**BANGOR ON DEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**BANGOR** **ISYCOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**A meeting of Bangor on Dee Community Council was held on Tuesday 18th July 2023 at 7.30 pm at the Bangor on Dee Village Hall.**

**Present**: Councillors: N Amyes (Chairman), J Grice, T Nicholls, C Dawson, R I Williams (arrived 8:40 pm)

Mr S Merry – Clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllrs S Morrison, S Sharp, M Glanville.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

No Declarations of Interest were noted.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The Minutes of the meeting on the 20th June having been circulated and reviewed were agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr T Nicholls and seconded by Cllr N Amyes.

**MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Reviewing the minutes, the following action points were noted:

* P/2023/0326 – The Willows – Cllr N Amyes to forward exterior plans to Cllr T Nicholls
* Following the changes within the Flood Wardens, Clerk to contact Cllr J Grice regarding future Flood Defence reports.
* Mr R Glanville was instructed to begin the Community display cabinet.
* The Clerk to contact WCBC regarding the lease on Riverside Walk.
* Clerk to research prices for Coronation Benches again and include costings for a synthetic bench for Riverside Walk
* Clerk to draft a letter to Riverside Pubs Ltd regarding ‘options’ for the Boathouse.
* Clerk to contact the Charities Commission regarding the Boathouse bank account.
* Clerk to issue Audit Notice as per guidelines
* Clerk to complete Annual Return/Questionnaire for External Audit 2022/23 and forward before 30th June.
* Clerk to remind councillors again regarding the Independent Review Panel for Wales (IRPW) need for councillors to accept or decline the payment option.
* Clerk to forward Clerk vacancy notice to Cllr N Amyes
* Clerk to make the monthly CC payments

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

P/2023/0379 – 1 Raggs Hill, Bangor on Dee

The CC reviewed this application and agreed that as long as the size of the extension does not exceed overall planning guidelines, the CC have no issues with this application.

**FLOOD DEFENCE**

Cllr J Grice updated the CC regarding the effectiveness of the village drains following recent heavy rain. The High Street was affected, and it was reported the Middle Shop had water nearly to their flood gate. Cllr J Grice has asked Cllr R I Williams regarding the drainage report and plans from last year.

Cllr N Amyes agreed and suggested Cllr J Grice contact the County Councillor again.

**POLICING**

The Clerk confirmed all police reports have been distributed.

Cllr J Grice highlighted a break in at the changing facilities on the Sportsfield. Recent works have been undertaken to improve and update the buildings and an attempt was made to remove a window to gain entry. The Police were called and a report filed, no one was caught. It is thought these are young teenagers as no vehicle was seen.

Cllr J Grice was saddened by this destructive waste of resources following a “nice” fund raiser the previous week. With the Summer holidays a head there are concerns the Sportsfield may experience more crime related problems.

**VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT**

**Boat House**

Cllr T Nicholls confirmed a conversation with an ex-councillor who stated that the in the 1980’s, sale proceeds from the contents of the Boat House were passed to the school for swimming lessons.

Cllr N Amyes confirmed the difficulty in applying for a grant for the boathouse at this moment, due to the ownership issue.

With regards to ownership, the Clerk confirmed he has written to Riverside Pubs Ltd, no reply at present, but can follow up with an email. Cllr J Grice believes the new manager at the Royal Oak would be a good approach for more information, Additionally, Cllr T Nicholls confirmed, when possible, he would approach Mr G Mytton. It was hoped this matter could be clarified in the near future.

**Display Cabinet**

Cllr N Amyes reported that an agreement on the location with the VHMC had been agreed, however, the fixing was questioned, whether the existing posts would be strong enough, if not, it was agreed that the preferred route would be to concrete the cabinet legs direct into the ground. This would be subject to plans from the Village Hall on any known utility’s in the area. Cllr C Dawson was asked to try and investigate this further, with the VHMC. **Action: Cllr C Dawson**

With regards the colour of the cabinet the Clerk stated that in his opinion, it is a shame to have a hardwood cabinet and then paint over it in black. Cllr C Dawson outlined the views of the VHMC and the colours already on view at the VH. Cllr N Amyes offered to redraw his artists impression of the noticeboard in black, and forward to the VHMC for a final decision. **Action: Cllr N Amyes**.

**Riverside Walk**

WCBC have confirmed that the CC have 4 years left on the lease for Riverside Walk and that the lease is not automatically renewed. Following a discussion, it was felt a key point in the future will be the annual rental and whether the Salmon Anglers Ltd would still be interested with a revised payment. WCBC have indicated it is too early to get more information at this time, therefore no further action is being taken at this time.

The question was asked about the usage and importance to the village. Cllr J Grice suggested questions should be asked on the upcoming village questionnaire, this was agreed. **Action: Cllr N Amyes.**

With the above in mind, there are doubts regarding a new bench on this site. If an agreement with WCBC cannot be reached in 2027, all furniture will need to be removed.

As an alternative, the Clerk suggested, again, a bench on the riverbank by the church looking across the River Dee and Old Bridge would be a good site and offer lovely views of the area to residents or visitors. This was agreed and a discussion followed on materials, a traditional oak bench or a recycled “green” synthetic bench. Issues such as price, durability and suitability were raised. **Action: Clerk.**

**STREET LIGHTING**:

The Clerk confirmed there were no outstanding streetlight issues.

**ACCOUNTS**

One Voice Wales (OVW) confirmed that they do not have a Risk questionnaire for electronic banking as raised by the Internal auditor, The CC felt this was something they could not draft themselves and would therefore advise JDH Business Services Ltd next year.

The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return and additional questionnaire was submitted to the External Auditor before the due date and that there have been no requests for further information at this time.

With regards to the Quarter one Financial Review, the Clerk confirmed this had been forwarded to all councillors with no queries. Additionally, the missed VAT repayment was raised by the Clerk and highlighted on the review to aid the new Clerk. It was confirmed with Cllr N Amyes that the Review would be signed following the meeting. Additionally, future quarterly reviews will also be signed, and the Clerk confirmed all spreadsheets are on the CC laptop for the new Clerk. **Action:** **Clerk/Cllr N Amyes.**

To aid the CC and new Clerk in the future, the Clerk presented a draft budget calculator for the council, the calculator detailed the historical payments for 2022/23 and a proposed budget for 2023/24. The figures from the Quarter one review were set against the budget and shows any deficits and surpluses over the quarters. The Clerk hoped that this quarterly monitoring against the original budget would settle queries raised by the Internal Auditor.

The format and content can be changed to meet the council and new Clerks preferences, the CC agreed with the proposal and thanked the Clerk, the Clerk confirmed that the originator of the calculator was ex Cllr E Hall.

The Clerk was asked about equipment for the new Clerk, details about the laptop, printer and filing cabinet were discussed**.**

**New Clerk**

The CC discussed the vacancy notice drawn up by Cllr N Amyes and agreed the wording and the various ways the role can be advertised. Cllr J Grice was also aware of an ex Clerk who was interested in returning to the role. The position will be advertised and interviews with successful candidates will be conducted in due course.

**Payments outstanding**

The Clerk confirmed the following payments have become due in the last month; all payments were agreed. **Action: Clerk to make payments**

Scottish Power Quarterly Controller fee £52.14.

Employer Costs (Clerk salary June) £396.92

Rob Glanville (Maintenance Invoice 51) £207.36

Little Red Tractor (Village/church cut June) £667.20

WCBC River lease £100.00

Scottish Power Energy cost – invoice amount still outstanding

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr R I Williams arrived at 8:40pm

Cllr R I Williams reported back to the CC on the following issues:

With regards to Green Lane, Cllr R I Williams stated that Mr J Edge from WCBC has confirmed this will become one way, at the junction with the A525. Although this may make the junction safer, Cllr R I Williams is disappointed with this decision.

Continuing with the A525, Cllr R I Williams has stated full details are still not available on the “explosion” of the lorry on 29th May, the contents of the vehicle, the cause of the fire and the environment impact on the land and air to local residents. The Councillor has lodged a formal complaint and will consider speaking to the Press to move matters forward.

Cllr R I Williams confirmed he likes the coronation benches put forward so far and the new planned location. He also questioned the lease position with WCBC and the CC on Riverside Walk and relevance to the village.

As referred to above under Flood Defences, Cllr J Grice asked about the drain report, which details the condition and which drains require attention.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.