol LIC - Hydref - October's electoral newsletter from the Welsh Government which includes the latest updates on electoral legislation postponement of by-election regulations

Garry Smith FCC - Wrexham Recycling Park Update

Hannah Meulman Swyddog Teithiau Iach – Gogledd Ddwyrain | Sustrans Cymru Active Journeys Officer - Active Journeys Programme for Schools

OVW - Remote Meeting Survey Results / Canlyniadau'r Arolwg ar Weithio o Bell

DIWEDDARU Arolwg o'r Trefniadau Etholiadol ar gyfer Wrecsam- Argymhellion Terfynol / UPDATE Review of County Electoral Arrangements for Wrexham - Final Recommendations

Gill Stevens WCBC - What the fire break means in Wrexham - latest article

Wendy Owens Rhos CC - Stiwt Arts Trust Nomination

(20)123 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. J. Phillips asked if the Clerk could contact Rachael Penmann of WCBC to enquire if they would consider installing some lighting along the old railway line following the recent improvement works to the path

Cllr. J. Jones had been asked to find out what medical services were still accessible currently and listed them so that people could be made aware. They were as follows: Dental, opticians, audiology, chiropody, osteopathy and chiropractic.

(20)124 FINANCE

Payments

The following payments were approved for November

102911 – Viking Direct – Stationery	£175.34
Bank Transfer – Salary, postage	£1282.48
Bank Transfer – Salary	£919.84
Bank Transfer – Salary	£555.19