

# PENYFFORDD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Present:** Councillors Mr R Wakelam (Chairman), Cllr P Ransome (Vice Chairman), Mr D Williams, Mr A Sloan, Mrs L Overington, Mr O Thompson, Mr D Walker, Mr M Rothero and Mrs S Williams. Miss N Boleyn – Youth Representative.

**By Phone/Video:** Councillor Mr J Priddin

**Also Present:** Mrs Sarah A Hughes, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
Mr Colin Ellis, Head Teacher – Castell Alun High School

### 199. Apologies

There received from Cllrs J Jones, P Blackman and A Ibbotson

### 200. To receive any Declarations of Interest – Members Code of Conduct

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

### 201. Visitor – Mr Colin Ellis, Castell Alun High School Head Teacher

The Chair reported the concerns of recent ASB within the village, mainly on the evenings of the Youth Club, predominantly of which the youths are from outside of the village. CE was aware that Penyffordd is a popular village for young people and is willing to attend the Youth Club to show his presence. He is obviously restricted regarding behaviour and activities outside of school but wants to support the community. He will also raise awareness in the school assembly.

Cllr Sloan raised the continued concern of school transport and how it is splitting the village. He asked if the school was in support of transport for all students? CE advised that he has no jurisdiction of transport and it is very difficult with the financial restraints of FCC. He is absolutely aware of the difficulties this is putting on families and sympathises with their situations.

\*\*6.50pm Cllr Thompson arrived.

With regard to the new cycle/pathway from Penyffordd to Hope, should FCC impose this as a 'safer route to school' and withdraw school transport, he would certainly oppose and does not consider this a safer route.

\*\*6.55pm Mr Ellis left the meeting.

### 202. To receive and approve the Ordinary Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**RESOLVED:** these were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 203. To review and report on any Matters Arising from previous meetings

**Min 180** – PACA/TeamRed provided the council with a monthly update in the Youth Club Warm Hub. 11x sessions held in February (50 hours) which includes extended opening for the half term week and earlier starts on a Friday to incorporate a bingo session. 509 attendees in total across these sessions of which they estimate 60% adults and 40% children. Expenditure for this month has been covered entirely by the Warm Hub Grant and therefore no further funding is required from the Community Council at present.

**Min 183** - CAB Outreach Event, the date has been agreed as 10.00am – 3.00pm Saturday 22nd April. Hope and Kinnerton Councils are onboard with the event.

**Min 185/164/154** – Cllr D Williams advised this is still ongoing.

**Min 185/177** – the meeting was held with Arriva and unfortunately not a positive outcome, however, talks are still ongoing.

**Min 189** - Letters/emails were sent to FCC Planning and all FCC members regarding the lack of enforcement. A response from Planning Enforcement has been received and the complaint recorded. A letter of thanks was also sent to Officers regarding their support during the LDP which they responded with thanks to the council and community.

**Min 192** The Kings Coronation grant application has been launched and all applications will be reviewed in April. To date one application has been received.

**Min 194 a** - Old School Site – Damian Hughes emailed 22.02.2023 to advise he will be picking up the actions on this. Firstly, he will need to organise an internal meeting to understand where differing elements are at before he can coordinate a meeting with the council. He will be in touch in this regard in the next couple of weeks

The survey has been launched online and paper copies situated in various locations around the village. To date over 1000 responses have been received.

**Min 194 b** - The equipment has been purchased and will be installed imminently. Mr Jones will monitor and share any information with the Clerk.

The end of project event took place the morning of 8th March which was a great success. There were approx. 20 attendees including representatives from the council, Woodwork, both primary schools, Transport for Wales and local residents. The site has been transformed, cleared & cut back, 400+ trees planted and pathways installed. The Clerk reminded members that Woodwork will be invited to the April meeting to discuss the review of their contract.

**Min 197** – Cllrs Wakelam and Priddin attended the Hanson Liaison Committee meeting and were informed that Castle Green received a warning from NRW regarding the pollution of the brook.

#### **204. To receive any Public Questions/Correspondence**

There were three public questions received by email:

- a) Youth Club Warm Hub – an email received with two concerns regarding the recent introduction of a “warm hub” in the village, which they believe is being funded via the community council? It was questioned whether the funding for this has been made completely transparent to residents? And secondly the target audience for the warm hub and is it reaching the right people. Their understanding was that this was for those who are perhaps vulnerable and lonely, worried about rising energy costs, being provided a central place to meet for a cup of tea in a warm place? Whenever they go past it just seems to be full of young children/teenagers.

Members are fully supportive of the great work that is being done with the Warm Hubs and recognises that there are many individuals that require support in a number of ways and there should be no judgement on who attends the facility. The Warm Hub is a safe place where attendees will not be discriminated. Whilst it is appreciated that there are a number of youths who attend, from the recent report there is a higher percentage of adult attendance, which includes full families attending together.

**RESOLVED:** the Clerk has acknowledged the email and will now provide the recent figures. The council will also write a letter of appreciation to PACA/TeamRed for their much needed community work.

- b) Dental Services - With the ending of the NHS funded dental service at the Bistre practice, many villagers will be left without a dental service that is free at the point of demand. They have written to our Welsh Assembly member about this matter and wondered whether the Community Council could raise the matter with all relevant authorities?

Cllr Sloan provided information on the current dental services in Wales and that Dental Practices are losing money on NHS services. There is a huge funding issue in Wales. The Bistre practice has chosen to give up the NHS services for this reason. The closest surgeries are now Mold or Saltney.

**RESOLVED:** the council will write to Mark Tami MP and Jack Sargeant MS.

- c) A request from a young person within the village to volunteer hours e.g litter picking etc over the next 8 weeks to assist with his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Clerk advised that this has been cleared with the Insurance company.

**RESOLVED:** the Chairman will liaise with the resident and make the necessary arrangements.

#### **205. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**

Members reviewed the IRPW [2023/24 Annual Report](#) in conjunction with the IRPW [2022/23 Annual Report](#) and considered which of the Panel’s determinations to adopt for 2023/24.

As the council is in Group 4 (Electorate 1,000 to 4,999), the following is applicable for consideration:

<b>Group 4</b>	<b>Electorate 1,000 to 4,999</b>
(4) Extra Costs Payment	Mandatory for all members
(43) Cost of Care or Personal Assistance	Mandatory
(45) Senior Role	Optional up to 3 members

(46/47) Travel and Subsistence	Optional
(48) Financial Loss	Optional
(49) Attendance Allowance	Optional
(50) Mayor or Chair	Optional - Up to a maximum of £1,500
(51) Deputy Mayor or Deputy Chair	Optional - Up to a maximum of £500

**RESOLVED:** The Council will adopt for 2023/24 Determinations 43, 45 – 48 (from the 2022/23 Report) and Determination 4 (from the 2023/24 Report). With regard to Determination 45 – Senior Role Payment, this will be applicable to the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**The Policy for Payments is as follows:**

- Payments will be made annually as one lump sum
- Payments will be made to members at the end of the financial year February or March.
- As payments will be made at the end of the financial year it should reduce the requirement to recover any payments made to a member who leaves their role during the financial year.
- Should a member leave part way through a year, a pro rata payment will be made.
- Payments will be processed via payroll where appropriate tax and ni will be deducted and payments will then be made via cheque or bacs.

**206. Bank Balances and Accounts for Payment**

**Bank Balances**    Current £11,751.03    Deposit £142,411.44    Play Area £8,934.70

**Payments Received**

09/02/2023	Flintshire CC	Match Funding - Millstone	£10,000.00
11/02/2023	N Hodge	Sponsor a Tree 2022	£60.00
13/02/2023	D Williams	Sponsor a Tree 2022	£90.00

**Bank Transfers**

09/02/2023	Deposit	To Current	£10,000.00
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**Accounts for Payment**

Payee	Details	Amount
Alasdair Ibbotson	Members Allowance	£120.00
Andy Sloan	Members Allowance	£120.00
David Williams	Members Allowance	£120.00
Mark Rothero	Members Allowance	£90.10
Oliver Thompson	Members Allowance	£90.10
Pat Ransome	Members Allowance	£120.00
Paul Blackman	Members Allowance	£120.00
Mr C Jones	Mileage and Expenses	£15.08
Mrs S Hughes	Mileage and Expenses	£173.01
Staffing Cost	Feb-23	£3,365.51
HMRC	Tax & Ni - Members Allowances	£194.80
WoodsWork CIC	Nature Area Management	£340.00
Mrs S Hughes	Reimbursement for Nature Area Camera & Equipment	£220.97
Audit Wales	External Audit 2020/21 (late received)	£250.00
HSBC	Monthly Charge (feb-march)	£10.00

**RESOLVED:** The above accounts be approved and will be processed for payment. The payment schedule was signed by the Chairman of Finance and/or the Chairman of the Council and countersigned by two bank signatories.

**207. Planning**

- a) To report and consider planning applications received from Flintshire County Council. The Council will also consider any additional applications that may be received between the issue of agenda and the meeting:

**RESOLVED:**

- i. [Ref: FUL/000153/23](#). Single-storey extension to side of property. 5 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd.  
***The council requests that any concerns of local residents be forwarded to the council for consideration. The council reserves the right to make further comments should any issues or***

**concerns be raised. Provided the proposal does not negatively impact on neighbours or local environment, streetscene etc and complies with all relevant policy, they will be happy for a delegated decision. It is expected that all neighbouring properties will be consulted with this application.**

- ii. [Ref: LDC/000189/23](#). LDC - use of land as part of curtailing of dwelling. Pheasant Fields, Lower Mountain Road, Penyffordd. **Serious concerns of the long term intentions of this site. The council will request this application goes to Planning Committee and that they review all previous applications and the full planning history of this site.**
- iii. [Ref: COU/000188/23](#). Change of use from holiday let to dwelling, previously approved as a dwelling under approval reference 058136, and approved as a holiday let under reference 064352. The application seeks to revert the property to a dwelling as originally approved. Pheasant Cottage, Lower Mountain Road, Penyffordd. **Serious concerns of the long term intentions of this site. The council will request this application goes to Planning Committee and that they review all previous applications and the full planning history of this site.**

b) Notifications of Planning Decisions made by Flintshire County Council:

- i. [Ref: FUL/000039/23](#). Single storey rear extension. 29, Rhodfa Gladstone, Penymynydd. **Approved**

The Clerk reminded members that last month this application was reported as 'Refused' as she had obtained the following information from the Planning Portal - Application closed for comments before expiry date due to FCC refusing the application on the grounds the application site has had Permitted Development Rights removed by condition 29 of application 058759. However, she subsequently received notification of the application being 'Approved'. She attempted to query this with the Planning Officer as the council did not submit a response and the Clerk did not receive any notification that the application was in fact live and had not been refused as per above.

**RESOLVED:** the information and emails will be shared with Cty Cllr Wakelam who will take this up with Andy Roberts.

c) To receive an update of any ongoing development, planning applications or appeals.

## 208. Play Areas

- a) Melwood Play Area – Cllr Wakelam submitted a proposal for the council to investigate splitting the top grass area from the play equipment allowing for a dog run area as there is a lack of space for dog exercise and would stop dogs running free in the play area. He advised that he has had an informal talk with Ian Williams, Streetscene who may possibly be able to provide fencing.
- b) Cllrs D Williams and Wakelam are looking into the designs and costs for a pump track and as soon as these are received they will be shared for further discussion.
- c) Cllr Walker questioned progress of the pathway around Dobshill play area. He was advised that Cllr Ibbotson was co-ordinating this project. It is believed that 2 estimates were received but no contractor had been appointed.

### RESOLVED:

- a) The council approved in principle for this to be investigated further with Ian Williams and should FCC be able to provide the fencing free of charge, all boundary residents of the play area will be consulted before a final decision is made.
- c) Cllr Ibbotson will be requested to provide an update to the council.

Cllr Ransome proposed, which was unanimously agreed, to bring forward agenda item 13.

## 209. Great British Spring Clean

Cllr Ransome submitted a proposal for the Community Council, together with the community and where possible major stakeholders to take part in the GBSC and sign the pledge. The proposed date is 18<sup>th</sup> March 11am-2pm, meeting locations of Penymynydd Woods and Millstone play area.

[The Great British Spring Clean](#) will take place from 17 March – 2 April. Back for its eighth year it is the nation's biggest mass action environmental campaign. As a Community Council we can pledge to collect bags of litter from our community. In line with past litter collections undertaken by the village this provides an opportunity for all to join with a national campaign and highlight the importance of looking after our environment, our community.

McDonald's have confirmed they will be attending and assisting with the Penymynydd Woods area.

**RESOLVED:** the council are fully supportive of the event. It will be published immediately and local groups will be invited to participate. A Risk Assessment will be completed and first aid kit purchased. Cllrs Ransome and Wakelam will be the Lead Organisers.

## 210. Community Facilities

- a) Telephone Kiosk – Mr Jones has been looking into the issue of condensation with the telephone kiosk and has submitted a report for the council to consider. He is concerned that even with the suggested equipment in the report the books will still get damp and damaged. For the notices displayed, he has also obtained costs and examples of a lockable noticeboard that can go inside the kiosk
- b) Community Garden – Cllr Wakelam submitted a proposal to re-site the Community Garden (currently in the allotments) and setting up a group to investigate further.

The proposal suggests moving the community garden onto the Old School site and to assist the Allotment Committee with grant funding for a new secure fence. The benefits of this proposal would give greater security to both the allotments and caravan residents and reduce ASB and to make the garden more visible. Less litter, more plants and wildlife. It may allow for upto 3 further allotment plots and a community facility for plants/tree growing.

He has informally spoke with the Chair of the Allotments and PACA to gain their initial response, which is they are in support of the resiting.

Cllr Walker questioned whether this should be discussed before the results of the Old Site Survey was complete?

- c) Community Changing Rooms – the adult football pitch is now in full use and the facility is now incurring services charges. The formation of the Management Committee had been passed to the Infrastructure WG, however, no reports or information has been submitted back to council.

### **RESOLVED:**

- a) The council agreed that even with the suggested equipment, the kiosk could be damp and therefore no equipment will be purchased or an internal noticeboard. The council did however approve to have a seasonal book exchange through the warmer months.
- b) The council approved for further investigations to be made and options considered. Further discussion will be had once the Old School site survey is complete.
- c) The Infrastructure WG will be asked to ensure this is dealt with as with as a matter of priority.

\*\*Cllr Overington left the meeting 8.33pm

## 211. Highway Safety and Speeding

Cllr Wakelam reported that following a meeting with Anthony Stanford, FCC, the outcome was extremely disappointing and the speed limits in Dobshill will not be reduced. Despite the number of accidents and damage to property, there is no evidence of injury.

Cllr D Williams advised that a substantial amount of work had be undertaken on this matter and information prepare for a letter to be sent, which the council requested was held back until these discussion with A.Stanford were complete. Now that they are complete and to an unsatisfactory level, a request was made for the letter to now be sent.

Concerns over speeding were also reported for Platt Lane, Lower Mountain Rd, Terrance Lane and Stryt Isa.

Cllr Sloan informed members that Cty Cllr Ibbotson is taking up the highway safety concerns at St Johns School.

**RESOLVED:** the council approved for the letter to be sent. Cllr D Williams will liaise with the Clerk. FCC will be asked to undertake a speed review of Platt Lane, Terrance Lane, Lower Mountain Rd and Stryt Isa. A request will also be made to consider additional passing points on these lanes.

## 212. Penyffordd Carnival

Cllr Wakelam submitted a proposal for the council to consider having a stall at the annual Penyffordd Carnival to make the council more visible to the community. He will be willing to 'man' the stall but would appreciate any other support.

**RESOLVED:** the council approved the proposal.

### 213. Working Groups

Members were provided with a copy of the meeting notes from the Community Engagement WG meeting held on 15th February. The WG is focussing on the updates for the Place Plan and members were asked to please make every effort to attend future meetings. The next meeting will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr S Williams gave apologies that due to family commitments she will not be able to attend.

The Clerk reiterated Cllr Ransome's comments as the council has a number of projects for the coming year which will require the work and attention of the WG's outside of the monthly council meetings.

**RESOLVED:** as the Infrastructure WG needs to meet as a matter of priority and in the absence of Cllr Ibbotson (Chair of WG), Cllr Sloan will make arrangements for the next meeting.

### 214. Issues Raised with Flintshire County Council

A 'FCC Issue Log' has been prepared to allow the council to regularly monitoring the progress of issues raised. Members will provide the Clerk with updates on the issues.

Cllr Walker requested that as there are a number of ongoing issues that need resolving by FCC Streetscene, that they be invited to a future meeting.

Reports of the road surfacing condition and pot holes on Abbots Lane/Park Lane near the tennis courts are now horrendous and require attention. Cty Cllr Wakelam advised he will report this to Ian Williams.

**RESOLVED:** the report was received and noted. Additional issues will be reported appropriately to FCC and included on the Log. Mr I Williams will be invited to a future meeting.

### 215. To acknowledge and note correspondence received.

- Woodwork CIC Monthly Report – West View Nature Area
- OVW Training and Planning Aid Wales Training & Events.
- OVW - People's Practice Peer-to-Peer Network (emailed 13.02.23)
- OVW Membership Letter
- Mayor Of Mold Fundraising Concert (emailed 27.02.23)
- Penyffordd War Memorial Institute – AGM on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, via Zoom. Please contact [penyfforddwmisecretary@gmail.com](mailto:penyfforddwmisecretary@gmail.com) for joining details.
- Private & confidential email from Ssafa regarding a funding request.

### 216. Members Items/Future Agenda Items

- The 2022/23 Sponsor a Tree has now been launched.
- Cllrs Williams and Ransome are working with the WMI to organise a number of events to the run up to the carnival.
- Cllr Walker expressed disappointment that there was no Cty Cllrs Reports and specifically on the FCC Budget.  
**RESOLVED:** a Cty Cllrs Report will be reintroduced to the monthly agenda.
- Concerns were also raised about the lack of police attendance at meetings and police presence in the community. Members were informed that there are approx. 6 PCSO's covering the whole of Flintshire. Should the council require them to attend a council meeting for a specific reason, this can be requested.
- Cllr Priddin raised the continued concerns of road safety at the Penyffordd train station roundabout.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 9.30pm

Chair..... 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023