



CYNGOR TREF CAERWYS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of The Meeting of Caerwys Town Council

Held at Llys Y Goron Community Meeting Room

Holywell Road, Caerwys

On Tuesday the 19th March, 2024, at 7.00pm

1(A). 52/24

PRESENT

Councillor Jayne E. Morris (Mayor)
Councillor Steve Cople (Deputy Town Mayor & County Councillor)
Councillor Andy Delooze
Councillor Peter Dooley
Councillor Jonathan Duggan-Keen
Councillor Lynette Edwards
Councillor Judith Standing

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(B). 53/24

APOLOGIES

Councillor Susan A. Broadaway
Councillor Richard Dolphin
Councillor Gwen Jones
Councillor Lesley Roberts

1(C). 54/24

ABSENT

None

2. 55/24

BEREAVEMENTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Members stood in silence in memory of the following: Mr. Robert Joseph Garside (Bob), High Street, Caerwys; Mr. Alan Evans, Cae Delyn, Caerwys.

3. 56/24

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR REPRESENTATIONS

No attendance at meeting by public, no questions, comments or representations received prior to meeting.

4. 57/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Interest was Declared: Councillor Jayne Morris (Minute number: 8. 65/24 on page 6 below)

5. 58/24

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH FEBRUARY, 2024

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Jonathan Duggan-Keen and seconded by Councillor Steve Copple and formally agreed by the Members present.

6(A). 59/24

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to the following matters from previous Minutes:

- (1) Faulty street lantern in Afonwen:** The Clerk advised that two quotations had been received as follows: To remove existing electricity supply cable from a Park View property and replace with new cable and attach to lantern - £2,200.00 plus VAT (Written permission would be required from the various properties). The second quotation to remove existing lantern and replace with solar lantern - £980.00 plus VAT.

Members agreed the following: (1) There is no statutory requirement to provide street lighting attached to residential properties (2) Due to the current financial climate, the Council agreed, at this time, not to complete work to rectify or replace the faulty lantern.

- (2) Storage of outside Christmas illuminations:** The Clerk advised that despite a number of requests to the street lighting contractor, the Christmas illuminations had not been returned to Councillor Andy Delooze. The request to remain on file.
- (3) Town Square Plaques:** The Clerk advised that the English wording on the Royal Charter and Millennium plaques sited on the Town Square had been sent to a Welsh translator in Ruthin. The bilingual translations have not yet been received back by the Clerk.
- (4) Afonwen Notice Board:** The Clerk advised that a repair cost of £100.00 plus VAT had been received from Dylan Thomas (Joiner) for the damaged notice board.

Members agreed the following: Confirmed the above repair cost.

Harp Project: The Clerk advised in relation to another set-back to the planning application for the Harp project. Members perused on-screen an e-mail received from the Planning Officer allocated to the Council's planning application, which stated the following:

'In regard to land ownership and the discussions you had with Streetscene prior to submitting the application, I know it was the belief that the Council own the land because it's maintained by Streetscene, however after investigation we do not have any confirmation of land ownership for this piece of land. I have spoken to Streetscene and to Highways and land ownership could not be confirmed. The land is not showing as registered on the Land Registry either.

I have spoken to the Team Leader and we would request in this instance that you advertise in the paper allowing 21 days and then sign certificate D which forms part of the planning application (I have attached this for reference. You will find certificate D near the end). This will ensure that the process has been carried out properly and any potential landowner has the opportunity to come forward. There are no issues with the application except this so once this has been completed and hopefully no landowners come forward the decision can be issued.

In the meantime, I would be very grateful if you could confirm that you agree to an extension of time until 19/04/24 to allow the advertisement to be placed in the paper and for this to run its course. Hopefully this can be sorted out relatively quickly but we cannot issue the decision until we are satisfied that all the appropriate steps have been carried out'.

The Clerk advised Members that he had agreed to the extension of time.

6(B). 60/24

TO RECEIVE REPORT: MEETING WITH HANNAH BLYTHYN MS, POLICE INSPECTOR IWAN JONES & ANTHONY STANFORD (FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

The Clerk advised that the above meeting held on Friday 1st March in the Llys Y Goron Community Meeting Room was attended by the following: Hannah Blythyn MS (Welsh Government) / Louise Hughes (Case Worker: Office of Hannah Blythyn) / Inspector Iwan Jones (North Wales Police) / Anthony Stanford (Flintshire County Council - Highway Officer / Caerwys Town Councillors' Steve Cople (Deputy Mayor); Jonathan Duggan-Keen; Gwen Jones, together with R. Phillip Parry (Clerk to Caerwys Town Council).

Councillor Steve Cople provided the following notes from the meeting:

- (i) Provided historical background to parking concerns which were featured in a number of issues of the Caerwys Chronicle and Town Council minutes dating back to the 1970's to more recent.
- (ii) Provided details of the visit to a recent Town Council meeting by Hannah Blythyn which had discussed parking concerns in a number of areas in Caerwys.
- (iii) Outlined inconsiderate and contrary to the Highway Code illegal parking (within 10 metres of a junction and in areas of dropped kerbs) both on the B5122 road which runs through the Town, including a number of adjoining streets. Numerous photographs were viewed on screen of vehicles not adhering to the Highway Code.
- (iv) Councillors in attendance referred to the following concerns: An accident waiting to happen, many residents are elderly, mobility and wheelchair users, pedestrians and children regularly visit the Town Square area. The parking on street corners and in areas of dropped kerbs reduces the visibility for both pedestrians and motorists, in particular during egress from side streets. The introduction of parking restrictions would alleviate the inconsiderate and illegal parking of vehicles.
- (v) Police Inspector Iwan Jones advised that he would increase patrols in Caerwys and also arrange for a two week police presence and commence a programme of 'Watch your parking'.
- (vi) Anthony Stanford (Flintshire County Council - Transport Manager), provided detailed information in relation to parking restrictions and in particular, a matrix used by the County to score areas for parking restrictions, including the legality and advertising

process. The County fund a limited number of parking restrictions during each year, whereby there are currently many areas on the waiting list. However, should the Town Council agree to fund the legal and advertising process at a cost in the region of £4,000.00, the County would provide the yellow line marking process at no cost. The County firstly would survey the areas to confirm the suitability for parking restrictions.

- (vii) The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Steve Copple as Acting Chair of the meeting, thanked everyone for their attendance, and also thanked Hannah Blythyn MS for arranging the joint meeting.

Town Council Members discussed fully the information provided from the above meeting, with the Clerk providing details of current ear marked reserves and financial information.

Members agreed the following: (1) In principle, agree to finance the introduction of parking restrictions at an approximate cost of £4,000.00 (2) The Clerk to forward to Anthony Stanford a list of proposed street corner and junction areas adjacent to the B5122 road to be professionally assessed (3) The item to be placed on the April agenda.

6(C). 61/24

TO RECEIVE REPORT: VISIT TO SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING BY PUPILS FROM YSGOL YR ESGOB PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Mayor, Councillor Jayne Morris, advised Members of a successful and interesting visit by pupils and a staff member from Ysgol Yr Esgob Primary School here in Caerwys, to a specially convened meeting of the Town Council. Councillors in attendance: Jonathan Duggan-Keen, Jayne Morris (Mayor), Gwen Jones and Judith Standring, together with R. Phillip Parry (Clerk to Caerwys Town Council).

The pupils were advised of Council business and participated in providing their response and votes in a number of Council areas including planning. A pictorial quiz was held and refreshments provided. The pupils were provided with a name badge and received an individual certificate with their names entered and signed by the Mayor. Following the visit the school had made contact with the Clerk and stated the following:

‘The children had a wonderful time and were 'buzzing with enthusiasm' when we got back to school, enjoying telling their friends all about it.

It was such great experience for them to see how your meetings run but also for them to feel a part of their community and also see the 'behind the scenes' of their community, too. We had lots of other children saying they wanted to join the school council next year’!

7(A). 62/24

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received, that was required to be either advised to, or dealt with by the Members:

- (1) The Clerk advised that the following criminal offences had been reported to the North Wales Police, that had occurred within the Caerwys Town Council area:

Afonwen: 1 x Criminal damage

Caerwys: 1 x Anti-social behaviour / 2 x Violence

- (1) Flintshire County Council: Climate Toolkit Launch. The Clerk recollects Members to the information forwarded and advised that any Councillor who wished to attend a Workshop could register on-line.

The following correspondence was forwarded by e-mail to Members:

- ❖ Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power Project: Consultation to be completed by Councillors on a personal basis
- ❖ Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: Annual Report – February 2024
- ❖ Scottish Power Energy Networks: Stakeholder Priorities Survey – 2024 (Councillors to complete on a personal basis)
- ❖ Flintshire County Council: County Tax setting process (forwarded from County Councillor Steve Copple)
- ❖ Flintshire County Council: County Infographic information in relation to households within the County (forwarded from County Councillor Steve Copple)
- ❖ Codger's Quarterly: March Newsletter (forwarded from County Councillor Steve Copple)

7(B). 63/24

CLERK'S REPORT

- (a) The Clerk advised Members in relation to the following deposits to the Council's bank account:
- £51.00 each received from Dyserth, Halkyn and Whitford Community Councils – quarter share each of photocopier hire for previous twelve months (Total £153.00).
- (b) The Clerk had attended a recent Welsh Government training course named: Use of IT, social media and websites virtual course for Town and Community Councils in Wales.
- (c) Reported to BT Openreach hanging cable in Drovers Lane, Caerwys. Information received from Councillor Andy Delooze. BT Openreach attended within a couple of hours.

7(C). 64/24

STREETSCENE SCHEDULE (FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

The Clerk advised in relation to the following concerns that had been reported to StreetScene, since the last Council meeting:

- ❖ Water leakage emanating at the junction of Drovers Lane and North Street.
- ❖ Four-way traffic lights during repair work to above water leakage were locked on red on all four units. This was reported to Flintshire Street Scene as urgent by the Clerk, it took the County four days to relay the fault to the contractor.
- ❖ Damaged wall on B5122 road – travelling from Caerwys to Afonwen. Photographic evidence supplied with vehicle registration that was received from a member of the public.

The Clerk provided the following update from Mr. Neil Hickie (StreetScene) Officer

- ❖ No update in relation to previously reported concerns had been received from Street Scene.

Members brought the following concerns to the meeting:

- (1) A541 Road in Afonwen: From the area of Maes Mynan traveling towards the Denbighshire border requires urgent attention. The carriageway has numerous defects, and an iron grating has a bad pot hole which could be very dangerous
- (2) Holywell Road: Potholes – near junction with North Street
- (3) Cae Delyn: Grassed area damaged by heavy vehicles working in the area (photograph attached)

The Clerk advised that the above concerns would be brought to the attention of StreetScene.

8. 65/24

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor, Councillor Jayne Morris, advised Members of their attendance at the following:

- ❖ Special Council meeting held for Ysgol Yr Esgob pupils
- ❖ Annual litter pick

Councillor Morris advised Members that a Mayor's charity event had been arranged for Saturday 4th May. This would be a tea / coffee and cake afternoon with entertainment and will be held in The Royal Oak marquee. A children's entertainer had been booked who had attended previous events in Caerwys with a cost of £200.00. The Mayor sought the Members to consider that this cost be a contribution towards the event from the Town Council. The event would be for Cancer Research Charity with a local musical group also providing entertainment.

Councillor Jayne Morris declared an Interest and left the meeting during Councillor discussions. Councillor Steve Copple as Deputy Mayor took the Chair for this item only (**Minute number: 4. 57/24 on page 2 above**)

Members agreed the following: Were pleased to assist this charity event by providing funds of £200.00, for the payment to the children's entertainer.

Councillor Jayne Morris was asked to re-enter the Council meeting room.

9. 66/24

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (CLLR STEVE COPPLE)

County Councillor Steve Copple, provided Members with the following report:

Main Council

It was a quiet month after the budget.

Aura Libraries: Notified that the Aura Library scheme is to be closed asap, the extent of this is not fully understood at the moment and information is demanded.

Local Issues

Caerwys Hill: Traffic issues with recent road closure, we were not informed properly although signage was correct, visited site and checked signs and asked for explanation of poor communications.

Caerwys Hill: I intend to ask FCC what plans that they could create if the hill was to be closed for a long time

Housing: Collected a range of FCC housing issues that was presented to me recently and placed them on the desk of the housing asset manager for action

Potholes: Point of discussion on rural potholes and next steps in terms of a broad multi ward approach on this aspect

10. 67/24

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (COMMITTEES, LIAISON & MEETINGS ATTENDED)

There were no reports specific to the Local Committees and Outside Bodies schedule, or Council Members who had attended meetings on behalf of the Council.

11(A). 68/24

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application(s) were considered by Members at the meeting:

No planning applications received from Flintshire County Council for consideration at this meeting

11(B). 69/24

PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council:

- (i) Application number: FUL/000397/22 - for Proposed development of 9 No Properties on site of existing approved development, at Summerhill Farm, Drovers Lane, Caerwys. Approved
- (ii) Application number: FUL/001091/23 – for Installation of amateur radio communications mast, at Cobweb Cottage, Pen Y Cefn, Caerwys. Refused
- (iii) Application number: DET/000452/23 – for Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition No. 6, Ref: 061082, at The Pwllgwyn Hotel, Afonwen. Approved

12. 70/24

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
	<u>Payments made – to be confirmed:</u>			
	Standing Order: R. P. Parry - Clerk to Council (Monthly salary & home working allowance for February) Payments dated 01/03/2024			

	<u>Payments for consideration at meeting to be paid by BACS:</u>			
	Direct Debit: Scottish Power (February - Street Lighting Electricity Account) Payment due 19/03/2024	345.17	17.26	362.43
	BACS: H. M. Revenue & Customs. Clerk's PAYE & Clerk & Council NI - January, February & March	1,170.53		1,170.53
	Katy Binchan (Bus shelter Easter theme)	100.00		100.00
	Gaynor Griffith (Environmental Services for March)	150.00		150.00
	R. P. Parry (Clerk) £79.20 - Travelling expenses from March 2023 to March 2024 (as per detailed auditor schedule) / £8.00 – refreshments for Ysgol Yr Esgob pupils at special Council meeting (as per receipt)	87.20		87.20

13. 71/24

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	<u>Authorised to be paid by BACS:</u>	
	Age Cymru (Caerwys) Application for annual donation (Section 137 LGA 1972)	£250.00
	Mothers Union (Caerwys) Application for annual donation (Section 137 LGA 1972)	£250.00
	Eisteddfod Rhondda Taf (Application for general donation)	No grant

14. 72/24

Members agreed the payments of the above accounts and financial support as listed.

There being no further business, the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR AS CHAIR.....

DATE OF APPROVAL.....