**CEIRIOG UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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| **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING****7th MARCH 2023** | **Present:** **Cllr Benning (Chair),** **Cllr D. Berriman,** **Cllr Claybrook****Cllr Evans Swogger****Cllr Jones** **Clerk: Miles Matile.****JENNIFER NAYLOR – COMMUNITY CATALYST** |

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | **Cllr Bates****Cllr Berriman****Cllr Morris****PCSO Griffiths** |  |
| **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 FEBRUARY 2023**  | **APPROVED** **PROPOSED** Cllr Evans Swogger**SECONDED**: Cllr Claybrook |  |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING** **7TH FEBRUARY 2023** |  |  |
| **4 (i)** | **HUW MORUS MEMORIAL** | * The Chair confirmed that administrative matters related to the refurbishment have been completed. Payment from CADW awaited.
* Simon Baynes MP has written to the Council to thank everyone for their work on this project. The Clerk has been to see the owner to thank him.
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| **4 (ii)** | **CENTENARY**  | * Cllr D Berriman confirmed that there is to be a further meeting of the Centenary Steering Group on the **13th March 2023**. Pleased that the membership of this Group is widening as interest grows.
* The Council website is regularly updated with details.
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| **4 (iii)** | **MOBILE SIGNAL UPDATE** | The Clerk confirmed that he had received two emails from the planning consultant confirming the developments with the IT. This was now being extended from Oswestry towards Llanarmon and there is evidence of work on the current masts. No completion date at this point.  | **Clerk** to maintain periodic contact with the planning consultant  |
| **4 (iv)** | **CASUAL VACANCY** | The Chair and Clerk confirmed that the administration for a co-option was now prepared with a closing date of the 21/04/2023 agreed. Notices to be placed on Facebook, Council Web-site and places in the Ward.An appointments committee will be commissioned dependant upon the number of applications. | **Chair and Clerk** to co-ordinate the Co-option process and advise the Council.**Clerk** to place details on the web-site |
| **4 (v)** | **ST GARMON’S PATHWAY** | The Clerk confirmed that he had made a series of enquiries within the past month to determine ownership of the pathway from the road to the Church. There is no definitive proof of ownership of the **closed graveyard** and he is awaiting contact from the Archdiocese | **Clerk** to pursue contact with Cardiff |
| **4 (vi)** | **JOHN ROGERS’S GRAVE** | * Cllrs Benning and Jones and the Clerk attended a meeting on the 1st March with Jon Brewin – arborist from Wrexham CBC. Confirmation that two trees need to be removed and the roots bored away at a possible cost of £1,500-£2,000.
* However, ownership of the **new cemetery** remains contested. The Clerk confirmed that within Community Council Minutes of the 3rd February 1997 there is a record of a letter received from Wrexham CBC stating that they had responsibility for the new cemetery; however at this stage that letter is not available. The Council recognised that this was a matter of some urgency and will petition Wrexham CBC to assume responsibility.
 | **Clerk** to continue to pursue enquiries with McAlpine solicitors, previous members of the Burial Board and with Ruthin Archives. **Clerk** to pursue Jon Brewin from WCBC**Clerk** to discuss legal implications with OVW |
| **4 (vii)** | **COMMUNITY AGENT UPDATE** | * The Clerk confirmed that Christina Brewins has accepted the further day to work within the Ceiriog Uchaf.
* The Chair confirmed that there remain potential outstanding issues of responsibility; employment frameworks, TUPE, finances. The Council agreed that these areas must be satisfactorily agreed before Christina Brewins can commence her role.
* Ideally we would like this appointment to commence **3rd April 2023.**
 | **Chair and Clerk** to meet with Jean Davies |
| **5** | **REPORTS** |  |  |
| **5 (i)**  | **WREXHAM CBC** | Cllr Bates had presented his apologies and there was no report.  |   |
| **5 (ii)** | **NORTH WALES POLICE** | The Clerk had met with PCSO Griffiths who sent his apologies due to issues with his shift pattern – see 5 (iii) | **Clerk** to notify of the April meeting |
| **5 (iii)** | **ROADS – OFF ROADING** | Cllr Berriman reported:* North Wales Police had undertaken ‘Operation Blue Takeoff’ over the weekend of the 4/5th March. Two marked and 3 unmarked police vehicles together with the drone unit carried out more than 20 motorcycle stop-checks. There were over 100 ‘community engagement stops, with trial bikers.

The full press release will be placed on the Council website. The Clerk has sent thanks to local PCSOs.* Court case previously mentioned now scheduled at Wrexham County Court for the 21/03/2023. Cllr Berriman to attend.
 | **Clerk** to update website |
| **6** | **FINANCES** |  |  |
| **6 (i)** | **PAYMENTS** | * **Donation -Village Centre.**

The Council is very grateful for all the work undertaken by Rosie Davies over many years maintaining the village centre flower boxes.The Council approved that a gift card to the value of £100 should be presented to mark our gratitude.* **Donation for the Warm Hub /Drop-In**

The Council discussed on-going funding for the Warm-Hub / Drop-In. There is an increasing demand with a regular attendance. Some donations have been received however Wrexham CBC has declined to financially support. Clerk and Cllr Claybrook to contact WCBC to challenge this decision.* **Clerk’s Training**. The Council had approved the cost of the Nationally recognised training qualification at the February 2023 meeting as an honorarium in lieu of a salary. The Clerk confirmed that this will be £450 (no VAT) and he will request this in April 2023.
 | **Cllr Claybrook** and **Clerk** to contact WCBC to challenge decision. |
| **6 (ii)** | **REMUNERATION TO COUNCILLORS** | * The Chair informed that a recent report had been completed by Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and reminded Councillors that they are entitled to claim £150 pa (to rise to £156. Cllr Benning and the Clerk circulated papers explaining the remuneration policy and the process for claiming or declining**.**

It is important that this is seen as a right and will be paid unless individuals decline part or all the payment. Please see the paperwork and advise the Clerk accordingly. | **Cllrs to claim or before the 31/03/2023** |
| **6 (iii)** | **ACCOUNT BALANCE** | Cllrs had copies of the balance of accounts up to 07/03/2023. This showed that the Council held **£4,346.74**. CADW has guaranteed a payment of £1,383 and Glyn Ceiriog CC £100 towards the cost of the refurbishment, which when received, will increase our account accordingly.  | **Clerk/Chair** to look at options for investing savings. |
| **7** | **PLANNING**  |  |  |
| **7 (i)** | **VILLAGE TELEPHONE BOX** | * A coordinated approach by Cllr Bates, The Clerk and local residents has resulted in BT-Openreach agreeing to refurbishing and re-painting the telephone box. Within 24 hours or receiving a report from ourselves they had sent an engineer to replace the broken panes of glass and painting is expected Spring/Summer 2023.
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| **7 (ii)**  | **STREET LIGHTING** | A further discussion about the type of bulbs, diffusers and the spread of light was undertaken. Deferred to April meeting. |  |
| **8**  | **BIO-DIVERISTY AND RESILIANCE OF ECO-SYTEMS ACTION PLAN** |  |  |
|  |  | * Under The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 -Section 6 the Community Council has a responsibility to provide an action pan detailing its contribution towards protecting bio-diversity and local eco-systems.
* Given the size and lack of ownership CUCC has more restricted responsibilities.
* The Clerk produced a draft action plan which brings together current activities in this area:
* Preservation of the Afon Ceiriog through the NRW initiative.
* The proposed audit of the **closed graveyard**
* Partnership with a bird-ringing expert
* Liaise with Ysgol Llanarmon to develop knowledge within children.

The Council **approved** this action plan. | **Clerk** to disseminate report  |
| **9**  | **COMMUNITY CATALYST PRESENTATION** |  |  |
|  |  | The Council received a presentation from Jennifer Naylor who is a representative from an organisation which provides training for individuals who wish to set themselves up in self -employment to provide care in the community. More details from: WrecsamMicros@communitycatalysts.co.uk |  |
| **10** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** |  |  |
|  |  | **Bins Supervisor**. A new supervisor has been appointed and contact details will be posted on the website  |  |
| **11** | **NEXT MEETING** | **TUESDAY 4TH APRIL 7.00** |  |