

MINUTES OF THE DERWEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY 2023 IN THE CHAPEL VESTRY, DERWEN AT 7.30 P.M.

1. PRESENT:

Councillors Hywel Jones (Chairman), John Crowhurst, Robert Hughes, Llyfelys Rees, Clwyd Jones, Gaynor Jones and the Clerk.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Councillor Thomas Griffiths.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA ITEMS LISTED BELOW.

None received.

4. DISCUSSION WITH PCSO BARRY JONES FROM THE DEE VALLEY POLICING AREA.

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Barry Jones to the meeting who covers the Derwen Community Council area.

Members raised the main concerns of the Council of the Derwen Parking issues which has not improved, and it is becoming the norm for vehicles to be parked at the bottom of Derwen Chapel hill next to the church wall. This is causing a blockage for larger vehicles on a regular basis. PCSO Jones noted the concerns of the Council and will regular patrol the village and take any actions against the vehicle owners as required.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2023/24 TERM OF OFFICE.

Members elected Councillor Hywel Jones as Chairman of the Council for the 2023/24 term of office.

6. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2023/24 TERM OF OFFICE.

Members elected Councillor Llyfelys Rees as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2023/24 term of office.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Councillor Hywel Jones summarised the Community Council's minutes for the past twelve months and the Clawddnewydd Pond project has now completed and thanked members for their support during the year.

8. CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING.

Members confirmed 15th March 2023 minutes as a true record and signed by the Chairman

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA.

A: Denbighshire County Council will shortly commence the resurfacing works on the B5105 in Clawddnewydd Village together with the Clawddnewydd Village to Derwen Hall road.

B. Denbighshire County Council reported that the obstructing parking issues in Derwen Village is a Policing issue and that the Council should contact the Police directly.

10. DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DIGITAL OFFICER UPDATED REPORT.

Mr Philip Burrows provided Council with the updated report in appendix 1 below.

11. CLAWDDNEWYDD POND UPDATE.

Councillor Hywel Jones reported that the Clawddnewydd Pond project has now been completed.

Delegation from the Green Community Projects (Cadwyn Clwyd) together with Darren Millar, Member of the Senedd for Clwyd West, will attend the project completion event on Friday 23rd June 2023 on site at 11.30 p.m.

12. DERWEN MEMORIAL TREE PLAQUE.

The two "Memorial Trees" plaques and attachments have now been delivered and Councillor Llyfelys Rees is in the process of erecting the plaques in Derwen.

13. ONE VOICE WALES TRAINING COURSES.

The Clerk circulated members with the updated dates for the One Voice Wales Training Courses.

14. FINANCE.

A; Bank balances £6,250.00.

B. Receipts:-

1. First 2023/24 Precept receipt £2,390.00.

2. Cadwyn Clwyd (Green Spaces Grant) in respect of Clawddnewydd Pond £3,210.00.

C. Authorised Payments:-

1. R.L. Rees for Clawddnewydd Pond project works £4,500.00.

2. Brunel Engraving stand attachments for the plaques £216.48.

3. Monthly HSBC bank charges fees £5.00.

4. Canolfan Cae Cymro for the April 2023 meeting of the Council £26.00.

15. REVIEW THE CLERK'S SALARY FROM 1ST APRIL 2023.

Members resolved to arrange a separate meeting without the Clerk in attendance to discuss.

16. PLANNING UPDATE.

Denbighshire County Council has granted planning permission for planning application: 12/2023/0068 - Erection of 1 number dwelling and associated works (amended design to previously approved scheme) on land adjoining Aneddwen, Clawddnewydd.

17. CORRESPONDENCE.

Already covered elsewhere within the minutes.

16. DISCUSSION WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE.

None in attendance.

17. HIGHWAY ISSUES.

Already covered in matters arising from the minutes.

18. URGENT MATTERS UNDER SECTION 100B(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.

There were no urgent business to consider.

19. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 19TH JULY 2023 IN THE CHAPEL VESTRY, DERWEN AT 7.30 P.M.

APPENDIX 1.

1. Derwen is not in any major Openreach upgrade programme. Their current plans span until December 2026. There may be unannounced upgrades.
2. I have mapped out clusters of properties that are eligible for funding and whom I recommend for Fibre Community Partnerships (FCP). Please bear in mind Openreach will add more premises to these FCPs, even one that are not eligible for funding.
3. The Welsh Government funded fibre programme that finished in February, only installed fibre to 13 properties, not the 42 we expected.
4. Therefore, there should be approximately 169 premises in the Derwen Community Council area that are left without fibre.
5. Openreach has expressed an interested in upgrading 84 premises, these are now classed as 'Under Review'. They are therefore not eligible for the Gigabit Funding, sadly there is no guarantee Openreach will upgrade these premises. I will forward you the list of these properties.
6. There for there are 128 funding eligible premises, that we should target.
7. The UK Government scheme called 'Project Gigabit' has put forward 28 properties in the Derwen Community Council area for tender. The tender goes out to all telephony and internet provider/installers. It is hoped that Openreach will submit a quote for some of the 210 premises in your area that do not have fibre. We need to proceed as normal as there is no guarantee any will installed via this scheme.
8. **The North Wales Economic Ambition Board have a pot of money to install fibre into premises in North Wales. They do not yet know the scope of their project or which premises they will choose. They are having to wait until Project Gigabit announces which premises they will be installing.**
9. Openreach are now open for Fibre Community Partnership applications, but they will not process them until Project Gigabit has announced which premises the scheme will upgrade.
10. The Gigabit Voucher funding is worth £4,500 per premise. The voucher scheme is not taking applications at the moment. It will reopen once Project Gigabit has announced where it will install. Probably a couple of months. It should be open by the time we need to apply.
11. The Openreach copper cable exchanges are being turned off by December 2025 and all telephony exchanges will be digital. Premises that have not been upgraded to fibre will continue to use their copper cables for telephony/internet, their signals will be converted to fibre based Internet traffic at the roadside box.
12. Premises with digital telephony, called Voice Over IP (VOIP) will lose their telephony service during a power cut. If their router does not have power, it cannot relay your phone calls. This is worrying for areas with no 4g coverage. Openreach can provide a battery backup for those classed as Vulnerable. Otherwise people can buy Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) from most computer retailers
13. There is grant to cover the cost of purchasing and installing 4g antennas and a 4g router. The antennas are external and are mounted on a pole to enable them to receive a better signal. This has proved effective in many rural areas, giving speeds between 30-100mbps. The grant is 'apply before you buy'. I am happy to talk to any of your residents/businesses about this.