

# COEDPOETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of FULL COUNCIL held in Old Carnegie Library, Park Road, Coedpoeth on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at 7.00pm-9.40pm

## **PRESENT**

Cllrs: B Brown - Chairman, V Jones, S Scheurleer, P Wilson, G Price, Y Mc Carrol, L Van Ryswyk, Cllr A Wedlake, Gl Kelly, S Edwards,

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

PCSO S Howsam (94438) Mr N Acott Temporary Locum Clerk. Cllr K Childs – Wrexham County Borough Council

## **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Gr Kelly

### **31. WELCOME**

Chairman welcomed Councillors for their attendance despite poor weather tonight.

### **32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr A Wedlake declared personal and interest in agenda item 17 – Coedpoeth Bowling Green.

Cllr B Brown declared interest in agenda item 20 – Remote Meetings Equipment.

### **33. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

#### **‘a) North Wales Policing – Community Support Officer S Howsam (94438)**

Chairman welcomed PCSO Stephen Howsam to the meeting and invited him to address council. PCSO Howsam circulated a detailed breakdown of crime statistics at meeting and also referred to forthcoming community engagement activities being planned.

Crime statistics for October were reported as follows:-

6 anti social behaviour, 2 harassment, 2 threats, 2 road disruptions, 0 Public Order  
4 road related offences, 4 road traffic collisions, 3 shoplifting, 2 criminal damage, 2  
common assault.

PCSO Howsam then provided details of recent walk around with local councillors and outlined plans for community engagement activities in village including a 'pop up ' event, litter picking , and bike registration event. He also discussed actions that residents could take to reduce household burglaries e.g. by leaving on low energy night time lighting. Some activities being proposed required funding and he had secured PACT funding of £250 towards litter pick but would be seeking additional funds and support from community.

Councillors also raised problem of dog fouling in public areas despite provision of dog/litter bins and PC Howsam offered to raise matter with Wrexham County Borough Council who are responsible for enforcing dog fouling rules. He had also recently intervened to help remove a skip from Heol Celyn as it had been deemed to be an arson risk.

Several Councillors thanked PCSO Howsam for developing a good relationship with local youths and for his attendance tonight.

## **RESOLVED**

That Council agree to matched funding of community litter pick of £250.00

Financial/Legal/Other Implications: £250 contained within Parks budget 2022/23. Further details of plans and costings for programme of community engagement work to be provided.

Proposer: Cllr A Wedlake Secorder: Cllr GI Kelly

## **34. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

'a) REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – Cllr S Edwards provided details of forthcoming Church Service 10-10.45am followed by Memorial Service at Coedpoeth War Memorial, Park Road, Coedpoeth at 11.00am. Refreshments afterwards at Church Café

'b) POPPIES – Discussion took place on purchase and installation of large poppies for fitting onto WCBC lamppost. It was not known if County undertook this service as in other areas but presently there were no plans for installation. Clerk had also checked with caretaker and been informed most of poppies erected in previous years

were no longer fit for purpose. The Clerk had suggested that large display poppies could be purchased, and shopkeepers encouraged to provide window displays. Councillors to make further enquiries.

### **35. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of Full Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be accepted

Proposers: Cllr G Price      Seconder: Cllr GI Kelly

### **36. WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS – WARD UPDATES**

**Cllr K Childs** – reported upon resurfacing and repairs to front link road to Ysgol Bryn Tabor. Chairman asked if temporary roadwork signs could be relocated from junction as they interfered with visibility when joining main road. Pedestrian access via overgrown footpaths / gates had also been improved.

‘- Vacant land to rear of Parish Hall car park being checked by County for development potential but highways access was poor. Land was cleared by community council in 2006 but land ownership required further investigation.

‘-Warm Spaces – WCBC are holding event in Plas Tywyn on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 2.00pm- 5.00pm. Clerk to check if further dates are planned.

‘-Cost of Living - WCBC organising series of events and one being organised for Bryn Teg. Clerk to check if further local venues will be added.

‘- Walk about with PCSO S Howsam as reported earlier tonight.

‘- It was reported by community councillor that bins and recycling from Pentrefron Road had missed collections, and there had been difficulty in contacting Wrexham County Borough Council. Cllr Childs would look into matter.

**Cllr A Wedlake** – reported that upon completion of highway work to front access of Ysgol Bryn Tabor the road will be adopted by County Highways Authority. This project had taken many years of lobbying and hard work and thanks to all concerned was a sentiment echoed by local councillors and residents involved with school.

‘- Nant Mill – a community funding package had been agreed for Nant Mill Trust as part larger plans to develop Clywedog Valley Partnership.

- Warm Spaces – had concerns that WCBC had only publicised one warm space event in village although county officers would be monitoring situation.

- Finance -was disturbed to hear that WCBC were forecasting a four to six million pound overspend during last four months.

‘- Road Works - WCBC Highways had notified of road closures for Smithy Road and Heol Caradog over next few weeks to enable gas maintenance work.

### **37. SCHOOL GOVERNOR- YSGOL BRYN TABOR**

Mr A Griffiths, Chair of School Governors had enquired if Council would be able to fill this vacant position. Nominations were invited but non forthcoming on this occasion.

### **38. WREXHAM COUNTY PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Details circulated with agenda of planning application for P/2022/0847 Maes Capel, Greenfield Road, Coedpoeth. Extension to and remodelling of sheltered housing scheme to create 18 independent living apartments with communal areas.

**RESOLVED** That WCBC be informed that Council has concerns about reduction in number of units from existing twenty two to eighteen apartments.

Proposer: Cllr A Wedlake    Seconder: Cllr GI Kelly

### **39. CLERK’S REPORT**

‘a) Pen y Gelli – Painting of Play Equipment. Clerk advised he had encountered difficulty in contacting Playable Spaces volunteers about painting of equipment but there was a quotation on file via WCBC of £750. Cllr S Edwards reported that group was in process of being reformed.

‘b) Coedpoeth War Memorial – additional names had recently been engraved onto War Memorial, Park Road, Coedpoeth. Cllr S Scheurleer reported that with assistance from Coleg Cambria work was also progressing on lighting scheme. Over two thousand pounds had been raised by volunteers towards project. Further discussion would be required with Community Council in due course about long term responsibility of lighting.

**RESOLVED** That Council records its thanks to Cllr S Scheurleer and Coleg Cambria for their hard work on this project.

Proposer: Cllr GI Kelly      Seconder: Cllr V Jones

**c)** Office Redecoration – work underway to complete move to first floor office. Awaiting surveyors report on ground floor office ceiling that had partially fallen.

**d)** Play and Youth Facilities – Clerk reported that he had found quotation referred to in previous meeting for installing mains electric at play containers used at Adwy park in sum of £3,860 plus a requirement to install concrete bases for containers. Discussion ensued regarding Council's previous decision regarding this matter and minute records, thought to be 2017/18 period would need to be checked.

Electricity currently supplied by generator on site.

**e)** Governance - work progressing and key staff/service contractor appointments have been made. Council will need to determine priority workload and future actions in coming months to address the longstanding issues of compliance, buildings, personnel, and community development.

**f)** Bank Accounts – ongoing work to update mandates and secure access to all accounts.

**g)** Property Maintenance – a number of issues have been highlighted recently and will need to be addressed. A property survey is recommended to assist in prioritising works required to Parish Hall, Cemetery and Old Carnegie library. Situation complicated by part rented accommodation.

**h)** External Audit – additional information requested by external auditor regarding 2021/22 Annual Return and Internal Audit Report.

#### **40. STREET LIGHTING – ENERGY REPORT**

Details of Council's footway lighting energy report produced by Locum Clerk had been circulated with agenda papers. It outlined background to service and maintenance of 233 footway lamps owned by Coedpoeth Community Council, energy consumption (51830 kwh per annum) and costs incurred as a result of rapidly rising energy costs (2021 – £0.24 kwh    2022 - £0.85kwh).

The additional cost difference for energy consumption over last twelve months had risen by a staggering thirty thousand six hundred pounds. Other councils had recently been reporting increases of a similar nature.

Reference was made to ongoing programme of replacing lamps with low-cost LED but size of energy price increase meant this was a serious immediate problem for Council who held limited reserves.

Following discussion there was growing awareness of significant impact upon Council's present budget and need to prepare next year's budget proposals 2023/24. The Clerk also referred to fact that it appeared Council had already agreed to use a significant reserve spending to support funding this financial year.

A further meeting would be necessary when considering budget plans 2022/23.

(Dark pocket of light by Heol Celyn/Heol Offa needs checking)

#### **41. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING PM21(c)**

Cllr B Brown, Chairman reported that last year the main feature lighting at each end of village had been damaged by storm and vehicle damage. Mega Electrical Ltd had advised that it was not cost effective to repair equipment. Locum Clerk also advised that he had been unable to identify a separate festive lighting budget line to date but felt it was possible this had been included with footway lighting maintenance.

Members agreed that in circumstances Cllr Brown approach Mega Electrical Ltd to see if they had any suitable festive lighting loan equipment.

#### **42. PAYMENTS SCHEDULE - OCTOBER 2022**

Details previously circulated and copy of quarterly budget statement circulated at meeting.

#### **RESOLVED**

'a) That Schedule of Payments for October 2022 and Quarterly Budget Statement be accepted.

b) That a Special Finance meeting be arranged to consider Precept Options 2022/23

Proposer: Cllr V Jones    Seconder: Cllr GI Kelly

#### **43. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN PM25(e)**

Council was reminded of last month's discussion and desire to encourage local schools to become involved in learning about local government and planning for the future.

#### **RESOLVED**

That Cllr GI Kelly approach local schools to see if children would like a visit and discussion about local government and public service.

#### **44. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** That in accordance with Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960) and Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 A public and press be excluded during the following items: Insurance Renewal/MUGA/Bowling Green/Caretakers Report/Co-option's/Remote Meetings

#### **45. INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Temporary Locum Clerk advised that insurance was arranged by brokers Keegan and Pennykid(Insurance Brokers) and was due on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**RESOLVED** That Insurance 2022/23 be renewed on terms offered

Financial/Legal Implications: £7,198 as per quotation. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations waived due to limited market competition and time constraints on seeking renewal this year.

#### **46. MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) COEDPOETH PM 21(d)**

Following last meeting there had been ongoing correspondences regarding repair work to be undertaken by Wrexham County Borough Council, and County Ward Councillors (copy circulated with agenda). Cllr S Scheuleer had also been in correspondence enquiring about whether or not Community Council would consider acquiring this facility from Wrexham County Borough Council as a community asset..

It was unclear at this stage what longer term plans and commitment to facility would be from Wrexham County Borough Council.

**RESOLVED** That this item be DEFERRED

#### **47. COEDPOETH MEMORIAL PARK AND BOWLING GREEN PM30**

Temporary Locum Clerk reported he had received no further information regarding incident.

#### **48. CARETAKERS REPORT**

Detail of report circulated with agenda. Temporary Locum Clerk explained that these issues had been raised by caretaker and required addressing and/or explanation to enable public to be informed of position.

**a) Parish Hall- gas boilers**

There are three boilers but only one working properly. Given onset of winter it was important to arrange for inspection and replacement if required.

Locum Clerk to arrange for quotations for work and action expedited by Executive Committee if required.

**b) Parish Hall - Ladies Toilet**

Floor has sunk in cubicle 1 and further intrusive examination required.

Locum Clerk to arrange for builder to attend and provide quotation

**c) Parish Hall - Main Hall Lighting**

Several ceiling lights were either out or flickered on occasion. Unfortunately, due to fittings and height of ceiling scaffolding or similar would be required to access lighting. There was also some concern about potential damage to flooring from heavy weight as scaffolding/tower lift is required.

A local electrician had been approached but had not responded. Locum Clerk to contact Mega Electrical Ltd for inspection and quotation for repair.

**d) Old Library – Residential**

Door in property required repair – quotations being sought.

Damp – longstanding issue of damp and awaiting quotation for a full invasive buildings survey to be undertaken for whole of building. A Councillor made reference to damp in cellar and actions taken to date but it was not clear if this problem had been rectified and/or another source of damp is present.

**e) PayScale's – several staff had queried historical rates of pay and it is not clear why this has not been actioned previously. Recently appointed Temporary Locum Clerk and Accountant would need to investigate.**

Chairman confirmed he was still in contact with One Voice Wales regarding contract of employment issue.



**50. CEMETERY TREES**

Cemetery Superintendent had received complaints from public about overgrown trees and had supplied quotations from four local companies for this work. Council queried if a tree pollarding licence would be required. Temporary Locum Clerk would need to contact Wrexham County Borough Council for guidance.

Council was reminded that cemetery was now closed for new public burials.

**51. CO OPTION – COUNCILLORS PM9**

**RESOLVED** That this item be DEFERRED

**52. REMOTE MEETINGS EQUIPMENT**

**RESOLVED** That this item be DEFERRED

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_