

MINUTES OF THE CYFFYLLIOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 13TH JANUARY 2020 IN THE CHAPEL VESTRY, CYFFYLLIOG AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors Emrys Williams (Chairman), Huw Jones, Philip Williams, Oswyn Jones, Cheow-lay Wee, Gethin Jones, Denbighshire County Councillor Joseph Welch and the Clerk.

1: APOLOGIES: Councillor Kate Edge and Eifion Jones.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none received.

3. CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING.

Members confirmed 11th November 2019 minutes as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

A. Mr Darren Millar, Assembly Member for Clwyd West, is unable to attend a meeting of the Council for the foreseeable future.

B. Ruthin & District Poppy Appeal 2019 thanked Council for the generous donation of £100.

C. The following highway issues raised have been completed by Denbighshire County Council since the previous Council meeting:-

1. Highway between Cyffylliog Village and Ysgeibion Farm requires urgent repairs.
2. Highway between Henblas and Pentre Farm in Cyffylliog requires urgent repairs.
3. Cyffylliog Old Vicarage highway hedge requires cutting as the hedge is obstructing the highway.
4. The damaged highway cattle grid between Cyffylliog Village and From Farm requires urgent repairs.

5. Urgent work required on the highway via Cae'r Weirglodd.

Members reported that the works required was not to acceptable standard and that Denbighshire County Council should revisit the sites for the necessary works required.

D. Denbighshire County Councillor Joseph Welch reported that Mr Tim Towers, Risk and Asset Manager, is still assessing the works required on the highway via The Mount on the Bontuchel to Ruthin highway.

5. CYFFYLLIOG SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE.

Marc Roberts of Marc Consultancy provided the following updated report:-

INITIAL CHECKPOINT REPORT

Project: Cyffylliog School Feasibility Study

Date: 18/10/2019

Author: Marc Roberts

Distribution

This document has been distributed to:

Name	Organisation	Date of Issue
Helen Williams	Cadwyn Clwyd	16/12/19
Donna Hughes	Cadwyn Clwyd	16/12/19
Emrys Williams	Ifan Gwyn Davies. Clerk, Cyffylliog Community Council	16/12/19
All members of council via Clerk	Cyffylliog Community Council	16/12/19

Period Covered

October 2019 – 16 December 2019

Key Activities

Site Visits to the school.

Marc Roberts visited the school site with the Chairman of the Community Council (18.10.19). There were evidently some issues with the fabric of the building, and the roof in particular shows signs of damage.

Marc seeking to gain entry to the inside of the building.

Consultation Evening.

The first Consultation Event was held between 4-8pm 14th November at the Chapel vestry. It had been suggested that Thur would be a good night to hold the initial event as there was a curry night every Thursday in the pub next door, which would bring people out. Drop in to commence at 4 to coincide with children arriving back to the village from school via taxi. This proved effective with over 40 people turning up to offer comments. Gwyn Davies, the council clerk and council members all provided support in promoting the event, which included promotion on social media, posters and a leaflet drop each household in the community.

The following were some of the comments received:

“Don’t want to see the building knocked down”

Community hub – providing community services and offering rooms for hire.

Playing green

Somewhere where people can meet and congregate.

“It is a lovely building, don’t want to see it go”.

Youth Club.

Community Support.

A place for walking football.

A place that is totally “neutral”. There are different groups meeting separately. We need somewhere where the whole village can come together.

Toilets, café area.

A focal point for cyclists and walkers/ramblers (Need to make contact with Foel Gasnach Cycling Centre).

“Love the building, would love to see it remain”

Playing Fields.

Look at best practice.

Bowling Green.

All weather football pitch.

Small Pavilion.

If it is to be demolished, look to recycle materials, and preserve some elements of the building.

Lunch club for older residents, supported by volunteers in the community working on a rota basis.

Car Park

Make sure nothing is developed that displaces the Red Lion’s business.

Sheltered Housing

Needs to be a sustainable and realistic proposal.

Best Practice / Review of other relevant projects.

Information has been provided by Development Trust Wales on other school closure projects. These include:

Crochan Cwm Cothi, Llansawel, Carmarthenshire (in development – not happened yet)

Canolfan Y Fron

Strontian Community School, Scotland: <http://communitysharsscotland.org.uk/case-studies/strontian-community-school>

Canolfan y Fron, Gwynedd.

Pontfadog.

The Tim Memorial Garden

An issue that emerged during the early stages of the project was the fact that the school site also contained a “memorial garden” for a little boy who drowned in the river in the 90s. The Tim memorial garden is an emotive issue for the community, and the boy’s parents still live in the village.

Any future development must therefore take this issue into account.

Unfortunately, in November, Denbighshire CC, whilst undertaking maintenance on the site, inadvertently removed the memorial garden features. This has caused significant consternation in the community. However, Emrys Williams, Chair of the Community Council, Cllr Joe Welch and others all offered support to the family.

In response to this Marc Roberts visited Rosie Vallance, the mother of the little boy.

Although it has been an upsetting time, Rosie and her family feel that there is an opportunity to turn adversity into an opportunity. The gardens had been at the back of the school, and out of sight of most of the village. With an opportunity to look at the whole site anew, there is, perhaps, a chance to provide a new more evident memorial to Tim. Rosie and her family have offered to work further with Marc Roberts in the new year to offer some ideas.

Meetings held with:

Tom Booty, Denbighshire CC.

Bryn Williams, Asset Manager. Denbighshire CC.

Rosie Vallance. Local Resident.

Landlord Red Lion (introductory meeting – need to have a further meeting in the new year).

Cllr Joe Welch, Denbighshire CC.

40 residents of the community

Next Period

Further Consultation

A number of people have asked for a further discussion. These will be undertaken in January. This will include:

The Head of the Primary school in nearby Clocaenog School (where most of the children in the village now go).

Foel Gasnach

Further meeting with Bryn Williams, Denbighshire CC

Further meeting with Rosie Vallance and her family.

A workshop with the community council

A further consultation event offering a short list of ideas will be held in late January (Council to confirm the date and location).

Marc Roberts will also prepare a questionnaire with a short list of options asking for people to score them according to priority (on a scale of 1-5, 5 being the highest priority).

Emerging Ideas

There are a number of key issues that need to be taken into consideration:

Lack of capacity amongst the community to take responsibility (this includes the community council itself).

The need to provide something that is self-contained and not revenue heavy.

There is an evident need to create a central community space for the community. The only two places to congregate are the Chapel Vestry and the Public House (The Swan).

A need for green space and for the children who remain in the village to play.

Need to develop a proposal that would meet the wind farm project funding criteria.

Timeline

In line with the timeline agreed in October. No slippage anticipated.

Risks and Issues

Lack of community willingness to take a project forward.

Lack of funding for any new project.

6. FINANCE.

A. Bank balances £11,275.75.

B. Receipts:-

1. Final 2019/2020 Precept £2,350.00.

2. R.W. Roberts a'i Fab - Funeral fee for the late Catherine Mona Jones - £335.00.

C. the Clerk provided Council with the current 2019/2020 financial year "Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Payments Table 10 decisions" which were adopted by the Members of the Council.

The Clerk reminded Members that the claim for the "Claim for Councillor's Payments" for the current 2019/2020 must be made by the next meeting of the Council.

D. Members considered three quotes for the 2020 grass cutting season of the Cyffylliog Cemeteries from:-

1. John Lloyd from Henllan.

2. White Oak Property Services from Llanferres.

3. Ian Henshall from Cyffylliog.

After consideration of the three quotes the Members resolved to award the 2020 contract to White Oak Property Services from Llanferres who provided the most value for money quotation.

E. Council's 2020/2021 precept requirement.

1. The Clerk provided members with spreadsheets of the 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/2020 Council's receipts and payments which was discussed and Members agreed to pursue the projects of the current earmarked projects for the Cyffylliog School and additional costs of the Cyffylliog Cemeteries.

2. After consideration, the Members resolved on the Council's Precept requirement of £7,755.00 for the 2020/2021 financial year.

7. PLANNING APPLICATION.

Planning application 14/2019/1017 - Erection of a detached garage at Pen-y-Llan, Bontuchel – no objections.

8. CORRESPONDENCE.

A number of reports were received for information purposes.

9. DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES.

In addition to the highway issues reported under matters arising from the previous Council meeting, the Members resolved for the Clerk to report the bad condition of the road between Penlan Uchaf to Tai Uchaf in Cyffylliog.

10. URGENT BUSINESS UNDER SECTION 100B(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.

There was no urgent business to discuss.

11. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING – Monday 9th March 2020 in the Chapel Vestry, Cyffylliog at 7.00 p.m.