

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

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

www.mochdrepennstrowedcommunity.net

**Minutes of the online Council Meeting held on Monday, 20th
September 2021, at 7:00pm.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Jean Williams
Cllr. Ian Williams
Cllr. Robin Lewis
Cllr. Martin Turley
Cllr. Philip Williams
Cllr. Lloyd Humphreys
Cllr. Gordon Jones

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Russell Williams (Chairman)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. Kath Wigley (Clerk)

County Cllr Karl Lewis

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by Cllr. Robin Lewis (Deputy Chairman).

1. 0. Attendance and Apologies for Absence – See above.

**1.2. Declarations of Members' Interests - There were no
Declarations of Interest made.**

**2.0. Confirmation of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
9th August, 2021 (previously circulated).**

2.1. That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th August, 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 reported back on her analysis of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, and how it affected Community Councils (see Minute Ref 16.3. 9th August meeting). This had been e-mailed to Councillors on 9th September for their information. Face-to-face meetings (the Council's preferred method) can be held but have to be hybrid meetings i.e. meetings where members of the public and press can at the same time join in the meetings remotely. This involves having a robust broadband connection, which the Old School does not have, and other items of equipment which the Council does not currently have. This is why meetings have had to return to Zoom for this and ensuing meetings, as it enables press and public to attend remotely and ensures the legality of decisions taken by the Council. Cllr Ian Williams reported his findings on the costs of enabling hybrid meetings – the broadband connection alone would amount to approximately £400.00 per annum, and the other required equipment approximately £1,000.00.

The Council discussed this at some length and the unanimous feeling was that this type of expenditure was not best use of Council resources – it is very rare for any members of the public to attend meetings and the press never have. This dictum is probably relevant to much larger Councils, but not small Community Councils – the legislation being imposed is not a “one size fits all”. The Council voted unanimously that a letter should be written to One Voice Wales expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the above and ask it to fight its cause. The Clerk also advised the Council of further changes being brought in by this legislation next year - the need for the Council to write an Annual Report and compulsory Training Programmes for all Councillors and the Clerk.

ACTION: The Clerk is to write to OVW as instructed above.

4.0. Finance

4.1. Update on Bank Balances:

- 1) Mochdre CC bank statement £10,415.57 (Second Precept instalment of £2,500 received 31/08/21). Cash book stands at £10,229.75. There is one outstanding cheque for £185.82. Duly noted.
- 2) Mochdre CC No2 Account (for P & L funds) bank statement £3,662.91. Cash book stands at £5,123.85. (P & L cheque for £1,460.94 received and paid in 07/09/21). There are no outstanding cheques. Duly noted.

4.2. To consider invoices for payment.

- 1) K. Wigley - £970.00 (Clerk's fee – Second Quarter).
- 2) HMRC - £155.00 (PAYE Income Tax on Clerk's fee).
- 3) Mochdre with Penstrowed YFC - £50.00 (Annual Grant)
- 4) Mochdre with Penstrowed YFC – £238.42 (See 19.1. below - Community Council Grant towards new projector, ceiling bracket and cabling, which will be paid out of the Community Council Grant reserves).

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk was instructed to pay the above amounts and that, in order for her to be able to do this, the cheques would be signed by three Councillors after the site meeting at Rhyd-Y-Cwrt on Monday, 27th September 2021 (see 11.1. below).

5.0. HSBC Change of Type of Bank Account

- 5.1. Notice received from HSBC that, as from 1st November, 2021, Community Accounts will no longer be available as it is introducing a new Charitable Bank Account for Charities and not-for-profit organisations (that operate for a charitable purpose). This is the type of account that the Council's bank accounts will be changed to, a type of account which will carry a monthly fee of £5.00 and charge for cheques

paid in and out of the account of £0.40 per cheque (this would mean approximately £140.00 per year for bank charges). However, electronic banking will be free of charge. The Council's preferred method of payment has always been via cheque, but the Council voted unanimously that, under the circumstances, electronic banking should now be investigated.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk is to investigate electronic banking.

6.0. Pentre Defibrillator Update

6.1. The Zoll AED and outdoor heated cabinet to be sited at the Pentre have now arrived. The Clerk has contacted Andrew Lister to see when he can install the cabinet, which will be at the end of this week/beginning of next week. Matthew Vaughan (St Johns) is happy to give Zoll AED training for free (a donation to St Johns would be much appreciated). He would prefer mid-week to tie in with his rota but can do a Saturday if preferred (next free Saturday is 23rd October). The Old School would be a suitable venue. Neil Ainsworth has been contacted (as Community Champion) to find out his availability to attend training, and mid-week suits him also. Cllrs Ian Williams and Jean Williams expressed an interest in attending.

ACTION: The Clerk is to check the availability of the Old School on certain dates and then circulate the dates to see which is most suitable (to Matthew Vaughan first to check his availability).

7.0. Memorial Trees for HRH Prince Philip

7.1. Further to the last meeting (see Minute Ref 7.1) as Cllr Russell Williams was absent and unable to report on the results of his investigation into what would be an acceptable

site in Penstrowed and what species of tree would be acceptable (which will dictate the type of tree for Mochdre also as the Council had decided that both trees should be the same species), the item will be carried over once again to the next meeting.

8.0. Planning Applications (if any)

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

9.0. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

- 9.1. 2021 report e-mailed to Councillors on 7th September 2021 was discussed and Councillors remained in unanimous agreement that they wished to forgo the mandatory allowances (Determinations 41 [39 in the draft report] and 42 [40 in the draft report]) and had written letters to the Clerk/RFO advising of this. The report states that “any individual member may make a personal decision to elect to forgo part or all of the entitlement to any of these payments by giving notice in writing to the proper officer of the council”. Councillors voted that a letter be written to OVW informing them of its decision not to take up allowances as they had become Councillors to serve the community and not to be paid for doing so.

ACTION: The Clerk is to write to OVW accordingly.

10.0. Replacement Noticeboard

- 10.1. The condition of the Council’s noticeboard at Stepside was much worse than expected, and found to be beyond repair. Following the Clerk’s discussion with the Chairman, Cllr Russell Williams, about next steps he felt that another wooden noticeboard, built from scratch, could very likely cost as much, if not more than the noticeboards available “off the

shelf”, and would it need replacing once again fairly quickly due to the site of the noticeboard being vulnerable to adverse weather conditions, particularly driving rain (which has been the main contributory factor leading to the demise of the current noticeboard)? This would make it a false economy and not best value for the Council’s money. After some discussion the Council voted unanimously in favour of looking into the cost implications of both options for discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION: The Clerk is to look into the off-the-shelf noticeboard costs and Cllr Humphreys volunteered to look into the cost of the bespoke wooden noticeboard option.

11.0. Highway Matters

11.1. Discussion with County Cllr Karl Lewis about Rhyd-y-Cwrt bridge (particularly in relation to the e-mail received from Clive Jones following his chasing up) and e-mailed to Councillors on 20th August 2021. The upshot of County Cllr Lewis’s chasing of this matter has resulted in him being able to arrange a site visit at Rhyd –y-Cwrt bridge with Matt Perry (Head of Highways and Recycling for PCC) along with Mike Dunwell and Cllrs Ian, Jean and Phil Williams and Cllr Robin Lewis on Monday, 27th September 2021, so that the current state of the bridge can be seen and evaluated first hand and the Community Council’s concerns expressed. They will visit Mochdre bridge also to view its state of disrepair. County Cllr Karl Lewis also reported that the potholes between the Hafod and the Hendre had now been filled in. The question about road salt for the winter was raised and County Cllr Lewis offered to sort this out. To enable the salt to be delivered to the requisite locations he requires Northing and Easting grid references or the three words on the phone app.

ACTION: Those Councillors attending the site visit will report

back at the next meeting and Councillors will supply County Cllr Lewis with the requested information for depositing road salt at the required locations.

12.0.Changes to Standing Orders

12.1.Brought in line with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (see 3.1. above), The Council approved the changes.

ACTION: The Clerk is to update Standing Orders accordingly.

13.0.Repair Cafe Wales

13.1.The Council discussed possibly setting up a repair cafe in Mochdre, and saw it as an interesting project. Further details were requested from Repair Cafe Wales – such as if there are any hidden costs involved or grant aid available for setting up such a scheme.

ACTION: The Clerk is to contact Repair Cafe Wales accordingly.

14.0.Boundary Commission Review of Parliamentary Constituencies 2023

14.1.Notice of Consultation received and information from the Boundary Commission e-mailed to Councillors on 13th September 2021. Comments by 3rd November 2021. Councillors were pleased to see that Montgomeryshire would remain intact with Glyndwr added on to it. It would sadly mean the loss of Simon Baines MP, but could result in an interesting dynamic.

ACTION: The Clerk is to forward the Council's comments on within the required deadline.

15.0.Welsh Government

15.1. Consultation on local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation – E-mailed to Councillors on 8th September 2021. Comments by 17th November 2021. Duly noted.

15.2. Consultation on “Shaping Wales’ Future: Using national milestones and indicators to measure our Nation’s progress” e-mailed to Councillors on 8th September 2021. Comments by 26th October 2021. Duly noted.

15.3. Welsh Government Tax Conference on the morning of Wednesday, 3rd November. The Clerk wishes to attend and will register her interest by 22nd September, when further details will be supplied.

16.0.Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

16.1. Request from PACE (Powys Action on the Climate Emergency) for the Council to declare its support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill. The Council did not wish to support this at this time.

17.0.Reports of Committees, Meetings or Training Attended

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

18.0.Charities/Donations (if any)

18.1. Ronald McDonald House Charities UK are looking for ideas of how to raise awareness for the charity in Mochdre. After discussion, the Council voted unanimously that an invitation be sent to the charity’s representative to attend the next Council meeting in order to give the Council further information about what might potentially be available.

ACTION: The Clerk is to contact the charity’s representative accordingly.

19.0. Community Council Grant Requests (if any)

19.1.The YFC request for a grant of £238.42 for a replacement projector, ceiling bracket and cabling was approved by the Council. The Clerk was instructed to raise the cheque at this meeting for signature (see 4.2.above). It will be paid out of the Community Council Grant reserves.

20.0. Correspondence

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

21.0. To receive questions from Councillors

21.1.Councillors expressed great dissatisfaction with being dictated to from the “powers above”, with no regard to the size of Council involved – this new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 legislation is not “one size fits all”. It was suggested and agreed that the Council should contact other Community Councils in order to “whip up” some momentum to all writing to OVW asking for them to fight for the Community Councils’ cause.

ACTION: The Clerk is to contact fellow clerks accordingly.

22.0. Chairman’s Announcements

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

23.0. Date of next meeting: Monday, 25th October 2021.

Meeting closed at 8:25pm.