

Cyngor Cymuned Betws y Coed Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 11th September 2023

Present – Ffiona Jones (Chair) Bedwyr ap Gwyn, Chris Jones, Janet Charlton, Cllr Liz Roberts, Caerwyn Roberts (Clerk) Haf Jones (incoming Clerk)

Apologies – Neil Pringle, Catherine Williams

Declaration of interest in any item on the agenda – none

1. **Community Development Officers' report** – overview of work to date circulated electronically with agenda.

Anna Brown & Hazel Barclay presented their report of work over the last month which has to date in the main focussed on community events, arranging Nadolig Betws.

The Betws y Coed Community Plan evidenced that events was high on the list of things important to the residents.

A series of activities and events are being planned across December that too incorporate traditional and long standing village Festive events and will introduce new ones.

Work has started on a bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to apply for funding for Goleuo'r Goedwig, Nadolig Betws and a number of events across the next year.

The concept of a Bonfire night at Pentre Du was discussed and supported in principle. CDO's to discuss with the Fire Service and the Clerk will check the Community Council insurance policy.

The Councillors are pleased with progress and offered their support to make the events happen.

The Chair thanked the CDO's and both left the meeting.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on the 10th July** – circulated with agenda and approved.

Matters arising –

- 2.1 **Police Matters** - No Police representative present
- 2.2 **Pont y Pair – Footbridge** –3 quotes received for scoping the project. It was agreed to proceed with the lowest quote from CCBC Environment Roads & Facilities at a price of £5000 + vat dated May 2023. Clerk to ask if the price remains the same.
- 2.3 **Affordable Housing** – despite best efforts, communication has halted. Cllr Liz Roberts has arranged to meet with the Chief Executive at the Cartrefi Conwy Office in Denbigh on the 26th of September.
- 2.4 **Parking issues Bro Gethin, Pentre Du** – the offer by Cartrefi Conwy to gift a piece of land to the Community Council for the purpose of construction of a car park was discussed but resolved that this was beyond the affordability

level of and the potential future liabilities were not something the Community Council were prepared to accept. Cllr Liz Roberts and incoming Clerk to visit the residents.

- 2.5 **Removal of vegetation – Pont y Pair** – The Clerk read out an email dated 29th August received from Cadw Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology for North Wales where he states that he will contact CCBC Structures Dept to raise the Community Council concerns and hopefully find some resolution to any ongoing maintenance issues. Cllr Liz Roberts reported that the work has been tendered but due to the budget deficit situation faced by CCBC and the resulting reduction in the available budget to the responsible department, only safety critical works are currently undertaken.
- 2.6 **Man in a van/Fan y Llan** – Edward Jones Estates Manager for Eryri National Park has made contact and a date to meet is to be arranged. Potential funding for this project discussed at agenda item 7.
- 2.7 **Betws y Coed FC, kitchen refurbishment** – The Clerk made contact with One Voice Wales for further guidance regarding contribution of monetary amounts from the Community Council. The opportunity available to Sports Clubs within the Shared Prosperity Fund was discussed and agreed that this was an alternative funding avenue which the FC could pursue.
- 2.8 **Council Website** – The Clerk and incoming clerk met with the web-host to discuss upgrading the current website and some additional requirements i.e making the hall and Cae Llan booking system a digital system incl a calendar. Costs as follows:-
Re-build the website £600 (including use of drone for provision of images)
2 hours training for the Clerk to upload documents, minutes accounts etc £50
Annual charge for hosting the web-site £50
Web-host estimated that the work would take approximately 4 weeks to complete.
The purchase of 3 lap-tops for the incoming Clerk and two CDO's was arranged at a cost of and including Microsoft Family package - £1222.00 inclusive of £203.68 recoverable vat.
An annual charge of £16.79 will be charged by Microsoft for continuation of Microsoft office.
Resolved to accept and instruct web-host to start the work.
- 2.9 **Memorial Hall Asbestos inspection & Erw Hedd Cemetery - concern re available burial space** – CCBC Officer reported that due to staff annual leave there has been a delay in available staff but advised that this will be resolved as soon as possible.
- 2.10 **Ultimate Outdoors/JD Sports site**-Hoarding-safety and visual impact concerns – progress made re contact with the site owner's agent with the aid of Robin Millar MP and Cllr Liz Roberts. Community kept informed via the Community Council Facebook page. The site agent has instructed NMWRTA to arrange the traffic management required to enable work to commence like for like replacement of the hoarding. The Councillors

expressed their displeasure with the like for like replacement of the hoarding as this will fall into the same disrepair within a short time. In preference, it was suggested that a safety steel fence be considered for aesthetic and longevity purposes. Progress re future use was also requested. Cllr Liz Roberts will pursue.

2.11 **Active Travel/Sappers Bridge** – CCBC Structures dept, in partnership with the Community Council, to arrange an engagement opportunity during November at which plans drawn and various options for the project will be available for the community to view and provide comment.

2.12 **Station rd** – Following the closure of the previous coach drop off/pick up point, concerns again raised re safety of coach tour passengers being dropped off adjacent to Cae Llan Public Toilets, the lack of gaps resulting from the row of flower boxes and bins and the need to cross Station rd to the shops. No word on progress on provision of a safe coach drop off point by Eryri National Park. Clerk to contact ENPA Estates Manager.

2.13 **Festive Lights** – an email received from the supplier, Mega Electrics. Concern that the lights selected by the sub-committee will not be available in time for switch-on. Resolved that the Clerk selects alternative lighting design from stock Mega already have or has already been ordered and expected in October.

The lighting poles at Pentre Du have been checked by CCBC Street-lighting Team and RCD's replaced as necessary. The Festive lighting for this area is being removed from the hall week commencing 18/9/23 to be PAT tested. Any found to be defective and/or unsafe will be disposed of.

Awaiting confirmation that the issue regarding the streetlighting on the A5 Trunk Road has been resolved and available for Festive lighting.

2.14 **Festive lighting and Fir Tree island** – enquiries made with a tree specialist and local groundworks contractor re the feasibility of securing lighting ropes to a tree on the island. Both thought that it was possible but a site mtg would be required.

Mega lighting approached for suggested suitable lights but no response to date. Clerk to follow up with Mega.

2.15 **Swallow Falls Water Supply** - The Clerk made enquiries with Dwr Cymru re the possibility and cost of connecting the facility to the mains water supply. In response the Clerk was made aware that the nearest mains water supply point to Swallow Falls is at Bryn y Glo, Capel Curig, approximately 2 miles North of the facility. All costs associated with making the connection across the distance would need to be paid for by the Community Council. Resolved that such costs are prohibitive to the Community Council.

2.16 The Clerk and incoming Clerk met with a builder at Swallow Falls to understand whether the current water supply can be upgraded by installing a water tank with UV lighting to alleviate the lack of water supply issue experienced during the summer months. The pipe which carries the supply has been found but as yet, the exact location of source has not been traced.

- 2.17 **NRW Closure of lay-bys** – resolved that the Clerk and Cllr Liz Roberts meet with the recently appointed area Team Leader.

3. Planning Applications -

NP4/11/393B, Outbuilding at Craig Glanconwy, Betws y Coed

The Community Council had no objection.

NP4/11/T339D, Installation of roof mounted solar panels at Y Felin, Betws-y-Coed. LL24 0BB

The Community Council had no objection.

- 3.1 As there are several newly appointed Councillors, it was agreed that it would be beneficial for all Councillors and the incoming Clerk to receive training on responding to planning applications. Clerk to arrange
4. **Financial Matters** – the Clerk distributed copies of the receipts & payments record for July & August 2023 for the purpose of scrutiny. It was agreed that all was in order.
- Bank Mandate** – with the Clerk's retirement imminent, the Cllrs agreed to the incoming Clerk completing the required mandate adding her own name as signatory and that of the Chair Ffiona Jones. Janet Charlton will remain as signatory as will Caerwyn Roberts until the mandate is approved by HSBC.
5. **Vacant seats** – current 2 vacant seats and 3 expressions of interest received by the closing date. Namely:-
Sian Godbert
Steve Bayliss
Philipa Roberts

A secret ballot was held and Sian Godbert and Philipa Roberts were co-opted as Community Councillors for the Betws y Coed Community Council.

6. **Adoption of new Standing Orders** - A new digital version of the model standing orders designed to comply with all relevant legislation including the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (May 2023) has been prepared by the Clerk which will replace the current 2002 version. Resolved to adopt the new Standing Orders.
7. **Report by incoming Clerk** –
The learning journey and shadowing the retiring Clerk is ongoing.
Digitisation of updated model Standing Orders completed and Financial Regulations in progress. Both documents are required to be in an electronic format to enable uploading for purposes of grant applications.
The survey of community needs and wishes conducted late 2022 has also been digitised and is a requirement as evidence of need which must accompany any applications to the recently launched Shared Prosperity Fund Community (SPF) and Place Fund.

Four potential project applications to the Shared Prosperity Fund were shared with the Councillors:-

Fan y Llan - Pride in our community/making a visible difference.

Memorial Hall – to apply for monies to carry out a costed external condition survey & an independent community engagement exercise on future use.

CCTV Pont y Pair – replacement camera and wifi upgrade to enable 24 hour recording. Cllrs were made aware that if this bid was successful and camera installed, there would be an annual maintenance charge of £360.

These three matters have appeared on the agenda numerous times and available funding could potentially see them realized.

Swallow Falls - Investment is required to upgrade the safety barriers and water supply together with better signage to the popular tourist attraction.

SPF-10% match funding is desirable but not essential.

The application window to the fund is very short with the closing date being on the 22nd of September.

Cllrs resolved to endorse making applications to the Shared Prosperity Fund.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 Parking on double yellow lines and associated pedestrian and traffic dangers - resolved to ask the Parking Enforcement dept to regularly patrol the village.
- 8.2 Overgrown vegetation on Ffordd Coed Cynhelir – resolved to report to NRW
- 8.3 Cae Llan – assessment of condition of trees – awaiting report from Eryri National Park and CCBC Tree Officers.

9. For information :-

- Another email complaint re the railway carriages received – area is unkept/falling into dilapidation. Response explains that this area is in private ownership.
- Back to Bus/One Bus ticket Transport for Wales event- Station Road car park opposite shops 26th September 11-1pm
- From March 2024 the T10 Traws Cymru bus Service, between Betws y Coed and Bangor which serves Ogwen, will run an hourly service on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.
- Some disposable barbeque damage to a picnic table at the Pont y Pair area.

10. Date of next meeting – Monday 9th October 7pm.

Signed _____ Chair Date _____