

**Rossett Community Council**

**Meeting on Wednesday 16th June 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 L Todd, Cllr T Sexton, Cllr J Fortune, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr M Gledhill, Cllr H Jones, Cllr A Steven, Cllr N Roberts, Cllr M Woods, Cllr C Parker and Cllr L Rowland.

**Other:** Sian Hatton-Jones and Stephen Hatton.

**12. Apologies for absence:**  Cllr P Morris.

**13. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were made by:

1. Cllr H Maurice-Jones 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 19th May 2021.**

**15. Crime Report**

**April 6**

Violence & Sexual Offences 4

Public Order 1

Vehicle Crime 1

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

Mrs Hatton-Jones had previously requested to address the meeting. She stated that regarding the redevelopment of the toilet block, in the survey of 2018, the top request was for a café at 79% of respondents, while 17% requested a car park, there was a 10% response rate of about 285 people over 16’s only, 57% within half a mile of the proposed site. The playground toilets were then opened in the summer of 2019 with plans to continue opening them in subsequent years. The village now has a café coincidentally very close to the playground. Since the consultation we have been in a pandemic for about half the time that has passed, and green spaces are valued more than ever before. Given these highly significant changes, and the continuing presence of the Village Hall, the principles of the Hwb development seem to be based on what feels like outdated information and opinions. The planning application occupied 10% of the total area of the playground, 5% for the Hwb building and 5% for the car park. It was her understanding that a car park might not be necessary at all, with the backing of Highways, as parking is already quite strictly controlled. Mrs Hatton-Jones queried, as there are only 7 months to submit a ‘free-go’ planning application, how does RCC intend to consult the community it serves regarding post-pandemic ‘needs and wants’ for the playground, including those who use the playground on a very regular basis before and after the school day. The Clerk reported that Hwb Yr Orsedd were not intending to repeat the survey but hoped to hold a public meeting as soon as Covid restrictions allowed. It was being considered if it would be safest to hold this within the park. This meeting would allow for the Board to provide an update, reiterate their aims for the project and current plans along with listening and responding to concerns raised. Cllr Maurice-Jones reported that the aim of the project had developed and the emphasis was on a community hub not a café and the recent social media exchanges had reaffirmed local support for the project. The Clerk confirmed that the Board were also very concerned about the request from Planning/Highways in relation to car parking and along with the support of Cllr Jones, they hoped the current requirement could be challenged. It was discussed that the current toilet block is a ‘blot on the landscape’ and unsustainable and the pandemic has only heightened the requirement for a safe facility where people can meet and undertake activities. Whilst emphasis had been put on this for the elderly it was just as important that this project offered facilities for youth and other groups eg. new parents.

Cllr Parrington advised that he had received several positive comments regarding the maintenance work being carried out at the junction of Station Road/Chester Road and some had queried if the railings at Christchurch could be repainted. Offers of assistance had been forthcoming so Cllr Parrington asked Mrs Hatton-Jones to relay this to the Church and make contact should they be happy to progress.

Cllr Parrington reported that he had been asked if the Golden Lion would publicise the ‘Yay to One Way’ scheme, but he had advised that it would not be possible on retail premises. He had confirmed that he did not think the language used within the promotion was acceptable but it appeared that there was on-going support for the project.

Cllr Parrington confirmed that a number of Wally’s friends were contributing to fund a memorial bench and it had been agreed this could be sited within the grounds of Christchurch.

Cllr Maurice-Jones advised that she had been contacted by several people requesting bins in both the areas of Burton Green and Lavister. These were predominantly for dog walkers to use but it was accepted that general bins were now used rather than specific ‘poo’ bins. Cllr Jones confirmed that there have been several requests over the last few years however, consideration also needs to be given that within the countryside we do not want the area cluttered with bins. There was an issue of decreasing funds for WCBC services and it was unlikely any additional bins could be serviced and he felt that dog walkers should take any waste home to dispose of.

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Rossett Focus Group who had recently written to both WCBC Housing and Highways Department regarding the Holt Road development. Copy letters had been forwarded and they were requesting the Community Council’s support by also writing to report their concerns. Following a debate, which Cllr P Roberts abstained from, it was agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter to the Highways Department regarding safety concerns with the footpaths and Cllr Jones will agree the letter before it is sent. **Action: Clerk to draft letter for WCBC Highways Department.**

**17. Matters Arising**

1. **Hwb Yr Orsedd –** The Clerk confirmed that a couple of meetings had been held and some revised ideas regarding design had been forwarded to the Planning Officer for her consideration. A basic website has now been created to enable more information to be made available. The Board had considered the suggestions from the last RCC meeting and were keen to hold a public meeting as soon as was allowable. If as a result of that meeting it was deemed constructive for a local representative to be nominated, this would be considered. It was also confirmed that should local residents want to write to Hwb Yr Orsedd these should be address to the Chair, Mr Chris Guest c/o the Community Councils PO Box address or alternatively any correspondence could be left at the Outreach Post Office for forwarding.

**18. Matters to be discussed**

1. Mobile Signal **–** Cllr N Roberts reported that he hears of constant grumbles regarding the network signal available around Rossett and feels this issue is unacceptable and should be highlighted as it must cause a significant problem for local businesses. Cllr Jones reported that this has been on the radar for 7/8 years and there have been promises that it would be resolved in fact the Welsh Government map shows that throughout the area there are 5 bars available, but this is not the case in reality. Cllr Jones suggested writing to WCBC Head of Assets and Economic Development and the MS and it was agreed that The Clerk should work with Cllr N Roberts to draft a letter to be sent. **Action: Clerk to draft letter with Cllr N Roberts to go to WCBC and MS.**
2. Memorials – The Clerk reported that following the offer from a local resident to fund some cherry trees for the villages, the WCBC tree officer had confirmed that it would not be appropriate to place these along Chester Road due to the overhead cables and lack of depth in the verges which would cause root growth to be impactive on footpaths/road. Two alternative sites had been considered along Harwoods Road, one at the junction with Alyn Drive and the other at the junction of Trevalyn Way. As this area would be used as a memorial area for those people recently lost and there was already a bench in situ at Trevalyn Way, this was the preferred site. Mrs Antrobus was also going to make contact with the brewery who owned The Griffin to see if it would be feasible to locate some on their land. Cllr Maurice-Jones also felt that Mountain View could be another feasible location which it was agreed should be explored. **Action: Clerk/Cllr Maurice-Jones to progress.**

**19. Reports**

County Councillor Jones’ Report

Cllr Jones reported that he had received communications from several residents expressing concern regarding the relocation of North West Autograss to a local farm. There is little that can be done by WCBC Officers at this stage however, they will monitor the situation for noise levels and animal welfare issues.

The bid to the Welsh Government for funding for a scheme to address the flooding issues at Darford/Gamford Lane had been approved. Communications had started with land owners and it was hoped that work would commence this Summer to be completed by the Winter. The current planning application for the development on Holt Road is causing concern as it does show that drainage would be needed towards Darland/Gamford Lane and it is worrying that this could potentially exasperate the problem again.

Cllr Jones confirmed that the traffic scheme for The Green is currently with the Legal Department at WCBC awaiting approval for it to be advertised. It is hoped that it will be out to consultation very soon.

Cllr Jones had been made aware of some misinformation regarding the fencing installed near the bungalows at The Orchard. He confirmed the cost of the works was less than £20,000 and this had been funded by Housing Revenue and not the General Rate Fund.

Clerk's Report

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

The minutes of the recent Parks Meeting had been circulated and were accepted. Cllr Rowlands confirmed that the annual Play Inspection Report had been received and she would be reviewing it with the Clerk however, there were only 2 moderate risks identified. One of these, the wooden play structure at Mountain View, was now awaiting repair following the receipt of two quotations. Cllr Rowlands also recorded her thanks to the co-ordinators of the wild flower planting at Greenfields who had engaged with a number of local residents and encouraged a number of volunteers to help with the project. Cllr Woods also mentioned that a quotation had been requested to replace the bark area at Greenfields with turf and this would be considered when costings were available.

Cllr Parker confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with WCBC for 21 July to discuss problems after the flooding.

**20. Finance**

Cllr Woods summarised the finance documents for May and these were accepted. He reported that the Finance Committee had recently met and the minutes had been circulated, the following issues had been reviewed;

The Three Year Plan had been reviewed and updated and distributed to all Councillor to consider adoption. It had been identified that within the new Local Government Act regulations there was a requirement to enable remote attendance at meetings when they returned to face to face. To enable this to happen some additional IT would be required and this was being researched by Cllr Sexton who would make a recommendation. This included a laptop which would be used daily by the Clerk as she currently used her own desktop computer, but would also be used at meetings.: The Financial Risk Assessment had been reviewed and amended and distributed to all Councillors to consider adoption.

The Risk Assessment had been reviewed and after a minor amendment distributed to all Councillor to consider adoption.

The Risk Assessments for all staff had previously been produced and distributed and a recommendation that they be reviewed by an ‘expert’ to confirm they were acceptable. This advice had not been available due to lockdowns etc so it was recommended that the Risk Assessments be adopted so there was something in place and the request for advice would be sort again and amendments made if that was the recommendation.

External Audit – the annual return had been prepared and annual governance statements distributed to all Councillors to consider for completion. These were agreed and the return signed by the Chair.

All issues proposed for adoption were accepted.

Invoices were approved, as follows:

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| **Payee**Hewlett PackardZoomInformation Commissioners OffScrewfixThe RangeViking DirectScottish PowerHafren DyfrdwyThe Head GardenerWCBCAVOWJDH Business ServicesRossett Village HallH Maurice-Jones | **Purpose**Instant InkMonthly chargeAnnual Data Protection RenewalPaint & AccessoriesPainting AccessoriesSuspension FilesStreet Lighting ElectricityToilet Block Water ChargesGround MaintenanceHalf Yearly Inspection & Maint of Play AreasQuarterly Payroll ChargesInternal Audit 2020/21Room RentalSummer Planting | **Sum £**5.4914.3935.0021.9844.2121.47148.4487.35817.80498.6093.00491.4012.75325.44 | **Chq. No.**Debit CardDebit CardDirect DebitDebit CardDebit CardDebit CardOn-lineOn-lineOn-lineOn-lineOn-lineOn-lineOn-lineOn-line |
| Mr C Hughes | Street warden’s salary and disbursements | 822.95 | On-line |
| Mr R Jenkins | Park Warden salary and Disbursements | 506.28 | On-line |
| Miss W PaceAli PickardHMRC | Clerk's salary and disbursementsCommunity Agent's salary and disbursementsEmployers Tax | 991.74746.09260.60 | On-lineOn-lineOn-line |

Street Warden’s Disbursements Clerk’s Disbursements

Petrol £57.15 Sympathy Cards £3.36

Fuel £5.00Paper £3.49

Flap Disks £24.36 Paint/Filler/White Spirit £54.95

 **£86.51 £61.80**

Community Agent Disbursements

Petrol £56.25

Total **£56.25**

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

1. Cllr Fortune enquired who would be preparing the information for the digital Village Festival, she felt it was a good opportunity for the Community Council to highlight their activities. Cllr Parrington requested that the Festival Committee link in with him regarding the Community Council input. **Action: Cllr Fortune to relay details to Village Festival Committee.**

Cllr P Roberts then left the meeting.

1. Cllr Todd referred to the traffic at Darland High School drop off times. The problem seems to have been made much worse as the School will no longer allow traffic access to school premises to drop off so there are vehicles parking on Chester Road and a number of neighbouring streets. It was not understood why a one way system through school grounds wasn’t available for parents dropping off pupils. Cllr Jones did confirm that there are problems with this issue at nearly every High School within the Borough. The issue had been referred to North Wales Police but legally there wasn’t anything to stop cars parking on Chester Road. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Head Teacher regarding the issues and if possible arrange a meeting. **Action: Clerk to Write to Mrs Lee.**
2. Cllr Woods reported issues with the speed of traffic near the bends at The Griffin. Cllr Jones confirmed that this is being considered by the Highways Department but there are resourcing issues.
3. Cllr Gledhill reported a problem with the very narrow footpath opposite the Park going towards The Co-op. This seems to have been made worse as a home owner has a holly hedge along part of the footpath. It was reported that this area causes a major safety concern for pedestrians. It was agreed that Cllr Gledhill would forward details to Cllr Jones who would request that this be reviewed by WCBC. **Action: Cllr Gledhill to forward details to Cllr Jones.**
4. Cllr Parrington reported that he had been asked if local residents near Greenfields could hold a ‘Party in the Park’ type event to invite all local residents as an opportunity for neighbours to meet. This would be organised by the local residents. This was agreed and an offer of support would be made.

**22. Planning Applications**

P/2021/0308 – Coxwood Fram Cottage, Cox Lane, Rossett – Extension of Farmhouse to Provide Additional Living Space and Bathroom Storage (In Retrospect) - No objections.

P/2021/0309 – Coxwood Fram Cottage, Cox Lane, Rossett – Erection of Holiday Accommodation (In Retrospect) - No objections.

P/2021/0538 – 21 Pippin Lane, Rossett – Single Storey Rear Extension – No objections.

P/2021/0487 – Land North of The Elms, Darland Lane, Rossett – Outline Application for 3 Dwellings (All Matters Reserved) – This application had been received very close to the meeting so it was felt additional time was required to view the application properly. Therefore, all Councillors should review and submit comments within the week to enable the Clerk to circulate a response for vote. **Action: All Councillors to submit comments.**

**Date of the next meeting Wednesday 21st July 2021.**

**Signed as a true record:**

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**Chairman Date**