

Cyngor Cymuned Betws y Coed Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 11th December 2023

Present – Ffiona Jones (Chair) Neil Pringle (Vice-Chair) Janet Charlton, Catherine Williams, Phil Roberts, Sian Godbert, Cllr Elizabeth Roberts, Haf Jones (Clerk)

1. Apologies – Bedwyr ap Gwyn, Chris Jones,

2. Declaration of interest in any item on the agenda – No declarations of interest

3. Minutes of November Mtg - resolved that minutes were a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising :-

Pont y Pair vegetation – no progress. Clerk to write to CADW & CCBC Structures dept relaying Cllrs continued concerns and to ask if there is a condition report for the bridge available. – Email to CADW & CCBC, no response to date

Fan y Llan – awaiting UKSPF application outcome. Still waiting, no indication of decision dates just “soon”.

Station rd coach drop off pick up – no response from SNP. Clerk to arrange site visit with SNP and contact visiting Coach Tour companies. Site mtg arranged with SNP Estates Manager for Monday the 11th at 12pm at Cae Llan. Ffiona Jones, Neil Pringle and the Clerk attended. Resolved to mark the road with a coach drop off at a point beyond the vehicle entrance to Cae Llan car park and a pick up point adjacent to Mountain warehouse.

Asbestos Survey/Memorial Hall & Bryn y Bont – no response from two contractors approached. Clerk to further pursue. After some negotiations as to who’s responsibility the management survey is, CCBC have agreed to fund and arrange.

Ultimate outdoors – hoarding replaced – Security fencing is the property of CCBC or NMWTRA. Email sent to both CCBC & NMWTRA re ownership and removal. Fencing now removed.

Sappers Bridge – CCBC’s arranged engagement event on the 27th October 1-7pm at the Church Hall at which project designs was to be displayed for observation purposes was postponed. New date Friday 17th November, 1-6pm, same venue. Letter sent to CCBC copying the CCBC members who are Members of the Eryri National Park Authority, supporting option one to build a new wider bridge, retaining the bridge character which would be accessible for walking, cycling and wheeling extending the active travel route between Llanrwst and Betws y Coed.

Trees, Cae Llan – CCBC Tree Officer reports that the crown lifting work on the trees which run parallel to the A5 is out for quotes. Work completed and further work will be instructed as necessary next year when the trees are in leaf

HR – no response from the contact provided, Neil Pringle to arrange contact for a HR Services Company via CVSC. Peninsula contacted, meeting held to understand needs and how they could assist in ensuring that the Community Council are compliant with employment law together with costs. Resolved to enter into a contract for 12 months at a cost as follows

Service fee 2257.20

Insurance 118.80

Contract total for 12 months 2376.00 + 475.20 vat = 2851.20 @ 198.00 + 39.20 vat

Monthly payment of £237.60 for 12 months Direct Debit.

Erw Hedd – no updates since site visit of Spring 2022. Clerk to seek update. Email sent to both Gary Williams and Victoria Currie re mtg of December 2022. Vicky referred the matter to Gary and no response to date.

UKSPF – Monies ring fenced for Town & Community Councils. Estimates for works received. Awaiting receipt of application form. Given the small amounts of monies involved, could consideration be given to completing the Pont y Pair post & rail work from funds – approved.

Festive lights and Xmas Tree at Pentre Du installed. CCBC licence approved and received prior to installation. A couple of issues with failed lights which MEGA are sorting. Xmas Tree light switch on community get together at Pentre Du on Wednesday evening 27th followed by festive refreshments at the Fire Station. Enjoyed by all who attended.

Memorial Hall – Panto rehearsals and Lantern making workshops together with some mtg room bookings during November but a Gas bill for £690 and noticeable increase in electricity consumption since the panto lights have been installed. Smart meter records an average of £15 per panto rehearsal.

Request made for PAT test of all panto electrical equipment. Test carried out and certificates provided. Caretaker reports that the electricity “trips” during rehearsals and suspects the panto lighting; reported to the group contact. A meeting will be required to discuss compliance with electrical safety and to discuss and agree hire charges prior to panto '24.

Crest are yet to visit to have a look at the furniture. Further surplus chairs discovered and a table-tennis table.

CCBC Electrical Engineer recently carried out a visual electrical inspection of the hall and identified a short list of items requiring attention. Clerk to arrange.

Request made for panto temporary lighting cabling to be raised to be out of reach. Resolved.

Plumbing failures repaired, stop tap location identified and turned off to inspect meter reading. Current usage costs £78 per month which was previously £10. Unfortunately, it appears that the leak is on the premises. Plumber inspected all visible pipe-work and

found no sign of a leak; resolved that it must be underground and will require a scanner to identify exact location.

Acceptance of UKSPF Voluntary Fund grant signed and returned but the monies have yet to be released to CVSC and in turn to the Community Council. Clerk seeks Councillors permission to proceed with the both surveys immediately. Approved.

Bryn y Bont – Contact made with North Wales Fire & Rescue to seek an update re the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Recent escalation in requests have resulted in a longer than usual waiting list and no guarantee that the installation will be made before Xmas.

Swallow Falls – Falls site continues to be inspected twice weekly. Visitor numbers for November – 2796. Kashing, the company used for card payments, instructed a second time re change of Clerk.

Checked and confirmed that a set of keys for access to the Falls are kept at Spar/Tan Dderwen in case of emergency. Need to check with the Fire Service whether they have the key for the double gates to the North of the Falls for access in an emergency.

Cae Llan – Email to Elen Jones to seek an update re the Local Places for Nature project on the SNP part of Cae Llan. They have only recently successfully filled the post for a project officer and will prepare a draft project for submission to WG for funding. The traffic cones have now been removed by the Local Warden.

Financial Matters – Awaiting bank statement after which a full report of income and expenditure will be produced. Invoices and payment schedule will be circulated prior to the meeting at which any enquiries can be addressed prior to approval.

PCSO report – abandoned vehicle on Holyhead Rd taken away.

5. CCBC Services financial support request re Pont y Pair public toilets – letter circulated with agenda. Three options:-

Request for support for £727.00 annual sponsorship of cleaning

Community takes over the cleaning of the facilities with materials provided by CCBC

Community considers taking over the facilities with £500 per annum support.

Risk of not taking up one of the options is closure of the toilets at Pont y Pair.

Resolved not to support any of the options but instead to suggest that the profit made at Cae Llan toilets is sufficient to cover the £727.00 requested for cleaning of Pont y Pair toilets and suggest better utilisation of the member of staff at Cae Llan toilets to clean the Pont y Pair facilities.

6. GP Services – Betws y Coed, Following the distribution of letters advising patients of the changes, contact made with Llais to better understand the future arrangements beyond April if efforts by BCU fail to attract a new contractor. Should this be the case, BCU will run the services. Resolved to work with Llais and Cllr Roberts to issue a statement to reassure patients that the surgery will not close.

A public meeting is to be held at the Memorial Hall on Monday evening, 8th January, 7pm at which Llyr Huws Gruffydd, Plaid Cymru and Llais will be in attendance and it is hoped that representatives from BCU will attend.

7. Financial Matters – bank reconciliation for November prepared and balanced as per statement. Schedule of invoices and payments prepared for inspection and approval. Cheques completed and duly signed by Ffiona Jones and Janet Charlton. Precept paperwork received for 24/25. Budget plan and priorities to be main item on the January mtg agenda

8. For information –

NRW mtg – 20/11/23 with Justin Hanson, People & Places Team Leader. Gwydir Forest Resource Plan. Wish to bring community into the future plan early on.

Defibrillators – phone call received from Tomos Hughes, Wales Ambulance Service (WAS), re future responsibilities by Community Councils for all de-fibs together for a request to fund new cabinets for the two privately funded apparatus on business premises in Betws y Coed at an approximate cost of £600 each. Request made for directive and details from WAS to be considered by the Community Council at a future date.

Community Skips arranged as follows:-

Wednesday 10th January 2024– Pentre Du

Wednesday 6th March 2024 – Station Rd Car park.

Skips will be on-site for no later than 09.00 and will be taken away when the skip is full but no later than 14.00 the same day, whichever is sooner.

An operative will man the skip for the duration. The operative can refuse to accept any materials that he or she deems hazardous, unfit, or unsafe to handle.

Only small amounts of suitably bagged soils will be taken.

No building rubble, plaster, etc will be taken.

No waste will be accepted from Traders or sign written vans.

Posters made that will be displayed in the two noticeboards, website, on the Community Council Facebook page and other pages local to Betws y Coed.

Due to the uncertainty re the future of provision of service by CCBC, no bookings beyond end of March are currently taken.

PCSO report – report of criminal damage made to a tree on Holyhead road by inserting a number of copper nails that have now been removed.

11. Any other Business – Following the success of the Lantern Parade as part of Nadolig Betws, Council wished to express their gratitude to the CDO's and helpers for their hard work and to congratulate them. A collection on the night raised £309.74p which will be banked in the Community Council account and available for the 2024 event.

12 Date of next meeting 8th January 2024. – postponed to 15th January due to the Public Meeting re future of GP Services in Betws y Coed