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**Rossett Community Council**

**Meeting on Wednesday 15th March 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. C Guest, Cllr. G Smith, Cllr. C Parker, Cllr. J Pretsell, Cllr. P Morris, Cllr. J Fortune, Cllr. K Dolan, Cllr. J Montgomery, County Cllr. H Jones

**Apologies for absence :**  Cllr. R Shepherd

**Others :** Mr Nigel Davies (C.A.I.), Inspector Steve Owens (Wrexham Police), Mr Les Thomas (Co-op Store Manager)

**58.** Apologies for absence.

**59.** Approval of the Minutes of 15th February 2017.

**60.** Mr Nigel Davies of the Community Agent Initiative, a partnership with AVOW, spoke about the Community Agent scheme. A Community Agent, who would be a social person from the community with local knowledge, would work with local organisations to enable them to identify anyone in the village suffering from social isolation, or adults at risk or vulnerable. AVOW have been commissioned to undertake and coordinate 7 agents across Wrexham, with an aim to increase this to 16 over the next 12 months. The Clerk of the Community Council would take on a management role, with AVOW supporting her/him. Due to funding from the Welsh Government, the Agent post will be temporary until April 2018 for 16 hours per week. Mr Davies advised that Chirk have already employed a Community Agent and County Cllr. Jones said that this was something Rossett should support due to the significant number of vulnerable and older residents in the village. Mr Davies advised that he would forward electronic copies of all information to the Clerk to circulate to Councillors. **Action : To be placed on the Agenda for the April meeting**.

**61.** Mr Les Thomas the Store Manager of the new Co-op then addressed the meeting. The store will open on the 20th April. Mr Thomas said he was aware of community concerns, especially parking / delivery issues and was in attendance to address those concerns. The Co-op run a membership scheme whereby customers become part of the Co-op group and 1% of all own brand products bought is put back into the community on a 12 monthly cycle. Rossett may possibly join with Marford, but community donations would be split equally. Cllr. Parrington asked if the Co-op could advertise these initiatives to make the community aware. Mr Thomas advised that a Welcome Evening would be held in the Pulford Village Hall (Rossett VH was not available) on the 6th April between 5pm and 8pm.

Cllr. Parrington raised the question of postal services. Mr Thomas said this was something he wanted to try and get into the store in the future. County Cllr. Jones advised that, following his meeting with the Post Office, he had been advised that the Co-op had declined a Post Office facility, despite the fact that the original plans had included provision of the same. Those plans have now been amended with no Post Office provision. Mr Thomas was unaware of this. County Cllr. Jones asked Mr Thomas to find out the name of the person within the Co-op who was responsible for the final decision re a Post Office. Mr Thomas will do so and advise the Clerk. **Action : Clerk to chase**

Cllr. Parrington raised concerns about the volume of traffic and asked what provisions the Co-op were making to keep people safe and perhaps “Look Left : Look Right” signs could be put in place? Again Mr Thomas will make enquiries and revert to the Clerk. **Action : Clerk to chase.**

County Cllr. Jones advised that he has been liaising with the Highways Department with regard to traffic and a draft scheme to put a footpath in front of the Village Store, which would involve losing part of the highway. He has also asked the headmistress of St Peter’s Primary School to liaise with “Sustrans” (Sustainable Transport) to improve the footfall in the area. An option to park at The Green with a 2 hour limit on current de-restricted areas is also a suggestion. County Cllr. Jones is working on a traffic management scheme.

Cllr. Dolan raised the question of lorry size for deliveries. Mr Thomas confirmed that the smallest lorries available would be used and they would use the car park to deliver and not the front of the store. Delivery times need to be agreed to fit in as to what is best for the residents.

Store opening times are 7am to 11pm.

**62.** Inspector for Wrexham Steve Owens addressed the meeting. There is a review of neighbourhood policing workshop on the 16th March which County Cllr. Jones has organised. Issues were raised from Councillors with regard to 101 response times and speeding, especially on Burton Road and Harwoods Lane. Cllr. Jones advised that Police need to enforce existing speed limits and this is an existing Priority which needs to be tackled. Inspector Owens will liaise with County Cllr. Jones about this issue.

Cllr. Guest queried the attendance of PCSO’s on a three-monthly basis and advised that Chirk PCSO’s must attend Council meetings if they are on shift. Inspector Owens agrees that PCSO’s on shift should attend Council meetings and will speak with PCSO Heron about this.

Cllr. Parrington then read the Council Priorities Report received from PCSO Heron, as follows:

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Crime Type** | **No.** | **Comments** |
| Burglary | 1 | 06/02/17 : Lavister – Items taken within. Undetected. |
| BOTD | 1 | 06/02/17 : Burton – No entry gained. Undetected. |
| Assaults | 1 | 25/02/17 : Burton – Ongoing. |
| TFMV | 1 | 21/02/17 : Station Road – Tools. Undetected. |
| Theft | 3 | 05/02/17 : Rossett – Ladders – Undetected.14/05/17 : Chester Road – Mobile phone – Ongoing21/02/17 : Llyndir Lane – Suspect identified. |
| ASB | 1 | 26/02/17 : ASB Personal – Rossett. |

**(b) Priorities:**

 B.O.T.D. – 1 reported this month.

 Speeding – Burton Road and Lavister. No speeders. Operation Intercept with Chester

 Parking on pavements – Words of advice given with regards to vehicles parking outside the new Co-op/Butchers Arms. **INSPECTOR OWENS ADVISED THAT REGISTRATION NUMBERS SHOULD BE NOTED WHICH SHOULD BE EMAILED TO PCSO ALISON HERON AND WARNING LETTERS WILL BE SENT TO OFFENDERS.**

**(c) Emerging Issues:**

 Slight increase in crimes for February. Ensure all items and property are secure.

**(d) Good News Stories:**

 Operation Intercept with Cheshire. High visibility presence. Speed check areas in Lavister and Burton Road.

 Meeting with Darland High School, Arriva and Cllr. Hugh Jones regarding bus stops.

 Next date for “Cuppa with a Copper” is 30th March 2017 at the Golden Lion at 5pm.

**63.** Cllr. Parrington then provided an update with regard to the potential development of houses on Holt Road. The meeting on 3rd March was well attended. Thanks was to be given to Mr John Filce for his contribution and County Cllr. Jones will be working on an objection to the planning with Mr Filce in the future. County Cllr. Jones made the point that there is a need for genuine affordable housing and RCC cannot automatically say no to every proposal.

The Chair then suspended Standing Orders for the public to make representation.

**64.** A resident was concerned with the speeding in Harwoods Lane and the fact there are no speed limits on the lane at all, since the sign at Broad Lane was taken down some time ago. County Cllr. Jones explained that by law repeater signs could not be put where there is street lighting and he quoted from the Road Traffic Act 1984 Section 82.

 A resident also raised the issue of a weight limit sign facing the wrong way at the top of Harwoods Lane. **Action : County Cllr. Jones will deal with this**.

**65. Matters arising:**

1. School Crossing - The Clerk advised that she was still awaiting a response from WCBC with regard to costing for the crossing. Both the Clerk and County Cllr. Jones had chased the response. **Action : Clerk to write again. Matter to be placed on the Agenda**.
2. Toilet block – Cllr. Guest advised that funding had been secured to look at options for the toilet block and there is **no** plan to do anything yet. The funding is to be used to engage with the community as to what the community wants and this is not a decision that the council will take without consulting with the residents. There will be a consultation, options appraisal and a business plan and funding for any future project will have to be applied for. Cllr. Parrington confirmed that the toilet block is presently closed due to persistent vandalism. He also confirmed that the Post Office would never be a stand-alone business within the community and would always need to be run alongside another business.
3. Parks survey – Cllr. Pretsell advised that she has prepared a survey to be sent to Darland High School, but she is unable to attach pictures to the same, which is vital for the children to see the equipment available and therefore complete the survey. **Action : Chair will assist with the uploading of pictures.**
4. River Wall – Cllr. Smith advised that Natural Resources Wales had confirmed in writing that the risk to the Burton residents had been lowered from “high” to “low” and they would issue a document to insurance companies to certify this if required.

**66. Matters Discussed**

(1) Elections – The Clerk provided all Candidate packs for completion. Deadline dates were provided. Cllr. Guest advised of the new rules re nomination in two wards.

(2) Street lighting – Cllr. Morris confirmed there are 149 community lights. County Cllr. Jones advised he had received a number of complaints regarding the new LED lighting and Highways have found a solution to reduce the intensity of the lighting and once the parts for this arrive they will be put into place. Residents who complained on Chester Road had now had a diffuser fitted on the lamp outside their home and were happy with the result.

Cllr. Fortune advised that street lighting on Harwoods Lane was still an issue. **Action : To be placed on the Agenda.**

(3) Co-op Community Donation – Clerk advised on the letter received offering a donation to the community from the Co-op group. Cllr. Parrington proposed that this should be invested in planting/planterrs in the village. This was seconded. **Action : Clerk to report to Co-op**.

(4) Village Festival 2017- Clerk advised of the letter received requesting our plans for any input into the festival. It was confirmed that RCC have made a donation towards the festival. A presence at the event in the form of a “surgery” as in previous years could be considered.

(5) Wrexham Play Sufficiency Grant – Parks Committee confirmed that the deadline for submission of our application for the Grant is the 17th March. **Action : Chair to deal with this application as a matter of urgency.**

(6) Independent Remuneration for Wales – Cllr. Guest advised that this is best left until after the elections and for the new Council to decide whether to adopt it.

(7) One Voice Wales – Cllr. Guest reported on the meeting of the Area Committee for Wrexham & Flintshire. This was poorly attended. It was a useful meeting and a good forum to find out information.

(8) Speeding in Harwoods Lane – See point 64 above.

(9) PCSO Workshop – County Cllr. Jones will be in attendance.

**67. Reports**

 County Councillor Hugh Jones’ Report

Cllr. Jones confirmed he had met with the Head of Environment and the Highways Department regarding the resurfacing work required to Darland Lane. The delay has been caused by the issue of flooding in Darland Lane which needed to be resolved before work could commence. The flooding relief scheme has been “put on the back burner” and so Cllr. Jones has asked Highways to elevate the resurfacing work program.

Cllr. Jones has been in discussion to stop the obstruction to the garages on Cromar and Waverley Crescent. This is ongoing.

The Fencing at the sub-station on Darland Lane has been replaced by Scottish Power with temporary fencing and Cllr. Jones suggests that Scottish Power be approached to provide a replacement noticeboard for Darland Lane, which was knocked down by the fence in the high winds.

On the 17th March the Council enters into a pre-election period which prevents Councillors giving preference for repair schemes and highway maintenance and, therefore, Cllr. Jones will not be able to get involved in any schemes until after the election period.

 Parks & Recreation Report :

Cllr. Montgomery reported that the new play equipment for Greenfields would be installed in the next few weeks. Cllr. Montgomery is stepping down from the Council and Cllr. Parrington advised that she should be commended for all of her hard work on the Parks Committee.

**68. Planning Applications** No new Planning Applications.

**69. Finance**

1. There were no issues with the financial reconciliation provided by the Clerk.
2. Cllr. Guest advised that the new banking arrangements would be put on hold until after the election, in view of the fact that many signatories will change. **Action : Clerk to forward Minutes of the finance meeting on 9th March to all Councillors**.

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Sum £** | **Chq. No.** |
| ASAP Signs | “No Dog” signs for the parks | 184.80 | 2937 |
| The Head Gardener | Grounds maintenance works | 350.00 | 2938 |
| Jones Lighting | Street light maintenance | 309.84 | 2939 |
| Vision ICT | Renewal of licence | 108.00 | 2940 |
| Scottish Power | Street lighting electricity | 411.10 | 2941 |
| Mr C Hughes | Street Warden’s salary and disbursements\* | 401.40 | 2942 |
| Mr T Price | Park Warden’s salary and disbursements\* | 227.50 | 2943 |
| Mrs S Tushingham | Clerk’s salary and disbursements\* | 412.38 | 2944 |
| Post Office | Employers tax | 210.80 | 2945 |

Street Warden’s Disbursements Park Warden’s Disbursements

Works equipment £38.85 Works equipment £6.00

Petrol £98.55 Petrol £23.40

 £**137.40 £29.40**

Clerk’s Disbursements

Printer cartridges £23.98

Course related disbursements £7.00

 **£30.98**

**70. Any Other Business**

(1) Cllr. Fortune proposed that when installing the noticeboard at Darland Lane could consideration be given to installing one in Harwoods Lane, which can be an isolated part of the ward? Seconded.

(2) Littering is an issue in Llyndir Lane. Cllr. Dolan suggested that Kingdom should monitor the situation. The Street Warden is aware of the situation and is monitoring the same.

(3) County Cllr. Jones advised that he has written to the head of BT Wales with regard to the issue of broadband access and the inability of BT to provide accurate information with a request that this be investigated.

1. Cllr. Parker advised that a resident had requested a parking permit for Station Road. County Cllr. Jones advised that the parking situation had to be managed as emergency vehicles could often not get to the doctors.
2. It was noted that the Clerk’s position had become available and would be advertised. Closing date for application is the 3rd April.

**Date of the next meeting Wednesday 19th April 2017.**

**Signed as a true record:**

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**Chairman Date**