



CHIRK TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y WAUN

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD 26th FEBRUARY 2020

Present

Cllrs. Mr Brian Colley (BC) - Chairman,
Mrs Barbara Humphreys (BH),
Mr Newman James (NJ),
Mrs Dot Griffiths (DG),
Mr Terry Evans (TE) and
Mrs Karen Brown (KB) - Clerk to the Council.
Mr Jack Butler (JB) – Press – NWN.

Mrs Jackie Allen (JA),
Mr Michael Maxfield (MM),
Mrs Sarah Williams (SW),
Mr Frank Hemmings (FH),
Mr Mark Roberts (MR).

Mr Gareth Baines (GB),
Mr Chris Burgoyne (CB),
Ms Eleanor Burnham (EB),
Miss Lynne Painter (LP),

140. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Mark Holmes.

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

142. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES AS A TRUE RECORD OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 29th JANUARY 2020.

The draft minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th January 2020 were reviewed. MM proposed and JA seconded that the minutes are approved as a true record. **The motion was unanimously agreed.**

143. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES RECEIVED ABOVE AND NOT REPORTED ELSEWHERE.

Minute 124: The General Purposes Committee on 16th January 2020 relating to the Kronospan fire, the word 'formaldehyde' was omitted from the minutes. It was noted that these minutes were approved on 29th January 2020. It was proposed by JA and seconded by GB to have this matter as an agenda item at the next Council meeting in order to provide an addendum to the minutes.

Minute 126: BH highlighted that The Leader and The Oswestry Advertizer had reported that FH said he will work with Go Safe and a community group to undertake speed recording in Pentre. BH felt this was incorrect as the Council agreed at its meeting on 29/01/2020 to refer the matter to a Committee for further exploration. FH stated that this was reported in the press prior to the Council meeting.

Minute 128: Safety concerns raised in Pentre as the speed sign is not working. Discussion held about the speed data and that the strips were not placed in the correct location. As they were placed by the entrance/exist it showed a reasonable average. The location will be taken on board next time.

Minute 132: DG was asked if she accepted the Governor's role at Ysgol Y Waun. DG confirmed she would accept the role. **Action:** Clerk to inform the Governing Body.

144. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM STAFFING & POLICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24th FEBRUARY 2020.

The report from the Staffing and Polices Committee was presented. For accuracy of the report 5c should state February not March. With this amendment GB proposed that the report be accepted. LP seconded the proposal. **All agreed.**

The Committee sought the Council's approval on the following recommendations:

Item 3: To amend 19.c in Standing Orders – LP proposed, FH seconded – all agreed.

Item 4: Council to agree 5 operational priorities for 2020 – JA proposed, GB seconded – all agreed.

Item 6: To purchase a set of Policies from One Voice Wales – NJ proposed, JA seconded – all agreed.

145. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2020.

The report from the Finance Committee was presented. GB proposed and JA seconded that the report be accepted. **All agreed.**

The Committee sought the Council's approval on the following recommendations:

Item 3: Quote for Office 365. The Clerk reported that Office 365 Business Premium is £9.40/month with an annual subscription required. GB proposed, FH seconded – **unanimously agreed** that Office 365 can be purchased.

Item 4: One Voice Wales Annual Subscription be renewed – JA proposed, GB seconded – all agreed.

Item 5: Grounds maintenance three year contract – LP proposed, GB seconded – all agreed.

Item 8: Parish Hall hire rates to increase – JA proposed, MM seconded – all agreed.

146. TO CONSIDER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING MATTERS (INCLUDING ACTIVE SPEED SIGN).

The Clerk reported due to the new system of receiving the police reports, the website was still showing December figures which had already been reported to Council in January. The data had not been updated.

The Chirk Bank speed sign data was shared. It showed the V85 as 31mph and 0.02% were over the speed limit. Members felt that the speed sign was not in the right location. It was agreed for the Clerk to speak with the PCSO's to discuss the best location.

EB highlighted the dog fouling problem on the pavements around the town.

147. TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

JA chaired the Chirk Environmental Liaison Group meeting. There will be a report from the Liaison group included in the newsletter every quarter. A sub-group has been set up to review the Terms of Reference of this group and another sub-group has been set up to monitor the data from the new monitoring station. There is still no date for the transfer of licence to Natural Resources Wales. Once the draft licences are ready, full public consultation will take place.

GB reported that Kronospan is dealing with complaints from residents via an insurance claims company who are cold calling residents with an aggressive nature - stating sign now or get nothing. This is corroding trust between residents and Kronospan and is seen to be most unprofessional. It was agreed to feed this back to Wrexham Council and the Liaison Group. It was also agreed to write to Kronospan stating the Council's disappointment in the unethical cold-calling and unprofessional response. Letter to be copied to Ian Bancroft and Elected members of Wrexham Council.

BC reported that there had been 127 complaints to Wrexham over three days in relation to the Kronospan fire incident.

It was noted that residents in Black Park, Pentre, Whitehurst Gardens and Old Rhos Y Waun had not been offered compensation despite also suffering the effects of the smoke from the fire incident.

Members who reside in Lodgevale area reported that their houses and cars still smelt of smoke.

CB had attended the One Voice Wales HR training session and reported it was very worthwhile.

148. TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL MEMBERS – WREXHAM CBC

FH reported that Wrexham Council had set its Council Tax at 6.9%. Social Care, Education and Pot Holes had been identified as priority areas.

Kronospan's planning application for the new gas engines would be going to Committee on Monday 2nd March 2020. Section 106 funds can be allocated for independent continuous air quality monitoring.

TE reported that Chirk Library funding had been secured for another year. Black bins will continue to be collected fortnightly and Green bins will now incur an additional charge of £25/year if households want this service. Tarmac of roads will take place across Chirk North and South wards.

JA queried what services Chirk receives for its Council Tax. It was agreed that FH would send out a breakdown of the Wrexham budget.

149. TO DISCUSS POTHOLES AND FLOODING IN CHIRK

It was reported that all gullies in Chirk have been cleared. There should be an annual inspection of gullies, but this was not done for four years, however this inspection work is back on track. Pot holes and road repairs had been covered under item 148.

The Trunk Road Agency is responsible for the flooding on the A5 which was affecting Chirk. FH would raise the Council's concerns with the Agency.

150. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEFIBRILLATOR APPEAL AND AGREED LOCATIONS

It was reported that £4,145 had been raised (including HSBC matched funding which had not yet been received). It was considered that the centre of Chirk has sufficient defibrillators, but this appeal was about the outlying areas. The Council agreed the total funds should cover the purchase of three defibrillators. The following locations had been agreed:

- Pentre - on outside wall of Pentre School
- Black Park Community Centre
- Old Rhos Y Waun – SLP Printers/Craft Bug in Westview. Family and friends of the late Dai Evans would have liked this by the entrance to the hospital road but as the equipment requires an electrical supply this was not a suitable location.

TE suggested that the Parish Hall host defibrillator training once all defibrillators have been installed. The Welsh Ambulance Service had been contacted.

SW reported that a resident of Lodgevale (Doug Bayley) had passed away and legacy funds for a defibrillator in Lodgevale were to follow. SW to work on a location with electric supply. Small plaques were agreed.

GB left the meeting.

151. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CLERK – INCLUDES CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk's report covered general updates, meetings and events attended and correspondence.

DG & EB have booked onto the Beyond Recycling Event.

The Council wished to formally thank John Gibbons and Pantoholics on this year's successful panto.

Action: Clerk to write a letter of thanks.

BC reported that he had directly received a piece of correspondence from SLCC seeking a reference for Shaun Jones. Advice has been sought from One Voice Wales on providing a reference. The type of reference (e.g. basic or detailed) needed to be Council policy. BC read out key points from the advice. Views of members were expressed. FH proposed that the policy of the Council should be to provide a basic reference only. This was seconded by TE and agreed by all.

152. TO DECIDE UPON APPEALS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED

- Royal Welsh Agricultural Society requested a general donation for the Clwyd RWAS 2020. JA proposed to not support this request. LP seconded the proposal. All agreed.
- Community Newsletter requested a donation towards printing costs of the forthcoming newsletter. BH proposed a donation of **£500**. DG seconded the proposal. **All agreed.**

153. TO REVIEW Q3 EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET AND BANK RECONCILIATION REPORT.

Action: to be carried forward to the General Purposes Committee on 11th March 2020 as the reports were not finalised.

154. TO APPROVE PAYMENTS ON LIST ATTACHED.

A list of invoices and payments to 26.02.2020 amounting to £11,273.19 & £86.91 (using pre-paid credit card) was given to the Council (see addendum). NJ proposed and SW seconded that the payments be approved/noted. The motion was passed.

155. TO PRESENT ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Members requested the following items to be included on the next agenda.

JA requested that storage of the Karate mats was an issue. They should be removed or charged for storage space. NJ agreed to speak to the Karate Club informally first.

Meeting closed at 20:48

Signed

Chairman

Date