**CEIRIOG UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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| **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**  **1st AUGUST 2023** | **Present:**  **Cllr Benning (Chair),**  **Cllr D Berriman**  **Cllr S Berriman,**  **Cllr Claybrook**  **Cllr Evans Swogger**  **Cllr A Jones**  **Cllr G Jones**  **Cllr Morris**  **County Cllr Bates**  **Christina Brewin**  **Clerk: Miles Matile**. |

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | **PCSO GARETH JONES** |  |
| **2** | **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS RELATED TO ANY AGENDA ITEM** | **NONE RECORDED** |  |

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| **No** | **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION**  **WHO/WHEN** |
| **3** | **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**  **4th July 2023** | **APPROVED**  **PROPOSED** : FREJA EVANS SWOGGER  **SECONDED**: DAVE BERRIMAN |  |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING** |  |  |
| **4(i)** | **CENTENARY FIRST EVENT** | * Cllr Benning confirmed that he and Cllr D Berriman and the Clerk attended the opening event at the Memorial Institute on the 15th July. An exhibition of documents and maps were presented to explain the consequences for the Valley had the reservoirs been built. The event was attended by the Mayor of Wrexham and other dignitaries. S4C has since interviewed several of the organisers. * Cllr Evans Swogger attended on the 22/07 and confirmed that the event was again well attended. She has updated Facebook to include photographs. * The next Centenary event is on the 17/09/2023 at St Garmon’s for Church, Chapel and Village. A bi-lingual mixture of music and talks; a planning meeting has taken place for this event. Thereafter, two weekends of walking around the designated sites for the reservoirs. |  |
| **4 (ii)** | **MOBILE TELEPHONE SIGNAL**  **FROM MINUTE 13/06/2023 4(iii)** | The Clerk has received further confirmation from the engineers that more work is being undertaken to upgrade the mast prior to it becoming available to mobile phone companies. | **CLERK** to update the Council |
| **4 (iii)** | **CEMETERY AND CLOSED GRAVEYARD UPDATE**  **FROM MINUTE 13/06/2023 4 (iv)** | * The Clerk informed the Council that since June he and Lorna Mills (Church Warden) had spent a day at Ruthin Archives going back over 14 years of Minutes related to Glyndwr District Council. There is nothing definitive as to ownership of either area of land. There may be certain documents related to surveys of cemeteries and burial grounds undertaken by the then Council, but accessing these papers may not be possible. There are Minutes related to the direct ownership of Glyn Ceiriog cemetery by GDC. * The Council considered several options and agreed that the Chair and the Clerk would draw up a summary paper and make proposals at a subsequent meeting. | **CHAIR AND CLERK** to draw up a summary paper |
| **5** | **REPORTS** |  |  |
| **5 (i)** | **NORTH WALES POLICE** | * PCSO JONES has provided a report summarising incidents within the Valley during June/July |  |
| **5 (ii)** | **WREXHAM CBC** | Cllr Bates:   * Confirmed his on-going involvement with several Council departments and that WCBC has just reported an overspend within the first quarter of 2023/2024. * He has a site meeting with the Head of Highways to review the TROs and the condition of the roads. * There is a planned meeting to consider the formation of a National Park. It is anticipated that this will take place at the Canolfan. * A ‘Meals for Schools’ initiative to cover the summer holidays has had a poor take-up so far. * A trip to Llandudno is planned for the 7th August – details from Community Agent. |  |
| **5(iii)** | **OFF-ROADING** | * Cllr D Berriman and Cllr Bates confirmed their continued involvement with relevant Associations and the police to monitor and advise on the Council’s approach to off-roading. |  |
| **6** | **COMMUNITY AGENT** |  |  |
|  |  | The Council was very pleased to welcome **Christina Brewin.**   * Cllr Benning had previously confirmed by email that the agreement with Glyn Ceiriog Community Council for the employment of the Community Agent was now in place. GCCC has agreed to remain the Employer for the additional day until 31/03/2024 and will be subject to a formal review by both Councils. * Wrexham CBC has agreed to back-date the salary for the additional day to the 01/04/2023. * The Clerk will provide bi-monthly supervision for Christina although not in the formal capacity of Employer. * Christina provided a summary of her activities within Ceiriog Uchaf over the past 3 months. Within a short period of time, she has discovered a number of opportunities, and these will be developed. * Christina will attend the Council every other month to provide an update. She will liaise with Cllr Claybrook. |  |
| **7** | **FINANCES** |  |  |
| **7 (i)** | **UNITY TRUST BANK TRANSFER** | * The Clerk confirmed that the Council had been accepted by the Unity Trust Bank and we have three signatories, Cllr Benning, Cllr Evans Swogger and the Clerk. Two are required to authorise payments. * Currently awaiting the transfer of the HSBC account which has been delayed until the former Clerk has formally confirmed that he is no longer an authorised account holder. | **CLERK** to notify Guy Williams |
| **7 (ii)** | **FINAL ACCOUNTS 2022-2023** | The Clerk presented the results of the internal audit of the Final Accounts for 2022/2023. These were completed on the 27/07/2023. The Council is assessed as complying with financial processes. These will now be dispatched for a full external audit.  The Council approved these accounts  The Clerk informed Council that the Auditor had requested a donation to the Alzheimer Society in lieu of a fee.  The Council approved a donation of £250. |  |
| **7 (iii)** | **AUDIT-WALES** | The Clerk informed the Council that a formal invoice for £256 had been received from Audit Wales for the 2021/2022 accounts without any explanation. He has contacted them on two occasions to seek clarification without success. An internal accountant for AW has also asked for a detailed invoice.  The Council approved a proposal that this will only be paid when an explanation has been received. |  |
| **7 (iv)** | **PAYMENTS SINCE 4/7/2023 AND BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS** | The Clerk provided details of the two payments made since the 04/07/2023  The balance of the account is **£5,788.49**  The Clerk confirmed that Cllr S Berriman has provide a template for an accounts format and this will be trialled at the September meeting. |  |
| **7 (v)** | **COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION** | Cllr Benning confirmed that there had been a further report from the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2023. It recommends that Councillor’s remuneration will increase to £156 and an additional £52 for disposable’s costs (ie printing)  Further recommended that Chairs would receive an optional entitlement of up to £1500pa and Vice-Chairs an optional entitlement of up to £500pa. |  |
| **8** | **POST HUTS** |  |  |
|  |  | Cllr Evans Swogger referred to a recent BBC item related to ‘Post Huts’ and their role in previous generations providing respite for postal workers and other public service workers who would often be travelling on foot around the Valley. It is believed that there may be two remaining within the Wards.  The Council approved that Cllr Evans Swogger and Claybrook would make further enquiries. | **Cllr Evans Swogger and Claybrook** to report back |
| **9** | **AOB** |  |  |
| **10** | **NEXT MEETING** | **4th September @ 7.00** |  |
|  | **CODE OF CONDUCT** | Cllr Benning confirmed that at the June 2023 meeting, the Council committed itself to reviewing its existing Standing Orders and Policies and add new ones as required from the inception of the new Council in May 2022. This process will continue with the introduction of a Code of Conduct. This will be circulated prior to the September meeting.  Councillors are asked to read this draft in advance of the meeting and to be mindful of the specific provision related to ‘publication’. Namely that any e-mails or other written material, published in their formal public capacity, referring to the Council and, or its decisions and or any third party, will be considered to be a public document and may be included within the Minutes of that meeting and disclosed for public viewing. |  |
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