Minutes of a meeting of the Community Council held at the Community Centre on 31st January, 2024.

**PRESENT** – Cllrs Bryan Jones (Chair), Ian Jones, Iona Pierce, Paul Evans and David Taylor together with the Clerk (John Roberts).

**WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS** – the Chair extended a warm welcome to Cllr David Taylor who was attending his first meeting of the Community Council and congratulated Cllr Ian Jones on his recent marriage. **1. APOLOGIES** – Andy Mitchelmore, Huw Jones and Kevin Shenton. **2.** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Ian Jones declared a personal interest in item 13 and a personal and prejudicial interest in item 14(ii) being the owner of the property under consideration and left the meeting during consideration of this item. **3**. **MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 29th November, 2023 were submitted and confirmed as a correct record. Matters arising from the minutes were discussed as follows:

**MATTERS FROM THE MINUTES**

**4. Denbighshire Commuted Sum Projects** – as reported previously, the sum of £11,370.95 was being made available to the community council area of Llangynhafal to improve open spaces and play areas. Further correspondence had been received confirming that the funds had been ring fenced for the area and if not spent in this round of bids, then the funds would roll forward to the next round later in the year. However, it should be noted that any group/organisation operating in the area could apply and if an eligible application was received then they would be considered and the funds may be allocated. To date, no applications had been submitted.

Clarification had been sought as to whether the various projects discussed at the last meeting, and listed again below, met the criteria for Commuted Sum funding. In reply, the Community Development Team at Denbighshire had stated that funds were available from various sources and, if a project did not meet the Commuted Sum funding criteria, they would be happy to explore other funding sources in respect of the project.

The previously identified project headings referred to above were given further consideration by members as follows:

1. **Provision of mains water to the recently established Community Garden** at Maes Hafal, Gellifor. **Resolved** – that, to enable a funding submission to be made, quotations be obtained from approved contractors in respect of the work. Cllr Paul Evans agreed to investigate this matter further. In addition Cllr Kevin Shenton was in contact with the Housing Dept regarding possible assistance. .
2. **Purchase of specialist litter picking equipment and containers**. – investigations were ongoing into this possible project with Cllr Andy Mitchelmore to report back.
3. **Purchase of weather proof community notice boards** - it was agreed that more research be carried out into the various notice boards currently on the market.
4. **The purchase and erection of a special plaque at Hendrerwydd** to mark the location and transfer of Hendrerwydd Uchaf (16th century farmhouse) to St FagansMuseum, Cardiff – it was agreed that enquiries be made with Countryside Services regarding the production and cost of commemorative plaques.
5. **The purchase and installation of replacement community seats** – it was agreed that research be carried out into the various types of seats currently on the market.

**5. Highway Matters - (i) Maintenance of Roadside Visibility Railings** – no further information had been received from Denbighshire Highways regarding this county wide issue.

**(ii) Introduction of Speed limits at Llangynhafal and Hendrerwydd** – this matter was now being investigated by the Denbighshire Road Safety Section.

**(iii) Hwylfa Fain “No Lorries” Warning Sign –** Highways had been asked what, in their opinion, was the most effective road sign to stop drivers of large lorries travelling along Hwylfa Fain. To date, a reply had not been received.

**(iv)** **Flooding following periods of heavy rain** – it was agreed that Highways be thanked for their prompt action in cleaning the drains and clearing the flood water from Penstryt Corner, Gellifor after the recent period of heavy rain.

**(v) Poor condition of the roads** – concern was expressed regarding the very poor condition of roads throughout the community and it was agreed that the following be referred to Highways for urgent attention: i. The road from Hendrerwydd to Cyffion. ii. The road from Hendrerwydd to Ffordd Las. iii. Bryn Onnen corner, Llangynhafal. . Concern was also expressed at the fact that the **“Give Way” sign at Cyffion** was no longer there. It was agreed that this also be referred to Highways.

**6. Community Garden Project at Maes Hafal** – reports on the following matters were submitted:

**(i) Mains Water** – see 4(a) above.

**(ii)** **The £500 grant**, available to be spent in accordance with the Project Group’s priorities, continued to be on going in consultation with Mrs Iola Quinn.

**(iii) Direction Sign** – Cllr Andy Mitchelmore was looking into this matter with the school.

 **7. Footpaths** - Path 6.4 (Gellifor Farm to Commins) – the possibility of diverting the path away from the cattle yard had been referred to Highways but, to date, a reply had not been received.

Path 7.2 (Hwylfa Llwyn to Gellifor Farm), it was understood that the broken branch overhanging the path had now been removed and that the path had been reopened.

**8.** **Community Seat Opposite the School** – as reported at the last meeting, details of the proposed new seat were awaited from the family making the donation. Repairs were being carried out to the existing seat to make it safe for users.

**9. Defibrillator Training** – it was reported that arrangements had been made by Cllr Kevin Shenton for training sessions, open to members of the community, to be held at the Community Centre on 7th February 2024.

**10. Planting of Flower Bulbs** **within the Community** – Cllr Ian Jones reported that he had taken delivery of a bulk supply of flower bulbs and that he had arranged for the bulbs to be planted at various locations throughout the community. Cllr Jones was thanked for all his work in relation to this project and for continuing to investigate the general tidying up of grass verges within the community.

**11. Mountain Road beyond Llangynhafal Church** – the condition of the unadopted mountain road over to Flintshire had deteriorated badly after the recent storms with vehicles no longer being able to use the road due to very deep potholes/erosion. The road had now been closed to vehicles and it was agreed to ask Highways what the proposals were for making good the damage and reopening the roadway.

**12. Proposed North East Wales National Park/Information Session Invitation** – members were reminded that National Resources Wales had been commissioned by Wales Government to assess the case for a new national park that would be based on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB but also expanding to surrounding areas. The area was currently being evaluated before a potential National Park boundary could be proposed. Consultation events had taken place during October and November but, for those who were either unaware or unable to attend, arrangements were being made to hold a further event to provide an update on the work.

Confirmation had now been received that a presentation/question and answers session had been arranged to take place on 22nd February 2024 via online Teams meeting 14.00 to 15.30 and all town and community councillors in the area were invited to attend.

A copy of the invitation had been circulated with the agenda. Cllrs wishing to attend would need to respond directly to National Resources Wales. **Resolved** – that the invitation be noted and that any member wishing to attend contact NRW directly.

**13. FINANCIAL MATTERS – (i) Current Financial Balance** – members noted that the Council’s bank balance at 29.12.2023 stood at £7136.87

**(ii) Payments –** Resolved that the following payments be approved: Ian Jones £86.82 - Bulk supply of flower bulbs. Audit Wales £ 200.00 – Audit Fee 2021/2022.

**(iii) Annual Review of Financial Management Arrangements** – a review of the Community Council’s financial management arrangements was carried out. Members were satisfied that by bringing all financial matters before the council, the checks and balances currently in place were adequate in respect of income and expenditure and in respect of the control and management of the Council’s assets and the Council’s projects. Regarding banking, members were happy with the service provided by HSBC and with regard to internal audit, members continued to be satisfied regarding the independence and competence of Mr Frank Brown. It was agreed that all the current arrangements remain in place.

**14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – Consideration was given to the following planning applications: **(a) Tynron, Llanychan** Ref.22/2023/0847 – installation of 2 dormer roof extensions to front of dwelling, ground floor canopies to front and rear of dwelling, reparation works to existing roofs and repainting of elevations. **Resolved** – that the Community Council has no adverse comments regarding the proposals.

**(b) Land Adjacent to Hendrerwydd Farm, Hendrerwydd** – Ref.22/2023/0895 variation of condition 2 of planning permission 22/2020/0735 to allow the erection of plant room outbuildings and link canopy to dwelling to accommodate ground source heating pump and tanks. NB. Cllr Ian Jones left the meeting during consideration of this item. **Resolved** – that the Community Council has no adverse comments regarding the proposals.

**(c) Pre-Planning Consultation regarding proposed development on land adjoining Peniarth/Gellifor Farm** – correspondence from the Building Plot Ltd on behalf of Robert Homes Ltd was submitted.

The correspondence notified the council that a pre application consultation was being held regarding the proposed development of 0.54ha of land for the erection of 14 residential dwellings along with associated road, parking, and open space for which outline planning permission had been granted.

Copies of the proposed application, the plans and other supporting documents were available for inspection online, details of which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was understood that details had also been sent to residents living nearby.

Members discussed the proposals and it was agreed that the following comments be submitted: . (i) The Community Council had been led to believe that the area designated for community parking would be a lot larger than that shown on the proposed layout. It is the view of the Community Council that the size of the community parking area should be increased and the number of properties reduced accordingly.

(ii) To help overcome the traffic problems which will be encountered along the public road to the front of the site, the Community Council strongly recommends that the road be further widened to allow traffic to pass and to accommodate cars which will be parked on the roadside alongside the new dwellings. If the road is not made wider than indicated, traffic will not be able to pass and the same problems will be encountered at this location as are being encountered on the roadway from Peniarth to Gellifor Chapel.

For this proposed new development there is room to move the new properties back to allow for a greater widening of the road and to provide a greater distance between the new houses and the existing houses on the opposite side of the road.

(iii) There is an urgent need for more affordable houses. It is the view of the Community Council that a greater proportion of new development should be set aside for affordable housing than the one dwelling currently indicated.

(iv) Careful consideration must be given to the location of the new homes to prevent existing houses being directly overlooked. .

(v) Looking further ahead, careful consideration must be given to the site management arrangements for the project to ensure that residents living opposite are not inconvenienced. In particular, adequate parking must be provided on site for construction workers, plant and equipment and delivery vehicles.

**15. NEW CORRESPONDENCE** - New correspondence regarding the following matters had been circulated to members prior to the meeting:

**(a) One Voice Wales -** Newsletter and details of training events were noted.

**(b) Digital skills training sessions for Councillors** – Correspondence from One Voice Wales regarding training sessions to be held February/March 2024 covering digital skills was submitted. The training sessions were being provided by Digital Communities Wales as part of the Digital Health of Community and Town Councils Program and were available online at no charge for councillors. **Resolved** – that the correspondence be noted.

**(c) D-Day 80 Celebrations** – members noted that celebrations to mark D-Day 80 would be held across Britain on 6th June 2024. **Resolved** – that the Community Centre Committee be informed of the correspondence.

**(d) Changes to Household Waste Collection Arrangements for the County** – correspondence from Denbighshire regarding the new household waste collection arrangements to be introduced in June 2024 was submitted.

In preparation for the new service, meetings had been arranged to take place during February to update community councils on the changes including information on when individual villages could expect to receive their new receptacles and the change in non-recyclable collection to 4 weekly. Resolved – that the correspondence and meeting dates be noted.

**16. DATE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING** - it was agreed that the next meeting be held at the Community Centre on 28th February, 2024 commencing at 7.30pm.