

Ruabon Community Council

Minutes of Community Council’s Meeting held on Wednesday 28 September 2016 at 7.00pm at Ruabon Village Hall

Present: Councillor Dana Davies(Chair); Councillor Sybil Bremner; Councillor Ann Davies; Councillor David Green; Councillor Christine Jackson; Councillor Ann Jones; Councillor Lisa Kelly; Councillor Joan Lowe; Councillor Cath. Roberts; Councillor Gwen Rogers; Councillor Bill Smith; Mike Blackshaw (Clerk/Finance Officer); PCSO Steve Bellis.

Apologies: Councillor Supriya Kapas ; Councillor Paul Bickley; Councillor Bob Jackson; PCSO Emily Blake

Minute Ref. No.	Agenda Item No.	Summary of Discussion	Decisions/Agreed Actions/related Documents
4560	1	1.1 - Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest at this stage.	
4561	2	2.1- Confirmation of the minutes – the minutes of the meeting held on the 31 August 2016 were considered and following a minor alteration was agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Councillor Christine Jackson seconded by Councillor Ann Davies and approved by Council.	
4562	3	<p>3.1 - Matters Arising –</p> <p>3.2 – Ruabon Community Fund - the Clerk reported that the meeting had been held involving a number of groups which had submitted bids and Mr. John Gallanders of AVOW.</p> <p>Councillors Bill Smith, Sybil Bremner, Lisa Kelly and David Green declared an interest in the next item on behalf of Growing Ruabon and Friends of Ruabon.</p> <p>Councillor Smith raised the issue of the application for funding submitted by Growing Ruabon which had been refused by the assessment panel. He pointed out that the Group has been set up as a Company Limited by Guarantee it is a non-profit making organisation and therefore should have qualified to be submitted to Entrust for their consideration. The Chair pointed out that the panel considered each application on merit and acknowledged that all decisions were made on the basis of the criteria provided. The advice given by Entrust in one case involved its business entity and the panel agreed for AVOW to write to the organisation requesting further information.</p> <p>Concern was expressed by Councillor Sybil Bremner as to whether the member representatives should have been considering the applications and whether there was a conflict of interest. The Clerk pointed out that a conflict of interest was not relevant in this instance as the members</p>	

4563	4	<p>had been elected to the panel by the Council and were there to ensure that the fund was being used for the benefit of the community. The Chair stressed that the panel had approved most of the applications in all or in part, it was Entrust who had rejected them.</p> <p>Councillor Joan Lowe was unhappy with the comments made by Councillors relating to the panel members and wished to withdraw herself from the panel and any future panel. The Council continued to discuss the issue of 'declaration of interest', the Chair pointed out examples of when it was necessary for her to disclose her interest in a topic. She also pointed out that when members were at a Council meeting they were representatives of the community and should separate this from membership of other organisations. The Clerk advised the meeting he would circulate the section within the Code of Conduct which related to 'Declaration of Interest' to help avoid future confusion.</p> <p>3.3 – 20mph. Speed Zone - The Council noted the previous response from the Highways Department, however, Mr. Jones pointed out to the previous meeting that concerns had been raised regarding the introduction of these zones and that the Department of Transport were undertaking a review of the initiative. The Clerk reported he had forwarded details of the e-mails Mr. Jones had circulated these would be discussed at a future meeting.</p> <p>4.1 - Police Matters – PCSO Steve Bellis arrived at 7.20pm and was welcomed by the Chair who on behalf of the Council congratulated him on his recent marriage which had taken place in New York. PCSO Bellis thanked the Council for their best wishes and went on to report the crime figures since the last meeting, these are contained in Appendix A</p> <p>PCSO Bellis reported that the car for sale located on the pavement at Pont Adam had been removed. He also reported that the Neighbourhood Watch initiative was no longer in operation and that the OWL scheme was now available for communities to become involved in.</p> <p>With regards to the poor response to police surgeries, he suggested that by attending meetings of local groups it may have a more positive outcome. Council agreed and that details of such meetings would be provided by the Clerk. He reported he was continuing to patrol the Recreation Ground and Wynnstay Gates whenever possible and had not found any individuals using drugs. He was also monitoring the parking outside both primary schools during the mornings.</p> <p>4.2 Matters Arising : It was reported that during the litter pick evidence of drug use was found on the footpath under the bridge near the railway station, it was also noted that the street light at that location was still out of order. The</p>	
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4564	5	<p>5.1 Community Agent – The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from Penycae Community Council’s Clerk that they were anxious to proceed with the project for a further agreed period. He advised the meeting that there were still funds available from the pilot project to allow adequate funding for the new scheme and requested the Council to consider continuing with the project. Councillor Joan Lowe advised the meeting that the aim of the Community Agent was to provide support and guidance to individuals not to provide specific services. It was to support the elderly in their homes by offering help when necessary.</p> <p>The Chair put the proposal to continue with the project to the meeting, the result of the ballot was 8 members in favour, 3 abstentions (Councillor Lowe abstained as the scheme was part of her responsibility as Lead Member for People-Health and Adult Social Care within W.C.B.C.).</p> <p>The Clerk also pointed out that Penycae had set up a group to oversee the project and it was proposed the Council do the same. Councillors Dana Davies, Ann Davies and Sybil Bremner agreed to undertake the roll. The Council also agreed to advertise the post as soon as possible and the advert to be displayed in the local press and at suitable locations around both Communities including the Library and GP surgeries.</p>	
4565	6	<p>6.1 – Cemetery Group – The Clerk reported on behalf of the group and confirmed he had contacted Rhostyllen Church regarding the improvements being carried out to their footpaths and had been advised by the vicar that although they had received a grant for some of the work</p>	

4566	7	<p>on the church building, the church, however, was funding the work on the footpaths themselves.</p> <p>He also reported that he had made enquiries regarding the purchase of a hosepipe and reel to supply water to the new water butt this would cost in the region of £200, the Council agreed to its purchase.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the lawn mower had now been repaired and was back in use with the groundsmen, he acknowledged because of the length on time it had taken to repair any further service work on the mowers would be carried out by the Oswestry Branch of Griffiths Hire Shops.</p> <p>7.1 - Village Hall C.M. Group - The Chair reported on a number of issues raised by the Group.</p> <p>A plan of the hall showing a possible new layout had not been received as yet, the Clerk reported that the Architect had been extremely busy but it was hoped to have the details available soon.</p> <p>Maintenance – The redecoration of the hall had been discussed and recommended, the Clerk advised that the work could be done over the Christmas period but before that consideration should be given to replacing some of the doors as the handles could no longer be secured. Councillor Lisa Kelly had provided details of a painter and decorator so that alternative quotes could be considered.</p> <p>The Clerk had reported that he had received a quotation for a commercial baby changing unit for the disabled toilet at a cost in the region of £750, the Group were recommending the purchase of the unit rather than a normal domestic table because of the amount of use it might have. The Council approved the purchase. The Clerk also reported he had arranged for nappy disposal facilities to be installed and these would coincide with the installation of the unit. The hand dryer in the toilet had been relocated to accommodate the new changing unit.</p> <p>The Group were also recommending the relocation of the WIFI unit to a more secure location following recent damage.</p> <p>Councillor Paul Bickley raised a number of issues relating to the alarm system which the Clerk confirmed would be addressed.</p> <p>The Group had also raised the issue of future hire charges and they had agreed wait for financial details to be provided by the Clerk at the next meeting. Consideration was also being given to changing the hire arrangements and they were recommending that bookings for 2017 should be changed so that the main hall and kitchen could not be hired without the inclusion of the small meeting room because of Health and Safety issues.</p> <p>Details of new ergonomically comfortable chairs were provided by Councillor Sybil Bremner who along with Councillor Gwen Rogers had tested the chairs and found</p>	
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4567	8	<p>8.1 – Planning Matters – There were no Planning Application to discuss.</p>	
4568	9	<p>9.1 – General Correspondence – The following items of correspondence were considered:</p> <p>W.C.B.C. - Consultation – Management of W.C.B.C. Sports Pitches and Changing Rooms by Friday 25th November 2016 – Item Noted copy to Councillor Dana Davies</p> <p>Boundary Commission for Wales – 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales – Initial proposals – Noted forward link to all Councillors with broadband.</p> <p>W.C.B.C – Advertising International Older People’s Day – 1 October 2016 – Noted, include in the Ruabon newsletter.</p> <p>PCSO Emily Blake – Neighbourhood watch scheme – refer to OWL. – Item noted PCSO Bellis advised Council.</p> <p>Berwyn Thomas – Church Boundaries – Details of correspondence between JCC and RCC between January 1985 and December 1986 – Noted by Council Clerk to request a copy of the letter. Item to be included on future agenda</p> <p>Clerk Abenbury Community Council - Consultation North Wales Fire & Rescue – Motion to oppose the proposal to reduce the number of fire engines based in Wrexham from 2 to 1. – Noted – Council unanimously supported the motion, Clerk to respond.</p> <p>One Voice Wales – Report by Mike Harriman – Welsh Ambulance Service Trust – details of current initiatives within the Trust – Item noted.</p> <p>One Voice Wales - Response to the proposed merger of Local Justice Areas in Wales – Item noted.</p> <p>Wrexham Public Services Board – Consultation on ‘The Wrexham we Want’ – online by Monday 24 October and event at Coleg Cambria on 12 October 10.00am – 1.00pm. – Item noted Councillors.</p> <p>Anna Irwin – The Round House – response following issue raised by Mr. Mike Jones - Item noted, Clerk to contact W.C.B.C regarding listed building status.</p> <p>W.C.B.C. – Community Inclusion Grant – applications by Friday 28 October 2016- Item noted.</p> <p>Go Safe – Public Opinion Survey 2016 – website link. – Item noted</p>	

4569	10	<p>One Voice Wales – Training Session – Local Government Finance – 4 October 6.30 – 9.00pm Gwersyllt Resource Centre – Noted, no nominations.</p> <p>Alzheimer’s Society – Dementia Friendly Wrexham - Invitation to meeting at Racecourse 3 October 2016 from 6.00-8.00pm.- Noted</p> <p>Groundwork North Wales – Community Grant Scheme from Tesco – Grants up to £5,000 – Note, details to be forwarded to Councillors Sybil Bremner, Paul Bickley, Ann Davies and Bill Smith.</p> <p>Ruabon Scouts – Letter informing the Council that the group are finishing due to the lack of numbers. – Council noted the letter and expressed their disappointment.</p> <p>10.1 - Finance Report – The Clerk reported on the following item:</p> <p>10.2 – Account — A schedule of accounts requiring payment was circulated Councillor Joan Lowe proposed and Councillor Christine Jackson seconded and the Council agreed payment of the accounts.</p> <p>10.3 – New Bank Accounts – The Clerk reported the 2 new accounts had been set up with Cambrian Credit Union and that he requested approval to transfer the amounts previously agreed in 2 stages the first being for £500 for each account. The Council agreed to his request and the appropriate letters requesting HSBC to proceed with the transfer were to be signed by the Clerk and two other signatories.</p>	
4570	11	<p>11.1 - A.O.B. – The following item was raised: Concern regarding the state of the grass verges along the footpath between Penycae Road and Llangollen Road, the Clerk would again report the problems to Street Scene for action.</p> <p>Councillor Ann Davies had attended a meeting regarding funding of the youth service and had been impressed with the youngsters who had attended and suggested that an invitation should be sent to invite a group to a future Council meeting to discuss their requirements. The Council agreed for the Clerk to send an invitation to Mrs. Andrea Jackson.</p> <p>Councillor Bill Smith raised the matter of the work being carried out by individuals on community areas and asked the Council to consider providing financial support to them to cover out of pocket expenses such as fuel etc. The Council agreed to consider each claim received on merit.</p> <p>Councillor David Green advised the meeting that the provisional date for the visit of Santa’s sleigh this year was Sunday 4 December, no specific time was available.</p> <p>Council were also pleased to hear that a new limited bus service was being provided through the village</p>	

4571	12	<p>Councillors again raised the issues regarding the Japanese Knotweed which was still causing a problem around the railway line, the lack of bin on the footpath adjacent to the Alms Houses and the boundary hedge on the roadway opposite the Congregational Church. The Clerk said he would again report the issues.</p> <p>Councillor Bremner raised the issue of ivy growing in the wall around the Garden of Rest, the Clerk reported he would arrange for it to be removed.</p> <p>The Clerk provided an example of a Christmas street decorations which were no longer required by a local Town Council and asked whether the Council would be interested in acquiring them, he was requested to obtain the cost involved before a decision could be made.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the Christmas Group would meet late October/early November to arrange the Christmas Light switch on.</p> <p>12.1 - D.N.M. – The date of the next meeting of Full Council is Wednesday 26 October 2016 at 7.00pm</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.30pm.</p> <p>Matters Outstanding: Japanese Knotweed Stonewall - Bridge Litter Bin Williams Mews Boundary Wall – St Mary’s Church Light under railway bridge.</p>	
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