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Helen Roberts
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LL16 4DY

21/03/2018

Dear Colleague,

The next meeting of the Conwy/Denbigh Area Committee **will be held at the Eirianfa Community Centre, Factory Place, Denbigh LL16 3TS on Wednesday the 11th of April 2018 to start at 7 o' clock.** I would be grateful if you could let me know if you are not able to attend. A translation service will be provided.

PC David Allen, from the North Wales Police Rural Crime Team will be in attendance to give a presentation on the team's work.

I would be grateful if the Clerk could make sure that this information is conveyed to your Council's representative on the Area Committee as soon as possible. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Luned Evans
Development Officer

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AGENDA – ORDINARY MEETING

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Apologies
3. Presentation David Allen, North Wales Police.
4. Opportunity to ask the guest speaker questions.
5. Declarations of Interest
6. To approve the minutes of meeting held on the 24th of January 2018 and matters arising (attached)

Llais Cyngorau Cymuned a Thref yng Nghymru - The Voice of Community and Town Councils in Wales

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7. Reports from National Executive Committee representatives
8. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board - Report from the latest Stakeholder Reference Group meeting (attached)
9. Community and Town Council Sector Review – update and discussion.
10. Independent Remuneration Panel Wales' Report – discussion about the proposed changes and their impact.
11. General Data Protection Regulation – update and discussion.
12. One Voice Wales training courses – What's on in the next few months?
13. Learning from others – An opportunity for councils to share their experiences
14. Frequently Asked Questions – One Voice Wales answers
15. Correspondence
16. Any other business (at the Chair's discretion).
17. Guest speakers for future meetings.
18. Confirm date and venue for the next meeting.

ONE VOICE WALES

Conwy and Denbigh Area Committee meeting held on the 24th of January 2018 at Canolfan Bro Aled, Llansannan

Chair: Councillor Philip Williams, Llanrhaeadr yng Nghinmeirch Community Council

Present:

D.G Edwards (Aberwheeler); Heather Burton (Aberwheeler); Helen Williams (Clerk) (Aberwheeler); Tanya Bowyer (Bodfari); Ifor Thomas (Bro Garmon); Alun Hughes (Bro Garmon); Paul Anyon (Brynegwyls); Tony Sutherland (Corwen); Gordon Hughes (Corwen); John Emlyn Jones (Eglwys Bach); John Lloyd Williams (Eglwys Bach); Duncan Stewart (Henllan); Gwyneth A Dillon (Clerk) (Llandegla and Llanferres); Bob Barton (Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, Llandegla, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, Llanferres); R. Emlyn Williams (Llangernyw); Gwyneth Griffiths (Llanefydd); Myfanwy Baines (Penmaenmawr)

Apologies:

Irwedd Griffiths (Betws yn Rhos); Cheow-Lay Wee (Cyffylliog) Rod Elms (Llanarmon yn Ial); Jayne Neal (Clerk) (Llanfairfechan); Diane Roberts (Llangernyw); Alun Jones (Llanrwst); Rosslyn Morgan (Llanrwst); Mike Kermode (Rhuddlan)

1. Chair's Welcome

Berwyn Evans was thanked on behalf of Canolfan Bro Aled for the use of their facilities and for the refreshments.

2. Apologies

See above.

3. Presentation by Rob Taylor from North Wales Police.

The Chair reported that Rob Taylor had apologised for having to cancel at the last minute. The Development Officer will try to re-arrange for him to attend at some point in the future.

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th of October 2017 and matters arising

The minutes were approved subject to the changes mentioned being made to the list of those present and apologies for the meeting.

Item 3: The Development Officer reported that a copy of Carol Williams' presentation had been sent to members on the morning of the meeting.

Item 16: Cllr Bob Barton reported on the latest news regarding the transfer of responsibility for the regional twinning scheme.

6. Report by representative on National Executive Committee

Cllr Philip Williams and the Development Officer reported on the last meeting giving a summary of some of the main matters of interest to the members as follows:

One Voice Wales Staffing – Dr Del Morgan, who was the One Voice Wales Mid Wales Development Officer has resigned due to increasing pressure from his role as a county councillor having portfolio responsibility. The post has been advertised, and 3 people applied, but 2 retracted their applications before interview and the 3rd did not fulfil the criteria of the post in terms of experience.

Training: One Voice Wales training courses have proven very popular this financial year following the elections.

One Voice Wales News Bulletin: There has been a change of format to the bulletin following feedback from a few members that it was difficult to read with the Welsh and English articles being intermittent. The Welsh and English are now in separate columns side by side.

New Welsh Language Scheme template: This document has been published by the Welsh Language Commissioner. It will be sent out through the News Bulletin. It has been prepared for the use of councils who wish to start to implement a scheme for the first time or those who wish to review and amend their current Welsh language schemes.

7. Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board – Latest report from the Stakeholder Reference Group.

The Development Officer highlighted the fact that copies of the latest report had been sent to members with the papers for the meeting.

8. Community and Town Council Sector Review – update on process and discussion

The Development Officer reminded members that the Review is still ongoing, and that One Voice Wales held consultation events before Christmas. The purpose of those consultation events was to listen to the opinions and ideas of as many member council representatives as possible on the 4 questions which are the basis of the Panel's Review, in order to be able to create a composite response to present to them. The 4 questions are as follows:

1. What should Community and Town Councils be responsible for ?
2. How should they operate?
3. What's standing in their way to deliver for the local community?
4. How do councils ensure they best represent their local community?

The draft response will be sent to all member councils towards the end of January / beginning of February in order to give them time to consider it and use it to compose their own responses if they wish. We hope to send the final draft to the Panel by the end of March / beginning of April.

9. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report – discussion on implications of proposed changes.

The Development Officer reminded members that the Draft Annual Report for 2018/19 includes significant changes in relation to community and town councillor allowances. The draft report introduces a duty on councils to offer all members an allowance of £150, and of £500 to at least 1 and at most 5 other members in larger councils with more responsibilities e.g. Chairs of committees.

This is changing from being optional for councils to offer the allowances to being mandatory, and therefore it is the individual councillor's prerogative to refuse the allowance if they so wish.

She reported that strong responses had been made to these determinations. Some being very supportive and some being strongly opposed to the changes. What One Voice Wales is doing is communicating with the Independent Remuneration Panel to ensure that the determinations are clear so that guidance can be provided to councils on the administration of the payment of allowances e.g. on matters relating to the taxation of the allowances, how best to implement the process of paying the allowances, including what time of year should the payment be made, and other matters which arise from the change e.g. what happens if the Councillor resigns?

Councillor Bob Barton expressed that One Voice Wales should have done more to bring this change and its implications to the attention of councils, as many were not clear on the need to act on the determinations within the budget for 2018/19, as the draft report would not be approved until February 2018. This is far later than the deadlines by which councils' budgets need to be handed to the Unitary Authorities.

Councillor Duncan Stewart explained that he felt that the allowances to councillors were not sustainable, and that he and others had serious concerns about this. He felt that it appears that Community and Town Councils had no part in this decision.

In response to the Councillors' comments, the Development Officer explained that the Draft Report had been open to consultation for the first months after its publication, and that this was the usual protocol with the Annual Report. Information about the consultation on the Report was included in the message about the Report itself which was sent to Councils in October 2017. She reported that she would feedback to Paul Egan on the situation in terms of sharing information and how to move forward.

10. One Voice Wales training courses – What's on over the next few months?

The Development Officer reminded members that the latest program of training events had been sent with the papers for the meeting and included all dates scheduled for the North to date.

11. Learning from others – opportunity for councils to share their experiences

Councillor Tony Sutherland from Corwen Town Council reported on the work the council has been doing with NatWest Nan to try to overcome some of the problems which have arisen as a result of the closure of local bank branches. He shared information about the ways in which they have been able to gain some services for the community, and encouraged other councils to engage with the work in order to be able to widen the availability of some of the provisions in this rural area..

Cllr Sutherland was thanked for his contribution.

12. Frequently asked questions – One Voice Wales answers

General Data Protection Regulation

The Development Officer reported that the new regulation comes into effect in May 2018, and that information about the practical implications to councils is still coming to light. She reminded members that 5 documents had been sent recently to councils giving more guidance on the subject, but that One Voice Wales is still awaiting clarification on some aspects, including who is eligible to fulfil the role of Data Protection Officer. When One Voice Wales receives further information on this it will be forwarded immediately to member councils.

13. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

14. Any other business (at Chair's discretion)

No other business was raised.

15. Guest speaker for the next meeting.

It was agreed that the Development Officer would invite the following:

Representative from the North Wales Police Rural Crime Team, or North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.

17. Confirmation of date and venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 11th of April 2018. Venue in Denbigh to be confirmed – it is hoped that the meeting can be held in the Eirianfa Community Centre.