**CEIRIOG UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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| **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING****3rd October 2023** | **Present:** **Cllr Benning (Chair),** **Cllr D Berriman****Cllr S Berriman,** **Cllr Claybrook****Cllr A Jones****Cllr G Jones****Cllr F Swogger****County Cllr T Bates****Christina Brewin****Lorna Mills****Clerk: Miles Matile** |

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | **Cllr Morris****PCSOs Griffiths and Jones** |  |
| **2** | **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS RELATED TO ANY AGENDA ITEM** | **NONE RECORDED** |  |

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| **No** | **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION** **WHO/WHEN** |
| **3** | **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** **5th SEPTEMBER 2023**  | **APPROVED:** **PROPOSED** : Cllr Swogger**SECONDED**: Cllr G Jones |  |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING**  |  |  |
| **4(i)**  | **CEMETERY AND GRAVEYARD WORKING GROUP** | * Cllr Swogger and Lorna Mills confirmed that a first meeting had been attended and initial ideas are being collated. Proposed to present a draft ‘way forward’ to the November meeting. This will include issues around ownership, proposed financing, proposed public participation, insurance.
* Since the September meeting the Council has received two calls from the public unable to access the graves because of the length of the grass. This is currently a responsibility for Wrexham CBC but they have diverted resources because of the strike. This further reinforces the lack of control we have over the proper management of the land.
* Cllrs A Jones, G Jones and T Bates to arrange for a cutting of the lawned area on the cemetery as an interim response.
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| **4 (ii)** | **POST HUTS/RESTS** | Cllr Swogger confirmed that there is no further update |  |
| **4 (iii)** | **MOBILE TELEPHONE SIGNAL** | Confirmed that there is now a mobile telephone signal available offered by some, but not all providers within the village. EE have been early adopters. |  |
| **4 (iv)** | **CENTENARY – NEXT EVENTS** | * Cllr Berriman and the Clerk confirmed that there has been very good participation at all 4 events so far. Over 80 attended the September service at St Garmon’s and good attendance at each of the walks.
* Next event is the Poets Evening on the 7th October and then the talk by the Water Company on the 19th October. An art exhibition will be held over the weekend of the 2/3 November in Dolywern.
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| **5** | **REPORTS** |  |  |
| **5 (i)** | **NORTH WALES POLICE** | * Both Gareth and Martin sent their apologies and forwarded a generic report of crime data along the valley. There were no specific details for the two Wards. The officers expressed their concern that there has a been a small rise in anti-social behaviour in the past month.
* The Council wished to express their appreciation for the work that is undertaken by these two officers.
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| **5 (ii)**  | **WREXHAM CBC** | County Cllr Bates reported:* The Mayor of Wrexham noted the Centenary Events in his Mayoral address to the full Council recently.
* The current industrial action is severely impacting on wider environmental services (see 4(i) )
* Preliminary information from WCBC is that the National speed restrictions are subject to local review but there are no immediate changes planned.
* Concern was expressed at the low prosecution rate for dog fouling across the Borough.
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| **5(iii)** | **OFF-ROADING** | * Cllrs Bates and D Berriman confirmed that the County Court case was settled outside of a formal judgement. WCBC had made procedural errors in their enforcement which enabled the Complainants (GLASS), to succeed. WCBC has had to make financial reparation and provide an undertaking to repair.
* There is to be a meeting on the 17/10/2023 with a representative of GLEAM, WCBC and potentially the Deputy Minister in the Senedd
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| **5 (iv)** | **COMMUNITY AGENT** | * The Councill was pleased to receive a generic report from Christina Brewin. All information presented was confidential.
* Since June there have been 32 referrals from a range of sources. The reasons for contacts have included, welfare checks, help with phone calls and forms; signposting to other services. Most probably more than one day a week is being undertaken, however this might be a consequence of a back-log. There is clearly a need for this role.
* The Council expressed concern that the GP facilities at the Glyn Ceiriog Health Centre might be reduced. Christina and the Clerk to make further investigations.
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| **6** | **CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS** |  |  |
|  |  | * At the meeting on the 5th September 2023 the Council agreed that a Disciplinary Procedures Protocol be drafted to complement the Code of Conduct previously discussed.
* The draft Disciplinary Procedures were presented and it was agreed that an additional explanation is required as to who the Council will appoint to oversee any breach of the Code of Conduct.
 | Chair and Clerk to amend  |
| **7** | **FINANCES** |  |  |
| **7 (i)** | **UNITY TRUST BANK TRANSFER** | Currently awaiting the transfer of the HSBC account which has been delayed until the former Clerk has confirmed that he is no longer an authorised account holder. | **CLERK** to go to HSBC branch |
| **7 (ii)** | **PAYMENTS IN SEPTEMBER AND BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS** | * The Clerk provided detail of one payment made during September.

 The balance of the account is **£7,765.99.** * Outstanding Invoices:

Donation for audit work - £250Printing of Centenary leaflets - £155Audit Wales- £259. (The Clerk confirmed that Audit Wales has still not replied to several requests for clarification of this invoice.) |  |
| **7 (Iv)** | **PRECEPT PLANNING FOR 2024/2025** | The Council continued its Precept Planning for 2024/2025. * The Councillor remuneration budget will rise to £2,936 following the Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations.
* There will be additional, but unknown costs related to the Graveyard and Cemetery-to be considered at the November meeting.
* A review of existing donations should be undertaken.
* A new category of expenditure related to ‘environmental improvements’ to be included in the budget.

On the basis of the discussion the Chair and Clerk will circulate a proposed budget for the November meeting based what we are anticipating at this point.  | Chair and Clerk to draft initial budget |
| **8** | **REVIEW OF TRAINING HOURS** |  |  |
|  |  | * The Clerk confirmed that s67 of the Local Government Act 2021 requires an annual audit of training hours. Since October 2022 the Council has completed 24 hours of training which includes; National Resources Wales, Community Catalyst, Community Agent and Sustainable Communities.
* The Council has set aside £350 in 2023/24.
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| **9** | **AOB** |  |  |
| **9 (i)** | **PLANNING APPLICATION** | The Council reviewed a recently submitted planning application at Tyn-twll farm. Whilst outline maps were available and a brief description of purpose, there was insufficient information. Clerk to consult with WCBC Planning to gain further information and circulate. |  |
| **9 (ii)** | **WALES IN BLOOM** | The Council considered an enquiry from the Clerk of Glyn Ceiriog CC as to whether we would wish to collaborate on a joint venture for this competition. The Council approved this and the Clerk will gain further details. |  |
| **9 (iii)** | **NATIONAL PARK CONSULTATION** | There is to be an event at the Glyn Ceiriog Canolfan on Wednesday **11th October** **between 1-7.00pm** to provide further information about the consultation process for the proposed National Park.  |  |
| **10** | **NEXT MEETING** | **TUESDAY 7th NOVEMBER at 7.00****ITEMS TO INCLUDE:*** Cemetery and Graveyard Working Group.
* Precept planning.
* Council Code of Conduct.
* National Park Update.
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