

MINUTES OF THE CEFNMEIRIADOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2019 IN THE CHAPEL VESTRY, CEFN MEIRIADOG AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors Robert Henry Roberts (Chairman), Karin Jones, Martin Barlow, Dennis Williams, Trefor Hughes together with the Clerk.

1: APOLOGIES: Councillors Meirick Lloyd Davies and Huw Evans.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None received.

3. CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER AND 22ND OCTOBER 2019.

Members confirmed the minutes of the Council meetings held on 17th September and 22nd October 2019 as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

A. Denbighshire County Council has granted planning permission for the erection of cattle housing shed at Bryn Hen, Groesffordd Marli (Application 31/2019/0709).

B. Denbighshire County Council reported on the following highway issues:-

1. The Wigfair to Plas-y-Cefn highway still has pooling issues – problem now resolved.
2. The highway verge grass cutting on the minor roads within the community has not been completed – now completed.
3. The highway verge hedge on Rosehill Road in St.Asaph needs cutting as it is causing road narrowing – landowners responsibility.

C. Clwb Ffermwyr Ifanc Llanefydd thanked the Council for the £100.00 grant aid.

5. OWNERSHIP OF THE EX QUARRY AND PLAS NEWYDD WOOD.

The HM Land Registry confirmed the following:-

A: The ex quarry has “First Registration” on the freehold of the land since 24th January 2019 and the application process is delayed.

B. the Plas Newydd wood is not registered ownership with the Land Registry.

A lengthy discussion took place on the issues and the Members resolved to invite the representatives of interested party of the ex quarry to the next meeting of the Council.

6. FINANCE ISSUES.

A. the Clerk provided Members with the Council’s bank transactions for the year ended 31st March 2019 and for the period from 1st April 2019 to 30th November 2019.

B. Authorised bill payments:-

1. Wales Audit Office – External Audit Fee for the year ended 31st March 2019 £257.55.
2. Land Registry for the ex quart and Plas Newydd “Title Registry” £23.94.

C. Members discussed the Clerk’s salary (currently £540 per annum) for the year commencing 1st April 2020 and resolved to steady increase to £720 for the year ended 31st March 2021. The salary for the year ended 31st March 2022 will be reviewed prior to setting of the Council’s 2021/2022 precept requirement.

D. Setting of the Council’s 2020/2021 Precept requirement. The Members considered the bank transaction documents together with the Clerk’s increased salary together with the anticipated expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2021 and the relative anticipated bank balance at 31st March 2020 and resolved to the Precept of £5,100 for the 2020/21 year.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

A. Planning Application: 31/2019/0892 - Erection of extension to consented cattle shed at Bryn Hen, Groesffordd Marli, Abergele.- observations:-

1. The public footpath through the proposed application site building should be addressed accordingly as advised by the Denbighshire County Council Footpaths Officer.
2. The significant concerns raised by Natural Resources Wales to the application should also be addressed accordingly.

B. Planning Application: 31/2019/0850 - Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling at Wigfair Isaf Cottage, Lower Denbigh Road, St. Asaph – the extension is far too big to the existing dwelling which will have an impact on the neighbouring dwellings.

C. Planning Application: 40/2019/0954 - Removal of hedgerow at Lodge Bach, Glascoed Road, Glascoed, Abergele – no objections.

8. CORRESPONDENCE.

A. email from Tania Evans, Countryside Access Officer of Denbighshire County Council, regarding the public right of way between Groesffordd and Plas Newydd as follows:-

“We have been contacted by Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies & by the Cefn Meiriadog & Glascoed Road Residents & Users Group regarding making a claim for a public right of way along the lane between Groesffordd and Plas Newydd (please see attached plan).

Looking through my file I can't see any correspondence with the Community Council and am unsure whether or not it is the same group of residents as the Resident Group.

We have attempted to contact any landowners that may be affected should the order be successful. We are still waiting on a response from the Cefn Estate, we may have to put notices on site of our intention to make the order nearer the time in case there is anyone else with an interest in the land that may have been missed.

25 user witness forms have been completed the majority claiming to know the route as a bridleway.

If you could let me have any comments the Community Council may have it would be appreciated.”

Following the report from Councillor Martin Barlow on the issue, Members resolved for Councillor Barlow to reply on behalf of the Council as follows:-

“My fellow Councillor has spoken twice with the management of Cefn Estate (i.e. the estate belonging to Sir Watkin Williams Wynne) and both times they have told him they would have no objection. However they have clearly not responded to you in writing.

As chance would have it there was a Community Council meeting last night and we were able to discuss it. From comments made it was clear that Cefn Estate is not exactly renowned for getting back to people over what by them might possibly be regarded as a relatively minor matter in the overall context of running a very large estate.

Given the positive response received verbally on the two meetings with my fellow Councillor, among the suggestions made were that you might

- 1) Send a communication that required nothing more than a signature (perhaps with a pre-paid reply envelope!), or
- 2) Proceed with the order on the perfectly reasonable assumption that there will be no objection, or
- 3) Telephone or email Cefn Estate to at least get a verbal assurance that there will be no objection forthcoming.

Obviously there may be restrictions on you in respect of carrying out the above which we are not aware of.

I am aware that you have been in communication with our Clerk so I am sending him a copy of this. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.”

B. Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies term of office as the Council's appointed representative on the "Elizabeth Williams Charities" has expired and Members resolved to re-elect Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies as the Council's representative for another term of office.

C. the Denbighshire Broadband Information Workshop was held on Friday 6th December 2019 in Clawddnewydd hosted by Denbighshire County Council, which was attended by Councillor Martin Barlow which was a very informative workshop and Councillor Barlow will pursue the information received for the benefit of the Cefn Meiriadog Community Council area.

D. Denbighshire County Council hosted the "Lower Denbigh Road (St. Asaph) consultation on Wednesday 4th December 2019 at the HWB in Denbigh.

9. ROADS AND LIGHTING.

Members resolved for the Clerk to write to Denbighshire County Council regarding the following issues:-

1. The highway roads between St. Asaph and Cefn Meiriadog are in a bad state and require urgent works to make the highways safe.
2. The pedestrian footpaths at both the Mairwen and Maes Robart Housing Estates in Cefn Meiriadog require cleaning as they are covered in mud at present.
3. The highway Cyffredin Hill in Bontnewydd require urgent repairs.
4. The Rosehill highway hedge in St. Asaph requires cutting due to narrowing of the public highway and therefore a notice is required to the landowner.

10. URGENT BUSINESS UNDER SECTION 100B(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.

Councillor Dennis Williams reported that some of the Council's notice boards require repair or replacement and will report back at the next Council meeting with his investigations.

11. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday 25th February 2020 in the Chapel Vestry, Cefn Meiriadog at 7.00 p.m.