

PEN-Y-CAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COVID-19 – ZOOM

Minutes of the Penycae Community Council Meeting held on Monday 31st January 2022

PRESENT

Chair – Cllr. Dr S. Evans

Cllr. J. Lowe
Cllr. J.C. Phillips
Cllr. C. Davies
Cllr. G. Edwards
Cllr. K. Gilpin
Cllr. K. Phillips

Cllr. A Tynan
Cllr. J. Jones
Cllr. H. Davies
Cllr. P. Matthews
Cllr. R. Hughes

Diane Colley – Community Agent for item number 6 – Issues Relating to Older People

(22)14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr. A. Phillips
Cllr. P. Davies

(22)15 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest from members present

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders and take matters out of sequence for item number 6 – Issues Relating to Older People

(22)16 ISSUES RELATING TO OLDER PEOPLE

Diane's report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Diane had given details of the various issues she had been dealing with and of the referrals she had received and of her activities for the month.

The Chair wished Diane a Happy New Year and welcomed her to the meeting, thanked her for her work so far and for her report.

Diane advised that due to the rising Covid cases she had suspended face to face visits for the time being unless extremely urgent and then it would only be a doorstep visit.

Diane advised that she had been asked for help setting up online banking which she had to decline due to safety issues and had advised clients to contact their local branches for assistance.

Cllr. J. Phillips asked when Diane would envisage being able to make face to face visits again. Diane advised that hopefully in the next few weeks we would see a decline in cases and if the government guidelines relaxed then it would be possible.

Cllr. J. Phillips also asked Diane what times she was currently available for visits. Diane advised that she worked mornings and early evenings.

Cllr. J. Lowe advised that Diane could check with Social Services regarding the possibility of returning to face to face visits.

Cllr. P. Matthews asked regarding the referral from WCBC enforcement and asked if this was appropriate for Diane to be dealing with. Diane explained that it was simply to encourage the tenant to engage with the services and act as a mediator.

The Chair thanked Diane for her report; following this Diane left the meeting.

It was agreed that Diane's six month appraisal was due in February and the Chair asked for expressions of interest from members to sit on a panel and to develop the appraisal format alongside the Clerk. Cllrs. A Tynan, G. Edwards and J. Lowe volunteered for this. The Clerk would arrange a meeting via zoom to formulate the appraisal documents.

Resolved: noted

(22)17MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd November 2021 copies having previously been circulated, were approved and adopted subject to the following corrections

(22) 07- The Contractor advised that the cost of £60 was a fair charge and had been applied

(22) 06 to remove – The Chair welcomed Diane to the meeting

(22) 04 10. Resolved: That members agreed to utilise potential funding from the music festival towards the new linking path at the MUGA.

(22)18MATTERS ARISING from the minutes

1. Transfer of Deed of Dedication

The Clerk had received a call from Nicholas Adamson at WCBC to say that he needed further clarification of the intended use for the site. It was agreed that any intended future plans would need to be carefully considered as the upkeep and maintenance of the area would take a lot of planning. It was suggested that the area be discussed by the working group set up for the war memorial garden and looked at in more detail.

Resolved: That the Clerk would organise a meeting of the working party to discuss the plans for the site.

2. Cemetery at Groes Chapel

The Chair noted that the trees had been cut back and the area was looking a lot tidier.

Resolved: noted.

3. DE-Fib

The Clerk had not heard anything further regarding the de-fib application and advised that an electrical assessment still needed to be undertaken for the phone box. Cllr. G. Edwards advised that he would speak with MEGA regarding this.

Resolved: to await information regarding the electrical status of the phone box.

4. Bench opposite the War Memorial

The consultation letters had been delivered to the neighbouring properties and the Clerk had received some responses. The consultation period was due to end on the 15th February and the matter would be placed on the agenda for discussion at the February meeting.

Resolved: to await the outcome of the consultation.

5. CCTV

The Clerk was still awaiting further contact from the contractor regarding a site meeting.

Resolved: To await further communication from the contractor.

6. Street Signs

The Clerk had not received a response from WCBC regarding the replacement of street signs for Trofryn, Bro Awelon and Hall Street. The Clerk was asked to chase the matter with WCBC again.

Resolved: That the Clerk would chase WCBC for a response again.

7. Planters

The Planters had now been delivered. Cllr. Gilpin asked members if they would authorise him to empty the existing planters and donate any that were suitable to the local schools. Members agreed to this. Cllr. K. Gilpin also asked if needed, could the planters be stored at the Community Centre for a short time. Cllrs A. Tynan and J Lowe advised that they could be stored outside but only for a short time.

Resolved: That the Clerk would contact the local schools and ask if they would like any of the planters.

8. Photo Competition

The meeting for the photo competition had been postponed due to Covid and was rescheduled for 1st February. Members would receive an update at the February meeting.

Resolved: to await further development

9. Bus Stops.

There had still been no response from Andrew Mytton regarding the cleaning of the bus stops in the village. Cllr. K. Gilpin advised that he would check to see if they had been cleaned.

Resolved: That the Clerk would chase for a response again.

10. Local Government Elections

Following some questions raised after the last meeting the Clerk was asked to clarify that any election campaigns that may occur must be funded privately by members and that the Clerk or the Community Council could not in any way assist in the delivery or formatting of leaflets for any campaigns.

Resolved: Noted.

11. Fly Tipping – Coed y Nant

The Clerk had contacted Clwyd Alyn regarding the litter being deposited down the banks again and had received a reply from the gentleman who had dealt with it the last time. He had now changed job roles and had forwarded the correspondence to the relevant colleagues. The Clerk had not received an update from them as yet but would chase the matter in a fortnight if no response was given. Cllr. G. Edwards noted that a goal

post and netting had been thrown into the river near the bridge and would go down and retrieve it but asked if the Clerk could arrange for Streetscene to collect it.

Resolved: That the Clerk would chase the matter with Clwyd Alyn
That Cllr. G Edwards would retrieve the goal posts from the river

(22)19 POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk had forwarded the Police report to members prior to the meeting. There had been a request from the Police regarding an issue with e-scooters locally. The Police were asking for members' assistance in spreading awareness to the community that they were illegal to use on the highway and that the Police do have the power to seize the property and prosecute the riders. It was agreed that any literature offered by the Police could be shared on social media and on the website if provided.

Matters Raised by Members

Cllr. J. Phillips asked the Clerk to invite PCSO Purdy Jones to the next meeting. Cllr. J. Phillips advised that he had approached the Police regarding the possibility of arranging a bike marking event in Penycae and subsequently was asked to confirm with members: if there was a shortfall in the funding, would the community council be prepared to contribute towards the cost. Members agreed in principle but asked if Cllr. Phillips could clarify the costs first.

Resolved: noted.

(22)20 STREETLIGHTING

Collaborative Street Lighting Meeting

The Changes to the contract had been sent out to all communities for ratification by their respective councils and to date no further concerns had been raised.

Resolved: noted

Interactive Speed Signs

The sign had been reinstated in its new location and was now working well.

Resolved: noted

New Light Request Bronallt

There had been no update regarding the new light again. Cllr. Phillips was extremely disappointed that there had still been no response and asked members if they would agree to go to out to tender form external companies if no response had been received by the next meeting. Cllr. G. Edwards warned of this by noting that it would be difficult to then ask our contractor to maintain another contractor's work and could possibly sour the relationship between us and MEGA. Cllr. J Phillips asked if a clause could be built into the contract for response times on quotes. Cllr. G. Edwards once again warned that it would be difficult to hold a prescribed response period for quotes given the variance of work and the involvement of third parties such as the network provider. It was agreed that if no response had been received by the next meeting that it would be put out to tender for a new solar light at Bronallt.

Resolved: That the Clerk would chase for an update on the new light

Faults

The Clerk had been notified that the lamp in Mill Lane had now been reported as a Scottish Power Fault. The Clerk had received a copy of the fault report. Cllr. J. Phillips asked if the engineer who attended was aware of the historical issues with this light. The Clerk confirmed that he was the one who attended it previously. Cllr. Phillips asked if this could be escalated to an urgent case with Scottish Power as the location of this light was potentially hazardous if left unlit. The Clerk would contact Scottish Power and raise it as an urgent matter.

Cllr. R. Hughes confirmed that the floodlight at the Rec appeared to be working fine now.

Resolved: noted.

Christmas Lights

The Chair advised that there was still some Christmas lights up by the flats at Bro Awelon and asked the Clerk to arrange for their removal.

Resolved: That the Clerk would liaise with Mega regarding the removal of the Christmas lights.

(22)21 TO DISCUSS Precept Schedule and Tax Base for 2022/2023

The Clerk asked members if they were happy to accept the notes of the finance sub-committee 11th January 2022. Members agreed. The Finance Sub-committee recommended a 3% raise which equated to an extra £2139.33 for the year at a cost of £1.89 per elector per annum. Members agreed that this was a fair raise and any lower would not even come close to covering the extra expenses. It was agreed that the members would accept the recommendation of a 3% raise bringing the annual precept figure to £73450.

Resolved: That the Clerk notify WCBC of a proposed 3% raise in the precept.

(22)22 TO DISCUSS SLA for Play Areas 2022

The Clerk reported to members that the total figure for the play areas for maintenance and inspection for the forthcoming year would be £4,736.00 + VAT per annum. The Clerk had also received a costing to add the Skate Park to the SLA as follows –

Weekly Litter collection of fenced site - £729.00 per annum

Monthly Safety (Routine and Operational) Inspection - £232.00 per annum

Annual Safety Inspection carried out by independent company (Due April 2022) - £50.00

Members agreed to accept the prices and sign the SLA.

Resolved: That the Clerk would sign and return the SLA.

(22)23 TO DISCUSS The Budget for 2022/23

The Clerk had prepared the estimated budget figures of the committed spends as closely as possible and asked members to consider the budgeted figure against the remaining headings and it was recommended by the finance sub-committee to change them as follows –

Under committed pays to add a section for election expenses at a cost of £3000

Under Grants and gifts to add a section for the crisis fund at a cost of £1000

Under Grants and gifts to add a section for the Christmas Lunches for the over 65s at a cost of £100

Under Grants and gifts to increase grant funding to £1000 and to increase the elderly Christmas gift to £250

Under Grounds Maintenance to increase the figure for plants for planters to £700 to include the new planters on Stryt Issa

Under Grounds Maintenance to add a section for dog waste bags at a cost of £1000 (this figure could be decreased if cheaper alternative supply found)

It was also recommended that the following be ring-fenced and funded from reserves

£2000 for the Christmas Float

Christmas Lighting – figure undecided as yet

Members agreed to the recommendations from the Finance Sub-Committee and agreed to implement the changes to the budget.

Resolved: That the changes be adopted and implemented into the budget.

(22)24GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Desmond Roberts had emailed on behalf of St Thomas' Church asking to be considered for a donation for the upkeep of the cemetery – the Clerk advised that the request would be put on file and discussed at the February meeting.

Hayley Williams of Given to Shine had emailed asking to be considered for a donation for their organisation – the Clerk advised that the request would be put on file and discussed at the February meeting.

Julie Burnage from LNWCS had emailed asking to be considered for a donation for their organisation – the Clerk advised that the request would be put on file and discussed at the February meeting.

Grace Lockhart of the Community Café had emailed asking to be considered for a donation for their organisation – the Clerk advised that the request would be put on file and discussed at the February meeting.

OVW had forwarded an invitation to nominate Community Councillors who had gone above and beyond for their communities during the pandemic – for an invitation to the Buckingham Palace garden Party. Members voted to nominate Cllr. J. Phillips.

(22)25MISCELLANEOUS

Resolved: To note receipt of the following:

1. An email from Steve Latham-White at WCBC noting that the Welsh Government had announced a new Grant fund called the Revenue Integration Fund (RIF) this would replace the current Integrated Care Fund and Transformation Fund. There was still as yet no confirmation of the amount of funding that Wrexham will receive from April. WCBC were however reviewing all projects in preparation for the move over to the new funding in the hope it would be possible.
2. A survey from WCBC titled tell us what you think regarding the city of culture bid
<http://www.yourvoicewrexham.net/arolwg/1454>
<http://www.yourvoicewrexham.net/survey/1454>
3. An email from Vocalyeyes offering their services for community consultation work.

(22)26 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. K. Gilpin asked the Clerk to revisit the process of looking for a laptop.

Cllr J. Lowe reported an email she had received from a resident who wished to complain about the dog fouling along Hall Street. Cllr. Lowe asked if the matter could be raised with the enforcement team and also if council could publish some information regarding picking up dog waste. Cllr J. Phillips advised that he had already made representation to WCBC enforcement regarding dog waste and asked if the Community Council could follow suit with a request to monitor the area particularly concentrating in hot spots such as the Rec, Hall Street, the Railway Line and the Pant. Cllr. A Tynan noted that she regularly filled the mini dispenser that she placed outside the chemist on Stryt Issa and had noted a marked improvement in the decline of dog fouling in this area.

Cllr. G. Edwards wished to comment on the positive and informative response to the LED lighting information that was sent out as a result of the WTCC forum and noted that it was useful to see the benefits of LED lighting confirmed in such a manner.

Cllr. P. Matthews noted that the annual report and training plans had been mentioned at the WTCC and more information was needed on these matters for discussion in future.

Cllr. J. Phillips wanted to thank Cllr. G. Edwards for all of his hard work in dealing with the Street lighting contract. The Chair wished to echo Cllr. Phillips' comments and also thanked Cllr. Edwards.

(22)27 FINANCE

Payments

The following payments were approved for January

103001– J R Roberts – linking pathway- skate park	£4740.00
103002– Playsafety Ltd – Inspection of skatepark	£474.00
103003 - Amberol Ltd – new planters	£2818.54
103004 – Viking Direct – Stationery	£170.73
Bank Transfer – Salary, postage	£1330.10
Bank Transfer – Salary	£543.51