

**Cyngor Cymuned MOCHDRE gyda PHENSTRYWAID  
MOCHDRE with PENSTROWED Community Council**

Ashford, The Bank, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2AB

[www.mochdrepentstrowedcommunity.net](http://www.mochdrepentstrowedcommunity.net)

**Minutes of the online Ordinary Council Meeting held on  
Monday, 17th May 2021, 7:10pm.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. Jean Williams  
Cllr. Robin Lewis  
Cllr. Gordon Jones  
Cllr. Russell Williams (Chairman)  
Cllr. Philip Williams  
Cllr. Martin Turley  
Cllr. Ian Williams  
Cllr. Lloyd Humphreys

**APOLOGIES:**

None.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. Kath Wigley (Clerk) County Cllr Karl Lewis

1. 0. **Attendance and Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies for absence.
- 1.2. **Declarations of Members' Interests** – There were no Declarations of Interest made.

Name of Councillor	Item	Personal	Prejudicial

**2.0. Confirmation of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on  
22nd March, 2021 (previously circulated).**

- 2.1. That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 22nd March, 2021 were a true record of what there and then transpired and that they will be duly signed as such by the Chairman when

circumstances allow.

### **3.0. Information from the Minutes.**

**3.1.** The Clerk presented the three quotes received for the electrical installation of a heated Outdoor Cabinet at Pentre Chapel (to house the proposed defibrillator) for discussion. These were £540.00 (inc.VAT) from Flamesure, £460.00 from Craig Gwilt, and initially £192.00 (inc VAT) from AC Lister Electrical. AC Lister Electrical had subsequently revised his quote, removing the labour cost to just cover the cost of materials, (expected to be no more than £50.00 + VAT) as this is for the community which he fully supports. Following discussion the Council voted unanimously in favour of accepting A C Lister Electrical's quote and generous offer.

**ACTION:** Clerk to inform all parties accordingly.

### **4.0. Finance**

#### **4.1. Update on Bank Balances:**

1) Mochdre CC bank statement (up to 31st March 2021) £8,077.01. Cash book stands at £6,873.01. There are three outstanding cheques for £976.00, £149.00 and £79.00.

2) Mochdre CC No2 Account (for P & L funds) bank statement £5,180.91. Cash book stands at £5,180.91. There are no outstanding cheques.

#### **4.2. To consider invoices for payment.**

- 1) K. Wigley - £25.00 (To re-imburse Clerk for paying BitDefender Antivirus annual renewal fee online for Council Laptop)
- 2) Zurich Municipal- £167.44 (Council Insurance Renewal – Following discussion in 5.0. below).
- 3) Hope House Children's Hospices- £100.00 (Charitable donation following discussion at 14.2 below).

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to pay the above amounts. It was agreed that the Chairman, two Councillors and the Clerk would attend at the Old School at 2:30pm on Sunday, 23rd May, to sign off the cheques, the approval for the Annual Return (by the Chairman – see 6.0 below), the Chairman’s “Declaration of Acceptance of Office” (see Minute Ref 1, minutes of Annual Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2021) and the Minute Book.

**5.0. To discuss and decide to pay Insurance Renewal (due 1st June, 2021)** – Came and Co. (Hiscox) have quoted £285.58 including Insurance Premium Tax for similar bespoke comprehensive cover as last year (+ Came and Co’s £50.00 Administration Fee) = Total of £335.58 which has substantially increased from last year’s premium. There is also on offer a three year option with Hiscox, maintaining the cost at a slightly less annual premium of £330.00 per annum. Pen Underwriting Limited via Axa quoted £497.49 (+ Came and Co’s £50.00 Administration Fee) = Total of £547.49. Ecclesiastical quoted £565.82 (+ Came and Co’s £50.00 Administration Fee) = Total of £615.82. The Clerk had also obtained a quote from Zurich Municipal, with whom the Council had previously been insured from 2012 to 2017. Their quote for a bespoke insurance for local councils was £167.44. Following discussion, the Council voted unanimously for a return to Zurich Municipal as its insurance provider for 2021/2022.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to arrange for the cheque to be signed (see 4.2.above) and forwarded to Zurich Municipal accordingly.

**6.0. To Approve the Annual Return for year ending 31st March, 2021** - Following its return from the Internal Auditor there were no issues to report. The Council unanimously approved the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement and the Clerk is to arrange for the Annual Return to be signed by the Chairman (see 4.2 above).

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to complete the audit and forward the Annual Return to Audit Wales (external auditor) within the required timescale and display the “Notice of Appointment of Date for the Exercise of Electors’ Rights” at the required time.

**7.0. Memorial for HRH Prince Philip**

**7.1.** Following discussion the suggestion of planting a tree as a memorial to Prince Philip was adopted. It was decided that there should be two trees – one for Mochdre and one for Penstrowed, Cllr Jean Williams has obtained permission from Mochdre Church Committee and Rev Jeanette Wilkes (priest-in-charge) to site such a tree in Mochdre churchyard. The site in Penstrowed needs to be decided.

**ACTION:** Cllr Humphreys is to investigate what would be an acceptable site in Penstrowed and also ascertain what species of tree would be acceptable.(this will dictate the type of tree for Mochdre also as the Council decided that both trees should be the same species).

**8.0. Planning Applications**

**8.1. For Information Only:** Application Ref: **21/0730/HH** Grid Ref: **E:307230 N:288451** for Extension and alterations to garage to provide attic room over forming first floor home office/studio at Swn Y Nant, Newtown, Powys, SY16 4JN. Full information was e-mailed to Councillors on 20th April. Due to the Clerk’s accident and having to push the meeting on a week to allow for

her recovery time this meant that the length of time needed for an extension to time for comments was not possible. Thus Councillors were e-mailed on 27th April to ask for their comments by 8th May to enable the Clerk to send the Council's response by the deadline. Three Councillors expressed concerns over parking issues in this area, but the majority were happy for it to proceed to determination. The Clerk contacted the Planning Officer accordingly. Duly noted.

## **9.0. One Voice Wales**

**9.1.** E-mail received containing details of possible grants and financial support available for Council projects/initiatives. Duly noted.

## **10.0. Defibrillator Pads Replacement**

**10.1.** Cllr Russell Williams gave a progress report concerning the condition/replacement of pads for the Penstrowed defibrillator. He has contacted the Ambulance Station and awaits a response.

**ACTION:** Cllr Russell Williams will report back at the next meeting.

## **11.0. Highway Matters**

**11.1.** Cllr Jean Williams brought to the Council's attention that the wire covering on the Gelli Lane bridge has now completely worn away and that one of the planks (which is the one to step on to walk over the bridge) at one end is rotten and a trip hazard. This is part of a well-used circular route, particularly used by dog-walkers.

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to bring this to Danny Jarman's attention in order that the necessary repairs could be done.

**11.2.** Update was given by County Cllr Karl Lewis reference Rhyd-Y-Cwrt bridge. It has now been included in this financial year's capital programme for repair and is currently being redesigned with regard to the parapets, etc. A suitable speed limit sign has been put in place (further to the Council's comments regarding same which were e-mailed to County Cllr Karl Lewis in August, 2020) – this will show up on SatNav, but will not affect local businesses. This was duly noted, but Councillors advised County Cllr Karl Lewis that the crack in the road which runs close to the barrier by Mr and Mrs Dunwell's house has increased in size. The Council is aware that this is monitored by PCC, but it is of concern.

**ACTION:** County Cllr Karl Lewis will contact the head of Highways and inform him of this.

**11.3.** The Councillors expressed concern over a highway issue between Ty Gwyn and Vaughanland. There is a large hole in the side of the road here which was coned off last Autumn – it looks like work was started on repairing it and then it was just left. There is a very dangerous situation here now because the hole has increased in depth to some 4 to 5 feet!

**ACTION:** County Cllr Karl Lewis will look into this urgently and report back.

## **12.0. Garn Fach Wind Farm**

**12.1.** EDF Renewables have asked if the Council wishes to meet with the Garn Fach team to discuss the plans. Dates supplied are Monday 31st May, 7pm or 8pm OR Tuesday, 8th June, 7pm or 8pm. This meeting can be a virtual one via Microsoft Teams. The Council is hoping that the next Council meeting will be face-to-face and therefore that perhaps the Garn Fach team might be available to attend then in person.

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to contact the Garn Fach team and check on its availability for 28th June.

### **13.0.Reports of Committees, Meetings or Training Attended**

**13.1.**OVW Maldwyn Area Committee Meeting on 26th April – There were no attendees.

### **14.0.Charities/Donations (if any)**

**14.1.**Macmillan Cancer Support – Request for donation. The Council was unanimous in its decision not to make a financial contribution at this time.

**14.2.**Hope House – Request for donation. After discussion the Council voted unanimously to make a donation of £100.00 to this worthy cause.

**ACTION:** The Clerk was instructed to raise a cheque for £100.00 for signature (see 4.2 above).

### **15.0.Community Council Grant Requests (if any)**

The Clerk reported that there were no items for discussion under this heading.

### **16.0.Correspondence**

**16.1. Independent Review Panel of Wales Report 2021/2022** – Councillors were asked if they wished to forgo entitlement to the allowances as usual re. Determinations 39 and 40. If so they need to write a letter to that effect and give them to the Clerk (template provided). The Council also needs to make a decision with regard to receiving any of the optional payments detailed in Determinations 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47. There was some discussion concerning this item and the Council's position on it – the Council thought that it might be a good idea to take the £150 allowance each in future and donate it back to the community. This would entail increasing the annual precept by £1,200 to cover the cost (because the allowances are paid out of Community Council funds, and this amount could

increase further if the IRPW decide to increase it in their Annual Report), thus increasing the Council Tax contribution that each household makes towards the Community Council. Each Councillor would need to go on the Council's payroll and have tax deducted on the allowance through PAYE. Thus there would be one Employer's Full Payment submission and eleven "Periods of No Payment" for each Councillor required for submission to HMRC. The budget has been set for this current financial year but it was agreed to include this topic in the Budget discussions for the next financial year (2022/2023), which take place in Autumn, 2021.

#### **17.0.To receive questions from Councillors**

**17.1.**At the last meeting Cllr Jones raised a query concerning discharge notices applied to Land at Pwllglas recently. County Cllr Karl Lewis had nothing to report concerning this matter as yet.

#### **18.0.Chairman's Announcements**

**18.1.**The Chairman thanked the Council for showing its confidence in him by re-electing him to this post.

**19.0.Date of next meeting:** Monday, 28th June, 2021.

Meeting closed at 8:05pm.