

Council Minutes at the Community Centre Thursday January 14 2016 at 6:30pm.

Present: C.Brewer, M.Skerrett, J.Houston, T.W.Jones, Liz Roberts, C.Roberts.

Apology: E.R.Noble, Tecwyn Jones, A.Fawcett.

Greeting. The Chairperson wished everyone a Very Happy New Year.

Minutes. Council Minutes 10.11.2015. confirmed, proposed by J.Houston, seconded T.W.Jones.

Police. Agreed to contact Dean Cavey (07789272220) to ask him if he could arrange for the 'Go Safe' vehicle to visit the area and to ask if Phil Gales is now visiting areas with the 'speed gun'?

The A470. A reply from Richard Morgan Welsh Government, confirmed that findings of the review into speed limits have been updated to include information from Community Councils. Schemes have been prioritised on an all-Wales basis and the website provides information on the earliest start dates, these are subject to change on a funding and emerging road safety issues:

<http://www.traffic-wales.com/Trunkroadsafetyreview.aspx>

M.Skerrett noted that a very bright street lamp at 14 Castle Terrace is creating viewing difficulties for drivers as they reach the Village Square, Clerk to contact M.Owen at CCBC to ask if it is possible to site a mirror on the Square, and for him to call to visit the site. Clerk to contact I.Tegid again regarding siting a flashing warning sign on the A470 for drivers to view their actual speed.

County Council. No reply regarding condition of the wall from the Cenotaph to the river bridge and that a tree is growing out of the wall opposite to Pendyffryn, and about shrubs growing out of the River Bridge wall – Clerk to contact B.Shiland at CCBC again regarding any progress.

Footpaths. Clerk to contact ERF Conwy regarding repair work at Ilwybyr cul.

Station site. Nothing to report regarding getting 20mph signs near Dolwyddelan School, doubts as regards siting of 30mph signs at Pentre Du Betws y Coed. A detailed discussion is required to discuss fully the detailed letter from Ian Messner of Network Rail regarding the land at the Station Yard. Letter to be sent to Larry Davies to thank him for all his work in the area.

Hydro Scheme. Liz Roberts noted that definite information should be forthcoming by the end of February.

The Cemetery. Agreed that the Clerk should include grass cutting at the Station yard with the Cenotaph post, with the Cemetery post separate when advertising the Caretaker Posts.

Financial. Clerk confirmed balances and supplied Members with a detailed financial report, the final Precept payment for 2015/16 has been received. Clerk has completed and sent the 2016/17 Precept form. R.G.Williams appointed Internal Auditor at the December 10 Audit meeting.

Village History. Llinos Griffin had confirmed that she has started on the work and will visit Dafydd Williams at Llanrwst in January. M.Skerrett to purchase the 'hard drive' that Llinos had suggested that Council should buy to 'store' the information.

Planning applications

Siting solar panels at Gwyndy – No information

River Conwy Hydro Scheme – Understood that the National Park are still discussing the issue.

Ty Isaf Hydro Scheme – No information

Appeal Tŷ Nain – Information from the Park that an appeal has been received, the Members were unanimously in favour of the original application and agreed that it would be a beneficial development for the village. Clerk to forward these views. Interest by Liz Roberts & M.Skerrett.

Defibrillator. M.Skerrett agreed to fix the second defibrillator in place on the agreed site, he also agreed to a request from C.Brewer to place a suitable sign on the one by Siop y Llan.

'Odd job' Post. No further observations regarding this. Liz Roberts confirmed that B.Borzelo is paying for the purchase of planters at the Dolwyddelan gateway signs, Dolwyddelan in Bloom members will undertake the planting and upkeep.

Village Surgery/Ffestiniog Hospital. M.Chapman continues to attend meetings of the Hospital Defence Committee. Members were concerned about the future of the Surgery building in case it was to be vandalised, Clerk to write to the BCUHB and the Blaenau Ffestiniog Health Centre for a report.

BT Box near Bethel Chapel. Liz Roberts had discussed this with Alwen Williams, had she been in post at the time she would have done all she could to avoid siting it where it is. Clerk to write to A.Williams to inquire about 'camouflage material' to 'hide' the Box.

Recycle More. Liz Roberts is concerned that the recycling bins at the Station Yard will be removed even 'though they are well used. She has requested usage statistics.

SNP. Mike Skerrett had attended the meeting at Plas y Brenin on November 16 and found it to be a very useful meeting, Clerk to inquire about minutes from the meeting.

Contact Numbers. Members present agreed that the Clerk could give their contact details to NW Police in response to their written request.

Tree Harvesting. T.W.Jones confirmed that the lorries are still travelling through the village very early in the morning and at school times, Clerk to write again to P.Lloyd to complain. Reply from E.Williams at CCBC confirmed that the request for a temporary 'no parking' sign at the waste land on the right at the approach to Tai Glan Gors has been sent to the Traffic Dept for comment. Clerk to contact CCBC again to ask them to repair the mirror at the junction to Pentre Bont.

Salt gritting. Liz Roberts confirmed that this had been brought up at a Town and Community Council Forum, but it is now being discussed by all the County Councillors on account of concerns about the effects of less gritting. Liz will seek further information. Clerk to contact CCBC to ask if the village salt bins will be refilled as required.

Bills. Caretaker £220 cutting and clearing trees which had fallen on graves; Community Centre £20; Clerk salary & expenses 3 months £212.06; J.Taylor Xmas Tree £80. £400 received for grave space – grave for Mrs Florence Roberts £150, grave for Mrs Ann Lloyd £150, casket burial Mrs Myfanwy Price £50 plus a donation of £50 from Mr Ieuan Price. Bills for payment proposed Liz Roberts, seconded T.W.Jones.

Cambrian Rally. Information received about the Rally on February 13.

Congratulations. Reference was made about Mrs Georgina Jones, Bron Feinw receiving the BEM in the New Years Honours List, C.Brewer to arrange to send flowers to her in congratulation from the Council.

Federalisation of Schools. Information received about the intention to Federalise Capel Garmon, Betws y Coed and Dolwyddelan Schools. Discussed in detail with many comments and views offered by Members e.g. future of the local school secured? – being part of a larger group would benefit the children – opportunity to work together. M.Skerrett proposed with J.Houston seconding, and all in favour, to write to the Dolwyddelan School Governing Body to confirm that Dolwyddelan Community Council Members are in favour of what is proposed. T.W.Jones noted her interest. Clerk to make the comment that 22 members on the New Governing body seems a large number?, also is it able to change the name of the New Body?

Flooding. The recent flooding was discussed at length, Liz Roberts, Connie Brewer and the Clerk reported on their involvement on the day. A major problem in the village is not so much the river flooding but the high water table. CCBC had responded promptly with sand bags, M.Skerrett will inquire as to the cost of ‘instant sand bags’, they would need to be stored securely, Liz Roberts will inquire with CCBC regarding this. Details had been received about a water pump but the problem is that this is a submersible pump effective when house flooding has occurred. Liz Roberts has contacted CCBC to request a detailed inspection of drains at Ffordd Gefn and around the Allt Gweithdy area.

There are also concerns about flooding at the entrance to St Gwyddelan’s Church and Ian Chapman is liaising with Church Officials to draft suitable plans to rectify the problem.

Visit by the Gwynedd Rural Housing Enabler

The Chair welcomed Arfon Hughes and Dylan Owen and Arfon explained their involvement in relation to housing needs in rural areas. They were aware of the survey carried out in the area some years ago and that 4 Affordable Houses had been built following this. Liz Roberts had already spoken with him and had explained that it was possible that further land was available near to the houses but that there was no up to date information as regards current housing needs. Arfon confirmed that he had made inquiries into this and found that there were 9 names on the Ward housing list which includes Dolwyddelan, Capel Curig and Betws y Coed. He is arranging meetings in the 3 areas. The normal process is to distribute a letter and questionnaire in an area then carry out an analysis of the replies. Then he arranges a further meeting with Councils. The local Members agreed that if they were to move forward that they would prefer to arrange a survey for Dolwyddelan only. Arfon had visited the the site and it appeared as if it could be rather a ‘wet site’ on occasions? He asked if there were other suitable sites in the area, members to think about other possible sites by the next council meeting, Arfon to send the Clerk a copy of the questionnaire. The Chair thanked both warmly for their visit.

Date of next Council: Thursday March 3rd 2016 at 7pm.