**BANGOR ON DEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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**A meeting of Bangor on Dee Community Council was held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, Bangor on Dee**

**Present**: Councillors: N Amyes (Chairman), J Grice, M Glanville, C Dawson (attended 8:00pm) and S Sharp.

Mr S Merry – Clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllrs S Morrison, T Nicholls, R I Williams (Attended 8:50pm)

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the councillors.

**The Community Council (CC) came out of standing Orders at this time to allow the Police to complete their presentation.**

**POLICING**

PCSO Dean Sawyer (92961) introduced himself to the CC and outlined the area he covers as our local PCSO and his future availability.

The issue of speeding around the area is a hot topic at the moment and it is planned that Go Safe will be visiting Station Road looking towards Worthenbury in the near future, as well as still attending on the A525.

PCSO D Sawyer was keen to promote Community Alert – a free facility that allows residents to contact, report and communicate with the local police. You can unsubscribe at any time.

With regards to queries Cllr J Grice asked about the school playing fields patrols and the possible road closures at Christmas. PCSO D Sawyer confirmed as the weather warms up, foot patrols will be carried out in the area and with adequate notice a temporary road closure could be carried out to aid the Christmas events.

PCSO Steve Bellis (93606) is one of five Community Safety Officers in Wrexham and the surrounding area. Their role is more proactive, and they have time to engage more with the

Community. They want to try and ensure rural areas are not neglected.

They can visit a variety of events to engage on police matters, cyber security, home security etc…This can be via pop up stalls for an hour or days if needed. Cllr S Sharp raised the monthly coffee morning, and this was noted as a great possibility for appropriate engagement.

The two officers were thanked for their time, and they confirmed their attendance again later in the year.

**The Community Council returned back to Standing Orders.**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

No Declarations of Interest were noted.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The Minutes of 20th December having been circulated and reviewed were agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr S Sharp and seconded by Cllr J Grice.

**MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Reviewing the minutes, the Clerk confirmed the following:

WCBC were informed of the CC’s position on freezing the Precept for 2023/24

Cllr J Grice advised that WCBC were not now distributing their spare Christmas Lights

All other areas are addressed below.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that communications have been circulated to the councillors.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Clerk confirmed there were no new Planning Applications this month.

**FLOOD DEFENCE**

Cllr J Grice updated the CC on recent flood warnings and river movements. Although the river has been high, surface water on the roads within the village was very much improved on previous years and it was hoped the recent work by WCBC has contributed towards this. Cllr J Grice confirmed she has written to Mr K Edwards at WCBC to check if there were any outstanding works left to do in the village.

It was agreed that the real test of the drains would be following heavy rainfall, which wasn’t the case recently.

Cllr J Grice commented on the road management team at WCBC, again the opinion was that the service was much improved over recent years. Roads were not closed too early, and cones were swiftly removed as the water level fell, even over the weekend.

With regards to having the flood plans on the web site, WCBC have confirmed this is fine and these will follow once the waters calm down.

In respect of the letter to Mr Darren Williams at WCBC regarding surface water risk, Cllr J Grice had one amendment to make on the draft. Then the letter was agreed by all and the Clerk was asked to forward to Mr D Williams. **Action: Clerk**

With regards to the Worthenbury pumping stations, it is argued by some that the decommissioning will impact the flooding of the roads towards Worthenbury and therefore have an impact on an exit for residents of Bangor on Dee. Cllr J Grice is not convinced by this argument, as historically roads have flooded in that direction restricting movement from BOD. It was made clear that the village Flood Plan is exactly that and is not an evacuation plan and in the event of an evacuation Worthenbury Road wouldn’t be the main route to consider, furthermore, the route would be decided by the emergency services.

NRW argue the removal of the pumps will mainly slow the drainage from the farmers’ fields, their modelling indicates no impact on the roads and no impact on flooding in Bangor on Dee. The CC understand the frustration farmers may have in waiting for their land to clear, however this is not an issue for Bangor on Dee.

It was agreed that the next course of action would be for the Clerk to write to Ms Sarah Haskey at NRW to ask for the evidence they are basing their arguments on. **Action: Clerk**

**VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT**

**Village Maintenance**

Cllr M Glanville and her husband Mr R Glanville met with Mrs P Fitton at Friars Field to see what assistance the Community Council could provide. Mrs P Fitton gave them a tour of the Community Garden and explained the work that she does. Both reported back to the CC of the hard work that is being put in and offered to help when required, in particular to hedge cutting.

The visit underlined the undertaking being carried out by Mrs P Fitton and the need for recognition of her voluntary efforts.

A number of areas were raised by Mrs P Fitton, to see if the CC could be of assistance.

New Bins – currently the two plastic 80 litre bins are emptied by Mrs P Fitton or her friend. The question was asked if the bins could be replaced and if WCBC could take over the collection of waste. The Clerk outlined the process in that the CC seek approval from WCBC on siting and collection, then purchase the bins. The Clerk was asked to contact WCBC and start this process**. Action: Clerk**

Fly tipping – there has been a report of fly tipping on FF, although neatly stacked, garden waste has been used to fill a hedge to restrict movement, as this is on Community Council land it was agreed this should be removed and a letter sent to the resident to ensure this is not repeated. **Action: Clerk**

Information boards – two of the information boards need repairs to the frames following years of weathering. Mr R Glanville provided a quotation of £130 to make good the frames. Under the Financial Regulations of the Community Council amounts under £250 can be agreed by a majority vote. This quotation was agreed and instruction to proceed was given. **Action:** **Mr R Glanville**

Fencing – A fallen tree has damaged a fence on Lower Friars Field. Mr R Glanville provided a quotation of £60 to make good the fencing. As above this was agreed and an instruction to proceed was given. **Action: Mr R Glanville**

Information Boards - It was asked if two information boards could be provided in respect of dog fouling.

Display Cabinet – There are two locations under consideration, by the Church on the High Street or outside the Village Hall on Overton Road. There were discussions on whether the cabinet should be for 6 pages of A4 and double sided or increase the size to 8 or 10 A4 and have just one side. The CC was asked to consider the options for the February meeting.

Riverside Walk Bench – unfortunately the outdoor furniture at Riverside Walk has not weathered very well over the years. There are a number of issues that will need addressing in the future, in the meantime Mr R Glanville provided a quotation of £70 to make good the top of one the picnic tables. As above this was agreed and an instruction to proceed was given. **Action: Mr R Glanville.**

Riverside Walk – Cllr J Grice queried the parking outside the walk and the absence of the disabled road markings. The Clerk was asked to contact WCBC. **Action: Clerk**

High Street Maps – Cllr N Amyes asked the CC if Mr R Glanville could look at the maps and provide a quotation for repairs if possible. **Action: Mr R Glanville quotation.**

**New Bench**

The CC were grateful of an offer recently received regarding a new bench to be sited in the village. The two locations being considered are the War Memorial and the Riverbank. The offer follows the death of a resident in the village and will be sited in their memory. The Clerk has spoken to the family and further details will follow in due course.

**Village Hall/Internet Connection**

Following a Village Hall Committee meeting the CC discussed the progress and implications of having wifi in the Village Hall. It was reported that Mr R Jones is looking into the costings of the service. The Village Hall are content with having the facility, however, do not want to be liable for all of the costs and feel those who use it should pay for it. This is clearly fair, although it is unsure at this stage how this will be managed, given the potential number of users.

As it is the CC who have made the initial query, the costings are the necessary starting point. From this the CC will seek support or grants from relevant bodies to help support the service for the Village Hall. The Community Council await further details.

**Grants Donations Policy and Application Form**

Cllr N Amyes outlined the policy documentation forwarded to the CC regarding requests for Grants from the CC. The Council were happy with the information supplied and thanked Cllr N Amyes for his efforts. The Clerk sought clarification for smaller organisations that their requests would still be considered by the Community Council, even though full information could not be supplied.

The Community Council agreed to the extra flexibility and asked the Clerk to keep the documentation on file.

**Yes/Cymru Donations**

The Community Council discussed a recently circulated email from Yes/Cymru seeking donations. The view is that the CC cannot support Political organisations. With regards to other donation requests the opinion has long been the CC cannot support one and not all and that individual councillors are free to support if they so wish.

**Agri-cations**

With regard to previous discussions on the above the Community Council agreed to arrange a date to visit the site and gain a better understanding of the venture, the Clerk is to forward suitable weekend dates to the CC for consideration. **Action: Clerk**

**Speed Sensor**

Cllr N Amyes asked about the Speed Sensor on Station Road, the Clerk confirmed TWM Systems Ltd are sourcing a new taller pole at their expense. They believe the shorter pole fitted by WCBC was restricting the efficiency of the solar panels. It is hoped the new taller pole will resolve the issue, if not the Clerk has informed the company the CC will be seeking a full refund.

**STREET LIGHTING**:

The Clerk confirmed lamppost 29 on Whitchurch Road is still out of order. It has been confirmed by Jones Lighting Ltd that it is an electrical fault, and we are awaiting Scottish Power to try and rectify the issue.

With regards to post 30, the CC are still awaiting WCBC to cut the hedge to hopefully improve the lighting in this area.

**ACCOUNTS**

**Quarterly Reviews**

The Clerk confirmed the distribution of the 3rd quarterly review to 31st December and asked the CC if they had any questions on the information provided. The CC were happy with the figures, the Clerk outlined the importance of financial information and the involvement of the CC in the audit process. Therefore, the agreement of the CC will be minuted that Quarters 1,2 and 3 have been provided to the CC there are no outstanding issues and that Cllr N Amyes agreed to sign off on behalf of the Community Council.

**Zoom**

Regarding the renewal of the Zoom account on the 23rd February, Cllr N Ayes outlined the requirements where possible for a Community Council to offer hybrid council meetings and therefore Zoom participation for either councillors or local residents. Microsoft Teams was discussed as another option however it was felt Zoom is easier to use for all concerned and a decision was made to pay the renewal of £119.90. The Clerk was to make payment direct and claim the funds back from the Community Council afterwards. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk confirmed the following payments have become due in the last month; all payments were agreed.

Scottish Power (December) £79.89

Scottish Power (controllers Sept to Dec) £31.07

Employer Costs (Clerk salary Dec) £396.92

Zoom (Annual Renewal) £119.90

Jones Lighting Ltd 4731 £227.17

With regards to Jones Lighting Ltd, this invoice will be paid as soon as the light on Whitchurch Road is back up and working.

The Clerk confirmed that he was unable to change the co-signatories online with HSBC and has now received a mandate to complete. It was agreed this would be completed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. **Action: Chairman and Vice Chairman**

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.