

**Rossett Community Council**

**Meeting on Wednesday 19th March 2025**

**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, Cllr A Steven, Cllr C Morgan, Cllr H Jones, Cllr H Maurice-Jones, Cllr L Rowland, Cllr L Todd, Cllr N Roberts, Cllr P Roberts (arrived where noted), Cllr R Shepherd and Cllr W Cleaver. Youth Rep Leo Dowdeswell.

**Other:** Grant Purcell (Community Agent) and members of the public.

**112. Apologies for absence:** Cllr M Gledhill, Cllr M Woods and Cllr P Morris. Youth Rep Alex Sullivan.

**113. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were made by:

• Cllr C Morgan and Cllr H Maurice-Jones regarding issues with Hwb Yr Orsedd due to a conflict of interest.

**114. Approval of the Minutes of 19th February 2025** – Minutes were agreed and signed.

**115. Crime Report**

**February**

Domestic Violence 1

Burglary Residential 1

ASB 1

**Total**  3 (Report from PCSO Maddocks 94479)

Cllr A Parrington read through the Crime Report. PCSO Emma Maddocks (94479) was unable to attend but had forwarded some information regarding bike marking stickers. These would allow stolen bikes that were recovered to be scanned and the owners notified/found. The request was to part-fund the scheme. The idea had also been discussed with the Hwb board who were unsure if the amount of people who would come forward for it would justify the amount of funding money (£150). Also, it was thought that recovering stolen bikes was not a top priority for the police so for now it was agreed the council would not go ahead.

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

1. John & Joan Filce – Joan informed the council that there had been some recent developments and changes of pedestrian access points to the Castle Green Housing Estate. Most notably was a change in position of one access point that would lead through RCC’s Covid Garden at the point of Trevalyn Way and Harwoods Lane. This bit of land had been maintained by the community council for the past 44 years. Permission had not been granted for them to put an access point through here. It was requested the council write a letter in objection to fight against this along with John and Joan’s views on the change of several access points from the master plan by the Minister. Cllr H Jones recommended writing to Darren Williams at Highways. It was agreed the Clerk would send a letter on behalf of the community council. **Action – Clerk to sort letter of support for John and Joan.**
2. Sian Hatton-Jones – Sian presented an update on the process for the vacancy of Vicar at Rossett Church. She summarised that the vacancy would be filled at the earliest in the Autumn 2025. She also informed that the Church car park would be shut for resurfacing on 4th April.

**117. Matters Arising**

1. **Allotments –** Cllr W Cleaver had no update.
2. **Eisteddfod –** Cllr H Maurice-Jones reported that at the recent Hwb Board meeting they had discussed the event for fundraising and were happy to host an evening event. Cllr A Parrington suggested applying for a TEN and getting some live music (Andy Hickie) to make it more of a celebration and gathering, keeping the Welsh theme in songs and poems etc. Cllr A Steven mentioned asking Darland School to be involved. Cllrs L Rowland, H Maurice-Jones, H Jones, W Cleaver and C Morgan would be look to organise. Cllr A Parrington proposed contributing £150 towards the event. This was seconded and agreed. It was noted a Thursday would be an ideal day and not too close to Picnic in the Park. **Action – Clerk/Cllr A Parrington to organise TEN**

**118. Matters to be discussed**

1. Electoral Community Review – This had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Cllr A Parrington went through the 4 questions regarding council member numbers and wards. Additional comments were made to suggest the Allington and Burton Wards were merged into one Rossett and Burton Ward as the village was seen as a whole anyway. **Action – Clerk to send off questionnaire to Electoral**
2. One Voice Wales Membership Renewal – The council membership was up for renewal at £773, an increase of £35. This was accepted and agreed to renew the membership. **Action – Clerk to renew membership**
3. Hwb-Yr-Orsedd – Cllr H Maurice-Jones gave a brief update on the Hwb and its latest activities. She reported that the Hwb cafe was very often busy and attendance at the Thursday Community Cafe group was growing. She commented that perhaps some funds from the community café could be put towards the fundraising for the Eisteddfod. Hwb Manager Bethan had successfully applied for some Warm Spaces funding and they had been awarded £4700 to put towards hot meal and well-being sessions. These had been running over the last couple of months and were very popular, so Bethan was looking into another bid to help continue these sessions. *Cllr P Roberts arrived.* A Chatty Café had also been introduced to the Hwb by Community Agent Grant Purcell and Community Co-ordinator Ali Pickard. Cllr H Maurice-Jones highlighted that the Hwb needed more volunteer help and encouraged the councillors to ask around. Cllr A Parrington suggested asking Darland School if any children would do work experience there to help. This had been explored but due to tighter safeguarding regulations wasn’t always a suitable option. Cllr C Morgan added that the Hwb was financially in a good position though and the few staffing issues were nearly all sorted, so all round in a positive position.
4. Policies (Welsh and Environmental) – The Clerk had recently applied for the Shared Prosperity Funding in Wrexham which if successful, would see the next phase of Rossett Park going ahead. Part of the criteria if funding was approved would be to have the correct policies in place including a Welsh Language Policy and an Environmental Policy. Currently the council only had the Biodiversity Action Plan and report which was also due to be renewed this year too. The Clerk would be working towards drafting up the two policies. Cllr H Jones suggested contacting AVOW for support or any templates they could provide to help. **Action – Clerk to contact AVOW and work through new policies.** Cllr A Parrington informed the council that he had read through the funding application prior to submission and was happy with the Clerk’s work. The application was for £150,000 with a match fund of £15,000 from the ear marked reserves. This along with other donations (Balfour Trust) would put the council in a great position to improve the park.

**119. Reports**

County Councillors Reports

Councillor Jones and Shepherds’ Report – Cllr R Shepherd reported that mud on the roads had been an issue but those responsible for the mess had been asked to clear up within time limits. This would allow more work to be done on clearing ditches and gullies. Officers met with residents on Cobbler’s Lane regarding the bad state of the road and a plan had been drawn up to improve this. The white markings at hazardous junctions in the village (particularly Trevalyn) had been repainted. One of the police priorities for Rossett was inconsiderate parking where vehicles blocked prams/wheelchairs from using walkways and tickets were being issued for this. Cllr R Shepherd informed that Jason Weir, the local StreetScene Officer had sadly passed away recently. He had provided several years of service and work within the village area. Cllr N Roberts asked on behalf of a member of public if any speed awareness signs could be put up on Harwoods Lane where it narrows to one lane, as there was no pedestrian paths and cars were speeding along there. Joan Filce made comment that this was also right be where a new access point mentioned earlier was to be added onto the Castle Green estate. Cllr H Jones highlighted that whilst speeding was one of the 3 priorities from the police to cover in Rossett, there just weren’t enough resources at the moment. Cllr A Parrington mentioned that the pharmacy had installed some new yellow barriers to separate parking and land area. These would now mean when there is heavy rainfall pedestrians would be directed into the a large puddle that gathers there. He would resurface this when the problem arises.

Clerk's Report - The Clerk had previously distributed her report for Councillor's information. The Clerk had mentioned about the Audit results for 2022-23 and 2023-24. Both had been marked Qualified. The Clerk had met with Cllrs A Parrington and M Woods to discuss. The reason for Qualified on the latter was a point also raised on the first so it was decided to challenge this as there was no time between the audits given to rectify. The Clerk was in process of emailing Audit Wales.

Reports from Community Councillors

• Parks Committee – Cllr A Steven informed a volunteer day had been set up but due to weather forecasts would be delayed. It was decided if a list was put together of jobs, the councillors could complete these as needed in their own time. A branch was down in Mountain View play area and it was agreed the park warden would clear this. Ollie’s chainsaw license and certificate had arrived and Cllr A Steven would sort his new PPE gear. He reported that the toddler area needed some extra topsoil placing down but had also spoken with ESP Play about some additional grass mats. The wildflower and butterfly project was underway and being sorted between Ollie and Jan Williams.

* Events Committee – Cllr L Rowland reminded that the Treasure Hunt was going ahead at Easter. Donations had been received from Aldi (£30 of Easter eggs) and Cllr C Morgan (Chocolate Lapland coins). She had prepared the questions and trail points but would need some volunteers to help. Cllrs H Maurice-Jones, C Morgan and A Parrington would be able to help at different points. Cllr L Rowland gave an update on progress for Picnic in the Park. She had tried to contact Wrexham Academy but had no luck yet. Cllr L Todd suggested speaking to Cadets too. Cllr A Parrington suggested speaking to Youth Rep Leo’s mother who works with Hope House about having a stall. It was agreed there should be live entertainment and a tombola stall. The Hwb would be providing pre-ordered picnic boxes and a hot food option. There would be an Events meeting set up for May to finalise all the details. Some outdoor games would be used too. The Clerk would speak to Essentials to get a spot for the poster. **Action – Clerk to contact Essentials with poster**
* Staffing Committee – Nothing to update.
* Floods Committee – There was no update.
* GDPR/IT – Cllr C Morgan informed there had been good feedback from the 2nd edition of the Rossett Rascal. The next edition would be out in May. He reported that the new website was nearly ready and training was in progress for it. The Clerk and himself were scheduled to have meetings with 2 email providers over the next 2 weeks.
* Community Agent – Grant reported on the new Chatty Café scheme that had started that day. There had been 3 attendees which he was pleased about and he had one referral lead from it. He had also been helping out at the community café lately as Community Co-ordinator Ali was away.
* Youth Representative – Leo suggested advertising to Darland pupils who were completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award to help as volunteers in the Hwb after Cllr H Maurice-Jones’ request for helpers.

**120. Finance**

1. Cllr A Parrington read through the bank reconciliation for February. He highlighted the accounts were in a healthy position with earmarked reserves still in place for any progress with the parks.
2. Invoices were approved, as follows:

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| **Payee**Hewlett PackardEENestScottish PowerHwb-Yr-OrseddWickesPoplars ForgeOne Voice WalesSalix LoanAVOWLee Woodworth GardenerHwb-Yr-OrseddStaff CostsHMRC | **Purpose**Instant InkNEW SIM cards for Clerk and Community AgentPension contributionsElectricity (01.02.25-01.03.25)Room Hire (February)Supplies for fence/gate at the HwbGate at the HwbMembership RenewalStreet Lighting Loan RepaymentPayroll ChargesGrounds MaintenanceCommunity Café Hire for Hwb (Jan-March)Salaries and disbursementsEmployers Tax | **Sum £**11.998.6250.22675.9420.00335.501260.00773.001828.57124.00900.00240.002625.20287.35 | **Chq. No.**Direct ChargeDirect DebitDirect ChargeOn-lineOn-lineCard PurchaseOn-lineOn-lineDirect DebitOn-lineOn-lineOn-lineOn-lineOn-line |

Street Warden’s Disbursements Community Agent Disbursements

Petrol £39.15 Petrol £20.70

 **£39.15** Printing£4.00

 **£24.70**

Cllr H Jones questioned how long was left on the Salix Loan. The Clerk informed there was 2 years left (last payment being Oct 2026).

**121. Planning Applications**

**P/2025/0174 - 20 Roselands Court, Lavister, Rossett -** Single Storey Side And Rear Extension – **No Objections**

**P/2025/0146 - Coach House, Llay Road, Burton, Rossett -** Single Storey Rear Extension – **No Objections**

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

Cllr L Todd asked after the planter for Lavister. Cllr A Parrington informed it was being ordered this month to be delivered in May for summer planting.

Cllr W Cleaver requested some signage be put up for the footpath leading from Waverly Crescent through to Gamford Lane. Cllr C Morgan also informed the sign at Cooks Bridge needed replacing as it was currently underwater. The Clerk would contact Sion Roberts, Footpath Officer at WCBC.

Cllr A Steven informed one of the barriers by the Green had been crashed into.

Cllr P Roberts had noticed a dislodged post between the paddocks down Burton Hall Road onto the footpath. This had already been reported by Cllrs H Maurice-Jones and H Jones. Cllr A Steven suggested that the village footpaths be looked at again and so would be added to the next agenda. **Action – Clerk to add Footpaths to April Agenda**

Cllr L Rowland requested the speed sign by the Co-op be turned around to fit the direction of one-way road correctly. Cllr R Shepherd informed they had asked several times already but would ask again. She also noted how good the village was looking with all the beautiful plants.

Cllr H Maurice-Jones had been asked to check that the hedges were in fact cut back by the Weir this year and Cllr R Shepherd confirmed they had been done since Christmas.

**Date of the next meeting Wednesday 16th April 2025 at the The Community Hwb.**

**Signed as a true record:**

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**Chairman Date**