



# CHIRK TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y WAUN

## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019

### Present

Cllrs. Mr Brian Colley (BC), Mrs Jackie Allen (JA), Mrs Barbara Humphreys (BH), Mr Terry Evans (TE), Mr Gareth Baines (GB), Mr Michael Maxfield (MM), Mr Chris Burgoyne (CB), Mr Newman James (NJ), Mrs Sarah Williams (SW), Ms Eleanor Burnham (EB) & Mrs Dot Griffiths (DG), Mr Frank Hemmings (FH), Mr Mark Holmes (MH), Miss Lynne Painter (LP) & Mrs Karen Brown (KB) Clerk to the Council.  
Mr Jack Butler (JB) – Press – NWN.

### To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Mr Mark Roberts.

### Declarations of Interest

None.

### **79. TO REFLECT UPON THE PASSING OF TWO YOUNG LOCAL MALE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

Unfortunately two male local community members have recently been lost to suicide. A one minute silence for contemplation was marked. The Council declared its concern and noted that suicide is the biggest killer of young people under 35. The members discussed what the community concerns are and what as a Council can be done. Feedback included the drug problem / county lines as concern along with a lack of professional help. **FH proposed to invite Papyrus (a national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide) to speak to the Council at a special meeting. This proposal was seconded by GB and agreed by all.** It was also felt that something should be added to the Chirk Community Newsletter, possible information on National suicide prevention.

A request had been received from Alex Jones for a memorial bench. Councillors noted that the only place memorial benches are allowed is in the cemetery. Safety concerns about a bench being under the oak tree on the Chirk Recreational Ground were raised due to the recent fall of the large bough. It was suggested that instead of a memorial bench, it could be a 'good to talk bench' with helpline charity numbers. It was agreed that the Chairman would speak with Alex Jones in person to explain the matter is still under consideration.

A request had been received from Lance Hurdsman to use the football pitch on Chirk Recreational Ground for a one-off charity match. Members highlighted that this is an unmarked pitch and suggested using Chapel Lane pitch, however it was confirmed that Chirk Youth have no available dates this year. **FH proposed that the pitch be used as a one off event. NJ seconded the proposal. All agreed.**

Finally, Jane Armstrong a Counselling Therapist had contacted the Council to offer some help by putting signs up. It was agreed that we would have the talk with Papyrus first before deciding next steps.

### **80. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES AS A TRUE RECORD OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2019.**

The draft minutes of the Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were reviewed. The minutes were proposed as a true record by MM and seconded by CB. **The motion was unanimously agreed.**

### **81. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES RECEIVED ABOVE NOT REPORTED ELSEWHERE.**

Minute 63: TE reported that Becky Morgan has left Wrexham Council so another contact will be sought.  
Minute 64: Members asked when the speed sign will be moved. The Clerk confirmed that a new location is currently being sought and will be moved within the next couple of weeks.  
Minute 69: FH updated all, that although at the last meeting Chapel Lane was due to be resurfaced, this had not taken place as the budget has run out. FH confirmed that this resurfacing work is still on the list for the near future once funds become available.

**82. TO CONSIDER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING MATTERS (INCLUDES ACTIVE SPEED SIGN).**

The report was noted. BC, TE & FH attended the District Police Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and reported that crime figures/ statistics will be ending soon. Statistics will only be produced against the three priorities which are:-

- Child Sexual Exploitation and abuse
- Modern Day Slavery
- Drugs / County Lines

The views of Councillors were expressed. BC updated members on the temporary reduction in PCSO's whilst recruitment to replace previous staffing levels is undertaken. The PCSO's day will always start in Rhos. It was agreed that Councillors would be issued with the PSCO telephone numbers. **Action:** Clerk to circulate.

**83. TO RECEIVE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFFING AND POLICIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 9TH OCTOBER 2019.**

The draft report for the Staffing & Policies committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> October was presented as an accurate record of proceedings. All recommendations were highlighted. FH proposed and JA seconded that the report and recommendations be approved. **The report was unanimously approved.**

**84. TO RECEIVE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 9TH OCTOBER 2019.**

The draft report for the Finance committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> October was presented as an accurate record of proceedings. JA proposed and GB seconded that the tree work on Station Avenue is awarded to Canopy Tree Care. GB proposed and SW seconded the proposal to purchase 6 additional litter bins. JA proposed and MM seconded that the report be approved. **The report was unanimously approved.**

**85. TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.**

JA attended the **Shrewsbury/Chester Rail Users Association** and raised awareness of the proposed changes (reduction) in the timetable by axing the first northbound 'off peak' train and the corresponding southbound afternoon train leaving a two hour gap in the timetable. The group have been on the platform taking customer feedback and this is big problem for local residents. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Transport for Wales highlighting the Council's disappointment and asking to re-consider. The three communities in the Glyn Ceiriog Valley should be encouraged to do the same.

**Action:** Clerk to draft letter.

JA chaired the **Chirk Environmental Liaison Committee** on Monday and reported that Kronospan had been granted planning permission for the OSB production. BC added that Kronospan will not start the OSB plant until Natural Recourses Wales have given the operating licence. Ongoing monitoring and Health Impact Assessment will go to a General Purposes Committee. JA shared the landscaping plan and the three sites are the Golf Club, field by Station Avenue and opposite Y Wern/ Lodgevale. Councillors agreed to undertake a face to face consultation with residents of Y Wern/West View to see if they would like the trees planted or would prefer the view of the hills. Results to be fed back to JA.

JA had been received an email from Visit Wales which highlighted they had a funding pot for food destinations in Wales.

GB attended the Hope House Castle Dark Run Event - 350 tickets were sold with 286 people turning up. It was a very good event.

GB reported that Mark Isherwood would be holding a public meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at the Parish Hall to discuss Kronospan's new access road and dust/pollution monitoring.

GB circulated information on an air quality sensor measure, which would have cloud based real time monitoring. GB stated that he would be willing to fund this from two years' worth of his Councillor allowance. The Council unanimously agreed that this needed fuller consideration and would be taken to a General Purposes Committee.

BC reported that he would like the Council to work with young people either by creating a youth council or by having two youth representatives on the Council. A youth councillor would serve on the Council in an advisory capacity. Jonathan Powell from Youth Parliament and Senedd yr Ifanc Wrecsam were suggested for engagement. **The Council unanimously agreed to pursue youth representation.** Action: Clerk to email GB the One Voice Wales 'creating a successful youth Council' document.

LP asked about the Tourism meeting. JA reported that the infrastructure needed to be developed first (for example a car park was a priority) before promotion of the area. The group are speaking to some landowners before the next meeting. There is 'buy in' from lots of stakeholders.

GB reported that a new camping site will be going by Halton; this is good news for the area. The camping site will be eco certified.

LP reported that the Chirk Bunkhouse has now been added as an emergency rest centre for North Wales.

86. **TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL MEMBERS – WREXHAM CBC.**

TE reported that the potholes are an ongoing problem. Fifty people attended the library consultation. The Cadbury's field is being cleared and a section will be rented out for location of the sales office. The World Heritage Site Luminaire Spectacle had been a huge success with thousands of visitors; local businesses have benefited too. It had raised some parking problems, with one situation where an ambulance could not get through. It was felt that with more advance notice and detailed information, better planning could have occurred. TE had attended the World Heritage Conference held in Llangollen. He had also attended the Chirk Environmental Liaison Group in which residents' concerns over dust, noise and pollution were raised. Kronospan agreed to write to all haulage companies to reiterate that they must not turn right out of the site.

FH had attended the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty meeting. Locally, FH had written to highways about the potholes which were filled a month ago but have all gone again. EB asked if highways were aware of the quantities of heavy goods vehicles. FH confirmed that in his letter he highlighted that Chirk has over 1,000 lorries per day. The Coleg Cambria students had been undertaking work; weeding on Princess Avenue, Craig Close and the School. They will be returning to Chirk in January and are looking for projects.

87. **TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT CHIRK CENOTAPH – 10TH NOVEMBER 2019.**

The draft programme was shared, however the names of the Cadets were not yet confirmed. EB also highlighted some typo errors within the Welsh National Anthem.

The Clerk reported that volunteers were needed for the names of the fallen being read out in the Church Service and for two volunteers to assist with the road closure by the Cenotaph. GB & JA agreed to read out the names in Church. It was also confirmed that a small service would take place at 11am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

88. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHIRK COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN.**

The Clerk had contacted Jonathan Holland, Emergency Planning Officer at Wrexham and reported that a new community resilience plan template is being drafted. Mr Holland would be willing to attend a future Council meeting to re-start the process. The Clerk said that one of the first steps would be to establish a community response team and for members to start considering who might be invited to an initial meeting. NJ proposed and LP seconded the proposal to invite Jonathan Holland to General Purposes Committee for further consideration. The Council agreed.

89. **TO DECIDE UPON APPEALS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED.**

Leah Jones, Year 10 student, Ysgol Dinas Bran is holding a charity curry night for Macmillan nurses. Leah requested a donation to buy food for the event. JA proposed a donation of £30 this was seconded by EB. All agreed.

90. **TO RECEIVE THE ORAL REPORT OF THE CLERK – INCLUDES CORRESPONDENCE.**

**Summary of matters raised.**

- The Clerk invited members to indicate priority areas to be considered for next year's budget. Members wanted to see investment in parks, repairs (outside remedial work) and refurb in the Parish Hall, signs for dog fouling and a community linesman post.
- The Clerk suggested Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 6pm for a Finance Committee to work on the new budget. Agreed.

- A full Council meeting is required in December to set the budget, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 was suggested and agreed.
- For the 2019/20 holiday year it was proposed (in line with previous years) to assign the two additional statutory holidays on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December. Accordingly the Parish Hall will be closed on these dates and all staff normally rostered to work receive full pay. The motion proposed by JA and seconded LP was passed unanimously.
- The Clerk had received a phone call from Karaoke Choir praising Glyn the hero caretaker for his calmness and assistance during an emergency incident at the Parish Hall. The Council to write a letter of thanks to Glyn. Clerk to action.

**Correspondence:-**

- **Peter Kempster – Chirk AAA's** – writes to thank the Council for the agreed donation of £200.
- **Christine Dukes of Nightingale House Hospice** – writes to thank the Council for their support during 2019.

91. **TO NOTE PLANNING APPLICATIONS DEALT THROUGH THE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE BY EMAIL.**

**P/2019/0724** – Demolition of Existing Pre-Fabricated Garage and Erection of Replacement Domestic Garage. Glenwood, Station Avenue, Chirk.

**The Council had no objection to the proposal.**

92. **TO REVIEW H1 EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET AND BANK RECONCILIATION REPORT.**

KB presented the half yearly expenditure against budget and bank reconciliation. The clerk stated that the Council's financial regulations requires an explanation for lines where the variance is overspent by 10% (minimum £500):

- Administration – CCTV expenditure had exceeded budget, however this was offset by £2,500 grant income received.
- Recreation – New equipment was also showing as overspent. Additional new playground equipment had been purchased due to a plan to use £4,500 from the earmarked reserves.
- Recreation – Tree Removal – budget line overspend due to snapped bough on Chirk Recreation Ground and storm Hannah damage in Chapel Lane, this work was unplanned but essential.
- Parish Hall & Cemetery – all budget lines on track.

Members were satisfied and approved the report.

93. **TO APPROVE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE AS ON LIST ATTACHED.**

A list of invoices and payments to 30.10.19 amounting to £11,416.07 & £276.57 (using pre-paid credit card) was given to the Council (see addendum). JA proposed and EB seconded that the payments be approved. The motion was passed unanimously.

94. **TO PRESENT ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA.**

No items suggested.

Meeting closed at 20:58

Signed

Chairman

27<sup>th</sup> November 2019