

YSTRAD FFLUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL; MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING

THURSDAY 29/10/2020 AT 7.00pm

1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME & PERSONAL MATTERS

Cllr. Gareth Owen welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting.

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

Members of the Public: Sonia Fletcher; Mervyn Botwood.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Laura Jones; Cllr Mair Jones (self-isolating due to Covid-19 Firebreak); Cllr Non Jones; Cllr Wil Lewis (no access to the internet); Alun Price-Jones (self-isolating due to Covid-19 Firebreak) and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) John Evans.

4. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO John Evans reported via phone that the previous month had been quiet. Regarding the attack on a Young Person on the main bridge of the Village, PCSO Jones reported that a Lampeter Officer was assigning attention to the matter.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None declared.

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE MEETING OF THE 17th September 2020

It was **PROPOSED** (Cllr Gareth Owen), **SECONDED** (Cllr John Jones) and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes of the Meeting of the 17th September 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 in March 2020 but demand had waned, as those who required help, often sought the assistance of neighbours or people they knew.
- Cllr John Jones reported that he had sent a letter, as agreed during the previous meeting, to Siop y Bont, to thank them for their outstanding service, since the start of the Covid-19 Lockdown on the 23.03.2020. Cllr Jones stated that Mr Ceredig Morgan the owner of the shop and the staff had appreciated this gesture.
- It was felt that it would be good practice to remind members of the public of the present 17day (23 Oct-8th Nov (inc)) Fire-break rules by submitting a post on local social platforms.

7.2 Maintenance of the Pantyfedwen Hall Play Area

It was conveyed that some users of the park did not adhere to social distancing measures. It was **RESOLVED** to forward a notice onto the Village's social platforms stating that should social distancing measures not be observed, it will be necessary to close the park, during this present climate, in the interest of the health of residents of the Village. **AGREED Cllr Clare Hughes to execute this task.**

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 attended to certain matters: **It was AGREED to assign attention to outstanding matters, during Spring 2021.**

7.4 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.

The owner of the property, namely Mr Alan Phillips had been contacted; Mr Phillips had spoken to Marika who had informed him that Malcolm would move the tank.

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

7.6 **Repair of Bench, Ffair Rhos:** Cllr Gareth Owen and John Jones to examine the condition of the bench and **AGREED** to report at the next meeting.

7.7 **Grass Cutting over the Summer Months within the Village:** Mr D Benjamin had completed the grass cutting for the Summer 2020 on behalf of the Community Council.
Grass verge outside Pantyfedwen Hall, adjacent to the road, and certain areas within the Maesydderwen Estate, would hopefully, be cut by Ceredigion County Council, before the end of the season. (email received from Ceredigion CC conveying this information)

7.8 **It was reported during a previous meeting that trees were overgrown at Glan-yr Afon.** It was **AGREED** to contact Natural Resources Wales to find out whether grants were available to install a footpath in the environs of Glanyrafon leading to the Green Bridge.

7.9 **Remembrance Sunday Service: 8.11.2020:** It was **RESOLVED** *not* to hold a Remembrance Sunday service this year, in view of the Covid-19 restrictions. Chairman Cllr Gareth Owen and Cllr John Jones (Marshall) will lay a wreath by the Bont War Memorial on Sunday 8th November 2020. Two minutes' silence will be observed at 11am to remember the fallen during military conflicts. It was **RESOLVED** to display a poster on social platforms and the shop inviting residents to observe 2 minutes' silence at 11am outside their properties. It was **AGREED** to ask John Jenkins, Lledrod to assume the role of bugler, once again, this year. Members of the public will be permitted to lay a wreath by the War Memorial during Remembrance Sunday, by observing social distancing measures.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 **Welsh Ambulance Service:** updating all the local defibrillators and asking whether it would be possible for the Community Council to check the defibrillator and upload it to the Circuit. <https://www.thecircuit.uk>. **AGREED Cllr Gareth Owen to execute the task.**

8.2 **Remote Training Sessions for October One Voice Wales:** for information.

8.3 **Remote Meeting Survey, One Voice Wales.** The results of the survey provide clear and strong evidence that member Councils value having the facility to hold remote meetings, made possible by the introduction of temporary regulations by Welsh Government in April 2020, in response to the pandemic and lockdown, which made it impossible to hold physical meetings.
Certain disadvantages were noted viz councillors lacking IT knowledge and either without the necessary hardware or internet for video meetings or not wanting to use the facilities they have, to do so; technical issues due to lack of effective broadband in rural areas and problematical and intermittent connectivity during meetings; Chairing meetings and the voting process proved more difficult and possible stifling of discussions particularly with highly disputed agenda items; provision of translation facilities and signing of cheques more difficult. These issues could be addressed by training and better internet connection.
The benefits of holding remote meetings seemed to outweigh the disadvantages: more focussed, efficient and well attended meetings; maximising and diversifying engagements by members of councils, the public and press including the future recruitment of new members; savings on time, travel costs, room hire, printing of papers. More environmentally friendly, mitigating the effect of extenuating circumstances; able to arrange urgent meetings of Council with minimal time and cost implications, thereby improving democratic decision making; scheduling meetings of sub-committees, project meetings and working groups.
Based on the survey's results and the fact that two thirds of respondents (66 %) said they would like to retain the facility for remote working, it is recommended that:

- permission to hold remote meetings in future should be enshrined in law.
- the legislation should include flexibility to permit a hybrid situation where members and the public could attend meetings either physically or remotely. Meetings could be live streamed to provide full public access.
- for the future remote meetings/working could be supported and facilitated by ensuring the availability of training for staff and councillors.
- consideration be given to support Community and Town Councils to fund the technical equipment needed by Councillors e.g. by extending to Community and Town Councils the facility available to unitary authorities for claiming equipment costs refunds from Welsh Government.
- it would be useful to assess whether or not unitary authorities could provide Community and Town Councils with a link to their technical facilities for remote meetings in order to facilitate public participation and an easier login process and if so, whether it would be beneficial to do so.

8.4 **The Independent Remuneration Panel draft Annual Report 2021/22** has now been published for consultation and is available on its website by clicking on the link below:

[Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2021](#)

Section 13 relates specifically to Community and Town Councils.

Comments on the draft to be submitted to IRPMailbox@gov.wales by **23 November 2020**.

Due to current restrictions hard copy versions are not available by post.

8.5 Other Correspondence: Noted for Information.

9. FINANCE

PAYMENTS

9.1 C Benjamin, Coal Yard, Station Road, Tregaron: Grass Cutting over the summer months £1,350.

9.2 Poppy Wreath, Royal British Legion c/o Cllr John Jones £25

9.3 Clerk's Pay September 2020 £193.83 (Gross Pay).

RECEIPTS

9.4 Precept, payment in part, Ceredigion County Council 2020-21 £2,404.04

9.5 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.*

9.6 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.

9.7 Precept 2021/2022: Ceredigion CC: The Precept forms 2021-22 will be sent to Community Council in December 2020. Precept figures will be required by the 29th January 2021. ***This was noted.***

9.8 Financial Requests

9.8.1 Radio Bronglais, Aberystwyth

9.8.2 Cerebral Palsy Wales

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: A200762 Applicants: D & K Rees & Patten. Location: Land at Bwlchydwyallt, Pontrhydfendigaid. Proposal: Construction of rural enterprise dwelling to include installation of vehicular access and package treatment plant. **Community Council's Observations: No Objections.**

10.2 Application Number: A200760 Applicant: J Breeze. Location: Parkland View, Ffair Rhos, Ystrad Meurig, SY26 6BP. Proposal: Variation of Section 106 to reflect updated affordable housing policies and to allow the property to be let at an intermediate rent. Community Council's Observations: No Objections.

10.3 Birchill Access Consultancy Ltd. Formal Consultation on Common Land works, CL67 Rhos Gelli-Gron (CL67), Community of Ystrad Fflur, County of Ceredigion: Mr Rupert Street has applied to the Welsh Ministers for consent under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to carry out restricted works on Rhos Gelli Gron Common near Pontrhydfendigaid (CL67) with the purpose of making stock management easier on this extensive area, reducing overgrazing issues and helping with long term environmental improvement on the common. The proposal recognises that there are public rights of way on the common and the land is also access land but it is proposed to mitigate any unnecessary interference with public access with new gates on intersecting public rights of way and an additional gate in the fence if required.

The proposed works are:

To erect stock proof fencing a total length of 1589 metres across the middle of the common to aid with stock and environmental management. The fencing will be located across the middle of the common in a generally east to west direction.

(SN7229,6252-SN7294,6237-SN7340,6301)

Community Council's Observations: Ystrad Fflur Community Council does not support this Proposal and is in favour of maintaining the status quo. The introduction of a fence would barricade the area and prove obstructive.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Cllr Clare Hughes reported that Mrs Nel Jones had enquired in relation to the footpath which leads from the school to Ffair Rhos. Mrs Jones had drawn Cllrs attention to this footpath during the 2019 AGM and had reported that 3 stiles were in need of attention. **AGREED:** to remind Mr Haydn Richards Ceredigion CC.

11.2 Footpath: Green Bridge to Cattle Grid, Mill Street: flooding proved a problem. County Cllr Ifan Lloyd-Davies to investigate further.

11.3 Mill Street and Maesydderwen Estate: holes are evident: **AGREED:** to report to Ceredigion CC.

11.4 It was agreed to report to Ceredigion CC the poor condition of the mountain road. Brynesger -Lakes-GlanPon-Gwarcaeu-BrynCorryn – leading to the mountain gate. **AGREED:** to report to Ceredigion CC.

11.5 Cllr Doug Rowbotham drew reference to the static bus and other items in close proximity to the school and the environs of Rock House. It was agreed to consult the Planning Dept, Ceredigion CC.

11.6 A tree in close proximity to 22/23 Maesydderwen proves a safety hazard. To ask Ceredigion CC whether it is possible to fell the tree.

Also to ask whether it is possible to trim a tree adjacent to 9 Maesydderwen.

11.7 County Cllr Ifan Lloyd Davies stated that grants of up to £1,000 could be available for the Pantyfedwen Hall Committee via Business Wales, details of which are available on the Ceredigion CC website.

11.8 Sourcing grants to cover maintenance of the park was considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.20pm.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 19th November 2020 @ 7pm. Location: Pantyfedwen Hall Library or Virtual Meeting in accordance with Covid-19 Regulations.

===== (Signed/Da