Minutes of a meeting of the Community Council held at the Community Centre on 28th February, 2024.

**PRESENT** – Cllrs Bryan Jones (Chair), Ian Jones, Huw Jones, Kevin Shenton, and David Taylor together with the Clerk (John Roberts).

**1. APOLOGIES** – Andy Mitchelmore, Iona Pierce, and Paul Evans. **2.** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – therewere no declarations of interest. **3**. **MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 31st January, 2024 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 requested at the last meeting, copies of the guidelines relating to the Public Recreational Open Space Commuted Sum Scheme had been circulated to members with the agenda. The sum of £11,370.95 was being made available to the community council area of Llangynhafal and members noted that this must be spent on outdoor public recreational open space that is of direct benefit to residents or users.

Organisations that can apply include community and voluntary groups as well as the community council. The available funds can be used to lay out new open space or to enhance existing provision, thereby increasing usage.

As reported at the last meeting, 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. To date, no applications had been submitted.

Possible schemes discussed previously were given further consideration by members as follows:

1. **Provision of mains water to the recently established Community Garden** **at Maes** **Hafal, Gellifor**. An estimate in the region of £7,000.00 had been received for carrying out the work. During an ensuing discussion it was pointed out that it was only during dry periods that water would be required and that this could be provided by means of a water bowser/tank. Cllr Ian Jones agreed to investigate this matter further including obtaining prices for a stand and water tank.

1. **Purchase of specialist litter picking equipment and containers**. – investigations were ongoing into this possible project with Cllr Andy Mitchelmore to report back.
2. **Purchase of weather proof community notice boards** - members agreed that more research needed to be carried out into the various notice boards currently on the market and whether they could be made locally. Oak notice boards, either single or with combination glazed door/open fronted were the preferred option and a total of 4 would be required to be sighted at Gellifor, Hendrerwydd, Cyffion and Plas yn Rhos.
3. **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 – enquiries had been made with Countryside Services regarding the production and cost of commemorative plaques, but to date a reply had not been received.
4. **The purchase and installation of replacement community seats** – it was agreed that more research be carried out into the various types of seats currently on the market. . **Regarding the** **seat opposite Gellifor School**, it was reported that details of the new seat to be provided by a local family were awaited and that, in the meantime, repairs would be carried out to the existing seat. . **Seat at Plas yn Rhos** - it was reported that the seat at Plas yn Rhos had been damaged by a vehicle and was beyond repair. Cllr Bryan Jones agreed to remove the damaged seat and in addition it was agreed that the possibility of transferring the existing seat at Commins to Plas yn Rhos be investigated.

**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) Poor condition of the roads** – it was reported that road maintenance staff from the Highways Dept had visited the area recently and that potholes along the road from Hendrerwydd to Cyffion and at Bryn Onnen corner had been filled. However, there was a danger that the potholes would return as the work was not considered to be a permanent solution. It was agreed to continue to press for these two roads to be resurfaced completely.

**(v) SLOW Road Marking at Plas yn Rhos Bends** – given the high speed that some motorists travelled when negotiating the double bend at Plas yn Rhos, it was agreed to ask Highways for SLOW road markings to be painted on both approaches to the corner.

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

**(i) Mains Water** – see 4(i) 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 extended farm yard had been referred to Highways.

A reply had been received from which members noted that, to move a footpath, an order needs to be made under the Highways Act to divert the path in question and that it is only the land owner who can apply for an official diversion order. Any such proposals would have to be acceptable to the Council and costs including statutory bilingual advertising costs together with legal and administrative costs would have to be met by the landowner. These are increasing with advertising costs alone now exceeding £2,000.00.

Whilst the above dealt with the formal means to change a path, there was an informal option which is that the landowner, in addition to keeping the existing route of the path open, could provide an alternative permissive path the public could use as an alternative. Again, the Council would need to be satisfied that the permissive route is safe and has merit and all costs would fall on the landowner. A permissive path could be altered or closed at any time by a landowner without any need for an order.

Members discussed the above information but it was felt that, in this particular case, providing an alternative permissive path would be difficult.

Resolved – that the situation be noted.

**8. 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. However, the person carrying out the training had been taken ill and the event had to be cancelled. A new date was now being investigated.

**9. Planting of Flower Bulbs** **within the Community** – it was reported that this work was ongoing with Cllr Ian Jones continuing to investigate the general tidying up of grass verges within the community.

**10. Mountain Road beyond Llangynhafal Church** – following the recent storm damage, the Highways Dept had been contacted regarding carrying out repairs and reopening the mountain road but, to date, a reply had not been received.

**11. Proposed North East Wales National Park/Information Session Invitation** – members noted that a further consultation event had been held on 22nd February and that proposals were currently being evaluated.

**12. Changes to Household Waste Collection Arrangements** – as reported at the last meeting, changes to household waste collection arrangements were being introduced by Denbighshire from June 2024. Further information had been received, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda. In particular, the schedule of dates for supplying the new waste containers to all households was noted.

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

**(ii) Requests for Financial Assistance 2023/2024** – it was reported that, during the year, the Council had received several applications for financial assistance, details of which were outlined at the meeting. **Resolved** – that a donation of £50.00 be awarded to each of the following- (i) Urdd Gobaith Cymru. (ii) Wales Air Ambulance. (iii) St Kentigern Hospice. (iv) Denbigh Community First Responders.

**14. 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) National Forest for Wales** – information regarding grants to create new small woodlands managed in collaboration with the local community was received and noted.

**15. DATE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING** - it was agreed that the next meeting be held at the Community Centre on 27th March, 2024 commencing at 7.30pm.