

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL  
COEDPOETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**Present**

Cllr M. Dixon – Chair

Cllr S Davies, Cllr J Hinchliffe, Cllr L Wright, Cllr G Williams, Cllr C Williams, Cllr P Wilson, Cllr T Wyatt, Cllr K Woodward & Cllr G Price (10)

Mr G ap Thomas (Leader).

**COUNCIL MEETING COMMENCED – 7.30pm**

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR</u></b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and referred particularly to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The busy agenda.</li> <li>• Shared his thoughts on the way forward re Community Facilities which included:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The transfer of services from Wrexham CBC has been rushed and Wrexham CBC appeared to deserve the strong criticism from this Council and others.</li> <li>b. The information provided was questionable – from both the points of view of quality and of quantity – with average costs not enabling this Council to draw meaningful conclusions. This was exacerbated by the lack of detailed schedules and records.</li> <li>c. The Council takes its role seriously in trying to balance the needs of the community with its future financial commitment. The Council has been backed into a corner in view of the very short time allowed for a decision whether to fund or finish the services.</li> <li>d. In light of the foregoing, the Council's only real option is to agree to fund both the School Crossing Patrol and the 6 Play Areas for one year only. This will allow sufficient time to ascertain the true costs, maintenance schedules, consult with the community etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b></p> <p>Cllr T. Shaw, Cllr K. Child, Cllr B Williams &amp; Cllr G Jones.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></b></p> <p>Cllr J. Hinchliffe (Friends of the Parish Hall), Cllr G. Williams (Nant Mill), Cllr K Woodward (Bryn Tabor School) &amp; Cllr M. Dixon (Clwyd Special Riding Centre)</p>	

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COEDPOETH  
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<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>MINUTES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 – Full Council Meeting</u></b> That the Minutes be approved as a true and correct record.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Cllr J. Hinchliffe, Seconded: Cllr T. Wyatt – Unanimous.</b></p> <p><b><u>29<sup>th</sup> November 2013 – Special Council Meeting</u></b> That the Minutes be approved as a true and correct record.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Cllr J. Hinchliffe, Seconded: Cllr C. Williams – Unanimous.</b></p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>The Council <b>noted</b> the following which were for information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Members' Attendance records for the last six months.</li> <li>B. The Clerk's action points and progress made on resolving a number of them.</li> <li>C. The Planning appeal received.</li> <li>D. The major items of correspondence received.</li> <li>E. The Budget Statement as at 30th November 2013 which suggested a small deficit of £500 for the 2013/14 financial year.</li> <li>F. Analysis of Lettings Income as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013.</li> <li>G. The successful and effective completion of the LED lighting conversion in the Parish Hall.</li> <li>H. Various communications with Wrexham CBC.</li> <li>I. The Police crime statistics for March 2013 to October 2013.</li> <li>J. The replacement bench in the Cemetery.</li> <li>K. Miss H Belton had accepted her appointment to the position of Clerk with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.</li> <li>L. Praised the Caretaker and Cemetery Superintendent for their considerable efforts in the last month.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>COUNCIL MATTERS</u></b></p> <p>Cllr G. Williams shared communication received from Wrexham CBC in respect of budget cuts at Nant Mill Visitor Centre received on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013. After a discussion, Members felt that the communication from Wrexham CBC was inadequate and late which provided little time for adequate consultation and Members also questioned the extent of future cuts at Nant Mill.</p>	

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL  
COEDPOETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

7.	<p><b><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The Council noted the following:</u></b></p> <p>A. The impact of the 2013 Clwyd Pension Fund Actuarial Valuation on the Council's 2014/15 Budget.</p> <p>B. The concerns of the resident in Talwrn Road in respect of the poor street lighting and requested that the Clerk write to the said resident pointing out that the Council was carrying out a review of its street lighting with the objective of trialling LED replacement lights. The actual location(s) is yet to be determined.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The Council deferred the following:</u></b></p> <p>A. The NHS call for an army of "Good Samaritans" until further information could be provided.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The Council approved the following:</u></b></p> <p>A. The schedule of Payments (12<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 totalling £10,359.93 (excluding VAT).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed: Cllr B Williams, Seconded: Cllr S Davies – Unanimous</b></p> <p>B. In connection with Community Facilities (transfer of services from Wrexham CBC):</p> <p>1. <b><u>Ground Maintenance</u></b> - The Council received confirmation that the Coedpoeth Bowling Club would pay the additional payment, of £466, requested by Wrexham CBC.</p> <p>2. <b><u>School Crossing Patrols (SCP)</u></b> – Members accepted that getting school children to School was the responsibility of Parents and not that of Wrexham CBC. In light of the outcome of the risk assessment carried out by Wrexham CBC which identified the crossing patrol as a significant risk it was agreed to fund the SCP for one year with a view to identifying additional funding partners and seeking collaboration with Ysgol Bryn Tabor – cost to the Council £3,500.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed: Cllr T. Wyatt, Seconded: Cllr J. Hinchliffe – Unanimous</b></p>	<p>DVB</p> <p>HB</p> <p>HB</p>

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL  
COEDPOETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

	<p>3. <b>Play Areas</b> – The Council accepted that this was the most contentious and costly of the services to be transferred. Members endorsed the comments made in the Chair’s introduction and agreed that the actions of Wrexham CBC had been deplorable in that they had not treated the Community Council as an equal partner. The Clerk was asked to write to the CEO at Wrexham CBC expressing the Council’s concerns and anger at the whole process re Community Facilities.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Cllr G. Price, Seconded: Cllr J. Hinchliffe – Unanimous</b></p> <p>After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the following resolution be accepted:</p> <p>“That this Council offers full financial support of the six playgrounds in the village for the financial year 2014-2015 only, based on the figures proposed by the Clerk including capital replacement costs, pending a thorough review of usage, facilities, costs, further input from Wrexham CBC &amp; potential community involvement. In addition, the following conditions were also included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The need for a comprehensive Service Level Agreement which would incorporate quality targets, full reporting and six monthly review meetings.</li> <li>ii. The need to develop detailed maintenance schedules and more accurate costs for each play area.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, that a determination for succeeding years be made at the budget meeting in 2014”. The cost to the Council, in 2014/15, is £21,271.</p> <p><b>Proposed: Cllr J. Hinchliffe, Seconded: Cllr L. Wright – Unanimous</b></p> <p>C. The 2014/15 Budget as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. That the Council funds the SCP and the 6 Play Areas in the Village – cost £24,771 but minimise the impact on the Precept to ratepayers by finding efficiency savings of at least 15% of the total cost.</li> <li>b. That the Council increases all charges (excluding cemetery charges) by 2.5% and rounds them up to the nearest 50p.</li> <li>c. That the Council increases cemetery charges in line with charges made by Wrexham CBC, as of 1st October 2013, and that residents of the Village be charged 80% of that charge.</li> <li>d. That the Council approves the Clerk writing to all staff asking for their ideas to reduce costs in light of the potential budget increase and explaining that the Council will be reviewing all costs for 2014/15 with a view to finding further efficiency savings.</li> </ul>	<p>DVB</p> <p>DVB</p>
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**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL  
COEDPOETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

	<p>e. That the Council approves the 2014/15 Precept of £167,300 which is an increase of £20,900 over the previous year and represents an additional average weekly cost to each Band D resident of £0.24. The Chair reminded Members that for the five financial years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, the Council had increased its precept in total by +3%. If Members approve the Budget proposal, for 2014/15, the average increase for the six financial years, ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, will work out, on average, at approximately 2.75% p.a. which is in line with retail price inflation for that period.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed: Cllr J. Hinchliffe, Seconded: Cllr G Price – Unanimous</b></p> <p>D. That the Council does not open its car park during heavy snowfall, on the grounds of potential insurance claims and noise to local residents at all times of the night.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed: Cllr G. Price, Seconded: Cllr J. Hinchliffe – Unanimous</b></p> <p>E. That the Council provide funding of £100 to the Community First Responders in light of the local connection and the valuable work undertaken</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed: Cllr J. Hinchliffe, Seconded: Cllr P. Wilson – Unanimous</b></p> <p>F. That the Council’s Clerk re-advertises the tender for the Cemetery Lodge refurbishment and that the one tender already received be included with the next round of tenders received.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed: Cllr G. Williams, Seconded: Cllr C. Williams – Unanimous</b></p> <p>G. That the Council allocate the raffle monies received, of £220, to the four bodies, without it being topped up, on the grounds of budget constraints.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed: Cllr J. Hinchliffe, Seconded: Cllr T. Wyatt – Unanimous</b></p> <p>H. That the Council approves the addition of Miss H Belton, Clerk designate, to the Council’s banking arrangements as an authorised signatory with viewing and set-up rights.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed: Cllr P. Wilson, Seconded: Cllr G. Price – Unanimous</b></p>	<p>DVB</p> <p>DVB</p> <p>DVB</p> <p>DVB</p> <p>DVB</p> <p>DVB</p> <p>MD</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b><u>POLICING MATTERS</u></b></p> <p>The Police did not attend the Meeting.</p>	

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL  
COEDPOETH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

<b>11.</b>	<b><u>WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH MATTERS</u></b>  There was no member representative from Wrexham CBC at the meeting.	
<b>12.</b>	<b><u>PRESS/PUBLICITY</u></b>  The Clerk was asked to submit a press release to the Council in respect of this Council Meeting.	DVB
<b>13.</b>	<b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS (excludes Street Lighting issues)</u></b>  Cllr J. Hinchliffe sought clarification on the role of the Development Committee. Cllr G. Price provided this. All agreed that closer collaboration between the various committees in the Village would be beneficial.	
<b>14</b>	<b><u>FUTURE MEETINGS –</u></b>  Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2013 (Tuesday).	

**MEETING FINISHED – 9.08pm**

*Dave Bamber* CPFA Clerk to the Council

Approved