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**Rossett Community Council**

**Meeting on Wednesday 15th February 2017**

**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. G Smith, Cllr. C Parker, Cllr. J Pretsell,

Cllr. P Morris, Cllr. J Fortune, Cllr. K Dolan, Cllr. R Shepherd, County Cllr. H Jones

**Apologies for absence :**  Cllr. C Guest, Cllr. J Montgomery

**Others :** Mr J Paul of J10 Planning Ltd, members of the public

The Chairman opened the meeting with a change to the Agenda. Mrs S Coupland, a representative from Contact the Elderly, made a short presentation. This is a group for over 75’s who are lonely and who meet once a month for a tea-party on a Sunday between 3pm and 5pm. The Grosvenor Garden Centre and the Grosvenor Pulford Hotel are 2 venues who have already offered complimentary afternoon-tea and Mrs Coupland is looking to set up more tea-party events. This charity ties-in with the RCC’s involvement with the Campaign to End Loneliness. There is a self-funded campaign online to raise £300 towards this initiative and a decision on whether Mrs Coupland has been successful will be known at the end of February. Cllr. Parrington advised that the Community Council would match-fund the £300 if successful.

**49.** The Chair moved on to welcome Mr Paul of J10 Planning Ltd who had requested he be able to attend the meeting to discuss their future planning proposals. Mr Paul explained he was acting on behalf of the landowner (Bellis Brothers, Holt) and over the past 2 years have been carrying out technical investigations on the proposed site. He explained this was not yet a planning application, merely a consultation prior to the application being submitted. The consultation period is 8th February 2017 to 8th March 2017 (being the deadline date for queries to be put to J10 for them to address). All plans and studies relating to the planning application are available to download on [www.j10planning.com](http://www.j10planning.com). It was then opened to the room to ask questions. The Chair read a list of concerns he had received from concerned residents and this list was handed to Mr Paul for his response when considered. The chair suspended standing orders for ten minutes’ Q&A for the public to ask questions? Discussion ensued and various issues were raised, such as car parking, footpaths, contribution to education establishments and affordable housing.

Mr Paul went onto say that the proposed development land is Green Barrier, as is all of the land around the settlement of Rossett. There are no Brown Field sites available in the village. Cllr. Jones pointed out that in all appeal results in Wrexham in relation to Green Barrier land, the government have upheld the decision of WCBC.

Mr Paul advised that there will be highway benefits, in as much as pedestrian crossing and traffic calming. Cllr. Jones pointed out that 20mph speed limit is already being put in place for the village, including around St Peter’s school, to improve safety and there would be no highway benefits due to the extra congestion.

Mr Paul advised there would be benefits in the spending power of houses, Council Tax revenue, affordable housing, public open space, highway benefits in additional parking for access to St Peter’s School and pedestrian benefits. Cllr. Dolan advised that the doctors surgery wouldn’t cope as they are only open presently for 3 full days and two half days and therefore extra staff would be required to meet the extra demand, the schools are already full and there is no benefit to the children of the village presently.

Cllr. Smith advised that flooding is a concern and asked Mr Paul whether Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water had been asked for opinions? Mr Paul advised that a flood consequence had been undertaken and it was considered a “low risk”. Cllr. Smith said that in his opinion it was a risk building on land that had been flooded.

The public raised their concerns, particularly the issue of building on land that is waterlogged. It appears that the plans are incorrect and in fact shows a footpath going through a property in Trevalyn Hall View. It also appears that there is no intended footpath on Holt Road which is a very busy road. Residents had been told that the development would de-value their houses by £10,000.

Mr Paul advised all concerns had been taken onboard, but requested that they be put to him in writing by the 8th March 2017 so that they can be formally address. Mr Paul left the meeting.

The Chair advised that it is important that we have a public meeting for the village and it was proposed that this would be next week and would be advertised on social media, the RCC website and noticeboards. **The Chair proposed a motion that RCC object to the proposals and this was seconded by all Councillors**. Cllr. Jones advised that all residents with local knowledge need to provide him with information so that he can prepare a counter application. The majority of the public then left the meeting.

**50.** Minutes of the meeting of 18th January 2017 were approved and signed.

## 51. North Wales Police

(i) The Chair read the Council Priorities report received from PCSO Heron, as follows:

1. **Crime Details for January 2017:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Crime Type** | **No.** | **Comments** |
| TFMV | 1 | 18/01/17 : Llyndir Lane – clothing and tools taken. Ongoing. |
| Theft | 1 | 27/01/2017 : Chester Road – Chair (family feud). Ongoing. |
| Arson | 1 | 03/01/17 : Chester Road – Recycle bins. Undetected. |
| ASB | 2 | 21/01/17 : Nuisance – Chester Road.  31/01/17 : Environment – Lavister. |

**(b) Priorities:**

B.O.T.D. – None reported this month.

Speeding – Rossett to Llay Road. No speeders.

Parking on pavements – No reports present. Continue to monitor by the Butchers Arms.

**(c) Emerging Issues:**

Continue with security and ensure all properties are locked up safely.

**(d) Good News Stories:**

Continue to monitor bus stops.

Cuppa with a Copper for February. Three attended. Next date for March to be confirmed.

If anyone saw a large presence of police in Pulford/Lavister/Rossett Saturday morning, 11th February, it was Operation Intercept NWP and Cheshire joint operation on speed awareness.

**52. Matters arising:**

1. The Clerk updated the Council on the issue that internet banking cannot be initiated until all bank account signatories have been brought up-to-date. The Clerk has the necessary forms and will liaise with the Finance Committee to deal with this matter
2. The Clerk updated the Council on the Risk Assessment Policy of the parks. This is carried out by WCBC on a monthly basis and also an independent company on a yearly basis. RCC is therefore covered in respect of Risk Assessment.
3. School Crossing – Cllr. Jones advised that the cost of a pelican crossing on Chester Road would be £43,000, together with ongoing lighting costs. This cost would be to RCC. A Crossing Warden would cost RCC £3300 per annum (minimum 3 year contract). The Chair advised that a decision needs to be made on this matter. It is to be placed on the Agenda for next month once thought has been given to the alternative options. **Action : Clerk to circulate the email received re costs for a pelican crossing and Councillors must be prepared to make a decision on this issue at the next meeting.**
4. End Loneliness Campaign – Cllr. Pretsell reported that she had been in touch with Elaine Blease of WCBC who has advised that there is a Community Agent Scheme which allows community councils to appoint agents to identify vulnerable people and is run through Age Concern Wales. This scheme had previously been declined by RCC. **Cllr. Pretsell proposed that it is now pursued. Seconded by all Councillors**.

**Action : Cllr. Pretsell to contact WCBC with a view to joining the scheme.**

Turning to the issue of the Wrexham Youth and Play Partnership, Cllr. Pretsell also advised that, although RCC are not proceeding with this scheme presently, a letter stating the same should be sent to WYPP. **Action : Clerk to deal with this.**

Discussion ensued on youth activities in the village. The Clerk advised that the questionnaires provided to Darland High School to obtain feed-back on what the children of the village want, have been lost. **Action : Chair is to look into carrying out the survey on social media, which may appeal more to young people.**

**53. Matters Discussed**

(1) The amended Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were adopted. (Proposed by Cllr. Dolan, seconded by all Councillors).

(2) Cllr. Smith is still concerned about speeding on Burton Road and this is still an issue. Cllr. Jones advised that due to the fact that the police need to wear hi-viz jackets, this makes drivers aware of the police presence and, therefore, difficult for them to catch the speeding drivers. Cllr. Jones advised that Burton Road has no pavement and so perhaps a 20mph limit is the next step. Cllr. Smith would like something to be done by RCC and proposed that awareness should be raised via social media and the RCC website. This was seconded. **Action : Clerk to contact PCSO Heron to obtain literature for publication on the website and Cllr. Pretsell to raise awareness via Facebook**.

(3) Actions were reviewed from the previous Minutes and all actions have been carried out.

(4) Post Office – The Chair and Cllr. Jones have met with Carol Williams of the Post Office with a view to getting this service back into the village. The Co-op are not interested. The Post Office cannot and will not be stand-alone. Discussion ensued with regard to the community café project of the toilet block and perhaps incorporating a Post Office within the same. A response to our grant application is still awaited from Cadwyn Clwyd. The Chair advised that the Post Office have provided him with a business plan template. This matter is to be discussed at the next meeting.

It was also confirmed that the post box in Station Road is still in use.

(5) Elections – The Clerk reported on the elections information evening she had attended and provided a brief outline of the same. It was agreed that this would be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting when Candidate Packs would be provided to Councillors who wished to stand again. **Action : Clerk is to publicise the 14 Councillor vacancies on the website and Cllr. Pretsell to publicise the same on Facebook**.

(6) The Clerk advised that the Service Level Agreement for the parks had been signed and returned to WCBC. In view of the fact that RCC now employ a Park Warden, the sum of £661 has been removed from the charge for litter clearance at the main park. It was not possible to remove the charges from the 2 other village parks, as WCBC still empty the bins at those parks.

**54. Reports**

County Councillor Hugh Jones’ Report

Cllr. Jones confirmed that all actions required by him from the last meeting had been carried out.

A meeting had taken place between himself, the headmaster of Darland School, the police and Arriva, where they discussed mitigating issues and the behaviour of children on the buses. CCTV has now been released by Arriva and behaviour is being addressed.

It was confirmed that all cars being parked at The Green are taxed and therefore legally entitled to park on the road.

It should be noted that Network Rail intend to close the Broadoak Crossing for 14 days to enable them to fully commission the line between Wrexham and Chester. The closure will take place from the 10th March (23:59) to the 24th March (23:59). There will be pedestrian access and will be maintained with a crossing attendant.

Parks & Recreation Report :

Cllr. Dolan advised that the play equipment for Greenfields had been ordered and the bench at Greenfields will be replaced like-for-like.

The “No Dogs” signs for the parks is being dealt with by the Clerk.

The tree guards in the main park are causing damage to the trees which are now growing through the same. **Action : Clerk to request The Head Gardener to check**.

Cllr. Peter Morris

Cllr. Morris attended the lighting collaboration meeting last week with regard to the community lighting. Jones Lighting will be making a price increase of 1.2% which was agreed at that meeting. There was also a presentation by Jones Lighting in respect of LED lighting which is being brought in as the bulbs are being phased out. The LED light will be brighter and the advantage is that there will be 70/80% saving on power costs. Cllr. Jones advised that if RCC are going down the route of LED lighting, then we may not need as many lights as they will be more effective. Cllr. Morris advised that he would like to see the lighting inventory and update the same as RCC do have a duty of care regarding the lighting columns and lanterns. Cllr. Jones pointed out that Jones Lighting should be pointing out any issues with columns and lanterns. **Action : Clerk to provide Cllr. Morris with the lighting schedule. Clerk to place on the Agenda next month for review.**

**55. Planning Applications** to which there were no objections:

P/2017/0031 : The Cottage, Darland Hall, Darland Lane, Rossett

P/2017/0057 : Tregarthen, Chester Road, Rossett

P/2017/0072 : Lower Honkley Farm, Stringers Lane, Burton

P/2017/0077 : Innisfree, Croeshowell Lane, Burton

P/2017/0112 : Plas Devon Court, Rossett Road

**56. Finance**

(1) There were no issues with the financial reconciliation provided by the Clerk.

(2) Cheques were approved and signed, as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Sum £** | **Chq. No.** |
| One Voice Wales | Membership fee | 513.00 | 2921 |
| Stephen Morris Ltd | Repair of fence at Mountain View | 450.00 | 2922 |
| Jones Lighting | Street lighting maintenance (Dec) | 385.38 | 2923 |
| Mr J Bassett | Balance of BT CCTV installation fee | 42.12 | 2924 |
| Scottish Power | Toilet block electricity | 151.45 | 2925 |
| Dee Valley Water | Toilet block water supply | 55.98 | 2926 |
| Jones Lighting | Street lighting maintenance (Jan) | 369.46 | 2927 |
| Mrs S Tushingham | Disbursements reimbursement | 87.24 | 2928 |
| Mrs S Tushingham | Clerk’s salary | 381.40 | 2929 |
| Mr T Price | Park Warden’s salary | 227.63 | 2930 |
| Mr C Hughes | Street Warden’s salary | 264.00 | 2931 |
| Post Office | Employer’s tax liability | 218.40 | 2932 |
| Mr C Hughes | Petrol reimbursement | 58.95 | 2933 |
| CCS Ltd | Supply and installation of CCTV | 6600.00 | 2934 |
| Engage in Learning | COSHH online training | 186.00 | 2935 |
| Scottish Power | Street lighting electricity supply | 455.08 | 2936 |

Clerk’s Disbursements

Heavy duty bin bags £53.97

Stamps £14.28

Printer cartridge £18.99

**£87.24**

**57. Any Other Business**

(1) Cllr. Smith was concerned with the quality of work to the river wall in Burton which has been repaired. This is a flood defence wall and he believes the work carried out is cosmetic. Cllr. Jones advised that the wall is owned by WCBC and designated as a highway wall and Natural Resources Wales agreed to repair the same, but this does not seem to have been done. **Action : Clerk to write to NRW advising that RCC does not believe the wall has been upgraded**.

(2) Cllr. Smith advised that a resident has brought to his attention the parking issue in Station Road near to the rail crossing which is causing obstruction. Discussion ensued. This is a police matter and should reported to 101 at the time of witnessing the same.

(3) Spring Clean, Cymru are holding an initiative to get community councils to create an event to tidy up a specific area of their village. Before an event can be created through Spring Clean, Cymru, a date needs to be fixed. The Chair proposed Sunday 5th March between 3pm and 5pm for the main park to be “deep cleaned”. **Action : Clerk and Cllr. Pretsell to publicise the same**. Cllr. Jones advised that this event should be used to raise awareness that private landowners are responsible for their own hedges and should make sure that these are not encroaching on footpaths. It should be noted that hedge cutting cannot take place between the 1st May and 30th September due to the nesting season. **Action : Clerk and Cllr. Pretsell to raise awareness**.

(4) Cllr. Smith wanted the Street Warden’s hard work to be noted and that the village is looking a lot tidier. Cllr. Fortune did say that the car park in Station Road could do with a tidy. **Action : Chair to meet with the Street Warden at the car park to discuss works**.

(5) The Clerk reported on the news from Darland School that the students had planted bulbs around the village and hopefully their hard work will be seen in the next few months.

**Date of the next meeting Wednesday 15th March 2017.**

**Signed as a true record:**

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**Chairman Date**