

# COEDPOETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of FULL COUNCIL held in Old Carnegie Library, Park Road, Coedpoeth on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00pm-9.00pm

## **PRESENT**

Cllrs: B Brown-Chairman), V Jones, S Scheurleer, P Wilson, G Price, Y Mc Carrol, L Van Ryswyk. Remote attendance: Cllr A Wedlake, GI Kelly, Gr Kelly.

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr T Woodcock – Friends of Nant Mill, PCSO S Howsam (94438) Mr N Acott  
Temporary Locum Clerk. Remote attendance: Cllr K Childs – Wrexham County  
Borough Council

## **APOLOGIES**

Cllr S Edwards

## **17. WELCOME**

Chairman welcomed Councillors and Public to meeting.

## **18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

## **20. 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 explained he had recently been appointed to cover the Coedpoeth area and was looking forward to working with community and its residents. He spoke about crime reporting statistics for Coedpoeth area covering last month and circulated details as follows:

4 anti social behaviour, 1 burglary, 2 criminal damage, 1 dangerous dog, 1 drugs, 3 public disorder, 1 community protection notice, 1 shoplifting, 2 thefts

It was reported that in comparative terms Coedpoeth community had a low level of crime but unfortunately a spike in the last week of previous month, possibly linked to

time of year and darker nights, had increased figures not only in Coedpoeth but across County policing area.

Discussion took place on anti-social behaviour that had occurred recently at Coedpoeth Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), and police actions being taken to reassure local residents. Both Wrexham County Borough Council (owners) and North Wales Police recognised need to provide facilities and services for youth.. A site meeting at the MUGA had been arranged by WCBC later this week to discuss future plans and options. Council was also informed that WCBC Officers had visited site and had closed it immediately due to a number of health and safety issues.

PCSO Howsam was thanked by several members for his involvement and help in dealing with MUGA incidents, and also for the reassurance offered by police to local residents affected by anti-social behaviour.

The Chairman then thanked PC Howsman for his attendance tonight

#### 'b) Nant Mill - Friends and Community Trust

Chairman welcomed Mr Tim Woodcock who has been involved with Friends of Nant Mill for several years, and more recently formation of Nant Mill Community Trust. Mr Woodcock had provided a statement paper which had been circulated to all councillors via Clerk's office earlier today.

Tim began by thanking council for its continuing support, and especially those members and residents who had recently attended the highly successful BBC televised 'Weatherman Walking' event held at Nant Mill. The programme would be screened next spring.

Tim explained that the Nant Mill site together with a number of other facilities formed part of the Clywedog Valley, with bulk of property and assets owned by Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC). In recent years the county has established the Clywedog Valley Partnership with a view to transferring ownership to a community trust or similar. With regard to Nant Mill, a community trust has already been formed and is recognised by the partnership.

Clywedog Valley Partnership is well supported by WCBC and Groundworks etc. and together a 1.4 million pound bid is to be submitted to National Lottery to improve facilities including Nant Mill. Some matched funding is required but plans are in place to ensure these funds will become available if bid is successful. Other funding and professional services and funds have already been made available to assist with bidding process.

Tim is hoping that Codepoeth Community Council will consider joining the Clywedog Valley Partnership and Clerk reported that an invitation has been received by Council to attend their next meeting on 20th October 2022. In addition, the Nant Mill Community Trust has been established in addition to 'Friends' and is looking to increase the number of its trustees should anyone be interested.

Cllrs V Jones. Y McCarrol. L Van Ryswyk all indicated they wished to find out more about the Clwedog Valley Partnership and Nant Mill Community Trust and details provided accordingly.

Tim advised that in respect of Nant Mill, work was required to the toilet block, visitor centre, and flat above following survey and repairs. Interpretation of site and its association with Evans family was also being researched. A digital story and access to a digital trail of had been built and could be viewed at [www.bit.ly/nantmill](http://www.bit.ly/nantmill)

Chairman thanked Mr Tim Woodcock and his team for their work in safeguarding this important historical building.

## **21. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

'a) Clywedog Valley Partnership – 20.10.2022 – Chairman advised that previous item tonight had provided update but if any member wished to attend forthcoming meeting to contact Clerk's office for further details.

'b) Nant Mill Update – this item had also been discussed during earlier item tonight.

'c) Christmas Lights - Chairman reported that Council was awaiting quotation from Mega Electrical for repairs to failed rope light feature, and installation costs based upon last year's display

Cllr S Scheurleer referred to last years fund raising efforts for Christmas lights and will provide further details to Clerks office. This item to be agendered for next meeting.

'd) Multi Use Games Area – Coedpoeth

Cllrs K Childs and S Scheurleer referred to anti-social behaviour incidents that had occurred at Coedpoeth Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) that had contributed to concerns about facility by Wrexham County Borough Council (site owners). However, following recent inspection, the long-term lack of maintenance and repair has resulted in a number of health and safety issues which has led to its immediate closure on safety grounds. A site meeting was being arranged for later this week by County Officers and others to discuss future of facility.

## **22. MINUTES**

Cllr G Price queried the recording of proposer and seconder for Council resolutions as he felt this sometimes helped when researching passed records/topics. Members agreed this matter would be further discussed later in evening

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of Full Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be accepted subject to following addendum: -

Minute 7. Big Park Project- Pen y Gelli - Council Sub -Committee to include Cllr Y Mc Carrol

Proposers: Cllr G Price      Seconder: Cllr S Scheurleer

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

**Cllr K Childs** – reported upon actions being taken by County Council in respect of cost of living crisis and associated rise in housing problems. County Council would be introducing a ‘warm spaces’ project to enable a number of Council owned public buildings to open to public for shelter, warmth and possibly refreshments over winter months. Coedpoeth Community Council is looking to complement this activity for local residents.

Reference was also made to the concept of developing a local community strategic plan to help focus community plans, assess local needs, and target investment to key areas. It was envisaged that several community partnerships could be established to help with such an approach. A similar exercise had been undertaken many years ago but unfortunately this had not been kept up to date or subjected to annual review.

**Cllr A Wedlake** – reported that cost of living crisis and housing issues continued to dominate his contact with local residents. He also reported upon some concerns about ongoing leadership issues at county.

He wain agreement with Cllr K Childs that a public consultation exercise and development of local community/neighbourhood plan would be helpful to both County Council / Community Council / Business / Residents.

### **24. WREXHAM COUNTY PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) Details circulated with agenda of planning application for erection of replacement outbuilding - extension of balcony and alterations to windows at Monastir Middle Road, Coedpoeth. No Objections received

b) Cllr A Wedlake reported upon a potential planning application that was causing some concern to local residents but at this stage no planning application had been received by county council. He urged Council to be vigilant.

## 25. CLERK'S REPORT

'a) Coedpoeth War Memorial – Council was reminded of previous discussions and in consultation with Executive Committee work to add two names to Memorial had been authorised. Buckley Memorials had provided quotation and engaged at a cost of £380 plus vat

'b) Street Light No 80, Heol Islwyn – there has been a longstanding problem with this Community Council owned lamp which requires attention by both Scottish Power (energy provider) and Mega Electrical (lighting contractors). A quotation for all work had been received in sum of £830 plus vat.

Discussion took place upon ownership of pole although this did not affect works required but would be further investigated.

**RESOLVED** That street lamp no. 80 be repaired and quotation in sum of £830 from Mega Electrical be accepted.

Financial/Legal Implications : Costs to be contained within lighting budget 2022/23

Proposer: Cllr A Wedlake    Seconder: Cllr V Jones

b(i) Street Light 149 near Pen Tywyn – it was reported that a concrete lamp column had been hit by an unknown vehicle a good while long time ago, Subsequently Wrexham County Borough Council had removed upper section as they deemed it to be unsafe. Council had discussed item sometime last year but no remedial action had been determined. Clerk advised that remaining lamp stump should be removed or lamp column be replaced in its entirety with new LED lamp. Mega Electrical had provided a verbal quotation in sum of £2,000 for removal and replacement of lamp.

**RESOLVED** That street lamp no.149 be removed and replaced with new column and LED lamp subject to written quotation not exceeding £2,000

Financial/Legal Implications: Costs to be contained within lighting budget 2022/23

Proposer: Cllr S Scheurleer    Seconder: Cllr V Jones    Abstain: Cllr P Wilson

b(ii) Street Lamps – Community Council. Members were urged to report any issues with lamps to Clerk's office or WCBC if owned by Wrexham County Borough Council. Some members reported that sections of village did not have street lighting. Chairman urged all Councillors to bring forward any concerns about lighting in order that such matters could be considered in future.

Reference was also made to notice boards and Clerk asked Councillors to notify office of location of notice boards within community requiring attention.

c) Office Redecoration and Equipment – work is underway to decorate first floor office to accommodate office staff. Problems with existing computer equipment had caused problems and following consultation with Chairman two new laptops had also been purchased in line budget proposals for IT equipment.

d) Wrexham County Borough Council – Clerk reported that he was awaiting further information from WCBC Electoral Services regarding Co-Option process, and also details from Youth Services regarding Playable Spaces contact re: Pen y Gelli Park work.

e) Governance – work was progressing and key staff appointments had recently been made. Council would need to review its priorities in near future as many competing demands are being placed upon council's limited resources.

Cllr GI Kelly referred to earlier discussions tonight about community neighbourhood plan and felt that schools and youth groups should be approached initially to establish young people's concerns and ideas for future of village. A community engagement plan would be agendered for next meeting.

Chairman thanked Clerk for his report.

## **26. PAYMENTS SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER 2022**

Details circulated with agenda.

**RESOLVED** That Schedule of Payments for September 2022 be accepted

Proposer: Cllr G Price Seconder: Cllr P Wilson

## **27. PRECEPT 2023/24**

Clerk reminded members that it would soon be time to set next year's council's budget and determine council tax precept. Councillors were asked to inform Clerk of any new projects and/or significant changes to services that would need to be considered.

Reference was made to a project to supply electricity to Youth Services container and County members were invited to provide further details.

## **28. 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 the public and press be excluded during the following items: Minutes; Personnel Items; Coedpoeth Memorial Park and Bowling Green

Confidential information removed

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_