

# Whitecastle Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Castellgwyn

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### UNAPPROVED Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Thursday 9 May 2024 at 7.30pm at The Hogs Head, Treadam

**Present :** Cllr. J. Biggs, Cllr. C. Lewis, Cllr. L. Hughes, Cllr. D. Edwards

**In attendance :** L. Taylor (Clerk)

#### **Apologies for absence :**

Cllr. D. Astill-Parsons, Cllr. R. Edwards and County Councillor I. Chandler

#### **To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items of business listed below.**

It was agreed to allow members to disclose interests as they arise.

#### **1. To elect Chair.**

**Resolution :** Election of Cllr. C. Lewis was proposed by Cllr. J. Biggs, seconded by Cllr. D. Edwards.

#### **2. To elect Vice-Chair.**

**Resolution :** Election of Cllr. D. Edwards was proposed by Cllr. J. Biggs, seconded by Cllr. C. Lewis

#### **3. To receive the Chair's report for the year from 01/04/22 to 31/03/23.**

The Chair reported that Cllr. Ruth Edwards has informed him of her wish to resign as ward member for Rockfield and St Maughans. The Chair accepted her resignation and thanked her for her work as a county councillor and her support of Whitecastle community and the community council.

“Firstly, thank you to our clerk for his dedicated work during the year. Concluding the transition from the old councils to Whitecastle, the financial part of that has been challenging, but is now completed. No help from members of the county council.

**Council membership** We are still a long way from being a full council of eleven, we have co-opted one member and hopefully one other, at the same time Ruth Edwards is standing down. I would like to thank all members for their support. There is clearly apathy towards being a community councillor and clearly the growing bureaucracy that we face is not all helpful. We probably spend 75% of our meeting time running the council and 25% trying to achieve something for the residents of the parishes. That has to change, it should be the other way around or in the end it will kill off community councils everywhere.

**County Council** Nearly everything falls on deaf ears including potholes, drains and twenty mile an hour speed signs. Progress will not be made unless we are recognised and there are major changes in what we can achieve as a council.

**On the plus side** The council now has a fantastic and informative website that is there to inform everyone in the community. We have a list of organisations in the community which we are able to support and we are taking care of and supporting several churchyards.

Notice boards are an issue that needs to be resolved but the new notice board at The Onen is a good example of progress made by the council. Thanks go to the staff at the Hogs Head for the use of the meeting room and the council looks forward to being invoiced for its use.”

- 4. To approve the Financial statements and the Annual Return for the 2023/24 financial year.**

#### **Year End Balance Sheet**

Members were asked to consider the Year-End Balance Sheet 2023/24.

#### **Bank Reconciliation / Bank statement**

Members were asked to consider the Bank Reconciliation / Bank Statement dated 31/03/24

#### **Budget Control Report**

Members were asked to consider the Budget Control Report dated 31/03/24. The clerk confirmed and explained the overspend which was a result of additional funding received from dissolved community councils. Some of this funding has been used to support community groups.

#### **Year End Fixed Assets – 2023/24.**

Members were asked to consider the Year-End Fixed Assets 2023/24.

#### **Year End s.137 Payments – 2023/24.**

Members were asked to consider the Year-End s.137 Payments 2023/24.

**Resolution :** Approval of the accounts for 2023/24 was proposed by Cllr. J. Biggs and seconded by Cllr. D. Edwards. The accounts were signed and dated by the Chair.

#### **Annual Return 2023/24**

Members were asked to consider the annual return. The clerk had prepared accounting and governance information which was discussed by members. The clerk will now submit the return and the accounts to internal audit. The return will be signed off by the council once the audit report is complete.

- 5. To confirm bank signatories.**

**Resolution :** Approval of Cllr. J. Biggs, Cllr. C. Lewis and Cllr. L. Hughes as signatories was proposed by Cllr. C. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. D. Edwards

- 6. To confirm Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and other policies**

It was noted that the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and policies were reviewed by the Clerk prior to this meeting.

**Resolution :** To confirm the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and policies was proposed by Cllr. C. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. D. Edwards

- 7. To confirm completion of the annual Risk Assessment.**

The Clerk familiarised members with the contents of the 2024 Risk Register.

- 8. To appoint officers.**

The clerk was appointed as the Responsible Financial Officer and the Burial Officer for Llanfihangel-ystern-llewern churchyard.

Cllr. L. Hughes was appointed as the council representative on the James Powell's Educational Foundation and Cross Ash School governing body.

Cllr. J. Biggs and Cllr. C. Lewis were appointed as representatives on the Community Green Energy Advisory Group.

- 9. Any other business.**

None

Meeting closed at 8pm