



Minutes of meeting held Monday evening 13th May at 7pm at the Memorial Hall

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

1. **Apologies** – Sian Godbert

2. **Declaration of interest in any item on the agenda** – none

3. **Minutes of the last meeting** – addendum to item 8 Budget Plan specific to not extending the CDO fixed term contracts.

4. **Matters arising from minutes:-**

Pont y Pair – vegetation are fast growing saplings that are rooted in the bridge structure. Cllr Roberts reported that she has spoken to the Head of Department responsible for Structures who is awaiting confirmation of responsibility. Cllrs expressed their concern re the continuation of the situation which has been ongoing for two + years and the associated risks to the bridge.

Community Grant –The grant application form and promotional flyer will be available soon.

Flood Plan – discussed the need for additional Flood Wardens. Cllr Roberts to contact the NRW Lead Officer and pass details on to Clerk to arrange an opportunity to raise awareness of the Plan. Clerk to await response and suggested that the awareness session be held at Pentre Du.

Ffordd Coed Cynhelir – Parking ticketing; appears to have been resolved with no further tickets issued.

Litter bins – their use for dumping of household waste appears to have stopped since evidence by way of an address amongst the contents was discovered by CCBC.

Community Skips – no progress. It appears that the rumoured discussions within CCBC re possible contract with a provider have not come to fruition. Clerk to seek a way forward to achieve provision of a community skip.

E-bike charge point – project completed

Planning enquiry – nothing further to report.

Betws y Coed FC – matter forwarded to the Open Spaces Manager but took the opportunity of speaking to the groundworkers on site who confirmed that re-seeding bald areas and aerating will take place during the summer.

5. **Financial Matters** – Bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and invoices were scrutinised and approved. Payments from now on will be made electronically where possible. The Clerk now holds a Business Debit card which will be used in accordance with the Financial Regulations. Reminder made of the requirements of full audit as per documents previously circulated.

6. Planning applications

NP4/11/223C – Glyndwr Pentre Du – no comments received therefore assumed no objections

NP4/11/405B – Swallow Falls Hotel – documentation forwarded to William Hall & Co Land agents to Ancaster Estates. The overspill tank for the hotel sewerage system lies on Ancaster Estate land at Swallow Falls.

7. **Article 4- consultation.** All households within the Eryri National Park have received a letter re the consultation and opportunity to contribute their observations.

8. Swallow Falls

Visitor numbers for April were 4747 which are down on the same period last year. Monthly Risk assessment identified movement in part of the perimeter stone wall and cost estimate for repair obtained. It was further identified that the possible cause is a large tree. Inspection by a Tree Surgeon arranged who will also carry out an inspection of all the trees to ensure the safety of visitors. Images of the damage and repairs required to the bottom platform previously circulated. CCTV, security alarm and fire safety equipment inspected and serviced during April. Successful bid to Woodland Trust for hedging trees which will be delivered during the Autumn. A request received from the Ancaster Estate Land Agent for a report of gross income for 6 months from which a rent demand for 1/3 will be received in due course.

Memorial Hall

Enquiries and bookings continue to be steady. Necessary electrical work in progress and a Fire Safety check recently completed. Advised that Fire escape route signage is required together with a Fire Risk Assessment. Cost quoted as £350 + VAT resolved to instruct Snowdonia Fire & Security to carry out the necessary work. The fence to rear of the hall requires to be reinstated and a local contractor has provided a cost but due to the drop to the car park, they have advised that a continuation of the current steel fencing would be the best option and are currently obtaining a source of supply

& cost. Recent group users of the Hall have reported disappointment with the number of parking tickets issued for parking outside the lines and a proposed additional charge for parking of vehicles for a mountain bike race. Uncertain whether these groups will use the venue again and concerns raised re potential negative economic impact. The Council expressed their disappointment at the continued opportunist income generation attitude of CCBC Parking Services. The condition of the perimeter of the Pont y Pair car park was discussed including the long-hanging branches, the build-up of debris which has all but closed off the motorbike parking area.

Cae Llan

A recent meeting with the Tree Officer has achieved the crown lifting of the low hanging branches. Owners of the Royal Oak Hotel have also lopped some of the lower hanging branches of the trees along the Stables drive which are overhanging the perimeter. We have learned that the veteran Oak tree which is currently taped off for the preparation and planting of wild flowers and is around 400 years old is heavily diseased but does not present a danger. A rustic Oak fence will be built around the drip range of the tree to protect the roots. The other Oak tree which stands nearby is also suffering from a different disease (Honey Fungus) and is being kept under review. No further information re the Local Places for Nature project designs for the planting the perimeter area which runs in parallel with the A5.

Fan y Llan – Site meetings held with the Rural Learning Disability Team who will commence with planting and aesthetic works in and around Cae Llan soon. It was agreed to meet with the one contractor who had shown interest in repair and restoration of the benches in and around the village.

Staffing – the Clerk left the meeting while the recent meetings with the two CDO's and the extension of their contracts was discussed. The councillors further reviewed the fixed term contract but due to financial constraints were unable to extend their contract. Resolved not to extend the CDO contracts which will end on 30th June 2024.

For information

Notification received from North Wales Police newly appointed District Inspector Nathan Harvey that Betws y Coed now forms part of his area but that first point of contact is Sgt Chris Phillips and Sgt Jacob Jones.

Request received from for a letter of support re the project to save and relocate the bells from St John's Church Porthmadog, which has recently closed, to St Mary's Church in the village. Resolved to provide a letter of support.

Training for Councillors – opportunity of free training. List of modules circulated with agenda.

Urgent matters

Sapper's Bridge – concerns re the continued closure, Cllr Liz Roberts asked to obtain an update.

Invasive Species, upstream towards Miner's Bridge.

Date of next meeting – Monday 10th June 7pm.