**CEIRIOG UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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| **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**  **4TH OCTOBER 2022** | **Present:**  **Cllr Benning (Chair),**  **Cllr D. Berriman,**  **Cllr S. Berriman,**  **Cllr. Biddulph,**  **Cllr. Claybrook,**  **Cllr Jones,**  **Cllr Evans-Swogger**  **County Cllr Bates,**  **Clerk: Miles Matile.** |

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | **NONE RECEIVED** |  |
| **2** | **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS RELATED TO ANY AGENDA ITEM** | **NONE RECORDED** |  |

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| **No** | **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION**  **WHO/WHEN** |
| **3** | **PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY AGENT** | The Council received a presentation from Steve Latham-White as to possible options to enable the Council to re-engage with the Community Agent scheme. | **CLERK** to draw up a discussion paper for the November 2022 meeting |
| **4** | **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** **06/09/2022** | **APPROVED**  **PROPOSED** CLLR EVANS-SWOGGER  **SECONDED**: CLLR CLAYBROOK |  |
| **5** | **MATTERS ARISING** 06/09/2022 |  |  |
| **5 (i)** | **DIGITAL TELEPHONE SURVEY** | The Council was updated as to progress with the survey form which is being finalised. | **To complete:**  Cllrs Claybrook, Evans-Swogger, Biddulph |
| **5 (ii)** | **HUW MORUS MEMORIAL** | Cllr Benning confirmed that he had further progressed the application for a grant from CADW. This had resulted in him contacting the Welsh Senedd and Cllr Skates. |  |
| **5 (iii)** | **ROAD SURVEY** | Cllrs Claybrook and Evans-Swogger confirmed that they had submitted the survey to Wrexham CBC and were awaiting an outcome.  The Council noted that road closures were often notified late and resulted in long diversions for residents with signage left when the work had been completed | **Clerk** to liaise with Highways |
| **5 (iv)** | **SCHOOL TRANSPORT** | Cllr Claybrook notified the Council that there had been a partially successful resolution of the transport problems facing 6th Form pupils. There is now funding to provide concessionary travel (@£400pa) |  |
| **5 (v)** | **WHITEGATE COTTAGE** | Cllr Evans-Swogger had received contact from Wrexham CBC to confirm that they are not involved  Activity at the cottage had been noted and there is evidence of tidying. |  |
| **5 (vi)** | **NATIONAL RESOURCES WALES** | The last Council meeting noted obstructions in lay-bys as a result of work by NRW. Cllr Evans-Swogger confirmed that she had been in contact with the Project Manager and a description of the work linked to the river had been provided. The Council noted the lack of information to local residents | **Clerk** to invite a representative to a future meeting to inform the Council of the work being undertaken |
| **6** | **REPORTS** |  |  |
| **6 (i)** | **NORTH WALES POLICE** | The Clerk informed the Council that he had been in contact with both PCSOs covering the valley. The Officers noted:   * A number of call-outs related to escaping sheep on the Llanarmon Road. * Force-wide data showed that since July ’22 there had been 3 incidents of recorded crime related to anti-social behaviour on the Llanarmon Road. No Prosecutions have resulted. | **Clerk** to continue to encourage Police attendance at future Council meetings |
| **6 (ii)** | **WREXHAM CBC** | Cllr Bates reported:   * Initial and limited 2021 Census data is now available and the Clerk has distributed. * Planning – no new applications to the area. * Phosphate Discharges –the stretch of the River Ceiriog from Llanarmon to Pandy has been tested and found to be lower in phosphates than at other points along the river' * Cllr Bates has a meeting with officers from Wrexham CBC, Kerry Williams and Hugh Jones to look at the disturbance and damage caused by 4x4 vehicles |  |
| **7** | **FINANCES** |  |  |
| **7 (i)** | **PRECEPT PLANNING** | Upon the basis of previous years, the Council will need to submit its Precept by early January 2023 | 1. **Clerk** to agenda for November meeting. 2. **ALL** – any submissions to the **CLERK** to include in the budget |
| **7 (ii)** | **CHANGE OF BANKERS** | Cllr Benning and the Clerk had further examined banking options which would provide the Council with improved services, better access and reduced monthly charges. The Clerk had been in contact with his predecessor who would be required to close the existing account as the primary signatory. The Council was requested to approve the following proposal  ‘**This Council approves the request to close the HSBC account and transfer all Council finances to the UNITY TRUST BANK’**  **CHAIR** and **CLERK** to open new account and to identify signatories following completion of the audit | **APPROVED**  **CHAIR AND CLERK** |
| **7 (iii)** | **ACCOUNT BALANCE** | Cllrs had copies of a balance of accounts to 03/09/2022. These have now been updated to the 28/09/2022 which shows a balance of £5863.05. This includes £342 held for the Village Hall. |  |
| **7 (iv)** | **AUDIT OF ANNUAL RETURN 2021/2022** | The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return for 2021/2022 was with the Auditor Brian Pratt. The Council has been issued with a Notification from ‘Audit-Wales’ on the 30/09/2022 to say that we had not complied with the requirement to submit audited accounts and there was a final submission date of the 31/10/2022. Failure to comply could result in a ‘qualified audit’. However, there is correspondence from ‘Wales Government’ dated 06/04/2022 stating that the audited accounts are required to be submitted by the 30/11/2022. | **CLERK** will continue to liaise with the Auditor to gain compliance by the 31/10/2022 |
| **8** | **CONTACTING COUNCILLORS** |  |  |
| **8 (i)** | **CONTACT INFORMATION** | The Council discussed different ways for the public to contact Councillors and the nature of the contact information that should be available. The Council considered it important that there was open access whilst protecting Councillors from potential abuse of their private e-mail accounts. | **CLERK** to contact Councillors individually as to contact preferences |
| **8 (ii)** | **COUNCIL WEBSITE** | Cllr Evans-Swogger confirmed that there had been recent updates, however we are potentially not getting the best service or bandwidth. | **CLERK** to liaise with John Evans-Swogger |
| **8 (iii)** | **FACEBOOK** | Cllr Claybrook confirmed that Ceiriog Uchaf CC now has an active Facebook page. |  |
| **9** | **ROADS** |  |  |
| **9 (i)** | **ROAD CONDITION** | Cllr D Berriman confirmed that he was progressively photographing the damage done by off-roading with a view to submitting to Wrexham CBC and to keep an on-going record. | **CLERK** to maintain this as a standing item |
| **10** | **PLANNING** |  |  |
| **10 (i)** | **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** | Wrexham Planning Search does not show any new applications from July 2022 onwards. The Clerk confirmed that no information from WCBC had been received. |  |
| **11** | **VILLAGE TELEPHONE** |  |  |
| **11 (i)** | **TELEPHONE BOX** | The Clerk confirmed that he had been investigating options in relation to the K6 telephone box. Currently this is Listed and owned by BT, however it is in a poor state of repair with developing lean. The phone box remains connected and provides a vital source of contact given the absence of a mobile signal in the village. The Clerk has been in contact with the K6 Preservation Society, four Councils nationally who have adopted boxes. Transfer of ownership from BT to the Council could occur for a nominal amount.  Since the last meeting Cllr Bates has contacted BT to request refurbishment .  The advice to the Council is to follow that of Cllr Bates and not to take ownership at this point but to ensure that we fully assess future liabilities and wait for BT to inform us of their future intentions and timescales.  The Council approved this advice | **Clerk** to keep this under review and advise the Council periodically. To contact Cynwyd CC |
| **12** | **AOB** |  |  |
| **12 (i)** | **CENTENARY** | The Council is aware that 2023 is the centenary of the withdrawal of the Warrington Water Bill to flood the valley and it was questioned if this should be recognised. Whether the Council should initiate some coordination of community partners. The Council agreed to explore this further. | **CLERK** to draw up a paper for potential action |
| **12(ii)** | **TRAINING COURSE** | ONE VOICE WALES is hosting ‘Community Councils and Nature’. An on-line course on the 27th October 2022 | Details from The Clerk |
| **12(iii)** | **TRAINING PLAN** | The Clerk informed the Council that The Local Gov’t and Elections (Wales) 2021 required Councils to submit a ‘training plan’ by the 5th November 2022. This has been drafted and will be discussed at the November’s meeting. |  |
| **12(iv)** | **SIGNAGE AND**  **VILLAGE SIGNPOST** | • Cllrs Claybrook and Evans-Swogger confirmed that village information panels were now completed and required siting. Council agreed that the Village Hall may be the most suitable location.   * There is on-going work with the village signpost. Concern has been expressed that electrical wiring is now visible through the rotten wood. The post is the responsibility of Wrexham CBC | **Cllr Claybrook** to liaise with Village Hall Committee  **Clerk** to make contact to get a completion time and alert them of wiring |
| **12(v)** | **Cllr Evans-Swogger** | The Council was very thankful for the recent work of Cllr Evans-Swogger for covering the role of Acting Clerk. The Chair presented a token of our collective thanks. |  |
| **12(vi)** | **Cllr Benning** | The Chair of the Council notified that it was his intention to resign from the role and in due course to resign from the Council given his decision to move from the valley.  He had discussed the matter with the Vice-Chair and with advice from the Clerk had decided to open up the opportunity for any Councillor to express an interest in taking the role of ‘Chair Designate’ leading to Chair at the earliest opportunity and until the 31/03/2023 in the first instance. | **CLERK** to issue a notice of process to Councillors. |
| **13** | **NEXT MEETING** | **TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 7.30**  Initial agenda items to include:   * Approval-Election of Chair Designate * Setting the Precept * Community Agent * Council Training Plan |  |