

PENYFFORDD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs P Ransome (Chair), Mr R Wakelam, Mr P Blackman, Mrs L Overington, Mr D Williams, Mr A Ibbotson, Mr J Priddin, Mr M Rothero, Mr D Walker, Mrs G Nethercott, Mrs S Williams and Youth Rep Miss Boleyn

Also Present: Mrs Sarah A Hughes, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
3x Representatives from Penyffordd FC and 1x Member of the Public

176. Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs A Sloan and O Thompson

177. To receive any Declarations of Interest – Members Code of Conduct

Cllrs Ibbotson, Rothero and Nethercott submitted Declaration of Interests in relation to Min 186.

178. Visitor - Darren Morris, FCC Lead Officer for Play Development

Mr Morris had submitted his apologies and was unable to attend. The Clerk reported that she had spoken with Mr Morris who advised that should the 6 week scheme not be successful, the council will not be tied in for the 3 yr period and there is flexibility. FCC will be holding 'roadshows' over the Easter and May school holidays to promote the summer playscheme, they will also be providing digital marketing to T&CC and schools.

It was questioned whether it would be possible for the 6 week scheme to be split over two locations, e.g Penyffordd and Dobshill? It was also questioned whether FCC would have any objections to members of the council visiting the scheme?

RESOLVED: the above questions will be submitted to Mr Morris.

179. Chairman's Announcements

Condolences to family and friends of Mr Y Saunders, a resident who passed away at the age of 105yrs.

Efforts are to be continually made to ensure the length of the council meetings are managed.

The defibrillator training was well attended and well received, with thanks to Cllr Blackman and the RBL. All new defib location signs are now installed.

Visits to the changing rooms, nature area and a number of play areas with the newly appointed Cllr Nethercott.

Feedback has been provided for Miss Boleyn in relation to her Duke of Edinburgh.

180. To receive and approve the Ordinary Minutes of the 10th January 2024.

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

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

Min 157 – GoSafe Speedwatch Zoom Meeting held on 8th February.

RESOLVED: to contact the organisers to ascertain if they were able to record and share the training session.

Min 159/135/106 - The defib training session was held on 30th January and again was a success. Thanks to Cllr Blackman and the RBL for providing the venue and refreshments.

Cllr Walker is to chase the Bowling Club with regard to seeking their formal permission to make alternations to the fencing in order to lower the defibrillator.

Min 159/121 – Cllr Ransome questioned if there has been any progress with grants from the Min Y Ddol management company? The Clerk advised, that they were asking if the council could offer a grant otherwise funds would not allow play area improvements. Cllr D Williams felt that this was not acceptable, similarly to the White Lion Estate and the management companies should be providing improvements.

RESOLVED: to include on the next agenda Update on Managed Play Areas.

Min 162a – there has been no progress with the reformation of the Changing Room Management Committee. Cllr D Williams will endeavour to arrange this as soon as possible.

Min 162b - The demolition is coming to an end and the Contractor hopefully completing the work by the end of this week. FCC have arranged for a topographical survey to be carried over the whole site to help with the design work for the new housing development and are currently putting together a design brief for their Architects for them to produce alternative options for the layout of the site which will include information such as; Looking at a wider mix of house types in the final design; Should the orientation of the housing/community land split be divided east/west or north/south across the site; and Council held information on the SARTH system which indicates the housing needs for Penyffordd and Penymynydd as well as the current occupancy levels and of the existing Council houses in the village to best determine the actual needs of the village.

Cllr Wakelam reported that following a request to FCC, they have managed to save the tree.

Min 171 - Paul Reeves, FCC Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Manager has confirmed acceptance to the council's invitation and will be attending the March meeting.

Min 175 - The council has written to the WMI re heating and wifi and are waiting for this to be considered at the next committee meeting. Cllr Ransome has been informed on how to rectify the issue of heating.

182. To receive any Public Questions/Correspondence

- a) Mr C & Mrs P Walsh and Mr M Roberts – Penyffordd FC. They were in attendance regarding the emails below (b and c) and asked for the councils support in obtaining ground for the football pitches to accommodate the growth of the club.
- b) An email received from Penyffordd FC in relation to Min 191, to ask for the councils support in the football club using the old school Junior school pitch. They are aware that no firm decision has been made for the use of the land, and to date, nothing has been formally transferred to the Community. They also fully understand that this will have to be a temporary measure until the land is ready to be utilised by the village and FCC.
- c) A further email received from Penyffordd FC in relation to the Place Plan and would appreciate the inclusion of seeking more Adult and Children play space as being the top priority for the life of this plan, and beyond if necessary.
- d) It was questioned whether the council has considered solar street lighting? And a written report was provided to the clerk of outstanding overgrown hedges and faulty street lights.
RESOLVED: the clerk will liaise with FCC re solar street lighting and will also report the outstanding overgrown hedges and faulty street lights.

As the matter relating to questions a -c is an agenda item, Cllr Ibbotson proposed to bring forward agenda item 16, which was supported.

183. Request of Council to support Penyffordd football clubs ambition to use the old junior football pitch

Cllr Williams submitted this item in support of Cllr Sloan who was not in attendance. He explained that as there was unlikely to be any meaningful work on the land of the old school sites grassed area for the foreseeable future, could the Council support the football club in its desire to use this land until work was due to commence.

The football pitch on the old school had been used for the village junior teams for many years up but following amalgamation in 2013, it was no longer used and the club was forced to play outside the village, with some sections having to disband because of not being able to access facilities. Given current circumstances of the rapidly growing junior section and the shortage of play space, he therefore felt the land could be cleared and brought up to a standard fit to be played on again. This would be an interim solution and provide time to find a suitable alternative.

Cllr Ibbotson submitted an amendment to the proposal for the council to write a letter of support for the ambition of the football club. He also mentioned that currently there are discussions with land owners regarding the sale of land.

It was acknowledged that land is needed within the community for sports now and in the future. The council supports the ambition of the football, however, the decision lies with FCC.

Cllr Wakelam suggested and offered to approach Hanson for the use of their pitch.

RESOLVED: the council supports the ambition of the football club and Cllr D Williams will prepare a letter of support.

***7.20pm 3x Penyffordd FC Representatives left the meeting and Cllr S Williams arrived.*

184. Bank Balances and Accounts for Payment

To report balances of all bank accounts and to review and authorise monthly accounts for payment.

Bank Balances Current £ 20518.12 Deposit £ 184369.16 Play Area £ 8519.7

Payments Received

12/02/2024 Mr Daly Sponsor a Tree £32.00

Accounts for Payment

Payee	Details	Amount
Scottish Power	Changing rooms *	£107.25
Flintshire County Council	Streetlighting Maintenance (park lane)	£237.00
Mega Electrical NW Ltd	Remove & store - PYF & PYM Xmas Lights	£2,485.20
Mega Electrical NW Ltd	Remove & store - Dobshill Xmas Lights	£457.80
Smith of Derby	Annual Service of Millennium Clock	£348.00
Flintshire County Council	Streetlighting Maintenance (abbots lane)	£474.00
APH Signs Ltd	Defib Signage	£336.00
Mr C Jones	Mileage and Expenses	£37.26
Mrs S Hughes	Mileage and Expenses **	£314.08
Staffing Cost	Jan-24	£4,174.29
Jeff Priddin	Members Allowance	£208.00
Roy Wakelam	Members Allowance	£208.00
Pat Ransome	Members Allowance	£208.00
Paul Blackman	Members Allowance	£208.00
Susie Williams	Members Allowance	£208.00
Oliver Thompson	Members Allowance	£176.80
Glenys Nethercott	Members Allowance	£17.33
Andy Sloan	Members Allowance	£708.00
David Walker	Members Allowance	£208.00
Mark Rothero	Members Allowance	£156.00
David Williams	Members Allowance	£156.00
HMRC	Tax & Ni - Members Allowance	£31.20
Coniston	AED Training	£68.00
Pottles Plants	Sponsor a Tree 2023/24	£1,057.56
WoodsWork CIC	Nature Area Management	£340.00
H & R Roberts & Sons	Equipment & supplies for Groundsman	£88.62
HSBC	Monthly Charge	£10.00

Note: *paid mid month - approved by bank signatories. **expenses include £140.92 - Suttons Plants for village planters and £106.47 - Paper & Ink

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

185. To Receive the County Councillors Report

Cty Cllr Ibbotson reported on the FCC Budget. Whilst there had been proposals to cut the bus subsidies, he was pleased to report that this has now been reversed and the bus service for the village is safe. The % increase submitted by labour is 9.1% and the increase submitted by the Independents is 9%.

186. Planning Applications

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

RESOLVED:

- i. [FUL/000645/23](#). Erection of front and rear dormer windows and the removal of a garage door to create a utility room. 46 Chester Road, Dobshill. **Supported, the council agree for a delegated decision to be made by the Planning Officer.**
- ii. [FUL/000078/24](#). Erection of 2no. four bedroom detached dwellings with car parking and landscaping together with a new shared access for two of the houses. 1 Wood Lane, Penyffordd. **Not supported. In addition, concerns regarding utilities e.g installation of 3x charging points.**

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

- i. [FUL/000984/23](#). Creation of outhouse to rear of existing garage for additional storage. 73, Ffordd Glynne, Penymynydd. **Approved**
- ii. [FUL/000975/23](#). Two storey rear and single storey side extensions. Style end, Chester Road, Penymynydd, Penymynydd. **Approved**
- iii. [ADV/001077/23](#). Advert Roundabout Sponsorship Signs. No 11 Roundabout, Chester Road, Penymynydd. **Approved**
- iv. [FUL/000645/23](#). Erection of front and rear dormer windows and the removal of a garage door to create a utility room. 46 Chester Road, Dobshell. **Approved**

187. Parking at Ysgol Penyffordd

Cllr D Williams requested the council to consider various issues about highway safety around Ysgol Pen-y-ffordd as serious concerns are consistently reported to members. His concern and that of residents is that with the drop off being closed the dangers were a lot greater in the local streets, not only increasing the dangers for the children, but for local residents, especially the elderly who live next to the school.

If the drop off were to be open, this would disperse traffic and provide some relief on the local roads. He also explained that the advice supplied in the Transport Assessment that was produced as part of the Planning Process was not being followed. This being an informal one-way system and an advised walking plan. In his time as Governor and County Councillor, he had produced plans for the school with the Head of Service, but as far as he was concerned, this was never put to Governors or parents. He also reported that one of the Conditions attached to the Planning Approval was that the drop off would have to be created and maintained in the school, but this condition was not being complied with.

Cllr Nethercott advised that as Vice Chair of Governors, she has been involved with a range of initiatives and the school were working hard to try to improve the situation: communication with parents; walk to school scheme; staggered start & finish times. There is also an upcoming meeting involving representatives from school, governors, police and council. It was reported that no teacher would be appointed to manage to traffic and in over 100 schools she has worked in, this has never been implemented.

Cllr Wakelam advised that FCC are in the process of undertaking assessments of parking at schools and will endeavour to establish where Ysgol Penyffordd falls within these assessments. Cllr Ibbotson will follow up the matter of the aforementioned planning conditions not being complied with.

The council have requested the PCSO's to attend.

RESOLVED: the concerns are all noted and the renewed efforts on the school were welcome. This will be included on the March agenda following the meeting with the school and updates from Cllrs Wakelam and Ibbotson.

188. Village Transport

Cllr D Williams requested a review of the responses for requests for support in improving public transport provision in the Ward. Disappointment was expressed at the responses of all political representatives who had been contacted to request support in canvassing the local providers and Local Authority to work together to put the service to Chester back and that these representatives are not applying the amount of pressure their positions should lend them too.

Concern was also expressed at the lack of response from the Head of Service and Cabinet member for Streetscene. It was then reported that the Head of Service had been off long term, Cllr D Williams accepted this, however, still felt that there had been sufficient time prior to this absence for a response.

Cllr Ibbotson responded with an explanation that there were concerns that the big bus companies would flood routes and as soon as they established certain routes, if not profitable, would be withdrawn. He therefore considered the best way forward was to work on gaining better subsidised services. Cllr D Williams raised concern about this suggestion, especially as this year's budget there were moves to withdraw these subsidies.

RESOLVED: the council approved the decision on continuing pressing for commercial services and Cllr D Williams would draft further letters to send to all previous recipients with the content to be approved in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk.

189. Play Areas

Dobshell Pathway – Cllrs D Williams, Blackman and Ibbotson were working to get linear meter quotes, however this has not been as straight forward as expected. Cllr D Williams has met with a contractor and received a full quote for the works.

RESOLVED: additional quotes will be obtained for the March meeting when a contractor will be appointed and the approved design and costs will be shared with residents.

190. Community Facilities

- a) Changing Rooms – the clerk provided a report detailing information following the request to FCC and also information on the water hygiene services, including quotes for a Legionella Risk Assessment.

The school and school governors have agreed to a meeting on the 15th March with the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to discuss; storage, outside toilet, fencing and emergency access.

- b) Memorial Garden – an overall design was presented to council. 1x quote has been received and awaiting a further 2. It was reported that these will be within the agreed £10k budget.

With the reduction on the scale of the work, no FCC assets will need to be relocated, and it is anticipated that a new planning application will not be required. The design will be shared with FCC to seek approval.

A request to contact BT to ascertain if the kiosk could be removed?

- c) Youth Club – Cllr D Williams reported that they have received a grant for the architect fees and the project is now moving forward.

RESOLVED:

- a) The council will request that FCC Maintenance attend to undertake an independent review of the cabins at a cost of approx. £65. It is accepted that no formal certificate will be issued, but guidance may be given.

In relation to water hygiene, the council will appoint a contractor to undertake a Legionella Risk Assessment.

- b) The design was approved. 2x further quotes will be obtained. The design will be shared with FCC to seek approval as soon as possible. With the reduction in the project, the council no longer wish to secure a long-term lease.

Cllr Overington to liaise with Cllr Sloan to prepare the public consultation/communication to launch as soon as possible.

The council will contact BT to ascertain if the kiosk is being used or whether it could be removed?

191. Place Plan

A proposal was submitted by the Community Engagement WG to agree to the draft review of The Penyffordd Place Plan in an Abridged Version and Full Version.

Cllr D Williams expressed concern on accepting the current version and asked the council to defer 1 month to allow further scrutiny.

RESOLVED: Cllr Ransome requested a record vote on the deferral:

In favour of deferring for 1 month – Cllrs Priddin, Wakelam, D Williams, Blackman, Walker and Rothero;

Against deferring for 1 month – Cllrs Ransome, Ibbotson and Overington;

Abstentions: Cllrs Nethercott and S Williams.

With the majority vote the Place Plan will be deferred for one month and will require a member(s) to prepare any amendments and submit a proposal to council.

***9.36pm – Cllrs Priddin and D Williams left the meeting.*

192. Flintshire County Council – Standards Committee

RESOLVED: 1st preference – Cllr Patrick Heesom and 2nd preference – Cllr Russell Davies.

193. Great British Spring Clean 17 March – 2 April 2024

***9.46pm Cllr Blackman left the meeting.*

RESOLVED: the council will register with the GBSC. Cllrs Wakelam and Ransome will co-ordinate a community litter pick for Sunday 24th March. Miss Boleyn will assist in preparing posters. Local businesses: Co-op, Spar, McDonalds and Kays Group will be asked to support the councils GBSC efforts.

194. 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.

Drainage work has been completed at the station which was affected excess water flowing onto Rhos Road.

RESOLVED: Tfw will be thanked for their prompt action on clearing the drains. The report was received and noted. Members to provide the Clerk with updates on the issues.

195. To acknowledge and note correspondence received.

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training & Events
- Woodwork CIC Monthly report
- FCC – Facebook now live.
- 2nd round of prosperous communities Flintshire key fund open
- Older People’s Commissioner for Wales – Report
- OPCC North Wales Newsletter #38 - 02.02.24
- OVW – Nomination for the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties

196. Members Items/Future Agenda Items

- The vacancy for Youth Representative has been advertised.
- The power to the clock has been resolved.
- The Countess of Chester mother and baby unit is due to open December 2024 and will also be available to welsh residents.
- The groundsman has requested an update on the review of the Asset Inspection.
RESOLVED: the Environment Working Group will again be requested to hold a meeting to review this.

***9.57pm – 1x MOP and Clerk left the meeting*

The Chair proposed to suspend Standing Orders (3v) to allow the remaining agenda item to be considered – this was approved.

197. Clerks Review – Appraisal/Performance Review (closed session)

The Chair submitted a written report together with two proposals.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to be awarded a one scale point pay increase with effect from 1st April. The council will recompense the Clerk for hours worked/ accrued hours. The Clerk to have automatic access to the annual Practitioners Conference and approved the training requests commensurate to her role. (Full details within the confidential report – appendix A).

***10.15pm – the Clerk returned to the meeting.*

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 10.15pm

Chair..... 13th March 2024