

**Rossett Community Council**

**Meeting on Wednesday 17th February 2021**

**MINUTES**

**Declarations of Interest**

**Members were reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of any personal and or prejudicial interest in the business of this meeting**

**Present:**

**Councillors :** Cllr. A Parrington (Chair), Cllr H Maurice-Jones, Cllr H Jones, Cllr A Steven, Cllr M Gledhill, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr P Morris, Cllr J Fortune, Cllr M Woods, Cllr N Roberts, Cllr C Parker, Cllr L Rowland and Cllr L Todd.

Cllr Parrington welcomed Cllr Nathan Roberts to his first Community Council meeting.

**12. Apologies for absence:**  Cllr T Sexton.

**13. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were made by:

1. Cllr H Maurice-Jones, Cllr P Morris and Cllr A Parrington regarding issues with Hwb Yr Orsedd due to a conflict of interest.
2. Cllr P Roberts regarding any Planning issues due to a conflict of interest.

**14. Approval of the Minutes of 20th January 2021.**

**15. Police Report**

**December 11**

Anti-Social Behaviour 3

Violence & Sexual Offences 5

Burglary 1

Drugs 1

Other Theft 1

The Clerk reported that PCSO Davies had provided an update and reported no crimes or ASB incidents for January thus far. They are aware of youths in the local area being involved in the use of and supply of cannabis and enquiries are on-going. They asked that any information available within the community be forwarded to the local officers. Speeds checks have been carried out on Chester Road on a couple of occasions and those vehicles exceeding the 20mph limit will be issued with letters. Speed checks on the B5102 will be carried out over the forthcoming weeks at the request of Cllr Jones.

Cllr Parrington reported that there continue to be a number of large vehicles speeding through the village between the hours of 10pm and 2pm when the A483 is closed during the evening for maintenance works. The Clerk will again highlight this issue to PCSO Davies. **Action: Clerk to liaise with PCSO Davies.**

**16. Representation's from General Public**

The Clerk advised that a Burton resident had requested additional street lighting on Llyndir Lane towards her property on the old Golden Groves site. As it isn’t used as a regular footway in the evening and it is a low traffic area this would not normally meet the criteria for consideration and there would be a significant cost due to the lack of power supply in the area. The Clerk was therefore asked to correspond with the resident to advise that this could not currently be considered however, if she was able to highlight significant safety issues this could be re-considered. The Clerk did report that at a recent street lighting meeting there were discussions regarding solar powered street lights and whilst they provided the benefit of not requiring an electrical supply, they would only provide light until early evening (8 – 9pm). It was hoped that technology would evolve to make these more useful at which time they could be considered. **Action: Clerk to write to resident.**

A request had been received regarding the state of the road surface in Harwoods Lane and Trevalyn Way. Cllr Jones reported that he had received confirmation that they were both on the re-surfacing list but there was no timescale associated with this.

Cllr Maurice-Jones advised that she and been contacted regarding the bridge near Cooks Bridge Farm as the traffic using this bridge seems to have increased possibly as a result of the weight limit being highlighted on Holt Road. Cllr Jones had been informed of this issue and has raised it with the appropriate Department at WCBC for them to investigate.

**17. Matters Arising**

1. **Hwb Yr Orsedd –** Cllr Parrington requested this matter be discussed along with the planning applications later on in the agenda.
2. **Flooding –** Cllr Parrington reported that he had received direct correspondence from residents regarding flooding. One from Burton regarding the amount of debris on Rosemary Lane and how this was blocking a number of surface drains. The other regarding the lack of management of the River Alyn and how the planned development on Holt Road is likely to exacerbate this. The issues on Darland Lane/Gamford Lane had also been highlighted. Cllr Jones confirmed that he was due to meet with the Head of NRW very soon and the issue of the management of the river would be discussed. Cllr Jones also reported that WCBC have submitted an outline plan for Darland Lane/Gamford Lane to the Welsh Government for funding. He was aware that there had been a check regarding clearing of gullies and all within the local area had been cleared as at October 2020 however, it was accepted that the flooding brings debris which then blocks the gullies again. This was being reviewed. Cllr Maurice-Jones had also raised with Cllr Jones the issue of a ditch opposite Burton garage that was not connected and this was also being reviewed. Cllr Morris highlighted an issue on Cobblers Lane where the ditches were relatively dry but excessive water is flowing down the road. Cllr Jones confirmed there are a number of ditches that haven’t been maintained and there is a mixture of ditches and water courses and this leads to confusion regarding responsibility. This had been further exacerbated in Greeenfields where household/green waste had been dumped in some ditches. Cllr Jones would be continuing to work with NRW/WCBC to address these issues. Cllr Parrington confirmed that during last month’s flooding a question had been raised about the possibility of the Community Council holding a stock of sandbags. Whilst these are usually supplied by WCBC it was accepted that they had been unable to meet all of the demand to the sudden need. Cllr Steven had looked into this matter and liaised with Cllr Parker as the Senior Flood Warden. Cllr Steven proposed that a small stock of sandbags be purchased and retained locally to supplement anybody with an emergency need to protect their property. The Clerk confirmed that the bags should cost no more than £2 each and it was agreed to purchased two pallets (140 bags in total). **Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Steven regarding purchase of sandbags.**
3. **Youth Representative –** The Clerk had circulated details of the scheme used by Penyfford Community Council. It was agreed that this appeared to be a useful scheme and is something that should be progressed. Following a debate, it was agreed that two vacancies should be advertised in Essentials, Facebook, notice boards and via Darland School. Cllr Gledhill agreed to be the contact for this scheme. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Gledhill and prepare advertisement.**

**18. Matters Discussed**

1. Ground Maintenance Contract – The Clerk confirmed that the ground maintenance contract had been running for two years. The original contract had given the option for the contract to be extended by an additional twelve months. The current contractor was providing a good level of service so it was proposed that the contract be extended for twelve months at which time it should be tendered. **Action: Clerk to extend ground maintenance contract.**
2. Straight Mile Footpath – Cllr Parrington reported that the footpath along the Straight Mile was very silted and this caused it to be slippery. The Clerk advised that she would report this issue using the WCBC on-line reporting system. **Action: Clerk to report footpath on WCBC on-line system.**
3. Memorial Garden Donation – The Clerk had previously circulated a request for a donation towards a sculpture of a Royal Welsh Fusilier with the regimental goat in a memorial garden at the Hightown Barracks. Following a debate, Cllr Todd confirmed that Rossett Army Cadets regularly use the barracks and receive a lot of support from them so there is a direct link to the village. Cllr Woods proposed a donation of £200 and this was unanimously accepted. **Action: Clerk to notify Offa Community Council of their donation.**

**19. Reports**

County Councillor Jones’ Report

Cllr Jones confirmed that the scheme to address the traffic flow around the Green was being revisited and it was likely to be advertised around May.

Cllr Jones had received correspondence regarding grants available for works to War Memorials and the Clerk confirmed she had also received the information and intended to forward it to the Church representatives. **Action: Clerk to forward grant information to Church Warden.**

Cllr Jones highlighted the positive comments recently received in relation to the Scarecrow Festival and thanks were extended to Cllr Parrington, Cllr Rowland, Cllr Maurice-Jones and the Clerk for their involvement in producing this event.

Cllr Jones reported that WCBC had provided a response regarding the Flood Plan and queried if these had been considered. Cllr Parker advised that a Flood meeting was required when these issues would be considered and it was hoped that a meeting would be held within the next couple of weeks. **Action: Cllr Parker to arrange a Flood meeting.**

Clerk's Report

The Clerk had previously distributed her report for Councillor's information.

Cllr Rowland reported there had been 54 entries for the Scarecrow Festival which was proving very popular. Whilst it wasn’t the traditional time of year for this event it had been planned to cover the half-term holiday. A number of ‘finalists’ would be advertised by 26th February for public vote with the winner being announced on 1st March. This would now be considered as an annual event.

Cllr Parrington highlighted the success of the ‘Events group’ which over the last few months had arranged the bulb planting, decorate your own bauble, Christmas Tree switch on video, advent boards, Santa visits and Scarecrow Festival.

**20. Finance**

Cllr Woods summarised the finance documents for January and these were accepted.

Invoices were approved, as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee**  Hewlett Packard  Zoom  Scottish Power  Scottish Power  MEGA Electrical | **Purpose**  Instant Ink  Monthly charge  Street Lighting Electricity  Toilet Block Electricity  Street Lighting Maintenance Oct - Jan | **Sum £**  3.49  14.39  184.94  121.41  164.03 | **Chq. No.**  Debit Card  Debit Card  Debit Card  On-line  On-line |
| Mr C Hughes | Street warden’s salary and disbursements | 644.47 | On-line |
| Mr R Jenkins | Park Warden salary and Disbursements | 226.26 | On-line |
| Miss W Pace  Ali Pickard  HMRC | Clerk's salary and disbursements  Community Agent's salary and disbursements  Employers Tax | 975.58  682.42  167.33 | On-line  On-line  On-line |

Street Warden’s Disbursements Clerk’s Disbursements

Petrol £58.05 Diagnose laptop issue £97.00

Total **£58.05** Vinyl Banner £27.43

Refund for laptop battery -£47.99

Community Agent Disbursements Total **£76.44**

Petrol £40.95

**Total £40.95**

The Clerk confirmed that correspondence had been received from JDH Business Services regarding the annual internal audit. It was proposed that JDH be appointed as the internal auditors for the financial year 2020/21 and this was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk reported that a review meeting had been held for the Street Lighting Maintenance Contract consortium. The proposal was for an annual increase with effect from 1st April 2021 to costs of 1.77% in line with the RPI along with acceptance of a call-out fee of £60 for issues where MEGA Electrical have to pass the job to Scottish Power. Otherwise, they receive no financial recompense for the call-out. Cllr Morris confirmed that he felt these charges were appropriate and proposed that they be accepted. This was unanimously agreed**. Action: Clerk to confirm acceptance of revised costs.**

**21. Planning Applications**

P/2021/0005 – Coxwood Farm, Cox Lane, Rossett – Construction of Agricultural Workers Dwelling and Garage - No objections.

Cllr Parrington reported that the owner was creating a public access repurposed viewing room to allow public viewing of the owls at feeders. This would be FOC with the option of donations towards feeding costs.

P/2021/0037 – Rossett Park, The Green, Rossett – Demolition of Disused Toilet Block and Construction of New Community Hub with Internal Works.

P/2021/0038 – Rossett Park, The Green, Rossett – Conservation Area Consent for Demolition of Disused Toilet Block.

Cllr Jones reported that he had received several reports of opposition to the planning application relating to Rossett Park. There had also been a request for a public meeting and suspension of the project until this could be held.

Cllr Jones then left the meeting.

Cllr Maurice-Jones confirmed that it had been the desire of the project to hold public meetings however, the restrictions from March of last year had not allowed for these to take place. It was agreed that as the applicant for applications 0037/0038 it was not appropriate for the Community Council to forward any comments. All those individuals forwarding comments of support or opposition should be directed to the WCBC planning application facility to submit their views directly.

Cllr Parrington reported that the Clerk had, at the request of Cllr Jones, forwarded an email to all Councillors from Mr and Mrs Hughes which raised queries relating to land ownership, car park access, loss of green space, lease, conflict of interest regarding legal ownership and communication of planning application. Cllr Parrington had spoken with them directly to offer to discuss the queries however; they had been unwilling to discuss the issues with him.

Cllr Morris confirmed that a detailed response to the queries raised on Facebook was being produced by the Hwb Board and it was hoped this would be circulated in the next day or so.

**Hwb Yr Orsedd –** The Clerk reported that at the last meeting it had been confirmed that correspondence was on-going with Allington Hughes with regards to the lease and the Community Council had requested that there was a clause stating that the Board could not sublet. The planning application had been submitted and consideration was now being given to options to provide a 3D model or IT view to provide a more realistic view which could be shared with the community. Funding communication was on-going and a positive meeting had taken place with the National Lottery. The application to Cadwyn Clwyd for financial assistance had been successful. The Board continued to review the most appropriate means to communicate progress of the project.

Cllr Roberts queried the £32k retained in earmarked reserves and how this would be used. The Clerk confirmed that it was originally put aside for match funding however, it appears the two funding streams currently under consideration do not have a match funding requirement. Cllr Parrington confirmed that the play area will need substantial investment in replacement equipment so the funds may be utilised for that.

Cllr Roberts then left the meeting.

**22. Other Items brought to the Council’s Attention**

1. Cllr Gledhill highlighted the WCBC service on-line to report fly tipping which had recently achieved quick results.
2. Cllr Gledhill thanked Peter, a local Alyn Drive resident who had spent quite some time clearing the alley way between Alyn Drive and the Co-op.

**Date of the next meeting Wednesday 17th March 2021.**

**Signed as a true record:**

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**Chairman Date**