

# PEN-Y-CAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## COVID-19

Minutes of the of the Pen-y-Cae Community Council Meeting held by ZOOM on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

### PRESENT

Chair – Cllr. Dr S. Evans

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

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

### **(21)45 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr. P. Davies

### **(21)46 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest from members present

### **(21)47 MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February copies having previously been circulated, were approved and adopted.

### **(21)48 MATTERS ARISING from the minutes**

#### **1. War Memorial Garden and Planted Areas**

There was a meeting arranged for the following evening for the working party to discuss three quotations for the additional works to the areas and to discuss the draft contract for the War Memorial garden tender process. The group would report back at the next meeting.

Resolved: To await an update from the working party

#### **2. Request for Grit Bin**

There had been no response to the request as yet. The Clerk would chase this up.

Resolved: To await correspondence from Streetscene.

#### **3. Mud on the road in Trem-y-Berwyn**

The mud on the path was till an issue here, it was suggested that streetcene should be contacted once again.

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

#### 4. Grants & Donations

The Clerk had been asked to ascertain if it was possible to donate to the Cross Foxes for their community hub project and had been directed by WCBC to the legislation for section 137 payments which stated '**Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes.**' Cllr. G. Edwards proposed that the council donated the suggested sum of £500 to the project and all members were in agreement.

Resolved: That the Clerk arrange for the donation to be made.

#### **(21)49 POLICE MATTERS**

There had been no figures given by the Police prior to the meeting.

##### **Matters Raised by Members**

Cllr. C. Davies advised that it would be useful to receive feedback from the Police following any discussions raised at meetings.

Cllr. C. Davies also raised the issue of obstructive parked cars on the corner by the bungalows on Ffordd Llanerch once again. It was making it increasingly difficult for drivers and pedestrians to see clearly.

Cllr. J. Jones mentioned that the car recently mentioned on social media that had been seen driving dangerously; had been seen again and gave the location to the Clerk to pass on to the Police.

Resolved: noted.

#### **(21)50 ISSUES RELATING TO OLDER PEOPLE**

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

##### **Matters raised by members**

Cllr. J. Lowe queried the case studies and asked if they were relating to the issues she had been asked to follow up on with the Adult Social Care Department, The Clerk confirmed that they were.

Cllr. P. Matthews asked who Sherry Weedall was, as her name was mentioned a few times in the report. The Clerk confirmed that she was the Commissioning Officer, dealing with the Community Agents at WCBC.

Resolved: noted

##### **Contract Review**

The Clerk advised that she had attended a contract review meeting via Zoom where the future of the Community Agent scheme had been discussed as the current ICF Funding Stream was due to come to an end. Further funding had been applied for but as yet there had been no decision made. The Commissioning Team at WCBC had asked members present to consider 3 possible options which were to either carry on running it the way it was, to commission on a locality basis by having 3 cluster groups covering north, central and southern areas of Wrexham and creating a consortia to oversee its running or to directly commission from WCBC taking the community agent employment away from

Community Councils. The general consensus of opinion from those present was that everyone saw the most benefit from keeping it running how it was currently. No decisions had been made yet but WCBC wanted to keep an open dialogue with Community Councils and gather their thoughts on the matter. Cllr. J. Lowe added that the ICF Funding had been due to come to an end this year but had been rolled over a further 12 months due to the forthcoming elections. It was hoped that by September a decision would be reached which would enable plans to be made for the future.

Resolved: To await further communication.

### **Maternity Leave**

A letter of resignation had been received from Ffion announcing that she did not intend to return to work following the end of her maternity period on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 and that she had thoroughly enjoyed her time as community agent but wished to continue spending time with her young family. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform Ruabon so that their members could discuss their thoughts on the contract post maternity period.

Resolved: To await communication from Ruabon Community Council.

### **Current Hours**

The Clerk advised that Rachael was regularly working over her agreed 16 hours per week allocation and asked members to consider extending her hours to 20 per week. Members anticipated that post lockdown, Rachael's workload may decrease and therefore an extension may not be warranted but that it could be looked into once a decision had been made once council had more information on the situation following the end of Ffion's contract. It was agreed that going forward Rachael should keep to the 16 hours as agreed until a decision could be reached and not to be paid for any hours worked outside of her allocation.

Resolved: That a review into the working hours would be looked into at a future date.

## **(21)51 STREETLIGHTING**

### **New Light at Tainant**

Cllr. G. Edwards advised that the light at Tainant had been programmed for the following day.

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

### **Lambpit Street Light**

A zoom meeting had been arranged between Cllrs. G Edwards, J. Phillips and the residents of Millpool the coming Wednesday to discuss obtaining access to the base of the lamp.

Resolved: to await the outcome of the meeting.

### **Faults**

Cllr. J. Phillips advised that the light on Coed-y-Nant had still not been repaired. The Clerk. The Clerk would chase this up again.

The interactive sign at the entrance to Plas Bennion was still not working accurately and it was agreed that this would likely be down to its location. It was agreed that Cllrs. J. Phillips, G. Edwards and K. Gilpin would arrange to meet and discuss more suitable locations for its installation.

Resolved: that the Clerk would report the faults.

**(21)52 TO DISCUSS Stage 2 of the MUGA**

The working party had met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March to discuss the 3 quotations received for the Skate Parks. The Working Party recommended in principle to accept the quote from Wicksteed, however they wished to explore the options of having the civils works done separately by local companies to reduce costs. It was also suggested that the tarmac surface recommended for the area was potentially not needed and that a professional opinion could be sought on the matter. It was agreed that some members of the group should meet on site to discuss the area for the linking pathway as the one detailed on the Wicksteed quote would not meet DDA requirements. The Clerk would send out an invitation to members to meet as soon as possible to discuss this. It was agreed that The Clerk would write to Wicksteed to ask them to requote based on the installation of the equipment and fence only.

Resolved: That the Clerk arrange a meeting with the working party to discuss the linking pathway.  
That the Clerk ask Wicksteed to requote for the installation of the equipment and fence only.

**(21)52 TO DISCUSS The old BMX Land**

The Chair agreed that this part of the meeting should be held under Part 2 conditions owing to the legal matters being discussed.

**(21)53 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

An email from Caroline Richards – Vic Studios – request for funding. The Clerk advised that the grant funding had already been discussed for the coming year and that she would be placed on file for consideration next year.

An email from the NSPCC – request for funding, the Clerk advised that the grant funding had already been discussed for the coming year and that she would be placed on file for consideration next year

An email from an organisation within Penycae who wished to make an anonymous donation to the foodbank for £200

John Rowlands from Penycae Football Club had issued an update regarding the We Are The Cae Festival stating that owing to the uncertainty of outdoor events being given the go ahead that they could not look to support the festival this coming year and would look to reschedule at a future date.

A letter from St Thomas Church thanking the council for their donation.

**(21)54 MISCELLANEOUS**

Resolved: To note receipt of the following:

1. Email - Mr Leighton Jones - Secretariat to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - [Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: annual report 2021 to 2022](#)
2. Latest news from Simon Baynes MP – newsletter
3. Email - February's electoral newsletter from the Welsh Government.
4. One Voice Wales - Summary of key provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for the Community and Town Council Sector
5. SIMON BAYNES MP WELCOMES MAJOR PROGRESS BY UK GOVERNMENT ON STEP-FREE ACCESS AT RUABON STATION – press release
6. Welsh Hearts - Welsh Parish and Town Councils £250 grant Available for de-fibs
7. Dr Carly Benefer, Senior Ecologist | Ecology Team Leader, JBA Consulting - River restoration survey - National Trust Erddig
8. Lawrence Isted – WCBC Friday Covid-19 Briefing
9. OVW - Countryside Code refresh 2021 – Final wording

#### **(21)55 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr. J. Jones asked if there was any update on the installation of the bench on Plas Bennion. Cllr. G. Edwards had only received one quotation so far.

Cllr. K. Gilpin asked if there was any update regarding the possible sale of the additional garage up at the Community Centre. The Clerk advised that there had not been, nor had there been any meetings due to covid. Cllr. Tynan suggested that we write to the Playgroup advising that they needed to make a decision to either sell the garage or have it removed as soon as possible.

#### **(21)56 FINANCE**

##### **Payments**

The following payments were approved for March

102930 – Accounting solutions – payroll	£221.73
102931 – paul Griffiths – web hosting and SSL	£315.00
102932 – Wybone – dog waste bags	£148.69
102933 – MEGA Electrical – maintenance	£373.19
102934 – K. Gilpin – members expenses	£150.00
102935 – P Matthews – members expenses	£150.00
102936 – Penycae Steering Group – grant	£100.00
102937 – Salem Chapel – grant	£100.00
102938 – Welsh Air Ambulance	£25.00
102938 – St Thomas – grant	£100.00
102940 – Hope House/welsh wanderer – grant	£75.00
102941 – St Thomas' roof repair –grant	£100.00
102942 – Penycae Scouts - grant	£100.00
102943 – Welsh audit office – external audit	£430.75
102944 – WCBC – Park repair	£93.17
Bank Transfer – Salary, postage	£1602.93
Bank Transfer – Salary	£601.40
Bank Transfer – Salary	£647.50

