

**YSTRAD FFLUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL; MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MONTHLY  
MEETING THURSDAY 21/01/2021 AT 7.00pm**

**1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME & PERSONAL MATTERS**

Cllr. Gareth Owen welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting and wished everyone a happy new year. A minute's silence was observed in memory of Mr Ceredig Morgan, the brother-in-law of Cllr Wil Lewis, who, sadly, had recently passed away.

**2. PRESENT:** Mervyn Botwood (resident of the Village); Sonia Fletcher (resident of the Village); Cllr Clare Hughes; Cllr Angharad Jones; Cllr John Jones; Cllr Laura Jones; County Cllr. Ifan Lloyd-Davies; Cllr Gareth Owen; Cllr Doug Rowbotham & Eleri Thomas (Clerk).

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Mair Jones (no access to internet & shielding); Cllr Non-Jones; Cllr Wil Lewis (no access to the internet) & Cllr Alun Price-Jones (no access to internet & shielding).

**4. POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO John Evans reported via phone, during the meeting that there had been no incidents of Antisocial Behaviour, Burglary, Criminal Damage, theft or offences of violence during the past 2 months.

Phone scams were on the rise and members of the public were asked to be vigilant. Criminals had been caught in relation to hare poaching in the area and some had been charged for breaching Covid-19 Regulations.

**5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None declared.

**6. CONFIRMATION OF THE MEETING OF THE 19th of November 2020**

It was **PROPOSED (Cllr Angharad Jones)**, **SECONDED (Cllr Doug Rowbotham)** and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes of the Meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, were correct. They will be signed by the Chairperson when circumstances permit.

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

**7.1 Gauging the Precept for the Fiscal Year 2021-22:** The Budget Report was discussed (attached). Cllr Angharad Jones proposed that the Precept remained the same as the previous year, viz £7,212.11. This Proposal was seconded by Cllr Laura Jones; it was **RESOLVED** to accept this proposal.

Another proposal requested the increase of last year's Precept by 1% but it was not seconded.

It was felt that an increase could not be justified in light of current and past Covid-19 challenges.

**7.2 Update: Community Council's response to the Coronavirus challenge:** The

Community Council encouraged individuals to be vigilant and to observe Welsh Government guidelines. The Oxford AstraZeneca Vaccine had started its roll out in the area, at Tregaron Leisure Centre, during the previous Saturday, for Keyworkers and for individuals 80+. It was reported that there had been a reduction in the number of people infected with Covid-19, within the Hywel Dda Health Board Area, during the past week.

**7.3 Maintenance of the Pantyfedwen Hall Play Area:** a poster had been displayed at the entrance to the park, which contained Covid-19 recommendations, for users of the play-area.

**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.

*During the previous meeting it was reported that 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. It was not known at this meeting whether the tank had been removed.*

**7.5 Repair of Bench, Ffair Rhos:** Cllr Gareth Owen and John Jones to examine the condition of the bench. *No further developments at this meeting.*

**7.6 It was reported during a previous meeting that trees were overgrown at Glan-yr Afon.** It was AGREED during that meeting to contact Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to establish whether grants were available to install a footpath in the environs of Glanyrafon, leading to the Green Bridge. NRW had forwarded a Budget Bulletin, which listed sources of funding, which could be investigated. A communication from Mr Mervyn Botwood questioned the need for a proposed new footpath adjacent to the southern side of the River Teifi, when a poorly maintained footpath already extended from the cattlegrid to Abbey Road and Oak Street. He asked whether members of the Community Council would reconsider this proposal in view of the existing footpath and environmental issues encompassing hedgehogs, water-voles, frogs, toads and newts etc. The Proposal would allow rear access to properties and consequently, increase vulnerability, in relation to crime. Certain maintenance work such as tree pruning and grass cutting would be necessary at certain intervals along this section; this work should be executed by a professional with careful consideration to the environment. It was felt that cutting the grass had no effect on pest control. The Community Council was reminded of a similar proposal many years ago on the northern side of the River Teifi, which resulted in the destruction of many trees including an ancient oak tree in the environs of the Green Bridge. As some members of the Community Council had been unable to view the above communication before this evening's meeting (sent via email 21.01.2021 pm and unable to be viewed by those with no online presence), it was agreed to defer the discussion regarding the matter until the February monthly meeting of the Community Council.

**7.7 Welsh Ambulance Service:** updating all the local defibrillators and asking whether it would be possible for the Community Council to check the defibrillators and upload them onto the Circuit. <https://www.thecircuit.uk>. The App for Ceredigion was requested. **AGREED Cllr Doug Rowbotham to execute the task.** A defibrillator is located adjacent to the Pantyfedwen Hall and the Village Shop. It was not ascertained whether a defibrillator was positioned in close proximity to the Abbey.

**7.8 Costs associated with the repair of the Park's fence:** Cynnal y Cardi Grant: Cllr Clare Hughes was assigning attention to the matter.

**7.9 Footpaths:** Cllr Clare Hughes had received enquiries from residents of the Village regarding the state of the footpath from the Green Bridge to the Cattle Grid. A response had been received from Mr Haydn Lewis, Rights of Way and Countryside Ranger, Ceredigion CC stating that the footpath was not included within the priority list due to Covid-19 circumstances. Nevertheless, it is hoped to assign attention to the footpath during the summer 2021.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

**8.1 HM Land Registry:** Survey of Community and Town Councils in Wales: Working in conjunction with Welsh and central Government, HM Land Registry is tasked with registering all public sector land by 2025 and all privately held land by 2030. The Community Council was asked to complete a short survey developed by HM Land Registry in conjunction with One Voice Wales. Closing date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It was agreed to complete the survey. (Clerk)

8.2 **Cambrian Mountains Initiative Developments:** Despite the Covid-19 Challenge the work of *Cambrian Mountains Initiative* had continued by supporting as many businesses as possible by offering advice, assistance and virtual activities to maintain interest and confidence. Extension had been granted for this initiative from Powys, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire County Councils. During the challenging time Cambrian Mountains Initiative had published the Pocket Guide to the Cambrian Mountains; online travel writer article titled “A week in the Cambrian Mountains”; Landscapes of the Cambrian Mountains film, completed a landscape research study and developed their website and social media.

8.3 **Response from Ceredigion CC regarding the request to trim trees** adjacent to 22/23 Maesydderwen and 9 Maesydderwen: Mr Jon Hadlow, Ceredigion CC had inspected the oak tree adjacent to 22/23 Maesydderwen and no serious problems were observed deeming the tree a danger. Mr Hadlow had agreed to trim the apex of the tree in a bid to rectify the previous work undertaken on the tree. *It was agreed to remind Ceredigion CC of this work.*

**Tree Outside 9 Maesydderwen is the responsibility of Tai Ceredigion. To report the matter to Tai Ceredigion.**

8.4 **Building in the environs of the School and Rock House, Pontrhydfendigaid:** it had been reported in a previous meeting that static caravans, buses and other items were evident on the grounds of the building adjacent to the School and Rock House, Pontrhydfendigaid. Members felt that it detracted from the appearance of the Village and thought that planning permission would be necessary. Ceredigion County Council reported that an officer had visited the site and was in discussion with the owner to improve the condition of the land. As the owners are undertaking a self-build project, they were entitled to occupy the land during the development, but the Local Planning Authority was aware of the unacceptable condition of the site and will keep the Community Council informed of developments. County Cllr Ifan Lloyd Davies agreed to liaise with the Planning Enforcement Officer Ceredigion CC to establish a way forward.

8.4 **Mr Mervyn Botwood asked why he was cut off during virtual Zoom meetings** of the Community Council after 30 minutes. Ystrad Fflur Community Council had opted for the free Zoom Package, which meant that it was necessary to log on every 30 minutes. It could be possible to upgrade to the paid version at approximately £12 per month but it was felt that this was not justified for hosting one Zoom meeting per month, as a temporary measure, during the Covid-19 Lockdown.

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

**9. FINANCE  
PAYMENTS**

9.1 **Clerk’s Pay November & December 2020** £193.83 x 2 (Gross Pay).

9.2 **Audit Wales: Audit of Accounts** 2019/20 £465.25.

9.3 **Audit Wales:** The Auditor General for Wales has issued Ystrad Fflur Community Council a qualified audit report. Details available.  
[www.ccystradfflurcc.org.uk/2019-2020/](http://www.ccystradfflurcc.org.uk/2019-2020/)

9.4 **Green Grant- Ceredigion County Council:** received from Ceredigion CC £319.90

9.5 **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.

## 10. PLANNING

10.1 **Ref: 3260696: Formal Consultation: Work on Common Land. CL67 Rhos Gell-Gron, Ceredigion.** The Planning Inspectorate Wales asked for further observations in relation to the Applicant's Statement by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2021. It was agreed to state that the previous concerns submitted by the Community Council, were ongoing.

10.2 **Planning Application A200971.** Applicant: Rees and Venables WMS Firearms Training. **Location:** Bwlchydwyallt, Pontrhydfendigaid, Ystrad Meurig, SY26 6EL. **Proposal:** Retention of wood and box profile sheet shelter. Date received by the Community Council 18.12.2020. **Community Council's Observations: No Objections** (delegated to Chair and Deputy-Chair as the response was required between the Community Council's Meeting).

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 **Cllr Clare Hughes** enquired whether the Village signs were insured by the Community Council. They were not insured by the Community Council. County Cllr Ifan Lloyd Davies agreed to find out further information via Mr Tom Delph Januirek, Ceredigion County Council.

11.2 **It was reported that an electricity post was insecure in the environs of the Pantyfedwen Play Area.** It was **AGREED** to report the matter to Western Power Distribution.

11.3 **Cllr Laura Jones said that a recent FB dialogue encompassed speeding issues in the Village, and it was enquired whether stricter speed restrictions could be implemented (from the current 30mph to 20mph) as well as traffic calming measures.** A White Paper has been drafted by the Welsh Government.

11.4 **Cllr Laura Jones encouraged members and individuals to support the on-line petition** calling for fair funding for the National Library of Wales by the Welsh Government

"We call for fair funding by the Welsh Government to the National Library of Wales, one of the world's great libraries, a repository of the historic, artistic and intellectual treasures of Wales. With no increased support from Welsh Government, 30 jobs are to be cut and services seriously curtailed. Freedom, prosperity and the development of society and individuals are fundamental human values, attained by well-informed citizens with unlimited access to thought, culture and information.

To ensure that the National Library of Wales continues with delivering comprehensive services to all, we ask the Welsh Government to increase its financial support, ensuring that it remains a gateway to knowledge, providing lifelong learning. Libraries cannot be expected to generate their own income in the same way as businesses."

**The meeting was adjourned at 8.10pm.**

## 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Thursday 18<sup>TH</sup> February 2021 @ 7pm. Location: Pantyfedwen Hall Library or Virtual Meeting in accordance with WG Covid-19 Regulations.**

===== (Signed/Date)