

Cyngor Cymuned Betws y Coed Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 12th February 2024

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

1. Apologies – Sian Godbert

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

3. Glenn Evans, Manager of Waterloo & Royal Oak Hotels, presented an overview of the Waterloo Bridge viewing platform project, granted planning permission in 2020. The design plans had been circulated electronically before the meeting. The concept presented was that upon a successful funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the construction of the attraction that a Community Interest Company is granted a 25 year lease to manage the attraction car park and derive a percentage income from the parking fees. The presentation was followed by a question and answer opportunity.

The Council were pleased to receive detail of the project and the future management concept by a Community Interest Company. Chair thanked Mr Evans for his presentation.

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

4. Matters arising :-

4.1 Pont y Pair & Erw Hedd – no response. Cllrs maintain concern re the small area of burial space which remains and who's responsibility provision of burial space is. Clerk to research.

4.3 Coach pick up/drop off Station Rd – no update

4.4 Ultimate Outdoor site – agent contact details received. Clerk to seek information re owner's plans and progress re future of the site.

4.5 A5 Holyhead Rd at Pentre Du fallen wall. NMWTRA repair work carried out within a short time of reporting the issue. Further, concern has been raised by patrons of businesses between Pont y Pair and Akpit have raised concern re the condition of the road surface and potential damage to windows from loose tar risings. Clerk had communicated concern to NMWTRA who in response said that they are monitoring the situation in preparation for resurfacing work in April subject to budget availability. .

5. Staffing matters –

Training plan prepared. The Clerk and a number of Cllrs have recently attended One Voice Wales training modules and a discussion ensued on that learnt and the value relative to the Clerk and Cllrs work.

Fan y Llan – recent employment committee meeting discussed the employment of the Community Pride Operative; to be employed by the Community Council or self-

employed. This will need to be discussed and requires the approval of the grant funder. A list of CCBC Environment Roads and Facilities (ERF) proposed budget cuts for year 24/25 was scrutinised and the possible effect on the village. Meeting request with ERF Manager to be made.

At the same mtg a quarterly review of the Clerk's work was conducted.

Community Development Officers are progressing with the designing of sensitive enhancement of visitor experience at Swallow Falls and research into the history of the Memorial Hall in preparation for the engagement exercise. The installation of the e-bike charge station is progressing. A bid made to Shared Prosperity Fund for a Community Summer Festival event.

6. Financial Matters & Payments.

Bank reconciliation of January approved payments, statement and income scrutinised and found to be correct. Payment schedule of invoices for payment prepared and authorised.

Statutory Councillor Allowance - a letter was sent to each Cllr in order that they express their wish or not to claim the allowance of £150.

Future Electronic Banking – Application form received. Clerk to learn from other Councils the process required to comply with financial regulations.

Request for financial support – Eisteddfod Gadeiriol Llanrwst – unsuccessful

CCBC Play Scheme – Request for £1400 to support the 5 Summer Play Scheme sessions or 10 play sessions during the year £2,325 to be held at Cae Llan; this includes 2 sessions in Easter, 1 session during May half term, 5 summer sessions, 1 session in October Half Term, 1 session in February half term.

Summary of proposal and resolution by Council – to support the 5 summer play schemes and 2 Easter sessions only on proviso that they are held at Pentre Du; to ask the Betws y Coed School site management if the school hall could be utilised in inclement weather or alternatively to use the Memorial Hall.

The Clerk has prepared a draft Community Small Grant application form in accordance with Section 137 regulations. Comments invited and received. Amendments will be made and invitation to apply early April.

7. Swallow Falls – 2,500 visitors during January, small issue with cash entry system quickly resolved. Ratio of card to cash entry payments 70/30. The kiosk will not be manned during the February half-term unless there is an emergency situation.

Clerk is able to view live CCTV images remotely and the up to the minute card payment system which provides information on times and numbers of visitors on site.

The 1st Gwydyr Explorers are soon to undertake some graffiti removal work on the Kiosk. To achieve their senior awards in Scouts, they're required to get involved or take on a project.

Ancaster Estates' demand for 1/3 of the gross takings for the period April to September 2023 received and approved for payment.

Cae Llan – a recent visit by the CCBC and Eryri NP Local Places for Nature teams and a landscape designer was made with the Clerk and a Cllr in attendance. A second designer will visit in the near future. When both concept designs are available, request made that they be available to view by the community to approve and/or provide comment. Continued concern relayed re the dense canopy and overhanging of branches above the footpath.

Memorial Hall & Bryn y Bont– traditional quiet month for bookings. External condition report received with an estimated cost of works required £35k excluding scaffolding. Asbestos management and Energy surveys undertaken and reports awaited.

8. Planning Application NP4/11/55K Ffordd Caergybi, Betws y Coed. LL24 0BN

Change of use from Guest House (Use Class C1) to Hostel (Sui Generis) and external alterations Bryn Llywelyn, Betws y Coed.

Link to the application and information placed on Community Council website with invitation to provide observations to the Clerk by Monday 19th February.

Concerns re the reality of visitors to the hostel travelling to the village by public transport. The Travel Plan included with the application frequently states that “travelling by public transport will be encouraged” and focus is largely on the use of local public transport to reach Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen. Little detail on travelling to the village from across the English border by public transport included. The provision of parking spaces in relation to the number of bed spaces and staff is considered disproportionate and the sight-lines at the single access point for vehicle and for pedestrians to reach the footway opposite perceived to be dangerous.

9. Budget Plan/Asset Register

Plan continues as work in progress needing to ensure that all costs for the forthcoming year are identified within it. Asset register being prepared for the purpose of audit and will be shared with the insurance company to ensure that all items are included in the schedule.

10. For information

Police – no report of incidents in the village during January.

PCSO Peter Jones has moved on to a different role and has been replaced by PCSO Michelle Farrell who will attend the March mtg.

Betws di-balstig – Cllrs are grateful and appreciate the efforts of the routine litter-pickers for their work. A considerable amount of litter was recently collected at the play area in Pentre Du and at the Pont y Pair car park.

Pont Soldiwr/Sappers Bridge – update provided as follows:

- Surveys, ground investigation and outline design complete.

- Public Consultation held on bridge options Nov 2023 - strong community support for Option 1 (new suspension bridge)
- Alignment and design of path from bridge to A470 confirmed. Positive engagement with landowner regarding land acquisition and re-routing of PRow.
- Formal response to pre-app advice sent to ENP. Planning Application to be submitted April 2024.
- Positive discussions with NMWTRA/WG re: delivery of onward route to Llanrwst in A470 corridor. Outline design started.
- Provisional construction start Jan 2025.

Flood Plan training - Invitation to Community Flood Volunteer Events 2023 at the Conwy Business Centre, rearranged for 21st March 10-16.00. To be circulated to Cllrs.

Changing Rooms – Clerk recently attended a Mencap event at Llanrwst where invitations were sought for suitable locations across North Wales to provide accessible changing rooms. The project is funded by Levelling Up Fund and Betws y Coed was identified as a suitable location subject to available space which cannot be a Local Authority owned facility. ENP approached to understand if there is available space at the Royal Oak Stables/TIC. Awaiting response.

Eryri National Park Community Officers – recent request to meet with Clerks to discuss the Cynllun Eryri management plan. Arranged for 29th February.

Cllr Liz Roberts reported

Legislation will be in place towards the end of the year whereby planning permission will be required for change of use of dwellings to be used as holiday accommodation. Suggestion made for training by ENP to better understand.

Localism is soon to be abolished in the process of letting of local housing.

Cllrs asked that a Grwp Cynefin representative be invited to the next meeting provide an update on the long awaited housing development at Pentre Du.

GP Services Betws y Coed – rumour was circulating that a contractor has been appointed to provide services as of 30th April 2024; date the current GP contract ends. Clerk to seek update from Llais.

Date of next meeting – Monday 11th March, 7pm at the Memorial Hall.