

**YSTRAD FFLUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING,
WHICH WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 17/09/2020
AT 7.25PM (immediately after the AGM)**

1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME & PERSONAL MATTERS

Cllr. Gareth Owen (newly appointed Chairperson) welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting. Best wishes were extended to Cllr Mair Jones who had not been feeling well recently.

2. PRESENT: Cllr Gareth Owen (Chairperson); Cllr Laura Jones (Deputy-Chairperson); Cllr Clare Hughes; Cllr Angharad Jones; Cllr John Jones; Cllr Non Jones; Cllr Alun Price-Jones; Cllr Doug Rowbotham, County Cllr. Ifan Lloyd-Davies & Eleri Thomas (Clerk).

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Mair Jones (no access to internet); Cllr Wil Lewis (no access to the internet) and Police Community Support Office (PCSO) John Evans.

4. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO John Evans had reported before the meeting:

In terms of crime it had been very quiet over the months of July and August with no offences of Burglary, Criminal damage, Theft or Violence.

As previously reported, there had been an issue with large groups of off-road quad bikes and motorcycles, driving through the villages of Ffair Rhos and Pontrhydfendigaid.

Several of these groups were described as driving at speed, with disregard for speed limits and also suspected to have no documents, as the machines did not display registration plates.

Various groups camped on private property and accessed both the Green Lanes, SSSIs and forestry tracks, where illegal off roading took place.

During July 2020 there were several reports of antisocial nature, relating to such vehicles. Due to these ongoing issues a Problem Oriented Policing Plan had been implemented, which will run over future months and will utilise police and partner agencies.

The problem had also featured in a recent BBC News item in which the Rural Crime Team and the local Neighbourhood Policing Team had raised the issues, which affected local residents and environment.

It was resolved to ask the Police for an update in relation to the recent attack of a Young Person on the main bridge of the Village.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Doug Rowbotham declared an interest when the Planning Application A200671 was discussed.

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE MEETING OF THE 18th June 2020

It was **PROPOSED (Cllr Gareth Owen), SECONDED (Cllr John Jones)** and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes of the Meeting of the 18th June 2020, were correct. They will be signed by the Chairperson when circumstances permit.

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 Update: Community Council's response to the Coronavirus challenge;

- **WhatsApp Group Community Council;** had been used by the Community Council when first set up, to collect prescriptions and certain items of shopping but in the main, neighbours shopped on behalf of those who required assistance.

Members wished to thank the staff of the local Shop for their commitment and outstanding service, since the start of the Covid-19 Lockdown on the 23.03.2020. It was **RESOLVED** to forward a letter to the Shop to express the Community Council's appreciation. It was agreed that Cllr John Jones would draft and send the letter on behalf of the Community Council.

7.2 Maintenance of the Pantyfedwen Hall Play Area and measures undertaken to

adhere to COVID-19 Regulations since the reopening of the play-area in July 2020: Cllr Clare Hughes had introduced the necessary changes- hand gel to be used on entrance and exit & users to adhere to social distancing measures. Cllr Clare Hughes and Cllr Angharad Jones wiped the surfaces, each evening.

7.3 Pantyfedwen Play Area: Rospa Play Area Annual Inspection 2020: Improvements, which are required. The Report had been circulated to members. Cllr Clare Hughes and Cllr Gareth Owen had assigned attention to certain matters: ***work in progress.***

7.4 Harley Harvey Fund: Cllr Ifan Lloyd Davies had received the Spreadsheet from the Harvey Family showing the number of visits to and from the hospital to visit Harley when undergoing treatment @ £0.45/mile (up to £500). A cheque of £250 (each) had been sent to Shaun and Erin Harvey.

7.5 Glan-yr-Afon: re oil-tank, a response from Ceredigion CC stated that the land on which the tank was located, was not registered common land and evidence of a footpath running through the area, could not be ascertained. It did not appear that the county council had responsibility, in relation to the land. It is the responsibility of the owner/manager of the land to arrange for the removal of the oil-tank and to discuss encroachment issues, if desired.
It was agreed to contact the owner of the property, namely Mr Alan Phillips for further information. Cllr Gareth Owen to investigate further.

7.6 Membership of Committees within the Village: No reports during this meeting.

7.7 Repair of Bench, Ffair Rhos: a new bench was considered. *Cllr Clare Hughes to seek two quotes (plastic & wood) by the next meeting.*

7.8 Grass Cutting over the Summer Months within the Village: It was reported that Cuts had been undertaken by Mr D Benjamin on behalf of the Community Council. **Grass verge** outside Pantyfedwen Hall, adjacent to the road, and certain areas within the Maesydderwen Estate required cutting.
Had been reported to Ceredigion County Council. Awaiting a response.

7.9 It was reported during a previous meeting that trees were overgrown at Glan-yr Afon: No developments during this meeting.

7.10 Parking Problems in the environs of Dolebolion and Mill Street: had been addressed.

7.11 VJ (Victory in Japan) Day: 15.08.2020: 75 Years Commemoration
It was reported that a fitting commemoration had taken place within the Villages of Pontrhydfendigaid and Ffair Rhos on the 15th August 2020.

7.12 Y Ganolfan Fair: no letter received, as yet, this year, for financial support (no Annual Fair due to COVID-19 restrictions)

7.13 Remembrance Sunday Service: 8.11.2020: it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance until the next meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Elin Jones MS; Ben Lake MP: Broadband Upgrade Fund: Residents across Ceredigion may be entitled to significant Government Funding to upgrade their broadband connection. Ceredigion is one of seven rural counties selected to take part in a new broadband pilot scheme. Residential and business properties in Ceredigion, which currently have broadband speeds of less than 30 Mbps available to them may be eligible for funding through the Broadband Upgrade Fund and the Welsh Government's top-up voucher scheme.
The funding provides residents and businesses with a small grant voucher that can be put towards the cost of installing gigabit capable broadband to their premises, using a supplier registered with the scheme.
It is often more expensive for industry to roll out broadband infrastructure in rural areas of the country. In order to tackle this problem, the Welsh Government has

announced that it will now top-up the UK Government's Funding for the hardest to reach properties, offering an additional £1,500 for residential properties and a further £3,500 for each small to medium sized business.

The UK government vouchers are available to all homes and businesses in Ceredigion receiving less than 30mps and will be grouped with vouchers from neighbouring premises to fund the work required to improve the network for the local community. **All constituents with speeds of less than 30mbps to register their interest before the 30th Sept. 2020.**

8.2 **MESSAGE FROM RICHARD SMITH, OWNER OF CAMBRIAN SAFARIS AND PENTIR PUMLUMON BOARD MEMBER** drawing attention to the present challenges facing the tourism industry and the local support network *Pentir Pumlumon*. He encouraged the use of its Members Facebook Group during this challenging time. For Mid Wales Tourism members, help is available from their Facebook members' group and regular newsletter updates. Certain outside networking events could be considered shortly.

8.3 **Age Cymru:** sought older people's views during the Covid19 lockdown and enquired in relation to the support, which older people would require, to re-engage with their communities, post lockdown.

8.4 **Welsh Government (WG):** Community and Town Councils loss of income funding: All claims in respect of loss of income must relate to the period 1 April 2020-21.

8.5 **Survey of Remote Working: One Voice Wales (OVW)** on behalf of the Welsh Government (WG) sought the views of Councils, on the effectiveness of remote meetings, to consider whether in the future, there would be merit in including provision in legislation, for a continuation of some elements of the remote meeting provisions, contained in the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020. The Survey had been completed by the Community Council.

8.6 **Community Health Council – Winter Planning 2020 Survey:** for information.

8.7 **Fly Tipping: OVW:** Free printable awareness raising posters.

8.8 **Guidance to Councils on Holding Meetings on a Physical Basis:** OVW

8.9 **Other Correspondence:** Noted for Information.

9. FINANCE

9.1 **Grant Thornton External Audit 2019 -20:** requested further information, which had been forwarded.

“Accounting statements

The Council had included an unpresented cheque from 2018/19 in the figure for box 1 for 2019/20 on the Annual Return. Has this unpresented cheque been written off during the year? (written off £10 Scholarship Cheque, which had not been cashed in previous year)

It was also noted that the total payments on the Annual Return (Box 4 and 6) total to £5,939, but the Council had provided a figure of £5,919.18 on the receipts and payments box. Explanation of this discrepancy of £20 required? Answer: The Community Council holds 3 accounts and individual Receipts and Payments Documents have been included for each account. The Annual Return had included the sum of all 3 accounts

2017/18 audit

In 2017/18, these recommendations were made:

- In year budget monitoring – the Council should review the actual income and expenditure incurred against its agreed budget as part of its quarterly budget monitoring
- Internal Auditor Engagement Letter – the Council should ensure that it obtains a letter of engagement from the Internal Auditor, which should state their independence and outline the tasks they will undertake.

Following these recommendations, please could you provide:

- Copies of council minutes where reviews of the 2019/20 budget took place during the year.
- Copy of the Internal Auditor Engagement letter for 2019/20. An Internal Auditor Engagement Letter has been sent to Grant Thornton, but this letter covers the year 2018/19.

ABOVE COPIES FORWARDED TO GRANT THORNTON.

Notice of electors' rights

"We note that the Council have sent us a copy of the notice with a commencement date and end date of the 1st of July and 29th of July, respectively.

On the 14th of May, Audit Wales sent out an updated version of the notice with revised dates for all Councils, along with advice on what to do.

The revised notice states a commencement date of the 1st of September and an end date of the 28th of September.

Following this, the Council should fill out the new notice and display this on the Council's website."

ABOVE UNDERTAKEN.

Accounts of Ystrad Fflur Community Council can be viewed on the Community Council's website: <http://www.ccystradfflurcc.org.uk/2019-20>

Financial Situation 17.09.2020

Three Accounts of the Community Council

Current Account: £5,000

Business Account £10

Scholarship Account £330

9.2 Clerk's Pay August 2020 £193.83 (Gross Pay).

9.3 Green Grant- Ceredigion County Council: invoices had been forwarded to Ceredigion CC. Ceredigion CC requested further information before the grant can be released. Details have been sent.

9.4 Financial Regulations of the Community Council: it was **RESOLVED** to assign further attention to the Financial Regulations, during a future meeting of the Community Council.

9.5 Princess Sapheia Scholarship 2020 (£20): Awarded to Gwenno Evans, Ysgol y Bont.

9.6 Financial Requests

9.6.1 Marie Curie Nurses on the frontline in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion

9.6.2 Citizens' Advice Ceredigion

9.6.3 Age Cymru: Coronavirus Emergency Appeal.

In accordance with the Community Council's Policy, all financial requests will be considered at the end of the financial year.

10. PLANNING

10.1 Application Number: A200671 **Applicant:** H Davies **Location:** Field access adjacent to Llys Athro, Pontrhydfendigaid. **Proposal:** Proposed vehicle access to field. Members expressed safety concerns in relation to the field access.

10.2 Application Number: A200657 Applicant: Lyn Morgan. Location: Land at Tŷ Bach, Ffair Rhos. **Proposal:** 5x log cabins and installation of package treatment plant. It was unanimously agreed to support this application.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.30pm.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 15th October 2020 @ 7pm.

===== (Signed/Da