**CEIRIOG UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING****5th September 2023** | **Present:** **Cllr Benning (Chair),** **Cllr D Berriman****Cllr S Berriman,** **Cllr A Jones****Cllr G Jones****Cllr Morris****Cllr F Swogger** **Clerk: Miles Matile****Lorna Mills**  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | **Cllr J Claybrook****Cllr E Morris****Cllr T Bates****PCSO Griffiths** |  |
| **2** | **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS RELATED TO ANY AGENDA ITEM** | **NONE RECORDED** |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION** **WHO/WHEN** |
| **3** | **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** **1ST AUGUST 2023**  | **APPROVED****PROPOSED** : **Cllr A Jones** **SECONDED**: **Cllr Swogger** |  |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING**  |  |  |
| **4(i)**  | **CEMETERY AND CLOSED GRAVEYARD UPDATE** | * The Clerk and Lorna Mills confirmed that St Garmon’s PCC had received an email (16/08/2023) from the Archdiocese which confirmed previous information from the Church Warden. It stated that a Deed of Ownership of the **Closed Graveyard** had passed to the then vicar, Rev Richard Morgan on the 7th December 1925 and would have then passed to ‘Parish Meeting and Overseers’ upon his departure.
* The Chair confirmed that given recent events over the past 12 months and the uncertainty of ownership of the **New Cemetery** since 1972, the Council should take a lead in determining the long-term future of both areas.
* The Council agreed that a small working group should be established to consider strategic development, proposed ownership, the legal and financial implications of any change.
* The membership could include interested parties, and Councillors. The working group to advise the Council on a regular basis.

  | **Clerk** to organise first meeting. Initial membership to include Cllr Swogger and Lorna Mills |
| **4 (ii)** | **POST HUTS/RESTS** | Cllr Swogger confirmed that she had started to make enquiries with Ceredigion Council and a postal history expert. More details in due course. |  |
| **4 (iii)** | **NATIONAL PARK CONSULATION MEETING** | Cllr D Berriman informed the Council that he had attended a recent meeting held in Cefn Mawr.* Confirmed that the development of proposals for a new National Park are being coordinated by National Resources Wales.
* There will be public consultations in 2024 following the publication of the draft boundaries.
* It is anticipated that any National Park will follow the broad outline of the existing AONB but there is scope to include and detach certain areas.
* The Senedd Cymru has indicated that it will want to formalise proposals by 2026.
* Planning will include a new ‘hybrid’ version of a National Park and AONB which will allow greater flexibility.
 |  |
| **4 (iv)** | **CENTENARY – NEXT EVENTS** | * The Clerk confirmed that the next event will be at St Garmon’s and publicity which complements the printed programme has been sent out.
* This will be followed by two walks over the following two weekends tracing the boundaries of the proposed reservoirs.
* There is a concert planned for the 7th October and publicity is available.
* S4C recently aired a programme about the Centenary which was well informed.
 |  |
| **5** | **REPORTS** |  |  |
| **5 (i)** | **NORTH WALES POLICE** | A report for crime in the Valley has been received from North Wales Police. There were no specific details for the two Wards. |  |
| **5 (ii)**  | **WREXHAM CBC** | County Cllr Bates sent his apologies. |   |
| **5(iii)** | **OFF-ROADING** | * Cllr D Berriman confirmed that the High Court had quashed the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order because of procedural issues.
* It is anticipated that the hearing at Wrexham County Court on the 13/09/2023 will be proceeding.
* A meeting is being convened by Diana Mallinson to bring together interested parties to look at additional ways to be effective in managing the impact of off-roading.
 |  |
| **6** | **CODE OF CONDUCT** |  |  |
|  |  | Cllr Benning introduced the draft Code of Conduct- (see minutes 1st September 2023).The Localism Act 2011 s28 requires all Councils to have a published Code of Conduct.Councillors debated the draft Code and the following points were noted:* The Council should draft a complementary Disciplinary Procedures Protocol which would be activated if the Code of Conduct was considered to have been breached. Under the Localism Act, Community Councils are exempt in this respect, however Councillors believed that it would be prudent to publish a document which outlined the ‘consequences’ if the Code of Conduct had been breached.
* The Code of Conduct would be applicable to the whole of the Council.
* It would be for the Council to determine if the Code of Conduct had been infringed.
* The Council noted that breaches of the Code could occur non-verbally.

The Chair proposed to defer the vote until the October meeting to allow for full Council attendance. The Clerk would draft a disciplinary procedures protocol in advance of the October meeting.  | **Clerk** to draft a Disciplinary Protocol document |
| **7** | **FINANCES** |  |  |
| **7 (i)** | **UNITY TRUST BANK TRANSFER** | Currently awaiting the transfer of the HSBC account which has been delayed until the former Clerk has confirmed that he is no longer an authorised account holder. | **CLERK** to notify Guy Williams |
| **7 (ii)**  | **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** | Cllr Benning confirmed that he would wish to purchase a wreath for Remembrance Sunday which will cost £27. This was approved. |  |
| **7 (iii)** | **PAYMENTS SINCE 01/08/2023 AND BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS** | The Clerk provided detail of one payment made since the 01/08/2023. There are several outstanding invoices: Cemetery Sign £25Donation for audit work - £250Use of Hall - £ 210Printing of Centenary leaflets - £155Audit Wales- £259. (The Clerk confirmed that Audit Wales had not replied to several requests for clarification of this invoice.)The balance of the account is **£7,795.99.** WCBC have paid £4,000of the PreceptThe Council reviewed a draft one-page financial reporting template. Broadly this is approved for future meetings following a minor technical adjustment, Thanks to Cllr S Berriman for her work on this. |  |
| **7 (Iv)** | **PRECEPT PLANNING FOR 2024/2025** | The Council commenced its Precept Planning for 2024/2025. Initial ideas include:* Councillor remuneration budget will rise to £2,936 following the Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations.
* There may be additional costs related to the Graveyard and Cemetery.
* A review of existing donations.
* A new category of expenditure related to ‘environmental improvements’
 |  |
| **8** | **AOB** |  |  |
|  |  | The Clerk confirmed that he had received an email from Rob Davies to say that a village sign had been damaged and could the Council contact the relevant contractor. |  |
| **9** | **NEXT MEETING** | **3rd OCTOBER @ 7.00 to include*** **Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Protocol approval**
* **Community Agent in attendance**
* **Review of Training Plan**
 |  |