

**Rossett Community Council**

**Meeting on Wednesday 16th February 2022**

**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 T Sexton, Cllr J Fortune, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr N Roberts, Cllr L Todd, Cllr M Woods, Cllr C Parker, Cllr M Gledhill, Cllr L Rowland, Cllr A Steven and James Steven.

**Other:** A number of members of public.

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

**101. 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 L Rowland regarding planning application P/2022/0085 due to personal association.
3. Cllr Fortune, Jones and P Roberts in relation to the funding bid for the Village Hall due to a conflict of interest.

**102. Approval of the Minutes of 19th January 2022**.

**103. Crime Report**

**December 14**

Violence & Sexual Offences 9

Criminal Damage & Arson 1

Public Order 1

Other Theft 1

Shoplifting 1

Other Crime 1

PSCO Davies had submitted a report advising that there have been reports of youths causing a nuisance in the Village and Darland Woods which has now resulted in officers taking proactive action. Speed monitoring had been carried out in Trevalyn with Cllr Jones and a number of people were issued with warning letters.

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

Cllr Parrington had been contacted by Mr Rowlands wishing to speak at the meeting in relation to the planning application for the old Spar on Station Road however, they had not attended the meeting. Cllr Jones reported that he liaised with the Planning Officer who had advised that the decision regarding this application had been deferred until October.

Mr Filce reported that a public meeting would be held on 17th February at 7.45pm following the approval of planning for Holt Road. The Focus Group had been fighting this application for 4/5 years and were now asking all to attend the meeting to move this forward and see what assistance is required.

**105. Matters Arising**

1. **Hwb Yr Orsedd –** The Clerk advised there had been no meeting in the last month as contact was awaited in relation to the planning application. Cllr Jones reported that he had spoken with the Planning Officer who had advised that the planning application is likely to be considered by committee in June and reports from the arboricultural and conservation officers were awaited.
2. **Traffic Order –** Cllr Jones confirmed there was no update on this matter.

**106. Matters to be discussed**

1. Station Road Car Park– Cllr Parrington reported that several residents had raised issue with the car park being used by residents to park vehicles long term. Cllr Jones had raised this issue with WCBC who advised that all rural car parks are FOC and have no time limits. In order to change this WCBC would need to put a legal Off Street Parking Places Order on all the rural car parks and this option was cost prohibitive. As there are no legal traffic orders, even leaving letters on the offending vehicles was not possible.
2. Queens Jubilee Garden –Cllr Parrington suggested planting bulbs and wild flowers in the ‘copse’ area of the play area along with planting a commemorative tree as part of the Queens Jubilee to create a commemorative garden. There were some grants available which would be applied for. He suggested a possible budget of £500 and this was unanimously agreed.
3. Speeding/Lighting Trevalyn – Cllr Woods reported that he had received a letter from a resident regarding speeding/lighting issues through Trevalyn. Cllr Jones advised that they were due to conduct further speed checks in the forthcoming weeks and it was hoped that this information could then be used to prompt action to improve the situation. Within a short space of time, 12 vehicles had been identified as speeding. Cllr Woods also advised that the lighting is very poor, there is no footpath and the speeding is worsened by the proximity of speed restrictions from 60 mph to 30mph very close to the bends. This situation will be monitored in a bid to gather information to present to WCBC Highways.
4. Community Speed Watch – Cllr Jones highlighted the need for adoption of a community seed watch scheme which would enable key areas to be monitored within the ward area. Gresford Community Council have recently coordinated training from NWP for volunteers to carry out speed monitoring. It was hoped if Rossett did something similar volunteers from the two areas could swap so they weren’t conducting checks in their own areas. The Clerk confirmed that the equipment had previously been purchased jointly with Holt Community Council. Cllr Jones suggested Rossett Community Council adopt Community Speed Watch and request the training and this was agreed. **Action: Clerk to notify NWP of adoption of scheme.**
5. Underpass – Cllr Sexton provided an update on the scheme. There were still concerns from Welsh Government as to how any boards would be attached to the structure of the underpass and how this may restrict assessment and maintenance in the future. The best option would be to paint directly onto the structure and this could be covered in an anti-graffiti coating. The local schools were keen to be involved and it was agreed that the best option was to request information on possible designs from the schools which would then allow the proposals to be displayed to the community to gauge public opinion. Cllr Jones suggested that this could be considered as the community input for the City of Culture bid. **Action: Cllr Sexton to progress information for public consultation.**

**107. Reports**

County Councillor Jones’ Report

Cllr Jones reported the work on Darland/Gamford Lane was due to commence on 21st February and would take approximately three weeks.

A number of residents were continuing to report debris in the River Alyn and Cllr Jones was liaising with NRW to get it cleared subject to river conditions.

Streetscene had been in attendance and carried out work in the alley way from Williams Way to the Co-op and this was now much improved.

The outstanding areas of Harwoods Lane and parts of Alyn Drive/Williams Way had been added to the resurfacing programme for the next year.

Cllr Jones reported that a number of residents had raised concern over the number of trees removed at the top of Croeshowell Hill. The area was actually in Llay ward but no planning application had been received. The trees were not subject to TPO’s. This along with the removal of a large amount of trees from a property on Chester Road in the centre of the village had highlighted the possible need for more TPO’s in the ward.

Cllr Jones also advised that parking areas on Trevalyn Hall View were being reviewed as there aren’t sufficient parking spaces however, this was not easy to resolve as there is a mixture of local authority housing along with privately owned properties. Cllr Fortune queried how Castle Green would potentially be allowed to widen footpaths in this area to allow for cycle paths but there were limitations on what could be done for local residents. Cllr Jones advised that the agreement to allow Castle Green access to these pathways was needed from WCBC Highways which had not as yet been confirmed.

Clerk's Report

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

Cllr Parrington highlighted from the Community Agent update that the Community café continues to go from strength to strength with new attendees on a regular basis and an increase in number. Cllr Maurice-Jones highlighted the fact that a move to the more central location had certainly attracted more attendees and thanked the Golden Lion for their hospitality in providing the venue.

Cllr Parker confirmed that a Floods meeting had been arranged for Wednesday 23 February and NRW would be in attendance. Cllr Parrington asked if there was a need for additional flood wardens and Cllr Parker confirmed this would be considered at the next meeting as some additional areas had been added to the flood plan.

Cllr Rowland confirmed that some work had been carried out to the zip wire equipment at Rossett play area. Mountain View required some urgent attention to a very overgrown hedge which is on private property. Two quotations had been obtained to carry out the work and every effort would be made to reclaim the cost from the home owner however, the property had been empty for a number of months and was not in the hands of an estate agent. Cllr P Roberts proposed that the work should be done anyway to prevent any danger and also get it done prior to the nesting season and this was unanimously agreed**. Action: Clerk to progress work on hedge.**

Cllr Rowland reported that the Scarecrow Festival was underway and there had been 27 entries.

Cllr Fortune reported the state of the footpath on Station Road near the Alyn and Car park. Cllr Jones agreed to report this to WCBC.

The minutes of a Staffing Meeting held on 24 January 2022 had been circulated and were accepted.

**108. 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  WCBC  Scottish Power  Ace Play  Wayne Evans Surveying  Offa Community Council | **Purpose**  Instant Ink  Monthly charge  Renew license for Gambling Act  Street Lighting Electricity  Welding of Zip Wire  Topographic Survey  Donation towards Hightown Barracks statue | **Sum £**  3.49  14.39  20.00  184.44  243.00  660.00  200.00 | **Chq. No.**  Debit Card  Debit Card  Debit Card  On-line  On-line  On-line  On-line |
| Mr C Hughes | Street warden’s salary and disbursements | 627.65 | On-line |
| Mr R Jenkins | Park Warden salary and Disbursements | 256.68 | On-line |
| Miss W Pace  Ali Pickard  HMRC | Clerk's salary and disbursements  Community Agent's salary and disbursements  Employers Tax | 1,661.09  723.19  298.91 | On-line  On-line  On-line |

Street Warden’s Disbursements Clerk Disbursements

Petrol £36.45 Paper £4.00

**£36.45** Evening Leader Advert £292.80

Moss Killer £43.90

Community Agent DisbursementsWeed Killer £165.11

Petrol £30.60 **£505.81**

**Card £2.00**

**£32.60**

Cllr Woods advised that a request had been received from Rossett Village Hall to assist with funding the installation of a defibrillator which would be located on an external wall of the Village Hall for community use. The total cost was £683 plus VAT. Cllr Woods advised that this was outside the donation window and there was some concern with budgets due to a recent letter advising that the cost of electricity for the street lighting would be increasing from 12p per kWh to 47p per kWh which would increase electricity costs by approximately £5,000 per year. A vote was held and it was agreed by a majority to meet the costs requested.

Cllr Rowland advised that a tender exercise for the ground maintenance contract had been completed. The most competitive tender was a significant amount below the current provider and would attract savings of over £1,000 per annum. The company currently hold contracts for a number of schools in Wrexham and Parish Councils in Cheshire and Shropshire, they have provided all necessary documents including indemnity insurance and waste management certification. The proposal is that the contract be placed with Ground Force and this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Jones queried if any exit clause was in place if works weren’t carried out to the appropriate standards. Cllr Parrington confirmed that a works schedule had been produced and should there be an issue, invoices would be held until an issue was resolved. Cllr Jones reiterated his concern regarding specific terms in a contract regarding quality of work.

**109. Planning Applications**

P/20222/0063 – 1 Alyn Drive, Rossett – Variation of Condition 3 of Planning Permission P/2021/0949 to Amend Approved Plans - No objections.

P/2022/0075 – Lilac Cottage, Stringers Lane, Burton, Rossett – Two Storey Front and Side Extensions – No objections.

P/2022/0085 – Pentlands, The Green, Rossett – First Floor Side Extension – No objections.

P/2022/00122 – Three Acres, Rosemary Lane, Burton, Rossett – Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission P/2021/0153 to Amend Approved Plans – No objections.

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

1. Cllr Steven reported issues with the Arriva bus service and this had been raised on several occasions on the village social media sites. It was agreed that the current service was poor. Cllr Woods had written in to complain and had been informed it was as a result of staffing shortfalls. Cllr Jones advised that complaints should be sent to the Traffic Commissioner. It was agreed that Cllr Woods and the Clerk would produce a letter to be sent. **Action: Clerk to arrange letter.**
2. Cllr Parker reported overhanging branches on the B5102 near the layby after St Peter’s school going towards Holt. Cllr Jones agreed to report the issue to WCBC.
3. Cllr Jones informed all Councillors that local Community Councillor elections would be held in May.

**Date of the next meeting Wednesday 16th March 2022.**

**Signed as a true record:**

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**Chairman Date**