

PEN-Y-CAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COVID-19

Minutes of the of the Pen-y-Cae Community Council Meeting held by ZOOM on Monday 25th January 2021

PRESENT

Chair – Cllr. Dr S. Evans

Cllr. C. Davies
Cllr. P. Matthews
Cllr. J. Lowe
Cllr. K. Gilpin
Cllr. A Tynan
Cllr. S. Jones

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

(21)17 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr. P. Davies

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

(21)18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest from members present.

(21)19 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd November copies having previously been circulated, were approved and adopted.

(21)20 MATTERS ARISING from the minutes

1. Interactive Speed Signs

The sign at Plas Bennion had now been reinstated after the manufacturers found no fault with it. Gary from TWM had responded to say that the angle of the sign and its positioning on the road however may be affecting its accuracy. It was agreed to monitor the sign. The sign on Stryt Issa had been checked by TWM and it was working fine. It was agreed to keep an eye on both of the signs and review if any complaints or faults were reported.

Resolved: noted.

2. Maes-y-Nant Path

Sion Roberts had emailed to say that the path would be inspected but as yet no update had been received.

Resolved: That the Clerk would contact Sion Roberts once again and ask for an update.

3. **Land at old BMX Track**

The Clerk had a telephone appointment booked with a solicitor the following day and would report back to members at the next meeting.

Resolved: to await further information.

4. **New Light at Tainant**

There had been no update regarding the installation of the new light for Tainant. It was agreed that Cllr. G. Edwards would call and speak with Gareth Jones at MEGA to ascertain when they could install the feeder pillar.

Resolved: To await an update.

5. **Community Food Growing Project**

Pauline Vella from Keep Wales Tidy had been in contact with the Clerk to advise that they would now unfortunately have to pull the funding for the food growing project as there would not be sufficient time to complete the works by the end of March due to the Fields in Trust meeting to discuss the transfer of the deed of dedication not taking place until the 20th February. Ms Vella advised that once the next round of funding applications opened she was confident that the community council could be considered again for funding and at worst would have to resubmit their application. The Clerk had already submitted the application to Fields in Trust and now asked members if they still wished to proceed with the transfer given the current position regarding the funding. Members agreed that maintenance works would still have to be undertaken at the site given the terms of the dedication already in place. The Clerk had been asked to find out if the dedication could be disposed of in order to lift any restrictions and the Fields in Trust had come back to say that it was not possible to dispose of the dedication it must be transferred to another area more suitable for its purpose. Cllr. J. Lowe asked if WCBC had been consulted over the proposal to transfer the dedication to the MUGA land. The Clerk had spoken with Nicholas Adamson at WCBC who had requested plans and a copy of the deed. Cllr. J. Phillips also wished to confirm if plans for the skatepark would likely be hampered by any transfer of the deed. The Clerk advised that the plans had been detailed in the application but would seek further confirmation. They had advised that they would be happy to sign the deed once the documents had been inspected. Members were in agreement to continue with the transfer of the deed of dedication if WCBC were in agreement and if the Skatepark could still go ahead.

Resolved: That the Clerk would clarify the points and report back.

6. **Citizens Advice Bureau**

Members had been issued with the figures provided by the CAB prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should ascertain whether the title which stated 'Penycae more than 1 ward' included figures for Rhos. Cllr. J. Jones noted that the age group with the highest recorded number of issues was the 55-64 category and was likely linked to the increase in universal credit claims and the difficulties faced by people trying to claim. Cllr. J. Lowe advised that the community council should do more to help advertise the service given that people may not know that they could still access help over the phone. It was suggested that the Clerk ask for a poster so that it could be shared on social media, in the noticeboards and on the council's website.

Resolved: That the Clerk would request a poster to circulate and clarify if the figures included residents from Rhos.

(21)21 POLICE MATTERS

The Police were still unable to join the meetings via zoom at present due to security issues; however PC Mark Sayer had provided the following figures by email prior to the meeting.

1 Arson of a car which had been targeted 3 times
4 domestic incidents with some enquiries still ongoing
2 repeat callers

And numerous police generated incidents which ranged from wanted persons to drink drivers.

PC Sayer also mentioned a flooding incident on Stryt Issa and asked that this be looked into for safety reasons. Members were unaware of any flooding on Stryt Issa and asked the Clerk to clarify with PC Sayer.

Matters Raised by Members

Cllr. C. Davies noted that there had been a vehicle approaching from the Heol Mabon direction late in the evenings, revving the engine loudly, screeching tyres and driving at speed. This had happened on a number of occasions. Unfortunately Cllr. Davies had not been able to gather a description of the vehicle.

Cllr. J. Phillips advised that he had been contacted by a resident on Maelor Avenue who wished to raise concerns over the parked vehicles causing obstruction near the junction to Afoneitha Road. This was causing difficulty to residents trying to access Maelor Avenue and the problem seemed to be particularly worse in the evenings. Cllr. Phillips asked if it could be raised with the Police as a matter of obstruction near a junction.

Cllr. Dr S. Evans noted that there had been a noted increase in social media posts in Penycae from the Police and thanked Cllr. Gilpin for raising this issue with them.

Cllr. Tynan advised that door to door enquiries had been made regarding the vehicle arson.

Resolved: to await further communication from the Police

(21)22 ISSUES RELATING TO OLDER PEOPLE

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

Rachael had given details of her activity for the period which included referrals in and out to exterior organisations, training courses and meetings with other Community Agents. Rachael was also working on some activity packs which she hoped to be able to get out to older people isolating in the village.

Matters raised by members

Cllr. J. Lowe asked of the referrals to other organisations and requested to know what the outcome of these referrals were. Cllr. Lowe asked if the Clerk could ask Rachael to specify if the client was satisfied with the outcome of the referrals and if any feedback could be given on this. The Clerk would ask Rachael to add this into her reports in future.

Cllr. G. Edwards advised that the Rev. P. Bettinson was off sick at present and advised that Rachael could contact him if she needed any further assistance from the Church.

Cllr. P. Matthews asked if the organisations Rachael referred to could be approached for feedback.

Cllr. J Lowe asked that at a future meeting if Rachael could pick a client and give more of an in depth report on their experience with the service and their progress.

Resolved: That the Clerk would liaise with Rachael and ask her to implement the suggestions from members.

**(21)23 STREETLIGHTING
Replacement LEDS**

The remaining light at Trofryn had now been replaced which left the one at Mill Lane still to deal with. A letter had been sent by recorded delivery to the occupants asking them to please contact the Clerk as a matter of urgency so that maintenance could go ahead with the light.

New Light at Trofryn

The Clerk had not received a reply from Allan Richardson at Snapfast regarding the purchase of a solar light as yet. Cllr. G. Edwards advised that he would follow this up and speak with Allan himself.

Christmas Lights

Cllr. G. Edwards raised some concerns over the possible inclusion of column mounted Christmas Lights given the fact that none of the poles were higher than 5 metres. This would leave the lights open to vandalism and also storage of the lights could possibly be an issue. Cllr. Edwards advised that as an alternative solution, maybe more Christmas trees could be purchased and installed around the village instead.

Cllr. J. Phillips asked if there were any brochures available for members to see the types of lights that could be utilised. The Clerk had taken some examples from a company online and shared them with members but it was unsure if these types of lights would be suitable.

Cllr. G Edwards advised that he would need to know the sizes of them to see if they would be compatible and he would also check whether anything could be fitted to 5m columns.

Cllr. J. Lowe advised that the issue of storage could be solved if the management committee could get a confirmed answer regarding the garage at the community centre, this would need to be discussed as soon as the committee were able to meet.

Resolved: That Cllr. G. Edwards would follow up with Mega and Snapfast regarding the new lights
That the Christmas lights be looked into in further detail.

Faults

Cllr. J. Phillips advised that the light after the bridge in Coed-y-Nant was still out and asked the Clerk to report this once again to Claire Parry at WCBC

(21)24 TO REVIEW The New SLA for maintenance and inspection of the play areas

The Service Level agreement had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members were happy to sign and accept the SLA providing that the Clerk could clarify whether the council's public liability insurance covered the work being undertaken at the play grounds.

Resolved: That the Clerk would clarify with the insurers whether the public liability was adequate for works carried out at the playgrounds.

(21)25 TO DISCUSS Stage 2 of the MUGA

The Clerk had contacted Wicksteed and asked them to requote for the skate park based on the quotation given back in 2018. Adam Brookes from Wicksteed had been in touch to say that he would need to revisit the site and would be attending on the 2nd February at 11am. The Clerk and Cllr. J. Phillips would be in attendance. The Clerk was finding difficulty in finding other companies to quote for the works as many of the companies contacted either didn't travel to this area or no longer offered skate parks with their play equipment. The Clerk had contacted Llay Community Council regarding their skate park installed on Alyn

Waters but was told that this had been undertaken by WCBC some years ago and was referred to Carla Hughes for more information. Carla Hughes had informed the Clerk that the company they used to use for skate parks no longer offered them and recommended another company who were unfortunately not able to travel to this area. The Clerk asked if WCBC were able to assist with the skate park in any way but was informed by Carla that there was no scope for taking on new projects at present. It was suggested that the Clerk try and ascertain from One Voice Wales or the Wales Audit Office what would happen if the community council were simply unable to find three quotations for the work.

Cllr. G. Edwards mentioned that there may be an avenue for additional funding through the Police and Crime Commission. Cllr. J. Phillips advised that the local policing team were fully aware of the anti-social behaviour issues in the area and that this may be an avenue worth exploring.

Resolved: That the Clerk carry on trying to source companies to quote and to explore the implications of not being able to provide three quotations if they could not be arranged.

(21)26 TO DISCUSS War Memorial and Planted Areas

The Clerk had received two quotations for the works at the war memorial garden and the planted areas at Stryt Issa, the third contractor had not been able to quote for the works as it was beyond his remit. The Clerk was still trying to arrange for a third quote. Members asked the Clerk to seek clarification from the two contractors that quoted if the works included a single or double layer of bricks for the planters on Stryt Issa.

Resolved: That the Clerk would arrange for a further quote and check for clarification on the bricks for the planters.

(21)27 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

WCBC Covid-19 councillor update - 8.1.21 – placed on website & shared on social media

Email from Cllr. J. Lowe – forwarded info from Andrew Mytton at WCBC – Update regarding buses – placed on website & social media

Email from Fiona Burton re antisocial behaviour – advised to report via 101 – also emailed Sgt Mike Norbury – no response received.

Llythyr i sylw Cynghorau Cymuned a Threfi - Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrexham – email re funding for the Urdd Eisteddfod – to be discussed under grants and donations at the next meeting

Marie Russell – WCBC - FW: Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum - 21 January 2021 – Powerpoint presentation - Joint Working' item the Chief Officer Governance & Customer – emailed out to members

(21)28 MISCELLANEOUS

Resolved: To note receipt of the following:

1. Email from Sharron Jones on behalf of her mother Mrs Baker re thanks for the Christmas gift
2. Email from Lee Thomas – Jobsense

3. Natasha Bolton – AVOW – info on Holocaust Memorial Day 2021
4. Mairwen Berry – Menter Iaith - Dydd Gŵyl Dewi / St David's Day 2021 – details of St Davids Day celebrations
5. Latest news from Simon Baynes MP
6. Lawrence Isted – WCBC - Covid-19 - Friday Update
7. Gill Stevens – WCBC - Recovery continues following flooding

(21)29 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. J. Phillips asked if the Clerk could contact Streetscene to ask if a grit bin could be provided for the residents of Maelor Avenue following a complaint by a resident who was unable to stop at the junction during the snow and ice and narrowly avoided an accident.

Cllr. J. Phillips asked if the Clerk could contact Paul Davies, the admin of the Penycae Magical Mystery Tour to see if he would consider a zoom meeting with members to discuss the possible moderation of the page following complaints from members of the public over some of the content and bad language.

Cllr. J. Phillips asked whether it could be arranged for the War Memorial to be cleaned following the works done at the garden.

Cllr. G. Edwards mentioned the bench at Plas Bennion and asked if it would be possible to ask the contractors who had quoted for the war memorial garden works it also give a quote for installing the bench.

Cllr. G. Edwards also asked members to consider upgrading the Clerks computer equipment as currently the zoom meetings were undertaken on her mobile phone. The Clerk advised that the computer in use at present was in working order but fairly old and although not in urgent need of replacement it would be in the near future. It was suggested that the Clerk speak with either the procurement office for WCBC or Simon Aston at Media Fields to see what could be suggested.

Cllr. J. Jones advised that she had received a complaint from a resident at Trem-y- Berwyn regarding a resident who after parking transit vans on the grass would leave large amounts of mud on the footpath and the road. It was agreed that the Clerk would report this to streetscene.

Cllr. Dr S. Evans noted that in conversation with the Chair it had come to their attention that the Clerk was due an inflatory pay rise as set out by WCBC. A meeting of the finance committee would need to be called prior to the next meeting of full council to discuss this.

Cllr. G. Edwards would arrange this.

(21)30 FINANCE

Payments

The following payments were approved for January

Bank Transfer – Salary, postage	£1276.40
Bank Transfer – Salary	£601.40
Bank Transfer – Salary	£632.89