**CEIRIOG UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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| **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING****1st October 2024** | **Present:** **Cllr K Benning (Chair),** **Cllr D Berriman****Cllr S Berriman****Cllr J Claybrook****Cllr E Morris****Cllr A Jones****Cllr G Jones****Cllr F Swogger****Clerk Miles Matile** |

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | **County Cllr T. BATES****CHRISTINA BREWIN****PCSOs**  |  |
| **2** | **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS RELATED TO ANY AGENDA ITEM** | **See 6 (ii)** |  |

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| **No** | **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION** **WHO/WHEN** |
| **3** | **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** **3rd SEPTEMBER 2024**  | **Approved****PROPOSED** : **Cllr** Swogger**SECONDED**: **Cllr A Jones** |  |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING**  |  |  |
| **4 (i)** | **NATIONAL PARK UPDATE** | * National Resources Wales have confirmed a public consultation at the Canalfon on the 16th October. There will be a TEAMS invitation for Councillors for a consultation on the 9th October.
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| **4 (ii)** | **THREE COUNCILS’ MEETING.** | * Overall, a positive meeting with good attendance and a relevant agenda. Minutes of the meeting have been distributed.
* Further discussion about the role of the combined Councils and the potential role for Chirk Town Council.
* Next meeting to take place in mid-January 2025 – Glyntraian to coordinate.
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| **5** | **REPORTS** |  |  |
| **5 (I)** | **COMMUNITY AGENT** | * Christina was unable to make the October meeting of Council but will attend in November. She has sent anonymised data and will speak to this report next month.
* The Chair and Clerk met with the Chair and Clerk of Glyn Ceiriog to review the contract with Christina and her role is much needed and will continue for another 18 months as a minimum.
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| **5 (i)** | **NORTH WALES POLICE** | * Apologies have been sent and there is no crime information report for the meeting
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| **5 (ii)**  | **WREXHAM CBC** | * Cllr Bates was unable to attend – see 7(iii)
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| **5(iii)** | **OFF-ROADING** | * Cllr D Berriman confirmed that the Autumn newsletter of GLEAM had been received and it highlighted the amount of money that Local Authorities are required to spend to maintain green lanes which has been the Council’s experience.
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| **5 (iv)** | **GRAVEYARD AND CEMETERY SUB-COMMITTEE** | * Cllr Swogger informed Council that members of the Sub-Committee had met with a consultant employed by the Forestry Commission and separately with Jon Brewin WCBC’s tree officer. Both meetings provided valuable information about the condition of the trees and general habitat.
* Clerk to make a formal application for permission to undertake some trimming of the two protected Yews. This does not obligate the Council at this point but take preparatory steps and to gain information about costings.
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| **5 (v)** | **REPORT FROM SCHOOL COUNCILLOR-GOVERNOR** | * Cllr A Jones confirmed his on-going role and his recent attendance at the Finance and the Full Governor’s meetings.
* The budgets of the schools have now been stabilised, although it is anticipated that the respective rolls will fluctuate in the coming years.
* Senior teaching leaders across WCBC are to visit Canadian schools on a fact-finding tour funded by a National Charity.
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| **6** | **FINANCES** |  |  |
| **6 (i)** | **PAYMENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2024 AND BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS**  | * The Clerk confirmed that no payments were made during September. Burial Fees for £45.00 were received.
* There are outstanding invoices for £210 for room hire for the last 7 meetings and £663.17 for the 2022-2023 full audit, the details of which are being clarified with Audit Wales as to how the their calculation was determined.
* The Clerk provided information to the Council which confirmed the following balances:

Current Account £1,246.11Savings Account £11,011.53 | Council approved payment to the Village Hall Committee |
| **6 (ii)** | **ENVIROMENTAL GRANT APPLICATIONS** | 1. **APPLICATION 2** Rosie Davies advised of a re-calculation of her original estimate from £50 to £80.16 to allow for additional planters.
2. **APPLICATION 3:** A joint application from Cllr Claybrook and Jayne Martin for £59.09 for planters at the village hall and in Tregeiriog.
* The Clerk advised that we have £750 available for further grants in the current financial year and several ideas were discussed.
 | APPROVEDAPPROVED |
| **6 (iii)** | **PRECEPT PLANNING 2025-2026** | * The Council commenced its annual review to set the Precept. The Clerk reminded Council that for the 2024-2025 financial year we had notified residents of the intention to raise the Precept by £4,000 to provide for potential future liabilities. Given current projections we anticipate that the Council would have two reserves. £4,000 for elections in 2026 and between £6000-£6,500 for general contingencies. The latter figure will become more precise as we move towards the end of the financial year.
* The general consensus is that the rise in the Precept is defensible. It is allowing a growth in our reserves to take into account additional expenditure with the graveyard and cemetery.
* Cllr S Berriman and Clerk to undertake work around certain costings to ensure that the Council was getting best value for money.
* Clerk will then return to Council with specific proposals for the November meeting. Deadline for submission to WCBC is the 12/01/2025.
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| **7** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** |  |  |
| **7 (i)** | **RIVER DEE TRUST** | **Following on from the Public Meeting in January 2023 by the River Dee Trust, correspondence has now been received informing Council of the on-going work.** | Clerk to respond on behalf of the Council |
| **7 (ii)** | **WALES IN BLOOM**  | Correspondence has been received about a meeting on the 31/10/2024 to plan for the Wales in Bloom Competition. Cllr Claybrook to attend. Rosie Davies to be asked. | WEST  |
| **7 (iii)** | **CLOSURE OF THE B4500** | Cllr Benning highlighted the recent unexpected and unannounced closure of the B4500 by Openreach which caused considerable problems and significantly increased travel-time. Thanks to County Cllr Bates for his very quick intervention and Openreach being instructed by WCBC to re-open the road. | **CLERK** to write to Cllr Bates on behalf of the Council |
| **8** | **NEXT MEETING** | **CUCC TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER 7.00PM** |  |