**CEIRIOG UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**  **7th November 2023** | **Present:**  **Cllr Benning (Chair),**  **Cllr D Berriman**  **Cllr S Berriman,**  **Cllr Claybrook**  **Cllr A Jones**  **Cllr G Jones**  **Cllr E Morris**  **Cllr F Swogger**  **County Cllr T Bates**  **Lorna Mills**  **Clerk: Miles Matile** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | **NONE** |  |
| **2** | **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS RELATED TO ANY AGENDA ITEM** | **NONE RECORDED** |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION**  **WHO/WHEN** |
| **3** | **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**  **2nd October 2023** | **APPROVED:**  **PROPOSED** : Cllr Swogger  **SECONDED**: Cllr A Jones |  |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING** |  |  |
| **4 (i)** | **POST HUTS/RESTS** | Cllr Swogger confirmed that there were no updates at this stage. |  |
| **4 (ii)** | **MOBILE TELEPHONE SIGNAL** | Cllr Benning confirmed that he had made contact with the planning consultants and there is no information as to when other providers will be offering a service. EE is providing a good signal |  |
| **4 (iii)** | **CENTENARY – FINAL UPDATE** | * The Centenary Events since July 2023 have now concluded with a successful two-day art exhibition at the OJH in Dolywern. * Thanks, expressed to all the organisers and especially Sylvia and Trefor Jones. * From the initial meeting in the Llanarmon Centenary Hall in November 2022, 7 events have been designed and over 750 people have attended. |  |
| **4 (iv)** | **NATIONAL PARK UPDATE** | * There was an initial consultation event at the Canolfan in October 2023. This was described as an ‘engagement event’ ahead of the design and consultation phase over the next 12 months. Concern was expressed that there had been little advance notice of the event and that it had been principally by word and mouth. * National Resources Wales is the Lead Agency for the consultation phase which will then be passed to the Senedd Cymru * The Council Web-site has been regularly updated with developments; * There is a request for initial questionnaires to be completed by the 27th November. * Within Council there was a range of views expressed which would make any consensus difficult in terms of representing the wider community. * Councillors would wish for a public meeting to be convened and then for a coordinated response. | Clerk to make contact with NRW to see if timescales for completion of the questionnaire can be extended. |
| **5** | **REPORTS** |  |  |
| **5 (i)** | **NORTH WALES POLICE** | There was no report.  Cllr Bates confirmed that both officers are now having their responsibilities extended which is impacting upon their available time. |  |
| **5 (ii)** | **WREXHAM CBC** | County Cllr Bates reported:   * The Mayor had attended the Llanarmon School following their very successful inspection. * WCBC’s Scrutiny Committee will be considering the role of the Community Agent. Cllr Bates was not able to share restricted information at this stage. * The recent flooding had affected specific areas especially around Pontfadog. The Council noted the on-going flooding by the caravan park on the B4500. * Neighbouring Community Councils are considering commissioning a consultancy report in order to make recommendations to WCBC to improve the safety of the B4500. |  |
| **5(iii)** | **OFF-ROADING** | * Cllr D Berriman updated the Council on the outcome of a recent meeting (17/10/2023) with Diana Mallison of GLEAM and representatives of WCBC following the collapse of the County Court case about the traffic restriction orders. Different initiatives are going to be taken to see how TROs can be imposed lawfully and effectively. * Cllr D Berriman is undertaking a photographic survey of the roads and tracks which can then be used to inform future discussions. |  |
| **6** | **CEMETERY AND GRAVEYARD WORKING PARTY** | * The Working Party met on a further occasion and presented a draft paper for ***next steps***. This is to inform the Council of preliminary thinking and to seek approval to undertake further enquiries without committing any party at this stage. * The Council considered the general principles, preliminary responsibilities around the ideas and the importance of engaging the local community. * The Council asked the working group to initially consult with WCBC and Insurers and then to consider wider public participation.   PROPOSED: Cllr D Berriman  SECONDED: Cllr G Jones  Approved: Nem Con |  |
| **7** | **CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESOLUTION PROCEDURE** |  |  |
|  |  | * The Chair confirmed that on the 5th September 2023 the Council agreed that a Disciplinary/Resolution Procedure be drafted to complement the 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 has been developed to differentiate between Councillors and any future employed staff and to align our procedure with that of the One Voice Wales Local Resolution Framework for dealing with disputes. * This has now been submitted to One Voice Wales for scrutiny and will be circulated in advance of the December meeting. |  |
| **8** | **FINANCES** |  |  |
| **8 (i)** | **UNITY TRUST BANK TRANSFER** | * There has been a further delay in opening the Utility Bank account as HSBC have not agreed to the closure of their account as the former Clerk is no longer the Proper Officer and cannot authorise a change.. It has not been possible to achieve this on-line so a new mandate with the Chair and Clerk as signatories will need to be submitted. * When this has been accepted the Chair and the Clerk will instruct HSBC to close the account and transfer all monies to Utility Bank. There will be three named signatories on this account The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk. * At the point of transfer the Clerk will assume the role of Responsible Financial Officer. * The Council was asked to approve a change to the Mandate: * PROPOSED: Cllr Swogger * SECONDED: Cllr Claybrook   Agreed nem com | **CLERK** |
| **8 (ii)** | **PAYMENTS IN OCTOBER AND BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS** | * The Clerk provided detail of payments for approval made in October 2023 the   Llanarmon Hall £180.00  Bank Charge £ 5.00  Specimen transfer to Utility £ 50.00  All approved  **Burial Income** received £ 12.50    The balance of the accounts and expenditure v budget was provided.  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.  Invoices pending:  Donation for audit work - £250  Printing of Centenary leaflets - £155  Audit Wales- £259. (The Clerk confirmed that Audit Wales has still not replied to several requests for clarification of this invoice.) |  |
| **8 (iii)** | **AUDIT WALES** | The Clerk confirmed that he had received an initial response from Audit Wales related to the full audit for 2022-2023 and there had been 27 questions from the paperwork submitted. 26 of these questions could be answered with one technical point being referred to the auditor. 25 of the questions related to governance and not finances. It was noted that this together with the submission of a very large amount of initial paperwork represented a significant commitment and its proportionality, given the size of the Council and the budget was questioned. |  |
| **8 (iv)** | **PRECEPT PLANNING** | * The Chair had previously provided indicative budget headings for 2024/2025 and these were considered and amended as appropriate. * The Clerk will formalise the responses and provide information on the anticipated impact for Council Tax bandings * The Council will further consider in the December meeting | **CLERK** TO FORWARD PROPSED PRECEPT |
| **9** | **AOB** |  |  |
| **9 (i)** | **PLANNING APPLICATION** | The Council reviewed a recently submitted planning application at Tyn Twll farm. Whilst outline maps were available and a brief description of purpose, there was still insufficient information. Clerk to consult with WCBC Planning to gain further information and circulate. | **CLERK** to contact WCBC Planning Department |
| **10** | **NEXT MEETING** | **TUESDAY 5th December at 7.00**  **ITEMS TO INCLUDE:**   * National Park Update. * Precept * Resolution Framework |  |