

Ruabon Community Council

Minutes of Community Council's Meeting held on Wednesday 29 June 2016 at 7.00pm at Ruabon Village Hall

Present: Councillor Dana Davies(chair); Councillor Paul Bickley; Councillor Sybil Bremner; Councillor Ann Davies; Councillor David J Green; Councillor Bob Jackson; Councillor Christine Jackson; Councillor Ann Jones; Councillor Lisa Kelly; Councillor Gwen Rogers; Councillor Bill Smith; Mike Blackshaw (Clerk/Finance Officer); PCSO Steve Bellis.

Apologies: Councillor Supriya Kapas; Councillor Joan Lowe; Councillor Cath. Roberts; PCSO Emily Blake

Minute Ref. No.	Agenda Item No.	Summary of Discussion	Decisions/Agreed Actions/related Documents
4522	1	1.1 - Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest at this time.	
4523	2	2.1 – Confirmation of Minutes- Minutes of the meeting held on the 25 May 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record proposed by Councillor Bill Smith seconded by Councillor Paul Bickley and approved by Council.	
4524	3	<p>3.1 - Matters Arising –</p> <p>3.2 – Meeting at Esclusham Community Council – The Clerk reported he had now received the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April and he would circulate them to all members.</p> <p>3.3 – Ruabon Community Fund – The Clerk advised the meeting that there was still no progress regarding the fund, however, Councillor Joan Lowe had been in contact with AVOW and had provided them with details of when the village hall was available to hold a public meeting. The Clerk was requested to contact AVOW again in an attempt to obtain details of when further progress is to be made in accessing the fund.</p> <p>3.4 – 20 mph. Zone – The Council acknowledged the need to support its bid for a 20mph zone through the village with specific data, they were aware that such zones had been provided elsewhere by the Highways Department and felt a reduced speed limit through the village would benefit everyone. The main area of concern was the bend between High Street and Bridge Street, although in most cases drivers were travelling within the current speed limit it was agreed that it did not take into account the blind junction into Church Street. Traffic leaving Church Street had limited visibility towards Bridge Street and found it difficult to exit safely. The matter would be discussed further with the PCSO under Police Matters.</p>	

4525	4	<p>3.5 – Williams Mews – Councillor Bob Jackson raised the issue of the lack of progress regarding the houses on High Street, Councillor Dana Davies reported that progress was being made by W.C.B.C. A discussions took place regarding the possible use of the site but it was pointed out that the site had been earmarked for affordable housing. The Clerk was requested to arrange for Mr. Sion Wynne to be invited to a future meeting to provide detailed information on the progress in trying to resolve this matter.</p> <p>3.6 - Youth Service – Councillor Dana Davies again updated the meeting regarding the future of the youth service in Ruabon, she advised the meeting that she had requested details of the annual building and staff costs in running the youth service and to date had not received any details. Councillor Ann Davies also reported that a promise had been made at the Forum meeting that information would be provided to the Community Council. Councillor Dana Davies reported that she had a meeting booked with Donna Dickinson, Head of Service, to discuss the outstanding matters given the limited timescale available to produce a business plan for running the facility and to establish possible sources of funding.</p> <p>3.7 – Hanging Baskets The Clerk reported he had still not received a response from the Street Lighting Engineer at Wrexham, Councillor Dana Davies suggested that he contact a different officer within Street Scene who may be able to provide a response.</p> <p>4.1 - Police Matters – PCSO Steve Bellis arrived at the meeting at 7.20pm and was welcomed by the Chair. PCSO Bellis reported the following crime figures since the last meeting: Attempted Burglary– 1; Robberies – 0; A.S.B. – 6; Criminal Damage – 3 (2 windows,1 property); Arson – 0; Theft from Vehicles– 0; Theft Others – 1 Burglary Non Dwelling -0; Theft of vehicle -1; Assaults – 0; Drugs – 0.</p> <p>4.2 – Matters Arising – PCSO Bellis reported that no-one attended the Police Surgeries but they would continue for the other dates. It was suggested that a better option might be to hold them on a Saturday or a Wednesday evening, PCSO Bellis noted the alternatives but advised the meeting that staffing arrangement would be a key issue in order to have a surgery in the evening or at week-ends. He also confirmed that he had checked police records and had not found any further reports of under aged drinking within the community. PCSO Bellis informed the meeting that he had carried out a speed survey at the junction of Bridge Street and Church Street and that all vehicles had been travelling within the 30mph. speed limit. The Council’s concern was not the speed but that the traffic acknowledge the danger caused</p>	
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4526	5	<p>by the junction. The Council considered how the introduction of a 20mph limit could be introduced given the highway department had suggested there was no funding available other than for areas outside schools which remained their priority. One option which was suggested was for the Community Council to fund the installation of speed signs. The Clerk advised that the highway department would have to go through a legal process before any speed limit changes could be introduced and this could also incur costs to the Council. He was requested to contact W.C.B.C. to establish whether there was a possibility of the Council funding such a scheme and what the costs would be.</p> <p>Councillor Paul Bickley, on behalf of Friends of Ruabon, thanked PCSO Bellis and the other officers who provided help and support with the parade and the fete held in the village on 11 June, their attendance had proved a great success.</p> <p>5.1 – Cemetery Group - Councillor Paul Bickley reported that he had been elected as the new chair of the group and he reported that the Group had met and raised the following issues. Access to water at the top section of the cemetery was required, some visitors were finding it extremely difficult to carry water from the tap at the main entrance. The group were recommending that a water butt be placed at a convenient location at/near the new section of the cemetery. The Council agreed and requested the clerk to make the necessary enquiries. Councillor Bickley reported that brambles in some of the trees needed removing and that on the day of inspection they had found that a petrol can had been left on the site, this was removed and placed in a safe location.</p> <p>He also reported that the Group were recommending that the grass on the new section of the cemetery should not be cut in full and that only a strip of approximately 2 metres be cut. This would allow the groundsmen to undertake more essential work. The Clerk raised his concerns that by having the area cut on a regular basis it had resulted in a considerable improvement to the condition of the grass which was now in keeping with the rest of the cemetery, he felt that by reducing the amount of cutting it would return to its previous condition. The Council agreed in principal to the recommendation but would assess the condition of the area after a period of time.</p> <p>The Clerk reported he had received a request from Ms K Czora to erect a full size memorial on her parents' grave, this was to avoid any long term maintenance of the plot. The meeting discussed the request and referred to the new rules and regulations which allows for only headstones and tablets to be erected.</p>	
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4527	6	<p>The Clerk pointed out that the request was for a grave dating back to 1985 and that previous similar requests had been approved. Councillor Bickley agreed to inspect the location and report back to Council. The Clerk was requested to obtain more details of the design of the memorial.</p> <p>6.1 – V.H.C.M. Group – Councillor Dana Davies reported that Councillor Paul Bickley had been elected Vice- Chair by the Group and that the Group were recommending the need to enlarge the Group by extending invitations to representatives of the organisations using the hall, this would allow the group to have a better understanding on how to improve the facilities to accommodate the needs of everyone using the hall / pavilion.</p> <p>The Group had agreed to hold one of their meetings at a later time in the evenings to accommodate the attendance of the Caretaker. The next meeting was planned to follow the Finance Group meeting on the 20 July at approximately 7.45pm.</p> <p>Maintenance – The Group had agreed to delay the planned project in the Pavilion until after the end of the bowling season and had also considered how to make use of its sports facilities. It was acknowledge there was a need to attract sports groups to make use of the changing facilities available. This would be looked into over the next few months.</p> <p>The Group were considering improving the provision of storage space within the hall and it was proposed that alterations to the toilet facilities would allow more room to be made available for the storage of Council files and also remove the tables and chairs from the meeting room. The meeting agreed for the Clerk to arrange for plans to be produced for the Council to consider.</p> <p>The Group had also considered extending the paved area outside by removing the grass, the Clerk had advised the Group that there were limited finances available and that they should consider their main priorities. The Group were also recommending that new chairs be purchased which could be stored more easily and would allow greater use of the meeting room. New external notice boards were being considered as the existing one was beginning to leak water and it was agreed an additional one located elsewhere within the village would be useful to provide easier access to Council information.</p>	
4528	7	<p>7.1 – Planning Matters – The following Planning Application was discussed:</p> <p>P/2016/0556 – Wyfydd, Penylan, Ruabon – Erection of an Agricultural Building for stock, feed and machinery – noted no objections were raised.</p>	

4529	8	<p>8.1 – General Correspondence – The following items of correspondence were considered</p> <p>Karen Czora – Request for the erection of a headstone and surround on her parents’ grave, Last burial in the grave was June 2009 – see item 5.1 above.</p> <p>St. Mary’s Shared Church - Request for a letter of support for grant application to Cory for funding of repairs to the church including re-laying tiled floor, re-siting of the lighting and relocating the font – letter noted, the Clerk was requested to send an appropriate letter of support.</p> <p>Shelter Cymru - Requesting for financial support to help improve the lives of those living in Wrexham at risk of losing their homes – noted application to be considered at November 2016 meeting.</p> <p>AVOW – Notice of their AGM to be held on Friday 15 July 2016 at 10.00am at the Catrin Finch Centre Glyndwr University - noted.</p> <p>W.C.B.C. Charlotte Walton – Community Agent Annual Budget – Request for details of spend on the project and balance available, plus details of how the underspend will be used to develop future schemes – item noted, awaiting outcome of the meeting with Charlotte Walton .</p> <p>Post Office – Response to Council’s letter regarding facilities at Ruabon Post Office – letter noted seek copy of their report when available.</p> <p>One Voice Wales - Flintshire Local Development Plan Key Stakeholder Forum – Inviting nominations from members to act as representative on the forum - Noted.</p> <p>Wales Audit Office – Annual Report 2015 – 2016 – Noted, copy to Councillors Ann Davies and Dana Davies</p> <p>OWL – Flintshire & Wrexham on-line watch link will continue to use the OWL system which will allow continuity of service to Eastern communities – Item noted</p> <p>Businessline – request for information on any community newsletters, local web-sites in which businesses could advertise – provide details of newsletter and web-sites.</p> <p>Wrexham Area Civic Society Awards – Request for any nominations for various award categories – Item noted no nominations</p> <p>W.C.B.C. – Licence Policy Review – Summary of Changes – comments by 20 July 2016 -</p> <p>One Voice Wales – Model for consideration – revised Financial Regulations – next Finance Group.</p> <p>Esclusham Community Council – Minutes of meeting 13 April 2016 – include on Agenda for July 2016</p> <p>Adult Social Care – 2 training courses – Item noted copy to Councillor Ann Davies.</p> <p>Welsh Government – Recruitment of members to Building Regulation Advisory Committee – Item noted</p>	
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4530	9	<p>Public Service Staff Commission Annual Report – web-link Item noted.</p> <p>9.1 - Finance Report – The Clerk reported on the following Item:</p> <p>9.2 - 2015/2016 Year End Audit – The Clerk reported that the signed audit report had been forwarded to the external auditor for review.</p> <p>9.3 - Pension Provision – The Clerk up-dated the meeting on the progress and confirmed the registration of all qualifying staff had been completed. A direct debit for contributions had been set up and he needed to finalise the level of contributions by staff and confirm details of the possible costs involved.</p> <p>9.4 – Accounts – A schedule of accounts requiring payment was circulated Councillor Paul Bickley proposed and Councillor Ann Davies seconded and Council agreed to the payments.</p>	
4531	10	<p>10.1 – A.O.B. – Councillors reported the poor condition of pavements in New Hall Road, Albert Grove and the Pont Adam area where weeds had not been treated so far this year. The problem was also evident in various other sites. The Clerk would report the problem to Street Scene. Councillor David Green reported drainage work had been carried out at the Bridge End area to resolve the issue of flooding into Railway Terrace and the public house. Councillor Smith reported that the gullies on Penycae Road and Church Street also needed attention to avoid any future flooding. Councillor Bremner reported the continual problem with litter on the footpath behind the Alms Houses, the Clerk would again be report the issue to Street Scene.</p>	
4532	11	<p>11.1 - D.N.M. –</p> <p>The date of the next meeting of Full Council is Wednesday 27 July 2016 at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The Finance Group meeting 7.00pm Wednesday 20 July Followed by the V.H.C.M. Group at approximately 7.45pm</p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting at 9.45pm.</p> <p>Matters Outstanding: Boundary Wall – St Mary’s Church Japanese Knotweed Stonewall - Bridge Litter Bins Williams Mews Hafan Cymru</p>	

