

# **Cyngor Cymuned Betws y Coed Community Council**

## **Minutes of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

### **Postponed from the 8<sup>th</sup> January due to the future of GP Services at Betws y Coed public meeting**

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

**1. Apologies** – Bedwyr ap Gwyn, Chris Jones, Catherine Williams.

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

**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 progress. Cllr Roberts shared that the CCBC budget is to be approved at Full Council on 29<sup>th</sup> of February and until then, only emergency works will be carried out.

**4.2 Fan y Llan** – awaiting SPF confirmation of offer letter. NP keen that we do not wait but to progress with constructing the job description etc.

**4.3 Coach drop off/pick up points, Station Road, SNP-** no progress, Clerk to contact SNP Estates Manager for update.

**4.4 Memorial Hall Asbestos Survey, CCBC Facilities/E&AM** – no progress, Clerk to enquire

**4.5 Ultimate outdoors** – recent damage but quickly repaired by NMWTRA. Concern that the boarding is unsightly and not in-keeping with the area. No clarity on plans by owners for the future of the site. Cllrs suggested a future agenda item be exclusive to discussion. Clerk to seek clarity on ownership and information Robin Millar MP's office hold re future of the site.

**4.6 Festive Lights** – numerous issues with lighting failures, possibly due to the stormy weather. Future agenda item to review the costs and issues.

**5. Community Development Officers** – discussion re future work plan. Clerk is currently deploying both Officer's skills and knowledge on current projects i.e. development of a marketing plan for Swallow Falls, future of the Memorial Hall and delivery of the e-bike charge point at Cae Llan. Numerous requests by businesses for CDO assistance which have been politely refused and the role and responsibility of the Community Council staff explained.

**6. Staffing Matters** – HR contract in place. Recent meeting with the Health & Safety of staff, buildings and sites revealed that there is much work to be done to be compliant with legislation which comes at a financial cost. Council agreed that this is compulsory

and agreed the contract price. NALC have published the 1<sup>st</sup> of April '23 pay rises which will be sent to payroll.

**7. Training** – One Voice Wales courses available for January, February & March '24 recently circulated which included two free places on some modules. Courses identified and booked at a cost of £494 – approved. The next quarter modules will be circulated in March. Monies set aside in the 24/25 budget plan for training.

**8. Swallow Falls** – visitor figures for December were 1500. An incident of gaining entry to the site by cutting the perimeter fence was noticed during the twice weekly inspection and reported to Ancaster Estate. A request for the gross income figure for the period May to October has been requested by the Estate.

**8.1 Cae Llan** – date to meet with two project designers and the Local Places for Nature team is currently being arranged by CCBC to include BYCCC. Request made for consideration of match funding of £5k match. Amount included in the budget plan. Threshold Sports have made a booking for end of May Bank Holiday for the annual Macmillan event and two dates booked by North Wales Car Club for July & August. Both have been asked to provide marketing details for the purpose of local awareness and interest.

**8.2 Memorial Hall/Bryn y Bont** – External Condition survey and energy survey carried out; awaiting reports. Date for installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors arranged by the NW Fire Service. Resolved to instruct an electrician to carry out an inspection of the electrics at Bryn y Bont. Quieter month re bookings which is normal for January but a number of weekend booking enquiries for the Spring. Gas heating bill again very high. Steps taken to reduce standing charge at end of both Gas and Electricity contracts in Autumn 24. Offer made to regular booking groups to help promote their groups and activities.

**9. Planning application NP4/11/407, Penrallt Ucha** – no observations

**10. Payments** – payment schedule circulated, inspected, approved, cheques completed and signed by two of the three designated signatories. Bank reconciliation of income and expenditure for December '23 circulated, inspected and endorsed.

**11. Budget Plan** – draft plan prepared, circulated, inspected. Raising a precept for 24/25 was discussed and agreed that there are sufficient reserves to address shortfall between income and expenditure in the budget plan therefore it was decided not to request precept for the forthcoming year.

**12. For information** –

The Swallow Falls History points webpage now includes British Sign Language- BSL, paid for by the BYCCC in December 2022.

Letter received from SNP re planting of Yew Trees in cemeteries. Resolved to direct the letter to CCBC who have the responsibility of Erw Hedd.

It was reported that the wall on the A5 Holyhead rd, opposite Greystones had fallen onto the footway and raised concerns re the condition of the said wall from Miner's Bridge to Swallow Falls. Clerk to report to NMWTRA

The condition of the A5 road surface where there are pot holes was raised. Clerk to ask NMWTRA if a re-surface is planned.

Complaints received re the closure of both Cae Llan and Pont y Pair public toilets on New Year's Day when the village was extremely busy. The closures, including Christmas day, are due to mandatory staff non-working day and included RADAR-key toilets. Cllr Roberts had made enquiries with CCBC who in response explained that they had publicised the closures on the CCBC website but will look at improving signage on public toilet facilities to make the Christmas opening times clearer. Information on the website about toilet locations and opening times, as well as disabled facilities and community toilets is available, so visitors can plan before they come. Council found this unacceptable and not actual reality to believe that visitors plan their trip and check public toilet information on websites before planning a trip out. Clerk to discuss with CCBC Facilities dept.

A proposal was received from Cwrw Nant, circulated by email earlier in the day, outlining the concept of holding a Gwyl Gwrw/Ale Festival and hiring the Hall for the purpose over of the last weekend in May, Bank Holiday. Council discussed the proposal and decided to approve in principal, subject to conditions. Further discussion will be necessary as the concept is developed further.

**Date of next meeting – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm**