



## **CYNGOR CYMUNDOL COEDPOETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of FULL COUNCIL held in The Old Carnegie Library, Park Road, Coedpoeth on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm-9.30pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllrs: B Brown (Chair), G Price (Vice), V Jones, G Cutler, GI Kelly, Gr Kelly, G Williams, Y McCarroll, L Van Ryswyk, P Wilson , A Wedlake (Zoom), M Roberts

Cllr K Childs

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs V Bolton – Clerk

### **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs S Edwards

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

5 members of the public present to observe

### **3. MINUTES**

That Minutes of Full Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be accepted. However, Cllr Childs wanted to point out that in the previous minutes it had been requested that the Big Park Project be included on the agenda for this meeting and it had been omitted. Cllr Childs requested that the Big Park Project be included in the next meeting on Apr 25<sup>th</sup>.

Signed by Chair.....

Cllr Gr Kelly asked if the issue of the transfer of funds had been concluded. Cllr B Brown informed that although the transfer had been arranged, it had not gone through as a second authorisation was needed. Clerk informed that bank mandate documents are being processed to arrange agreed authorisation levels.

**RESOLVED:**

Proposer: Cllr V Jones      Seconder: Cllr GI Kelly      Vote: All others in favour

Abstained: Cllr G Price

**4. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Cllr Brown thanked all members of the Council and members of the public for attending and stated that there had been no communications passed to him from acting Chair and he had none to share at his first meeting after a period of absence.

He did ask members to revisit the rules of conduct and protocol for meetings, reminding Councillors of the need to only discuss agenda items.

**5. WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS – WARD UPDATES**

Cllr K Childs – informed Council that:

- i) Housing allocation continues to be high priority
- ii) Serious concerns regarding a planning application submitted retrospectively
- iii) Cllr V Jones had made contact regarding concerns for safety on pavements around the village with overgrown hedges
- iv) Cllr A Wedlake has arranged a meeting with Streetscene this Friday to discuss pathways, potholes and issues around safety
- v) Big Park Project – still needing a decision from Council regarding support for takeover

Cllr A Wedlake – informed Council:

- vi) Same information as Cllr Childs regarding a walkabout with Streetscene to identify issues on pathways
- vii) WCBC – scrutiny looking at customer resources, governance and digital technology access.

**6. CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk informed Councillors that there had been insufficient time to produce a report, however:

- i) Closure of Parish Hall and relocation of current users had been hard but had mostly gone smoothly

Signed by Chair.....

- ii) Accountant fees were increasing however she felt the need to continue as there is still much work to be done, Clerk's own workload does not allow time to implement changes needed
- iii) Clerk and Accountant had met with company called Scribe who host an accountancy software package specifically designed for Community Councils. Costs were shared and Council asked to have full costs brought to next meeting for discussion.

## **7. PLANNING APPLICATION**

- i) Erection of dwelling (in retrospect) previously approved under P/2020/0873 Land South of Nant Cottage, Lower Road, Coedpoeth - P/2023/0138

Cllr Childs and residents present at meeting informed Council of situation regarding unauthorised changes to original plans carried out by builder. 4 additional windows and a door, issues around road access direct onto an unadopted road, no car access, right of way being demolished.

Cllr Wedlake raised grave concerns about significant amendments to original plans and requested that it be made clear to the planning authority that Coedpoeth Community Council have strong objections to this application being granted permission.

### **RESOLVED:**

That strong OBJECTION be registered with WCBC Planning Authority to the retrospective application.

Proposer: Cllr A Wedlake    Seconder: Cllr L van Ryswyk    Vote: All in favour

## **8. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Cllrs Price raised concerns around presentation format of financial reports. Clerk referred back to alternate software package to assist in preparing and presenting reports.

Cllr Wedlake suggested utilising IT budget to purchase software. Cllr Brown suggested bringing full costs to Full Council at next meeting.

### **RESOLVED**

That all financial reports be accepted:

- i) Schedule of Payments for March 2023 be accepted
- ii) That Payroll payments be authorised
- iii) That the Financial Statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 be accepted

Proposer: Cllr V Jones    Seconder: Cllr L van Ryswyk    Vote: All in favour

Signed by Chair.....

## **9. PARISH HALL**

- i) Clerk presented papers showing running costs against income for Parish Hall, Library and Cemetery.

Cllr Price requested that Council be reminded that it is not a profit making organisation. Cllr GI Kelly stated that although the Council acts as a social enterprise, the difference between income and expenditure is too great to be acceptable.

Cllr Wedlake stated that Council must be able to justify what tax payers money is being spent on.

Cllr Price asked if action had been taken to begin work on repairs to the Parish Hall. Clerk confirmed that work had not begun as no decisions had yet been made as to what work would take place and could not do so until consultation with public had been completed. Clerk reminded Council that decision had been made at Property Working Party meeting to hold a Consultation meeting and that a date would be set as soon as possible.

- ii) Clerk informed members that since closure of Hall, workload for caretakers had obviously been greatly reduced, but that it is not possible to reallocate workload without training and equipment, and also without consultation prior to changes in contract taking place.

## **10. CEMETERY – PM 113**

- i) Findings from working party shared to Council by Clerk and members of working party
  - a. Trees requiring immediate attention for safety needs
  - b. Continuing maintenance required on trees
  - c. Weekly ground work required to cover in absence of Cemetery Superintendent

Members of the public present at meeting invited to comment. Informed council of previous warnings about trees being unsafe, general untidiness of the cemetery being an ongoing issue and upset and concern caused by damage due to trees falling on graves.

- ii) Future requirements
  - a. Cllr Price suggested the need to purchase additional plot of land
  - b. Clerk informed that 1 company had already been contacted to tender for ground maintenance contract
  - c. Working party continue to monitor

Signed by Chair.....

## **11. STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Wedlake requested it be noted that no members disclosed any personal interests in this matter. Members of previous Staffing Group/Interview Panel be included

- i) **RESOLVED:** That 5 members be included in Staffing Committee: Cllrs B Brown, V Jones, GI Kelly, P Wilson also G Williams and G Price
- ii) No objections to Terms of reference raised however should be finalised at first meeting

## **12. URGENT MATTERS**

- i) Notice of items that should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B (4B) of LGA 1972.

No Matters raised.

## **13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:** That in accordance with Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960) and Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 A public and press be excluded during the following items: Current Financial Situation – URGENT ACTION REQUIRED.

Proposer: Cllr GI Kelly      Seconder: Cllr V Jones      Vote: AIF

Cllr K Childs and members of the public left the meeting at 8.40pm

Confidential information removed

**Meeting Ended 9.20pm**

Signed by Chair.....