**CEIRIOG UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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| **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING****5th DECEMBER 2023** | **Present:** **Cllr K Benning (Chair),** **Cllr D Berriman****Cllr J Claybrook****Cllr A Jones****Cllr F Swogger****County Cllr T Bates****Christina Brewin – Community Agent****Clerk: Miles Matile** |

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | **Cllr S Berriman****Cllr G 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** **7th November 2023**  | **APPROVED: Subject to the amendment:***8 (ii) The balance is* ***£7,543.49*** *which includes the 2022/2023 carry-forward.**With the outstanding expenditure, the Council is projected to meet its 2023/2024 budget*.**PROPOSED** : Cllr F Swogger**SECONDED**: Cllr A Jones |  |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING**  |  |  |
| **4 (i)** | **POST HUTS/RESTS** | Cllr Swogger confirmed that there are no further updates at this point. |  |
| **4 (ii)** | **CEMETERY AND GRAVEYARD UPDATE** | * There has been a meeting with the Tree Officer from WCBC for additional advice and we are awaiting outcome.
* To plan a public meeting in early 2024
 | Working Group to meet and advise accordingly. |
| **4 (iii)** | **NATIONAL PARK UPDATE** | * The Clerk has contacted NRW to seek an extension of the consultation period to allow for a community response and there was a nil reply.
* Cllr Bates informed the Council of funding problems with the other three Parks.

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| **5** | **REPORTS** |  |  |
| **5 (i)** | **NORTH WALES POLICE** | There was no report. The Clerk has had apologies from both officers, and they confirmed that they are currently deployed upon different operational responsibilities which makes attendance at meetings impossible due to shift patterns.  |  |
| **5 (ii)** | **COMMUNITY AGENT -UPDATE** | Christina Brewin attended:* Provided the numbers of referrals for October and November.
* The policy of strict confidentiality was endorsed however Christina was able to provide some generic information about the nature of referrals which included advice on energy, benefits, occupational health.
* Confirmed that the GP Surgery in Glyn had been contacted and there is no intention to reduce the current range of services, but this will require monitoring.
* See 8 (iii) and the proposal for a pilot to fund attendance of CAB workers into the Valley.

The Council wanted to express their appreciation for all that Christina is doing in her role. |  |
| **5 (iii)**  | **WREXHAM CBC** | County Cllr Bates reported:* Wrexham CBC were taken to court over its non-approval of the Development Plan. The Council was not represented and has incurred £100,000 in costs.
* International Sheep Dog Trials September 2025 – a location close to the Valley is being considered.
* Voluntary Driver Scheme – we currently have one driver, and we would like to expand this. Clerk and Cllr Bates to discuss how to advertise this.
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| **5(iii)** | **OFF-ROADING** | * Cllr D Berriman updated the Council on

the recent GLEAM publicity which has been circulated to all Councillors and will be sent out to other interested parties.* Cllr Berriman confirmed that he is collating information and OS grid references of tracks and Rights of Way to provide a data-base of information.
* Cwm Road. A member of the public attended the meeting to provide information related to the very poor state of the road and the repairs undertaken by Wrexham Council following the accident involving the refuge lorry last month. The fencing is wholly inadequate and serves no purpose.
 | Clerk to circulate letter from the Resident and to write to Wrexham Highways in relation to the fencing. |
| **6** | **CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONDUCT PROCEDURE** |  |  |
|  |  | * The Chair confirmed that on the 5th September 2023 the Council agreed that a Disciplinary/Resolution Procedure be drafted to complement a draft Code of Conduct previously discussed. This was presented to the October meeting, and it was agreed that an additional explanation was required, as to who the Council will appoint to oversee any breach of the Code of Conduct.
* A further version now entitled **CONDUCT PROCEDURE** has been compiled. It differentiates between Councillors and any future employed staff and aligns our procedures with those recommended by the One Voice Wales for dealing with disputes. This has been submitted to One Voice Wales for scrutiny and was considered to be applicable and procedurally accurate for the Community Council .

**CODE OF CONDUCT. A proposal was made that this policy should be adopted.****PROPOSED: Cllr Benning****SECONDED: Cllr Swogger****Votes for: 4****Abstention: 1** **CONDUCT PROCEDURE: A proposal was made that this procedure should be adopted.****PROPOSED: Cllr Benning****SECONDED: Cllr Swogger****Votes For 3****Abstentions: 2** | Clerk to make one minor correction– ‘information’ to become ‘informal’ page 1. |
| **7** | **FINANCES** |  |  |
| **7 (i)** | **UNITY TRUST BANK TRANSFER** | * The Clerk confirmed that since the November meeting he had been to an HSBC branch to take details of a change to the Mandate however the Chair and he will need to attend in person to prove identities.
 | **CHAIR and CLERK** to attend HSBC |
| **7 (ii)** | **PAYMENTS IN NOVEMBER AND BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS** | * The Clerk provided detail of payments for approval made in November 2023.

**Expenditure** Wreath £ 27.00Bank Charge £ 5.00Community Hub (via St Gs’) £ 250.00 **All approved** **Income**  Community Hub (Police Grant) £ 250.00 The balance of the accounts and expenditure *against* budget was provided. The balance is **£7,511.49** which includes the 2022/2023 carry-forward.With the outstanding expenditure, the Council is projected to meet its 2023/2024 budget.Invoices pending:Donation for audit work - £250Printing of Centenary leaflets - £155Audit Wales- £259. (The Clerk confirmed that Audit Wales has still not replied to several requests for clarification of this invoice.) |  |
| **7 (iii)** | **PRECEPT PLANNING** | * **CAB Proposal:** The Counciltogether with Glyn Ceiriog CC and Glyntraian CC has received a proposal for a joint pilot scheme to allow for the monthly attendance of a CAB worker in the Valley. The locations of attendance would be spread proportionately around the Valley and would include Tregeiriog and Llanarmon Wards. The pilot will allow residents of the Council to be seen at most location and if required, the Community Agent has offered to provide limited transport – final arrangements to be decided.
* The proportionate cost for the 12 months is £352 + room hire costs. It is proposed that we add £500 to the 2024/2025 Precept for 12 months and then assess the outcome of the pilot. This expenditure would come under s137

**PROPOSED: Cllr Benning****SECONDED: Cllr D Berriman****Approved: nem con.*** **PRECEPT:** The Chair had previously provided indicative budget headings for 2024/2025 and these were further considered and amended as appropriate. The impact on Council Tax Bandings has been included. These will be published on the Council Website.

**PROPOSED** that for 2024/2025 the Council’s Precept will rise to £10,000. The rise will allow for additional expenditure in the following areas:Environmental Projects for both villages Cemetery UpkeepExternal Audit FeesDonations to village organisationsElection/Emergency FundCouncillor Allowance (if taken) PROPSED Cllr BenningSECONDED: Cllr SwoggerApproved nem con. |  |
| **8** | **AOB** |  |  |
| **8 (i)** | **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** | Thanks to all who took part and £920 was raised.  |  |
| **8 (ii)** | **CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY LUNCH** | Huge thanks to all the volunteers involved who provided a Christmas meal and fun to over 70 residents from the two villages.  |  |
| **8 (iii)**  | **COMMUNICATION OUTSIDE OF COUNCIL** | To further clarify comments from the Chair in relation to communication taking place outside of Council.* The Council is the democratic body where all issues/policies/proposals are discussed and debated.
* Communication on-line related to expressing individual views and canvassing opinions about specific policies/proposals is not appropriate and should be reserved for Council meetings.
* Gaining additional information to assist in decision-making prior to a Council meeting is appropriate.
* To be aware that two Councillors are not IT connected.
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| **8 (iv)**  | **REMOVAL OF TREES AT PANDY ROCK**  | Cllr Bates to provide further information which will be forwarded to Councillors |  |
| **8 (v)** | **CHRISTMAS SELECTION BOXES FOR THE VILLAGES** | Cllr Claybrook asked for financial support for the provision of selection boxes to be given to Residents as part of the Christmas Initiative. Finances are being raised from other organisations.PROPOSED that s137 money be used for £30PROPOSED Cllr BenningSECONDED Cllr SwoggerAgreed nem con |  |
| **9** | **NEXT MEETING** | **TUESDAY 9th JANUARY at 7.00****ITEMS TO INCLUDE:*** National Park Update.
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