



CYNGOR TREF CAERWYS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of The Meeting of Caerwys Town Council Held at The Memorial Institute, South Street, Caerwys, On Tuesday the 16th February, 2016, at 7.30pm.

1(A). 28/16 PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Lynette M. Edwards (Town Mayor)
Councillor David S. Knights (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Jonathan E. Duggan-Keen
Councillor James E. Falshaw
Councillor E. Vincent Frost
Councillor Howard R. Griffiths
Councillor Michael W. Moriarty
Councillor Ms. Helen L. Priestley
Councillor Jonathan A. G. Webb
Councillor Stephen G. Wilson

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(B). 29/16 APOLOGIES

Councillor Ms. A. Louise Carus

2. 30/16 BEREAVEMENTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Members stood in silence in memory of the following:

Mrs. Estelle Parry, Pen-Y-Lôn, Holywell Road, Caerwys.

3. 31/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. 32/16 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH JANUARY, 2016

Minute number 2(B). 04/16 (ii) on page 2. It was confirmed that the water leakage is in Chapel Street.

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

5. 33/16

MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk referred to the following matters from the previous Minutes:

Minute no: 2(B). 04/16 (page 2), in relation to a number of matters discussed with Mr. Ian Williams, Flintshire County Council Street Scene Supervisor. The Clerk advised that he had not received an update from Mr. Williams. The Clerk further advised that following the January Council meeting, Councillor Jonathan Duggan-Keen had brought the following concerns to his attention, which had been forwarded to Mr. Williams

- (a) The red dog bin sited on The Marian (opposite Merlin Motors Garage), the lid is damaged. This particular bin is regularly full to the top; could it be replaced with a larger model - similar to the bin by St. Michael's Church main entrance.
- (b) The clothes bank on the Marian (behind the hedge). Mr. Williams was requested to ascertain whether or not the clothes bank belongs to a registered charity. This was the case a while ago when it was a Salvation Army container but now it seems that the contents go to a European recycling company and that the County Council may possibly receive a fee for allowing its placement there. This bin is also regularly full and then people tip / dump their bags of clothes around the bin. There are presently a number of bags, which have been deposited around the base of the bin. Mr. Williams has been asked to enquire in relation to the following: To make enquiries if this bin could be removed. If this was possible, then the Town Council could formally discuss if they wish the bin to be removed. Where the bin is sited is common land and the Council regularly receive comments and complaints advising the area looks unsightly.

The Members agreed the following: To await a reply from Mr. Williams, and in the meantime, the Clerk to enquire with the County Council if they received permission to place the bin on the Marian.

The Clerk was asked to contact Mr. Williams, in relation to the following concerns:

The following overflowing gullies:

- (i) The junction of South Street and Pen Y Cefn road (in the small car parking area on the corner and by the South Street sign – left hand side entering Caerwys from Afonwen).
- (ii) The Marian - approximately 10 feet away from the 'Hare in the butterfly garden'. The gully is presently under water and is not visible.

The following dog bins were reported as faulty:

- (iii) At the junction of Holywell Road and Maes Y Dre - lid broken.
- (iv) At the entrance to Caerwys Golf Club - lid completely missing.

Minute no: 5. 08/16, sub minute number: 5. 235/15 (page 3), in relation to the non-reply to correspondence sent to the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council, enquiring in relation to street lighting energy charges. The Clerk advised that there had been no response, even after following the complaints procedure – as per the Charter between the County Council and Town and Community Councils in Flintshire.

The Members agreed the following: The Clerk to provide further copies of the correspondence to County Councillor James Falshaw who agreed to visit the Chief Executive personally.

Minute no: 5. 08/16, sub minute number: 6(A). 236/15(6) (page 3), in relation to a spare key to the Pinfold building being cut and held by the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that he was now in possession of a new key for the Pinfold.

Minute no: 5. 08/16, sub minute number: 11. 248/15(b) (page 3), in relation to the two concrete street lighting columns – one in Holywell Road, and one opposite the Piccadilly Inn. Councillor Howard Griffiths advised that the concrete lamp opposite the Piccadilly Inn was still leaning and enquired if the County Council had inspected it. The Clerk advised that following the January Council meeting he had written to the Street Lighting Department asking that the column be inspected but had received no information in relation to the result of any inspection. The Clerk had been advised that the electricity supply to both the new lamps would be completed in the near future.

The Members agreed the following: The Clerk to further contact Flintshire Street Lighting Department to ascertain if an inspection has taken place and to request a written result of the inspection.

Minute no: 9. 15/16 (3) (pages 6 and 7), in relation to Councillor Ms. Helen Priestley's discussions with the Welsh Aggregates Levy Fund (ALFW) representative. Councillor Ms. Priestley had provided Councillor James Falshaw with a chronology of discussions with Mr. Russell Dobbins (Fund Manager). Councillor Falshaw subsequently enlisted the assistance of a Regional Welsh Assembly Member. Councillor Ms. Priestley advised that following further discussions with a Board Member of the ALFW, Councillor Priestley provided to the Members, details in relation to the annual financial figures levied on the quarry haulage industry, together with the funding received from the Welsh Assembly to the ALFW – which had been drastically reduced. This has resulted in applications for funding being oversubscribed, and lesser sums of financial assistance granted. Councillor Ms. Priestley had been advised to make an application between October 2016 and January, 2017 – in readiness for the first round of funding in 2017. **(See Minute number 6(A). 34/16 on page 4 below).**

Minute no: 11(C). 21/16 (page 10), in relation to the installation of the Christmas lights. The Clerk advised that he had received written confirmation from the Electrical Contractor that the Christmas Lights would be removed without payment from the Council. Councillor James Falshaw confirmed that the lights had been removed from the Town Square tree; they were undamaged and held by Councillor Falshaw for safe keeping.

The Council agreed the following: The Clerk to place the Christmas Lights on the September, 2016 Agenda.

Minute no: 12. 24/16(A) (page 10), in relation to receiving a report from Mr. Anthony Standford, Highways Strategy Manager for Flintshire County Council, in respect of the possibility to an installation of a pedestrian crossing in the area of Caerwys Town Square. Councillor Michael Moriarty, together with the Clerk, both advised that no further correspondence had been received from Mr. Standford.

Minute no: 12. 24/16(B) (page 10), in relation to the inclusion of information on the Caerwys Town Web site. The Clerk advised that the bilingual Town Trail information booklets had been placed on the site. Councillor Jonathan Duggan-Keen had received the permission of the Holywell Ramblers to place the booklet 'Anne's Walks' on the web site – which had also been completed.

Minute no: 12. 24/16(C) (page 10), in relation to Historical Structures for Listing. Councillor Michael Moriarty advised that himself, together with the Clerk had met with a Welsh Water Board Inspector. The four water hydrants had been inspected, with the Water Board Inspector confirming that all the hydrants were disconnected from the mains water supply. The Inspector further confirmed that as all the hydrants were either sited on grass verges and pavements, they were the responsibility of the County Highways.

The Members agreed the following: Councillor Michael Moriarty's recommendation that the Clerk, in the first instance, write to the County Conservation Officer, seeking their views in relation to the preservation / listing of the water hydrants.

6(A). 34/16

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (1) Notification from Flintshire County Council Library Service, advising that from week commencing 29th February, 2016, the mobile library service will visit Caerwys on a Monday every three weeks, between the hours of 2.15pm and 3.45pm. The Council Members were e-mailed the information on the 26th January, by the Clerk.
- (2) The Clerk referred to an e-mail forwarded to all Councillors dated the 17th February. The e-mail received from the County Council Play Design Officer, which provided details in relation to a quotation for the upgrade of the Caerwys Play Area, for the sum of £100,260.79. The information also contained drawings and photographs of various equipment, including the layout.

The Members agreed the following: (a) The Clerk to contact the Play Design Officer, to enquire in relation to the quotation validity period (b) Councillor Stephen Wilson to discuss the proposals with the Memorial Institute Trustees. (See **Minute number 5. 33/16 sub minute no: 9. 15/16 (3) on page 3 above**).

- (3) The Clerk referred to an e-mail forwarded to the Council Members on the 3rd February, from a 'Rural GP' who uses a postal address in Afonwen. The e-mail sought the views of the Town Council to a proposed 'open all hours' traditional rural medical practice. The Members instructed the Clerk to reply to the e-mail in the following terms: 'Interest was expressed and the Town Council Members look forward to any future proposals'.
- (4) The Clerk advised in relation to the Section 137 Expenditure limit for financial year 2016 / 2017, which had been received from the Welsh Assembly Government. The appropriate sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, has been increased from £7.36 to £7.42 per elector. The Clerk further advised that there were 972 residents listed on the Register of Electors for 2016, within the Caerwys Town Council area. (£7.42 x 972 = £7,212.24).
- (5) Information in relation to an application for European funding for Pan Wales Community Transport Project – which was e-mailed to all Councillors on the 5th February.

6(B). 35/16

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised that the April Council meeting would be the Annual Open Public meeting of the Council, and would commence at 7.00pm. The Clerk further advised that he would place a public notice in the Caerwys Chronicle and nearer the time would display information posters.

6(C). 36/16

TO ARRANGE THE ANNUAL LITTER PICK IN MARCH / APRIL

The Annual Litter Pick was arranged for Saturday 16th April, to commence at 10.00am. The Clerk advised that he would place a public notice in the Caerwys Chronicle and nearer the time would display information posters.

6(D). 37/16

PINFOLD – REPAIRS TO BUILDING

The Clerk recollects to the Members Minute number 6(A). 236/15, from the 17th November, 2015 Council meeting, in relation to possible repairs to the Pinfold door. The Clerk advised that the Caerwys in Bloom Chair had indicated that the door was difficult to lock, and appeared that the concrete edging on the lock side of the door is crumbling away, broken and loose. A number of vertical door planks (right side of the viewing window) were lifting apart.

The Members agreed the following: The Clerk to arrange for a Caerwys joiner to inspect the premises and to provide a quotation.

7. 38/16

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor Councillor Mrs. Lynette M. Edwards, advised the Members that there had been no Mayoral duties carried out since the January Council meeting.

8. 39/16

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor J. E. Falshaw as County Councillor, discussed with the Members the upgrading of the Town Square CCTV.

The Members agreed the following: Councillor James Falshaw to liaise with an appropriate Officer in County Hall, to seek advice in relation to an improved colour CCTV system with better night vision.

9. 40/16

REPRESENTATIVES / LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) Consultation on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill

The Clerk and Cllr Moriarty attended a Community and Town Council Engagement Event on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill that had been arranged by the Welsh Government. The meeting was held at Venue Cymru on the 4th February 2016, with a number of representatives from various town and community councils within North Wales being present.

Issues discussed commenced with amalgamation of LAs followed by requirement for community councils to meet the criteria of:

- (a) that at least two-thirds of councillors on a community council must be elected (whether at an ordinary election or a by-election);
- (b) The community council must employ a clerk with a relevant professional qualification;
- (c) the council has received an unqualified auditor's opinion in respect of its accounts for 2 consecutive years, with the latest opinion having been received within the last 12 months, in order to be classed as a community council with competence.

Community councils will be required to assess and resolve whether they have 'competence' at each annual meeting held in the year of an ordinary election. This will remain 'with competence' until the next annual general meeting following an ordinary election. There will be mandatory training of community councillors dealing with planning and the code of conduct.

Statutory Community Area Committees in each community area will be created and comprise all the county councillors in the community area and representation from community councils, other public bodies and voluntary bodies. Community Area Committees are intended to give councillors and community representatives direct influence over local spending by making an annual statement about local priorities and objectives.

The Boundary Commission for Wales will have a duty to conduct a community council review in each of the new counties formed as a result of changes to LA boundaries.

Elections to all community councils will be held in May 2017 and term of office will be for 6 years until 2023. From 2023 ordinary elections will then be every 5 years, which will align with the ordinary elections to the County Councils in which the communities are located.

The Members agreed the following: Councillors Mrs. Lynette Edwards, James Falshaw, David Knights and Michael Moriarty to meet at the Clerk's home on Wednesday evening 17th February, to complete the 'Consultation Response Form' to the above referred to Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill. The Clerk to thereafter forward the completed form to the Welsh Assembly Government and provide all Councillors with a copy.

(2) Consultation on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill

Councillor Jonathan Webb, reported as the Town Council's representative on the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils, in relation to the response by the Association to the Draft Bill. Councillor Webb advised that the Association's response was collective from the 36 Town & Larger Councils membership – whereby a full copy of the response is available on the Association's web site.

(3) Caerwys Youth Project.

Councillor David Knights reported to the Council Members the following: 'The Project is continuing satisfactorily with up to 20 young people attending on Wednesday evenings. The core team of Peter, Jim and I are supported by Howard and Lynette when possible but it is sad that no other parents or towns folk have come forward to help.

We are collecting subs (50p/week) from the members and this is reducing the amount we have to draw from our main fund which pays the Institute rental. On 20th January, 15 members with 5 supporting staff had a very enjoyable Ten Pin Bowling night which, I believe has been widely spoken about around town. This was a self-funding event and cost the participants £5 for the minibus and time at the Leisure Centre.

An all adult bowling group of Jim, Les (minibus driver) and I also had a good time. Behaviour amongst the young people was excellent with the result that we shall do the same again and also plan some other events away from home. In planning are a trip to the Ice Rink at Deeside and a summer walk up Moel Famau.

I have tried to contact Dick Hibbert to see whether any FCC events may be available to the group this summer, but no response so far. I am not sure what is happening here, but his colleague is supposed to be contacting me.

As a council, we need to decide what can be done to sustain the Project for the future. The current load on the team of Peter, Jim and I is OK until we want some holiday - we cannot run satisfactorily with just 2 of us present and local people (apart from fellow councillors) do not seem interested'.

(4) Ysgol Yr Esgob, Caerwys.

Councillor Ms. Helen Priestley, as the Town Council's School Governor representative on the Governing Body, advised the Members in relation to a possible official inspection of the primary school. The School were presently carrying out an in-house inspection.

10(A). 41/16

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications were dealt with by the Members at the meeting:

- (1) Application number: 054819**, for the display of 3 no. roundabout sponsorship signs, at Roundabout No. 25, Crossways South, A55, Caerwys (Dragon's Rest)

Comment by Council: Caerwys Town Council objects to the proposal on the ground that although the application site forms the southern roundabout of an interchange hub of the A55(T) Road, it is immediately adjacent to countryside of a pastoral open landscape character. The site is located within an advertisement Area of Special Control with the signs relating to a development some two miles south of the roundabout and beyond the town of Caerwys.

In proximity to the roundabout on both sides of the interchange are commercial premises with their associated advertising signage. To grant consent for the proposed three separate signs will lead to proliferation of signage to the detriment of the visual amenity and rural character of the area and also set a precedent for similar rural businesses seeking advanced advertisements.

Identical signage is also proposed to the northern roundabout of the interchange, of which application No. 054820 refers; again, further proliferation of signage in the vicinity.

Both roundabouts forming this interchange of the A55(T) Road are well trafficked due to its strategic location with road junctions, with the roundabout subject of this proposal already containing three large chevron signs. To erect a further three separate signs, albeit of smaller dimensions, will result in hampering visibility for drivers of vehicles approaching the roundabout, this in addition to them being a distracting feature with the potential to affect care and attention required at all times by drivers when attempting to read their wording. Such results will impact upon road safety.

The proposal being put forward in this application is contrary to the provisions of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 8, 2016), Chapter 3, Section 3.5 – Control of outdoor advertisements, Policy D7 – Outdoor Advertisements of the adopted FUDP, Local Planning Guidance Note 16 – Advertisements and TAN 7 – Outdoor Advertisement Control.'

- (2) Application number: 054850**, for the erection of extension to existing dwelling and conversion of former fisheries building to 1 no. dwelling, at Seven Springs Trout Farm, Caerwys.

Comment by Council: In principle, Caerwys Town Council supports the proposal, however, objection is raised as to the creation of a parking area for two vehicles and a garden upon the line of PROW Caerwys No. 4, which is joined by PROWs Nos. 32 and 33 at the site's boundary. (Site Plan as Proposed 16 002 PL02_A3 refers). No information is provided as to the retention of the PROW post development and its protection during work on the site.

Concern is also raised about the stream running in close proximity to the development. This is a tributary of the Afon Chwiler (R. Wheeler) along whose course is a local fish farm. Again, no information is provided as to protecting this water course from contamination and obstruction during the development phase.

There is the potential for otters; a European Protected Species, to be present in the locality that will require appropriate measures to be put in place to protect these animals whilst work is being undertaken.

Bordering the eastern boundary of the application site is a SSSI; Coed Trefaith, for which concern is expressed at the amount of light pollution likely to be introduced into a sensitive area during the hours of darkness by significant areas of glazing being designed into the building. Appropriate mitigation measures should be undertaken to deal with this issue.

10(B). 42/16

PLANNING DECISIONS

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

- (a) Application number: 052396, for erection of a wind turbine, at Park View Garage, Lloc. Withdrawn.
- (b) Application number: 054723, for retention of static caravan for temporary period, at Tyn Y Ffynnon, Caerwys. Approved.
- (c) Application number: 054737, for demolition of single story entrance / part of store and erection of single storey extension, at Primrosa, Caerwys. Approved.
- (d) Application number: 054440, for listed building application for the repairing of and restoration of the coach house, at Maes Y Coed Farm, Afonwen. Approved.

10(C). 43/15

PLANNING APPEALS

The following notices of planning appeals to the Planning Inspectorate have been received:

- (a) Application number: 054383, for temporary change of use to allow for the siting of holiday lodge for advertising purposes, at Park View Garage, Lloc. (Appeal reference number: APP/A6835/A/15/3140221)
- (b) Application number: 054386, for display of 3 no flexible plastic advertisements, at Park View Garage, Lloc. (Appeal reference number: APP/A6835/H/16/3142629)

11. 44/16

COMMUNITY LIGHTING

- (a) The Clerk advised that there had been no reported faulty lamps between the January and February Council meetings.
- (b) The Clerk advised in relation to the damaged electricity wiring between Railway Terrace and Park View in Afonwen. Despite sending to Scottish Power photographs of the damaged wiring, there had been no response. The Clerk further advised that he would contact Scottish Power again.

The following lamps were reported out of order at the meeting:

- (i) On the corner of Compton House (Café on the Square) – South & High Streets.
- (ii) The Town Square black lantern. Light either flickering or a low illumination.

12. 45/16**APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £
977	Scottish Power (January - Street Lighting Electricity Account)	246.64	49.33	295.97
978	Deeco Lighting - (January - Street Light Repairs)	214.00	42.80	256.80
979	Caerwys Memorial Institute (Meeting room hire for October to November, 2015 & January to March, 2016)	100.00		100.00
980	R. Phillip Parry (Clerk to Council) Re-imburement of cost of one key cutting fee - door to the Pinfold - as per receipt)	7.00		7.00

13. 46/16**APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
981	Caerwys Women's Institute	100.00
982	St. Michael's Church, Caerwys	500.00

14. 47/16

The 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.....