

**BANGOR ON DEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
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**A meeting of Bangor on Dee Community Council was held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 pm at the Bangor on Dee Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors: N Amyes (Chairman), S Morrison, C Dawson, R I Williams (arrived 8:20 pm)

Mr S Merry – Clerk.

Mrs K Chalk – New Clerk from October

**Apologies:** Cllrs, S Sharp, M Glanville, J Grice, T Nicholls.

The Clerk confirmed that the Standing Orders state that in order to be Quorate, the CC needs the higher of three or a third of the membership. Therefore, the meeting was Quorate, Additionally the Clerk confirmed that with regards to payments all councillors will be notified prior to any transactions.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

No Declarations of Interest were noted.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The Minutes of the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> July having been circulated and reviewed were agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr N Amyes and seconded by Cllr S Morrison.

**MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Reviewing the minutes, the following action points were noted:

- Feedback from the VHMC confirmed they had no issue with the siting of the village noticeboard. There are no utility plans available to assist with the installation. Mr R Glanville to be informed. **Action: Clerk**
- On colour choice, it was agreed natural hardwood would be fine. Clerk to advise Mr R Glanville. **Action: Clerk**
- The completion date on the noticeboard was not known.
- The CC discussed Riverside Walk and updated Mrs K Chalk on the background and lease renewal in 2027; Cllr N Amyes confirmed the 'future' of this area will be included in the upcoming village questionnaire. **Action: Cllr N Amyes.**
- The CC discussed benches/location/plans in the village and again updated Mrs K Chalk.
- The Clerk confirmed all CC payments had been made from the July meeting.
- The Clerk confirmed the Chairman had signed the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Review.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

P/2023/0616 – Bridgeman House, Bangor on Dee

The Clerk confirmed receipt of the above, on the initial viewing it was agreed that as long as WCBC had no issues with the tree cutting in the conservation area, the CC would not object. No comments had been received as yet from Planning Committee members and Councillors J Grice and M Glanville.

## **FLOOD DEFENCE**

Cllr J Grice confirmed via email that a number of Flood Wardens would be attending a conference in Llandudno in October.

## **POLICING**

The CC confirmed the Police Report has been circulated.

Cllr S Morrison queried the locations of the Speed cameras in and around the village and the efficiency of the Speed Sensor on Station Road. A summary of the sensors from TWM Traffic Control Systems Ltd was given to Mrs K Chalk.

Following a question from Cllr N Amyes, the Clerk confirmed the Speed Sensors in the village have been reported to WCBC and are included on the register for speed reduction in line with the Welsh Government legislation from 17<sup>th</sup> September.

## **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT**

### **New Bench**

The Clerk confirmed he would like to have a discussion with the CC on the choice of benches that are available, however given the low numbers this evening this was not possible. Therefore, it was agreed to leave this for Mr K Chalk to arrange. **Action: Mrs K Chalk**

### **Boat House**

A summary of the background and history of the Boat House was provided to update Mrs K Chalk.

The Clerk confirmed that he received a phone call on 18<sup>th</sup> July from Mr A Smeaton, owner of the Royal Oak confirming their ownership and responsibility of the Boat House. In addition, it was understood that action was being taken to gain quotations to make repairs to the property.

Given the above update it was agreed nothing further could be done at this stage and the CC would wait to see any future developments.

A discussion followed on the possible uses of the building and the impact on this area of the river bank. It was agreed that if the area around the river increased further in popularity, legal advice and professional assistance would be sought to ensure safety.

### **Friars Field**

The Clerk confirmed the two black bins for Friars Field are still in his garden waiting to be sited. WCBC have confirmed they will site the bins, however they are currently busy and short staffed. The Clerk confirmed that upon leaving if the situation hasn't changed, he will transport the bins to Friars Field. This was agreed as acceptable.

The CC discussed the recent query of Japanese Knotweed in Friars Field. Cllr N Amyes confirmed he has visited the site and was unable to find anything in the area highlighted. It was agreed that professional help should be sought to a) confirm if the plant is on site, b) establish the location and responsibility, and c) agree an action to address the issue. **Action: Mrs K Chalk.** The Clerk was asked to confirm to the local resident that the matter will be investigated further. **Action Clerk.**

Widening the discussion, the Clerk and Cllr S Morrison provided a history and background of Friars Field for the new Clerk. Attention was drawn to Mrs P Fitton and the hard work she has put into the area. The Clerk stated that he had spoken to her recently and from this a few points were raised by the Clerk:

Given the funds available to the CC, consideration should be given to support the efforts of Mrs P Fitton at Friars Field.

As it is CC land and Mrs P Fitton is working voluntarily on this land, there should be more CC involvement and communication.

Evidence of a large 'dead' rat near the site suggests although popular there should be an amended approach to the long summer grass. Rats are wildlife, however, they do spread diseases which could be concerning to residents with children and dogs which play in the long grass.

The CC agreed with the points raised, Cllr N Amyes offered to contact Mrs P Fitton in the first instance. **Action: Cllr N Amyes.**

Cllr R I Williams joined the meeting at 8:20pm.

### **County Councillor**

Cllr R I Williams then raised the issue of the lorry fire on the A525 and the lack of information coming back to residents and himself.

With regards to the Green Lane junction, Cllr R I Williams stated his disappointment at the WCBC decision and lack of consultation to change this to a one-way junction. It is understood that local residents have objected and raised their concerns. Additionally, it is understood that local farmers will need to access the A525 via Bangor on Dee during the Summer months, thus leading to extra large traffic in the village. Cllr R I Williams suggested that a better alternative would be to cut the hedge back outside the property to aid visibility or implement a no right turn off the A525.

The CC understood the arguments raised by the County Councillor: it was felt that the decision would make the junction safer, but were disappointed at the reported lack of consultation and agreed to follow up with WCBC. **Action: Cllr N Amyes/Mrs K Chalk.**

### **STREET LIGHTING:**

The Clerk confirmed there were no outstanding streetlight issues.

### **ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk congratulated Mrs K Chalk on her appointment as Clerk and stated that her experience would be a big benefit to the CC in the future, and he was therefore leaving knowing the council were in good hands.

### **External Auditor**

With regards to the recent reply from the External Audit, the following points from page 4 of the Annual Return. have been reproduced below with the Clerks thoughts and comments in bold italics

Basis of Qualification Annual Governance Statement I am unable to conclude whether or not the Annual Governance Statement is consistent with the Council's internal controls and governance arrangements for the year:

- Assertion 5: The Council states it carried out an assessment of risks and has taken appropriate action to address those risks. This assertion is inconsistent with the findings set out in the Internal Audit report.

***The normal Risk Assessment was completed on time, however the Internal Auditor made the point about electronic banking and the need to update the form. This was agreed and noted and we contacted One Voice Wales (OVW) for further assistance. I do not see what else we could have done at this time. Furthermore, OVW were unable to assist therefore this issue will be raised again next year.***

- Assertion 3: Compliance with laws: Although the Council prepared a budget for the year, it did not take into account its accumulated reserves and therefore did not calculate its budget requirement in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

***The budget included the capital assets of the CC and these assets were discussed when making a decision on the Precept, furthermore it was agreed not to increase the Precept because we have these capital assets. Again, I don't understand what else we could have done.***

Other matters and recommendations

There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council's attention.

## **Payments outstanding**

The Clerk confirmed the following payments have become due in the last month; all payments were agreed. **Action: Clerk to email all councillors and then arrange payments**

Scottish Power Energy costs (August) £173.16

Employer Costs (Clerk salary August) £396.92

Employer Costs (Clerk final salary September) £396.92

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

WCBC River lease £100.00

Village Hall hire charge May, Jun, Jul £36.00

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

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

Some of the farms in Bangor on Dee which Cllr R I Williams has been involved with are planning to be sold.

To assist with parking in the village, Cllr R I Williams has been using his charitable funds to establish driveways in the village.

Cllr R I Williams thanked the Clerk for his time and efforts, this was endorsed by other members of the Community Council.

The meeting closed at 8:46 pm.