**BANGOR ON DEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**BANGOR IS Y COED COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**A Meeting of the Bangor on Dee Community Council was held via Zoom on Tuesday**

**15th February 2022 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present**: Councillors: Cllr S Harvey (Chairman), H Jones (Vice Chairman, S Harvey, S Morrison, G Tranter, G Hughes, J Grice, E Hall

 S Merry – Clerk

**Apologies:** Cllr C Byrne

The meeting was chaired by Cllr S Harvey

The Chairman welcomed the councillors and the meeting was brought to order.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

No Declarations of Interest were declared.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

Having been circulated and reviewed, the Minutes of the last meeting on the 18th January were agreed as an accurate record, proposed by Cllr G Tranter and seconded by Cllr E Hall.

**MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Matters arising out of the last meeting on 18th January are as follows:

Cllr E Hall has emailed the Clerk regarding the spending limit change to the Standing Orders.

Cllr G Tranter confirmed the fallen tree had been removed from Sandown Road.

The Clerk confirmed he had spoken to the Coroner Mr J Gittins, about the A525 and Green Lane Junction.

Communication is on going between Jones Lighting Ltd and the Community Council (CC) about the possibility of New Lampposts in the village.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed all relevant email correspondence over the last month had been circulated to the councillors.

An email was received from the Head of Domestic Abuse Safety Unit (DASU) at WCBC. The request for funding was deliberated and rejected at this time. **Action: The Clerk was asked to confirm the decision of the CC to DASU.**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Planning Application - P2022/0029 16 Dee Court, Whitchurch Road

The Community Council Planning Group had concerns about the above conversion. Within the last 18 minths there have been issues with surface water flooding, river flooding and poor drainage in this area were raised as potential planning issues. **Action: the Clerk was asked to write to WCBC Planning Department**.

**FLOOD DEFENCES**

Cllr J Grice updated the community council:

Quiet so far, but there have been lots going on behind the scenes. 16th February, a scrutiny panel meeting took place looking at the emergency protocols of WCBC, improving communication links between WCBC and other involved bodies. Delta Wellbeing the contact centre for flooding in Wales have looked to increase staffing levels to avoid phone queues at emergency times when calling out of hours.

There is disappointment that WCBC have the village listed as a low risk area compared to others with a 1 in 30 year chance of flooding, however Bangor on Dee has flooded recently. Cllr G Tranter suggested the list may have been drafted historically and was based on a period when a lot of areas suffered unexpected flooding.

At the Multi agency meeting in early February, Mr K Edwards updated the meeting on the new drainage cameras and software. Covid, software issues and training delays have held back the rollout of the new system, however once up and running drains can be checked for their condition, check on the effectiveness of cleaning, blockages and any damage.

Cllr J Grice stated it is good the Multi agency meetings are back and they are going well, points are being listened to and progress is being made.

At the Site meeting last Monday, command post discussions took place with various options being put forward. The Sportsfield, Village Hall, School or Racecourse (if accessible). In the event of a Flood Emergency the police make the final decision. Being on the ground the emergency services were made aware of the various issues the villages faces and a copy of the village Flood Plan was handed out to each service. To date only the Fire Service have replied.

Investigations on the dip on Station Road are still ongoing, it is felt the drains have sunk or moved but are not broken.

Cllr J Grice was thanked for her time and update.

**POLICE**

The CC discussed the recent Police Reports from the local PCSO, and agreed to extend an invitation to PCSO Dean Sawyer for the next meeting in March and thereafter. **Action: Clerk to confirm details.**

**VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT**

**Street lighting**

Cllr S Harvey outlined his meeting around the village with Mr J Francis from Jones Lighting Ltd on Thursday 10th.

There are 28 non LEDs left to address in the village, 23 are straight forward new LED lanterns with 3 of these requiring Road Traffic Management to be in place. These are on Station Road and the A525.

The remaining 5 are the 'Heritage' style lights at the War Memorial, Buck Hotel and 3 on Abbeygate Walk. Given the style, current wiring and restrictive access to the posts. It is anticipated that the LED conversion will be more expensive for these lights. Quotes and further information will follow. Cllr E Hall asked about the current lighting source and asked if these could be replaced with commercial LED bulbs and avoid unnecessary changes. The view from the council is that a complete replacement would be the last resort once all other options are investigated.

Regarding funding for the 23 standard lanterns, Cllr E Hall asked why the loan option was not pursued, as this was agreed and previously minuted. It was argued that since this was agreed, Covid 19 has disrupted pursuing a loan, and capital funds have increased over the lockdown period making a capital purchase now more appropriate. Additionally, as pointed out by Cllr Sue Harvey, the decision to push ahead with a large instalment now is driven by the 4 fold increase in energy costs, so time has also become a factor. Cllr H Jones proposed the Community Council move forward with the 23 with Jones Lighting Ltd as soon as possible, this was seconded by Cllr G Tranter. **Clerk to action as soon as possible.**

It was also agreed that funding for the 5 Heritage lights would probably be via a loan.

With regards to New lighting posts in the village, Cllr S Harvey and Cllr E Hall would consider suitable locations and report back at the March meeting. **Action: Cllr SH and Cllr EH.**

**Jubilee Celebrations**

Cllr Sue Harvey outlined the options and costs for a gas bonfire for the above. It was estimated that a gas burner would cost in the region of £600. The cost aside, the issues of permissions (WCBC), location, monitoring, safety, participation were unresolved.

Cllr J Grice confirmed her support of the idea and it was generally agreed that as a village something should be done to be involved in this unique occasion.

Cllr S Harvey offered to investigate commemorative mugs for the school children. Cllr H Jones said he would speak to the Royal Oak and the Buck to see if a bonfire, similar to Bonfire Night could be arranged to focus and aid the celebration. Both agreed to report back at the March meeting. **Action Cllr SH and Cllr HJ.**

**Grass Cutting - Review**

On the 12th February Cllr H Jones kindly assisted Mr G Morris survey the grass cutting areas around the village so that a quotation could be produced. Mr G Morris promptly quoted £4,950, this compares to the quotation received from Little Red Tractor (LRT) of £4,256 inc Vat. Groundforce Group declined to quote after seeing the cutting areas. The Community Council were in total agreement to leave the Grass Cutting contract around the village with LRT.

Having taken steps to ensure the village contracts are offering good value to the residents, this issue will now be left until the next review in 3 years time.

The Clerk was asked to write and thank Mr G Morris for his time and quotation. Additionally, the Clerk is to write to LRT. **Action: Clerk**

**Riverside Walk**

Cllr J Grice wanted to highlight the condition of Riverside Walks. In particular a lot of the area is overgrown and unkept, in addition some of the furniture has suffered weather damage and needs repairing or replacing.

It was pointed out that Mr T Nicholls had volunteered previously to help with the area and was put off by the extent of repairs and a restriction by the Community Council regarding the use of chain saws. The Community Council felt health and safety should be paramount, their intention was not to dampen Mr T Nicholls desires or enthusiasm for improving the area.

Cllr J Grice asked if a councillor could inspect the area with Mr T Nicholls and report back to the Community Council with a list of works and a risk assessment. Once more details were known a plan could be made to address the works with a volunteer group or ask LRT to assist. Cllr H Jones confirmed he knows Mr Nicholls and would help to gather the information and report back at a future meeting. Cllr H Jones was thanked for his offer. **Action: Cllr HJ**

**Pavement Access**

Cllr J Grice reiterated that a few residents in the village had complained about pavement access around the village with mobility scooters.

Cllr S Harvey agreed to arrange a meeting with Cllr J Grice to review the access around the village and report back at a future meeting. **Action Cllr SH and Cllr JG**

**Bridge**

Cllr H Jones asked about the old bridge, residents have raised the points about the dip in the cobbles as you drive over the bridge and the pot hole that has appeared on the village side at the end of the cobbles. The Clerk believed WCBC completed regular inspections on the bridge and would try to obtain the latest report. The Pot hole would need to be reported to Street scene. **Action: Clerk**

**Abbotts Way**

Cllr H Jones brought to the attention of the Community Council a dispute over an overgrown garden in Abbots Way/Friars Court. Cllr S Harvey was aware of the properties involved and would see if WCBC offered a service to rectify the situation. **Action Cllr SH**

**ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk thanked Cllr E Hall for his continued support and analysis regarding Quarterly Reviews and budget planning.

Working towards the Annual Audits, the Community Council had a discussion on the capital funds held. It was agreed that funds should be earmarked for the New LED lanterns and potentially three New Street Lights in the village, an amount in the region of £14,000. Cllr E Hall pointed out that any non earmarked funds, making up our contingency should be higher than normal as we are entering a period where prices are rising quicker than anticipated. The four fold increase in energy costs for the street lighting is an example of this.

In addition to the above energy rises, Cllr E Hall highlighted that the Community Council have higher costs this year due to the Clerks pay rise (first rise in 7 years) and the costs associated with the Local Elections (these are every 5 years). Non Earmarked Funds would range between £12,000 to £14,000. This is lower than the annual Precept and in line with Auditor expectations.

The Community Council were in agreement for these figures to be put forward to the Auditor.

The Clerk confirmed the completed the Annual Investment Strategy and Risk Assessment forms have been signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

The following payments have become due in the last month, all payments were agreed:

Scottish Power (Dec to Jan Energy costs) £127.76 102145

Employer Costs (Jan) plus 0.25p payment correction £228.50 102146

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm