**CEIRIOG UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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| **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING****3rd September 2024** | **Present:** **Cllr K Benning (Chair),** **Cllr D Berriman****Cllr S Berriman****Cllr A Jones****Cllr G Jones****Cllr F Swogger****County Cllr T Bates****Kerris Sweeney (St Garmon’s PCC)****2 Members of the Public****Clerk Miles Matile** |

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES** | **Cllr J Claybrook****Cllr E Morris****PCSOs**  |  |
| **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** **13th AUGUST 2024**  | **PROPOSED** : Cllr D Berriman**SECONDED**: Cllr G Jones |  |
| **4** | **MATTERS ARISING**  |  |  |
| **4 (i)** | **NATIONAL PARK UPDATE** | * National Resources Wales have now sent their latest ‘Engagement Report’ which has collated all the responses from the initial consultation. Cllr S Berriman has previously circulated this report. The next phase of the consultation will commence in October 2024.
* From the initial responses of over 900 people – the report shows that 51% are ‘positive or optimistic’ about the proposal. 42% are against or negative and 6% stated that they were neutral.
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| **4 (ii)** | **THREE COUNCILS MEETING.** | * The final agenda has now been circulated. Wrexham Council Officers will be represented by Kevin Edwards from Contracts and Engineering. NWP will also be present to go through the latest crime report.
* Given the wide-spread controversy about the fees charged by Audit Wales – this has been added to the agenda – (see 6 ii)
* Recognise that inclusion of Chirk Town Council remains to be decided and will require discussion at the meeting.
* To convene the meeting in the Main Hall and if possible, to use a PA system.
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| **4 (iii)** | **CEMETERY AND GRAVEYARD** | * Cllr Swogger, Kerris Sweeney (St Garmon’s PCC) and Miles Matile reported back on the Public Meeting held on the 22/08/2024. From this meeting a number of resolutions were made requesting the Council’s assistance in remedying the current status of ownership of the **Cemetery**.
* The Council also needs to look at the recently discovered documentation going back to 1926 which may have transferred the **closed graveyard** to the then Parish Council.
* It was proposed that a formal sub-committee be appointed subject to Terms of Reference previously circulated. In formalising the sub-committee, the Council is not presumed to have ownership status of the Cemetery at this time. **AGREED NEM CON**
* Potential membership of the Sub-Committee to include: Cllr Swogger; Kerris Sweeney, Ann Wride, Gill Oldacre; Rosie Evans, Rosie Davies Brian Pratt; Miles Matile
 | Clerk to plan for inaugural meeting |
| **4 (iv)**  | **CEIRIOG VALLEY****PROMOTIONAL LEAFLET** | Awaiting from feedback from Glyntraian Council. There are recommendations from Gyn Ceiriog CC for amendments and a bi-lingual translation to be done. |  |
| **5** | **REPORTS** |  |  |
| **5 (i)** | **NORTH WALES POLICE** | The Clerk confirmed their attendance at the Valley Councils’ meeting on the 11/09/2024 |  |
| **5 (ii)**  | **WREXHAM CBC** | County Cllr Bates reported:* Wrexham Council is seeking representations on any change to the 20mph zones;
* There is a planned challenge to the Local Development Plan in the High Court in October.
* There has been a recent site inspection at the ‘Dolywern bend’ and speed reduction measures will be introduced.
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| **5(iii)** | **OFF-ROADING** | Cllr D Berriman confirmed that there was no further update at this stage. |  |
| **6** | **FINANCES** |  |  |
| **6 (i)** | **PAYMENTS IN AUGUST 2024 AND BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS**  | **UNITY TRUST BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT****Audit Wales £276** for 2021/2022 AuditThe Clerk confirmed that a further transfer of £3000 to savings account**.****CURRENT ACCOUNT £ 1,201.11****SAVINGS ACCOUNT £11,011.53** |  |
| **6 (ii)** | **AUDIT WALES** | **2021/2022 Basic Audit:** Fee of £276 now paid;**2022/2023 Full Audit:** An invoice for £663.17 has now been received**.** This represents in excess of 10% of the (then) Precept and with no explanation as to how this figure had been calculated. The audit was exceptionally delayed and led to 4 minor advisory notes for future practices. The Council approved that the Clerk write to Audit Wales.**2023/2024 Basic Audit:** This has now been submitted for a Basic Audit. Timescales set by Audit Wales are increasingly demanding and require that for 2024/2025, we approve the previous year’s accounts at the Annual Meeting to be set in May 2025.Agreed that the Clerk will discuss with the Auditor and determine his capacity to meet these timescales and then confirm to the Council in writing. The communication around the current audit process was discussed. The Chair reminded Councillors that *confidential* matters should not be discussed online or in personal conversations outside of a Council Meeting; whether the matter be financial or otherwise; especially if there was the potential for implied criticism as this will be dealt with in Council session.  | CLERK to write to Audit Wales |
| **7** | **STANDING ORDERS 2024** | The Clerk confirmed that the Council is now required to annually approve the Standing Orders for the purposes of the external audit. The Clerk had amended the 2023 document and this was **AGREED NEM CON** |  |
| **8** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** |  |  |
| **8 (i)** | **TOURISM** | Cllr Swogger highlighted the impact of increasing tourism in the Valley and the environmental and infrastructure demands. Agreed that we would make this an agenda item for a forthcoming Valley’s meeting. |  |
| **8 (ii)** | **WEST ARMS FENCING** | The Clerk reaffirmed what had been previously stated to Council, that he had written to the Managing Agents on 2 occasions and to the WCBC Conservation Officer on one occasion. The fencing has now been taken down with the exception on one section. | WEST  |
| **9** | **NEXT MEETING** | **CUCC TUESDAY 2nd October 7.00PM*** 2024/2025 Precept Planning
* School Councillor-Governor report
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