

Cyngor Cymuned Betws y Coed Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 9th October 2023

Present – Ffiona Jones (Chair) Neil Pringle (Vice-Chair) Bedwyr ap Gwyn, Chris Jones, Janet Charlton, Phil Roberts, Haf Jones (Clerk)

1. **Apologies** – Sian Godbert, Cllr Elizabeth Roberts (report provided)
2. **Welcome & Introductions** – The Chair welcomed everybody. This was Phil Roberts' first meeting and everybody introduced themselves. Resolved to arrange an induction session to gain an appreciation of the Community Council's responsibilities in and around Betws y Coed and to circulate the Good Councillor Guide to all members.
3. **Declaration of interest in any item on the agenda** – no declarations of interest.
4. **Community Development Officers' report** – overview of September work circulated electronically with agenda.
UKSPF application submitted for community events – awaiting outcome
Visits made to numerous village businesses which is ongoing. Reaction has been very positive with commitment of funds to support the Nadolig Betws event. A community Halloween event at the Memorial Hall and a Bonfire evening in Pentre Du are being arranged.
Clerk requested consideration by the Councillors of seed funding for the small community events = resolved to ringfence £1000 for the purpose.
5. **PCSO Peter Jones**, Llanrwst Station provided a report of 1 incident of Break in at a commercial property, Rhiwddolion, Betws Y Coed. Investigations ongoing. 2 incidents of anti-social behaviour at Pont y Pair and Station Rd.
6. **Minutes of the September meeting** – resolved that minutes were a true record of the meeting.
7. **Matters arising from the minutes** –
 - 7.1 Pont y Pair footbridge – Eryri National Park pre-planning advice gave no indication of support or otherwise but listed a series of studies and reports required to accompany any planning application. It was decided that before any further expenditure is incurred that a multi-agency meeting be arranged to understand whether the footbridge project is feasible and deliverable including clarity on maintenance responsibilities into the future.
 - 7.2 Affordable Housing – Cartrefi Conwy Meeting of 26th September postponed, future date to be confirmed.
 - 7.3 Pont y Pair Vegetation removal – no progress
 - 7.4 Fan y Llan – UKSPF application submitted; awaiting outcome. Eryri National Park Estates Manager supportive of the concept and of the partnership working opportunity.
 - 7.5 Betws y Coed FC, kitchen refurbishment – not known whether club had submitted an application to UKSPF. Clerk confirmed that the maximum expenditure that can be incurred under section 137(4) of the Local

Government Act 1972-Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2023-24 is £9.93 per elector.

- 7.6 Station rd, coach drop off-Eryri NP Estates Manager reported that the matter has been considered with the decision that the location was considered a pedestrian safety hazard. The coach park provided in the car park was considered suitable and suffice. Cllrs challenged the decision. Clerk to pursue and arrange a site mtg.
 - 7.7 Memorial Hall Asbestos survey – no progress from CCBC Facilities dept. Clerk to seek independent quotes for the work. No word re the Erw Hedd burial space.
 - 7.8 Ultimate Outdoor site – awaiting date for the work to commence.
 - 7.9 Sappers Bridge – CCBC have arranged an engagement event on the 27th October 1-7pm at the Church Hall at which project designs will be displayed for observation purposes.
 - 7.10 NRW – closure of lay-by's; Local NRW Officer relayed that the areas closed off are not lay-by's but timber stacking areas which have been closed off due to the issues of rubbish left arising from use as unofficial camping.
Overgrown vegetation which is encroaching onto the road on Coed Cynhelir rd will be cut-back asap.
 - 7.10 Prolonged parking on double yellow lines – reported to CCBC parking enforcement services
 - 7.11 Trees/Cae Llan – awaiting report from CCBC Tree Officer.
8. **Human resources** – 6 members of staff now employed. Resolved to seek professional HR support to ensure contracts comply with employment laws. Clerk to arrange
 9. **Financial Matters** – report for part of the month prepared as the bank statement had not been received. All expenditure was in order.
The Clerk asked that consideration be given to a future Finance Committee be set-up – resolved to set up a Finance Committee. Clerk to arrange
 10. **Planning application NP4/11/39Z** – Royal Oak Hotel – no objection
 11. **Memorial Hall** – Heating boiler breakdown and deemed beyond repair by the Service Engineer. Three quotes sought and A J Wainwright was awarded the contract to install a replacement boiler.
The Caretaker has reported that there are a number of broken furniture items and limited storage space. Resolved to make an audit of items and hire a skip for items beyond use to Crest for restoration and sale.
Numerous enquiries and bookings received including new weekly Judo sessions.
The Clerk asked that consideration be given to a future Memorial Hall Committee be set-up – resolved to set up a Memorial Hall Committee.
Clerk has applied to UKSPF for funds to conduct an external Condition Survey, Energy Survey and a future independent community engagement exercise.

12. Swallow Falls – Issues continue with card access for entry to the falls due to the slow BT wifi speed. Strobe advise that switching to 5g wifi would achieve a higher speed, resolve the current issue and enable payment to be taken for a number of entries in one payment. Cost approximately £500 plus contract cost with EE. Current contract with BT runs out 18th May 2024 but it may be possible to achieve an early exit due to the low speed. Clerk to explore

The Falls will be manned until Sunday 5th of November to cover the October half-term. Thereafter they will be unmanned but remain accessible. Regular visits will be made to the Falls by staff and Clerk to inspect the premises.

The Clerk asked that consideration be given to a future Management of the Falls Committee be set-up – resolved to set up a Management Committee.

13. Cae Llan – Cllr Liz Roberts invited CCBC and Eryri National Park Local Places for Nature Officers, Chris Jones and the Clerk to a site meeting to explore funding opportunities for development and enhancement of the periphery areas of the field. Chris Jones gave an overview of the meeting which included seeking community and school input and interest into the project.

14. Festive Lights – Issue on the A5 lighting has been resolved by NMWTRA. Application for licences to use the street-lighting poles are due to be submitted. Pentre Du Street lights inspected by CCBC and repaired as necessary; awaiting return of festive lights being PAT tested.

CCBC Street-lighting dept have recently circulated a new policy on usage of street lighting poles for festive lighting, hanging baskets, notices etc whereby a charge will be made for use of the poles. Minimum charge is circa £500. The policy was due to be implemented in time for the 2023 festive lighting installation but have been postponed until 2024. In light of this recent development and potential costs, Council re-visited the Festive lighting hire agreement quote and it was resolved to purchase the lighting.

Resolved to purchase Festive lighting and seek a quote from installers for storage.

15. UKSPF – A fund of £10k per community has been ring-fenced for Town & Community Councils for Community Pride & Pride in Place. Discussion re what might be included and resolved to apply for funding for CCTV at Pont y Pair, finishing off the post and rail at Pont y Pair and if CCBC agree, to replace the blue wheelie bins in and around open spaces in the village with recycled material litter bins.

16. For information:-

- Keep Wales tidy are currently offering support for community orchards, minimum area required 320sqm
- Robin Millar MP will hold a Surgery at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 11th October 12-1pm
- CVSC 3rd Sector conference, Better working together, Venue Cymru 3/11/23 – Clerk will attend.
- Precept 2024 – deadline 19/1/2024

- One Voice Wales – D Day 80 celebration beacons 6th June 2024. List of training courses for September and October received; training plan to be completed at a later date. Clerk to explore ILCA course opportunity.
- Strategic Plan for Sustainable Tourism Gwynedd & Eryri 2035 launch recording available on U-tube
- Cambrian Rally will visit the area on Saturday 28th October.

17. **Any Other Business**

Provision of a Skip for household waste – Pentre Du. Clerk to arrange

The perimeter fence between Cae Llan and the Station rd car park has been cut/damaged.

18. **Date of next meeting-Monday 13th November 2023 at 7pm**

Signed _____ Chair

Date _____