

PEN-Y-CAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COVID-19

Minutes of the of the Pen-y-Cae Community Council Meeting held by ZOOM on Monday 22nd February 2021

PRESENT

Chair – Cllr. A. Phillips

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

Cllr. Dr. S. Evans
Cllr. S. Jones
Cllr K. Phillips
Cllr. J.C. Phillips
Cllr. H. Davies
Cllr. G. Edwards

Rachael Hughes, Community Agent for item number 6 on the agenda, *Issues Relating to Older People*

PCSO Rebecca Roberts for item number 5 on the agenda, *Police Matters*.

(21)31 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr. P. Davies
Cllr. J. Jones.

(21)32 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllrs. A. Tynan, J. Phillips, K. Gilpin. A. Phillips. P. Matthews and G. Edwards declared interest in item number 8 on the agenda – *To discuss grants and donations*.

(21)33 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th January copies having previously been circulated, were approved and adopted.

It was agreed to suspend standing orders and take matters out of sequence for items number 6 and 5 on the agenda *Issues Relating to Older People and Police Matters*.

(21)34 ISSUES RELATING TO OLDER PEOPLE

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

Rachael asked members if they were satisfied with the extra information she had included in her report regarding feedback and outcomes of her referrals. Members advised that they were very pleased with the extra information and to carry on in this manner.

Matters raised by members

Cllr. J. Phillips asked how Rachael was managing her workload at the moment. Rachael advised that things had been a bit quieter since Christmas but the issues she was dealing with had been more complex and time consuming, particularly the referrals to adult social care. Rachael advised that she was trying to incorporate local sources of support for clients for better continuity of care. Rachael advised that she had been working with Pastor Keefe at the Church of the Nazarene and the Community Café and had referred people for

befriending services and digital inclusion. Rachael had also registered with the Wrexham Foodbank as an authorised issuer for vouchers for the foodbank.

Cllr. J. Lowe thanked Rachael for her report and added that she has asked for more information on the outcomes of the referrals in order for members to see that clients were getting satisfactory outcomes and it was good to see that it was coming to fruition. Cllr. Lowe also advised that if Rachael needed any help in contacting the Adult Social Care department then she would be happy to help. Cllr. Lowe advised that as of the 1st February this year, Ruabon surgery had been taken over by a group of GPs and that it would be a good opportunity for Rachael to make contact with them again to discuss how she could be of assistance to vulnerable patients. Rachael advised that she would follow this up as she had spoken to a number of clients who were concerned that they could not get through to the surgery at times. Cllr Lowe advised that each GP surgery had been asked to identify their 100 most vulnerable patients and to keep an eye on them; if any of them were identified for additional help then they would be referred to the community agents where possible.

Cllr. G. Edwards asked Rachael who LEAP and NEWCIS were as referred to in her report. Rachael explained that LEAP were the local energy advice partnership set up to help people with energy and money saving advice. NEWCIS were the largest provider of caring services and support for unpaid carers in North East Wales.

The Chair thanked Rachael for her report and all of her hard work to date following this Rachael left the meeting.

Resolved: noted

(21)35 POLICE MATTERS

The Chair thanked PCSO Rebecca Roberts for attending the meeting this evening and invited her to give her report.

PCSO Roberts advised that there had been positive drug warrants in the area and this had had a significant impact on Penycae and the surrounding areas. PCSO Roberts also advised that they had attended several domestic incidents and covid patrols due to the reporting of covid breaches. It had been noted that incidents of ASB had been significantly lower.

Matters Raised by Members

Cllr. J. Phillips thanked PCSO Roberts for attending and advised that it was much appreciated. Cllr. Phillips asked if there was any update on the proposed speed event that was to be undertaken in the area. PCSO Roberts advised that it was still in the planning stages at present and as yet no date for this had been arranged, it was hoped that the arrive alive van would be in attendance at the same time.

Cllr. J. Phillips also advised that there had been an increase in the amount of needles being discarded in secluded places and that he had contacted the chemists but just wanted the Police to be made aware of the issue. Cllr. Phillips gave the locations of where they had been discovered. Cllr. Phillips also noted that there had been large quantities of nitrous oxide canisters discovered in the area and in one location alone there had been roughly 260 canisters collected. PCSO Roberts advised that there was an emerging trend amongst youths using these canisters, however lately they were not encountering many groups of young people whilst out on patrols. PCSO Roberts advised that they would contact the chemists and encourage them to be more proactive with the needle exchange and would liaise with the harm reduction team to see if it made a difference. Cllr. J. Phillips advised that this would be much appreciated and noted that the sharps boxes were being discarded empty so they were not being used.

Cllr. J. Phillips also wanted to raise the issue of nuisance and obstructive parking. PCSO Roberts advised that if vehicles were parked on double yellow lines it would be down to the

local authority to enforce, the Police would only intervene if there were no road markings and if there was an obstruction caused and in extreme circumstances. Cllr. G. Edwards advised that he had seen nitrous oxide canisters in Rocky Woods also. PCSO Roberts advised that they regularly responded to reports in that area but as yet had not encountered any groups gathering there. The Chair thanked PCSO Roberts for her attendance; following this she left the meeting.

Resolved: noted.

(21)36 MATTERS ARISING from the minutes

1. Maes-y-Nant Path

Sion Roberts had emailed to say that he had inspected the path and had recommended that it be partially resurfaced.

Resolved: noted.

2. Citizens Advice Bureau

Lesley Shone from the CAB had been in touch to say that the figures presented to members were solely for the two wards in Penycae. Rhos received their own separate statistics. Lesley had also provided the Clerk with a poster displaying the contact number which had been posted on the website and on social media.

Resolved: noted

3. War Memorial Garden and Planted Areas

The Clerk had received confirmation from only one contractor regarding the charge for a double layer of brickwork for the planters and had still not been able to obtain the quotation from the third contractor for the additional works. It was suggested that the Working Party meet to discuss the quotes once the third had been received and to discuss the maintenance contract.

Resolved: That the working Party meet once the third quote had been received.

4. Request for Grit Bin

Kevin Edwards of WCBC had responded to say that the request for the grit bin for Maelor Avenue had been refused as the location did not meet the criteria and was next to a priority 1 gritting route. Cllr. Phillips advised that this seemed unfair due to grit bins being situated in similar areas throughout the borough. Cllr. A. Tynan asked if it could be requested that a grit bin be sited on Trem-y-Berwyn

Resolved: That the Clerk would request a grit bin to be sited on Trem-y-Berwyn.

5. Penycae Magical Mystery Tour

There had been no response to the message sent to the page's admin requesting a meeting to discuss the use of bad language and inappropriate posting on the site. Cllr. Gilpin advised that he may have an alternative way to contact the person in question and would see what could be done.

Resolved: To await further contact with the page's administrator.

6. Mud on the road in Trem-y-Berwyn

A road sweeper had been down but the problem still persisted and now there was oil on the road as well. The Clerk would contact Streetscene once again.

Resolved: That the Clerk would liaise with Streetscene regarding the oil on the road.

(21)37 STREETLIGHTING

New Light at Tainant

It had not yet been confirmed if MEGA had installed the feeder pillar at Tainant Cllr. G Edwards would chase this and confirm.

Resolved: That Cllr. Edwards would confirm if the feeder pillar had been installed

New Light at Trofryn

Cllr. G. Edwards advised that he had spoken with Allan Richardson at Snapfast regarding the solar light and he had advised that he would send a lamp out to MEGA ready for installation. The Clerk had not had a response from WCBC confirming if they would grant permission for it to be sited in this location. The Clerk would once again follow this up.

Resolved: That the Clerk would follow up communication with WCBC regarding permission.

Street Lighting Consortium Meeting

A meeting of the street lighting consortium had been held on the 16th February via zoom. Cllr. G. Edwards gave a brief update of what was discussed and advised that Gresford, Rossett and Broughton had now joined the consortium. The price increase for the maintenance contract for the forthcoming year had been worked out at 1.7% and agreed with the RPI. Members agreed that this was acceptable. It had also been discussed by MEGA that they wished to introduce a minimum call out fee of around £60 for the very small jobs they were called to such as fuse changes etc. in order for the call out to be profitable. All communities present at the meeting advised that this would be acceptable as long as it was sufficiently monitored. Cllr. J Phillips queried this and asked what was currently in place for this, there was no minimum call out charge at present and the contractor had raised it with the consortium as it had become an issue for them. Members were in agreement that it would need to be monitored at least on a quarterly basis so that it was not abused.

Resolved: To accept the charges and monitor closely

Lambpit Street Light

The residents at the Millpool property had written back to the Community Council to say that they were not happy with the installation of the LEDs and that following their installation it had had a negative impact on the wildlife. They also wished to highlight the increase in dog waste bags being littered around the area and the increase of parked cars along Hill Street. The residents also noted that they had requested that the light be removed from their property. It was agreed that Cllr. G. Edwards and the clerk would try to arrange to meet with the residents to resolve the matter amicably as the lamp needed to be investigated.

Resolved: To try and arrange to meet with the residents to discuss their concerns

Faults

Cllr. J. Phillips advised that the light on Coed-y-Nant had still not been repaired. The Clerk had reported this light to WCBC on many an occasion and to date had not had a response. The Clerk would chase this up.

Cllr. J. Phillips asked the Clerk to report the second interactive sign on Plas Bennion to TWM as only the bottom half of the smile icon was illuminating.

Cllr. A Tynan wished to highlight a possible issue with the interactive signs. When driving up Stryt Issa and approaching the sign at the correct speed limit the smiley face had illuminated, a large van had approached suddenly from behind who was travelling significantly faster, the sign then flashed to the sad face and displayed the speed of the van. This had caused Cllr. Tynan to slow down as she was startled, resulting in the van driver behind becoming irate. Cllr. Tynan just wanted to highlight that this could potentially cause issues for road users.

Resolved: that the Clerk would report the faults.

(21)38 TO DISCUSS Grants & Donations

The Finance Sub-Committee had met prior to the meeting to discuss the applications for grants and donations and made the following recommendation to members

That £100 is donated each to Salem Chapel and St Thomas' to be used towards the maintenance of the cemeteries.

That £100 be donated to Penycae Scouts towards their installation of outdoor sanitising station

That £100 be donated to St Thomas' Church towards their roof repairs

That £100 be donated to the Penycae Community Group for litter picking and gardening equipment

From the chairs purse -

That £75 be donated to Hope House via Paul Edwards who was undertaking a solo and unaided walk from John O'Groats to Lands' End to raise funds for the hospice.

That £25 be donated to the Welsh Air Ambulance

All members were in agreement of the recommendations and the Clerk was instructed to contact the applicants.

An application for funding had been received from The Cross foxes in Penycae as they were trying to purchase gazebos for a community hub that they intended to create once the pubs were able to open again. The finance committee had suggested that £500 be allocated to this however it was agreed that the Clerk should first ascertain if it was possible to donate to a business.

Resolved: That the Clerk would contact the applicants and make the grant payments.

That the Clerk would ascertain if it were possible to donate to the community hub at the Cross Foxes.

(21)39 TO DISCUSS Stage 2 of the MUGA

The Clerk had received quotations from two further companies for a skate park. There was quite a substantial amount of information to digest from the quotations and it was suggested that the Working party should meet and discuss the quotes before making a recommendation to full council.

Resolved: That the Clerk arrange a meeting with the working party to discuss the quotations received.

(21)40 TO DISCUSS The old BMX Land

The Clerk had hoped to receive a more in depth update from the Solicitors regarding the boundary issue however a letter had been received to say that the plans would need to be looked at further before sending any letters of claim on behalf of the community council.

Resolved: To await further contact.

(21)41 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

WCBC - A483 Wrexham Bypass Junction 3 to 6 - Public Consultation – the Clerk had emailed this out to members prior to the meeting.

Email from Re-engage – Call Companions – The Clerk had emailed this over to Rachael

Sharon Jones - JDH Business Services Ltd – Internal Audit Plan – it would not yet be possible to determine whether the audit would need to be deferred as it was unclear whether the community council would be able to meet in public yet. It was agreed to discuss following the next WG update.

Wrexham Rural contact details – Police – the Clerk had emailed this out to members prior to the meeting.

Hilary Jones – complaint re road surface in Tainant – sent on to Streetscene

Janet Jones – Fly Tipping complaint – Mountain Road – forwarded to Streetscene

(21)42 MISCELLANEOUS

Resolved: To note receipt of the following:

1. Martin Bull – GV Wales - Preparation and Publication of Statutory Financial Accounts for 2020-21
2. OVW: [SWYDDOGOL OFFICIAL] Latest Covid Vaccine Scam...link sent via Dyfed Powys Police
3. AVOW Launch Wrexham Community Response Team - AVOW Press Release
4. OVW - HM Land Registry – Survey of Community and Town Councils in Wales
5. OVW - Eden Project Virtual Community Camp March 2021 / Gwersyll Cymunedol Digidol Prosiect Eden Mawrth 2021
6. Lawrence Isted – WCBC - RE: Covid-19 - Weekly Update
7. Panel Annibynnol Cymru ar Gydabyddiaeth Ariannol - Adolygu Fframwaith Taliadau Cynghorau Cymuned a Chynghorau Tref | Independent Remuneration Panel
8. PRESS RELEASE: SIMON BAYNES MP
9. OVW - Litter & Fly-tipping Prevention Plan for Wales / Sbwriel a Thipio Anghyfreithlon i Gymru

(21)43 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. G. Edwards advised that outside number 31 Coed-y-Nant there was a water meter where the tarmac had broken quite badly around it and asked the clerk to report it to Streetscene.

Cllr. J. Phillips asked if the hedges along the bottom, of Plas Bennion near the solar farm could be reported to Streetscene as they still had not been cut. They would need to be addressed soon as after 1st March they would not be able to cut them due to nesting.

(21)44 FINANCE

The Finance subcommittee had met via zoom on the 8th February to discuss the inflatory pay rise owed to the Clerk. The finance subcommittee recommended to members that the Clerk be paid the new hourly rate of £14.44 per hour and have pay backdated to 1st April 2020 in line with the statutory inflatory pay rise for local government employees. Members were in agreement and the Clerk was instructed to inform, payroll of the changes.

The Finance subcommittee also recommended that the Clerk be allocated a new lap top in place of the computer she was using currently as it was in need of updating. Members agreed and asked the Clerk to contact Mediafields to ask for advice on suitable lap tops.

The Finance Committee also discussed the remunerations to members for their expenses and asked the Clerk to clarify how this was to be paid.

Payments

The following payments were approved for February

102926 – Penycae FC - Christmas lunch contribution	£93.58
102927 – Snapfast - solar light	£576.00
102928 – WCBC – Inspection & maintenance play areas	£2637.30
Bank Transfer – Salary, postage	£1276.40
Bank Transfer – Salary	£601.40
Bank Transfer – Salary	£632.89