

## Minutes

### Cadwyn Clwyd Board of Directors

10:00am, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

Pwllglas Village Hall, Pwllglas, Ruthin LL15 2PB

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Mr A Jedwell (AJ), Dr Norman Jones (NJ), Cllr Rhys Hughes (RH), Cllr Huw Jones (HJ), Ms Janine Beggan (JB), Mr Gareth Evans (GE), Ms Lowri Owain (LO), Mr Adam Bishop (AB), Ms Catrin Jones (CJ), Ms Delyth Jones (DJ) and Ms Lowri Edwards (LE).

Apologies: David Darlington (DD), Mr John Les Tomos (JLT) and Ms Carolyn Brindle (CB)

Not Present: Cllr Hugh Jones (HJ (W))

#### 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and AJ went through matters arising.

DJ provided details to the Directors on the increase to business rates for the Llys Owain Building. After the building was purchased, Dafydd I Jones, Chartered Surveyor, advised that the building be split into two separate areas in terms of the rates. The banking area (bank and premises) – paid for by Cadwyn Adfywio and the first and second floor offices accessed via the side door – paid for by Cadwyn Clwyd. This April, the rateable value (RV) for the Cadwyn Clwyd area - first & second floor offices has increased from £10,750 to £11,750; however the rateable value (RV) for the Cadwyn Adfywio – banking area has increased significantly from £5,600 to £12,250, more than doubled. The rateable value of the banking area has increased dramatically due to increases in the cost per square metre charged. For example, the first 6.1 meters of the banking area (referred to as ‘retail zone A’) – the cost per square metre has increased from £60 to £140. For the next 6.1 metres (termed ‘retail zone B’) the cost per square metre has increased from £30 to £70. Whilst the cost per square metre for the first floor offices occupied by Cadwyn Clwyd has increased by a lesser amount from £50 to £55.

NJ asked how the rateable value linked to the actual amount of rates paid. DJ advised that a ‘multiplier’ is applied to the rateable value on the rates bills and this year, this is 0.499 which would mean that the rates bill for the year is circa half the rateable value figure. The multiplier changes annually. However, when rates increase in such a way a further ‘transitional relief’ is applied by the local authority. In the first year following a rates increase, there is transitional relief of 75% meaning that only 25% is paid. In the second year following the rates increase then a transitional relief of 50% is applied with 50% of the rates amount payable. The third year a 25% transitional rates relief applies with 75% rates payable and the full amount of rates payable (without any transitional relief) the fourth year after the rates increase.

DJ asked for the BOD’s approval for Dafydd Jones (Chartered Surveyor) to present a rates appeal to the Valuation Office on the basis that the cost of property in Corwen has not increased significantly over recent years. The BOD were happy for Dafydd Jones to present an appeal in the hope of receiving reduced rates bills.

LO mentioned that JLT has contacted Matt Wright regarding the Flintshire Representative Vacancy on the BOD but he is not available as he now lives in Cheshire. The Vacancy has now been advertised on our Social Media pages. LE gave an overview on the social media activity and

informed the BOD that Cadwyn Clwyd is in the process of having a new website. AJ asked all BOD members to like and follow Cadwyn Clwyd Social Media Pages. LO informed that Cadwyn Clwyd is looking to procure a theme 4 officer Renewable Energy Co-ordinator on a self-employed basis as Silas Jones is now working on the Smarter Energy project 90% of his time.

AJ informed he has drafted a letter to the Chair of Denbighshire LAG requesting reduction of number of Councillors on the LAG but has not received a response yet.

**ACTION: BOD members to Like and Follow Cadwyn Clwyd Social Media Pages**

**ACTION: To advertise Theme 4 Officer on self-employed basis**

### 3. Rural Development Programme Update

LO gave an update on the RDP schemes and an up to date version of the scheme EOI window detail sheet was circulated. BOD members were requested to refer any groups to Cadwyn Clwyd for guidance on submitting an EOI for the RCDF scheme.

LO informed the BOD that WG has organised an EU Transition Workshop Event, which will take place at the Royal Welsh Showground on 24<sup>th</sup> May. The purpose of this engagement event is to allow the opportunity for stakeholders to shape the future direction of potential future rural programmes that improve competitiveness and sustainable management of natural resources. There are limited spaces available, so we cannot promise places, but LO is booked on it and it would be good to send representatives from each of the LAGs. So far only RH has showed an interest.

LO explained that a cross-party committee, named Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs, has just published a report titled 'The Future of Land Management in Wales'. This report looks at the post Brexit situation for land management and rural development in Wales. LO agreed to circulate a link to the

A list of RCDF the most recent project submissions were circulated. The following issues were raised:

- Wenffrwd Pocket Park – RH raised concerns that the project should address adequate car parking for visitors to the park.
- Denbigh Museum - NJ asked if the Denbigh Museum application could be circulated to members of the Corwen Museum.
- Llys Owain - LO informed the BOD that Cadwyn Adfywio has submitted an RCDF EOI for the refurbishment of the banking hall in the last EOI round and we are currently awaiting the outcome of the EOI.

**ACTION: ACTION - The Future of Land Management in Wales report to be circulated to BOD members**

**ACTION: To make a request to the Denbigh Museum Group to ascertain whether they would be willing to share their RCDF EOI with the Corwen Museum Group.**

### 4. LAG Update, Quarterly Reports and Outputs

#### LAG Update

AB gave an overview of the projects approved in the last LAG

Quarterly Reports and Outputs

The quarterly reports and outputs table were accepted. The BOD was informed that the Red Telephone Regeneration project has been well received and some boxes are almost completed. Pictures of completed boxes will be uploaded to our Social Media pages.

Smarter Energy

BOD requested for Silas Jones to provide an overview of Smarter Energy project and upcoming projects.

Collaborative Sustainable Natural Flood Risk Management on the River Clwyd

LO provided an overview of the project. Cadwyn Clwyd was due to know if the project has been approved by the end of April but have not heard anything yet.

- **ACTION: Donna to contact RH to give an update on the Good Grub Club.**
- **ACTION: Silas to provide an overview of Smarter Energy and upcoming projects.**

5. Financial Reports

DJ gave an overview of the financial report. DJ mentioned that the P&L circulated to the BOD was a year to date showing a loss of £919.64, however, DJ verbally advised the BOD the quarterly figures as follows - Quarter 1 (1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016) a loss of £246.11, Quarter 2 (1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016) a profit of £135.89, Quarter 3 (1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016) a loss of £999.57 and Quarter 4 (1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017) a profit of £190.64. There are no problems anticipated with the cash flow at present. Finance officers are currently working on claims preparation for the WG. These will be the first claims submitted for this current programme. The WG payments shown are anticipated figures if WG pay each claim a submitted, with the advance funding reclaimed at the end of the programme.

6. AOB

The BOD requested for AB to re-send the Oldbell3 Brainstorming Session Notes.

JB mentioned that Cllr Neil Rogers will be stepping down after this week's election and would no longer serve on the Wrexham LAG. The Elections on May 4<sup>th</sup> may also affect the Wrexham CBC representative on the BOD (Cllr Hugh Jones). Cadwyn Clwyd would like to continue with two WCBC representatives on the LAG and one WCBC representative on the Cadwyn BOD. Portfolio holders for complementary fields of work to Cadwyn's undertakings (e.g. Tourism, Economic Development etc.) might be best. Previously, Cadwyn Clwyd was required to write to WCBC with a request. If this is the case again, the sooner Cadwyn can be informed the sooner the process can be put in motion.

BOD was informed that Corwen and Dee Valley Archaeology Society will be digging in the back yard of the Llys Owain building for one day. They will also be digging in other locations around Corwen. The Chair stated that Cadwyn Clwyd had been given assurance that the yard would be put back in its original state immediately after the digging which is scheduled to take place on the bank holiday weekend of 27th May.

**ACTION: AB to resend Huw Bryer notes from the brainstorming sessions**

**ACTION: JB to clarify the process for nominating WCBC Cllrs to serve on the LAG and Cadwyn BOD**

7. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July -10am, Flintshire