

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ABENBURY COMMUNITY COUNCIL¹ held on the 15th of January 2024

Members Present: Councillors: W. Wilson, D. O'Brien, J. Jones, P. Done M. Morris (Wrexham CBC)

Chair: Councillor D. O'Brien

Clerk: Serena Baxter.

Apologies: Councillors: G. Williams, A. Reeves, S. Clutton

227.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were given and accepted. It was AGREED to contact Councillor Williams to offer support in accessing the meetings.	Clerk
228.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Members were reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of any personal and/ or prejudicial interest for any item under discussion.	
229.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no members of the public present, in person or online.	
230.	CRIME REPORT AND POLICING MATTERS: The Crime report provided by PCSO L. Davies was considered and no issues were raised. Councillor O'Brien provided feedback from the meeting held with the Rural Inspector Matthew Subbachi. He has acknowledged that due to resource issues it is difficult to attend the Community Council meetings. The Police are reliant on community intelligence. There are targeted projects across the borough aimed at supporting vulnerable people. This is Operation Cinnamon. A discussion ensued. It was AGREED to support the police by hosting an event at Pentre Gwyn Community centre, to be attended by the Police. This will give an opportunity for residents to raise any concerns. Target hardening and the money given by the Community Council for the purchase of such items was discussed. Traffic Management is due to take place in the spring, it is recognised that speeding is a concern. and speedwatch programmes could involve community councillors along with residents. A discussion took place about the possibility of a Councillor or two being designated contacts for the Police with the Community Council. To relay information. For the next meeting, Councillor O'Brien will contact the PCSO to arrange a date and venue for the community meeting to take place. Approval was granted by the Community Council to spend on a venue and refreshments to support the meeting.	Councillor O'Brien.
231.	TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16th of October 2023: The Minutes of the meeting held on the 13 th of November 2023, were approved as a true record.	
232.	MATTERS ARISING: A discussion took place about the recent Santa Sleigh ride around the community, provided by Friends of Ruabon, which had been successful and very well organised. It was AGREED to arrange to have the same event next year.	
233.	FINANCIAL MATTERS, BUDGET, AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS: The Payments set out for payment in January were APPROVED.	Clerk

Payment To	Reason	Amount £
EXPENDITURE		
Clerk- (salary 1st December 2023 and 1st January 2024)	Clerk's salary NJC rates 20 contracted hours	
Vodafone	Telephone account	25.47
WCBC	Half yearly instalment Play area inspections	730.80
Gallagher Insurance group	Insurance quotation from Hiscox	794.25
WCBC	Quarterly charge street lighting maintenance (paid 1.12.23 due to demand)	415.69
HMRC	Amount due after PAYE (paid 1.12.23 due to demand)	35.40
HMRC	Amount due after PAYE	3.40
Friends of Ruabon	Donation of £100 agreed last meeting to fund Santa Sleigh ride	100.00
S. Baxter	Clerk's allowance and reimbursement	113.49
INCOME		
WCBC	Precept	3672.00
Unity Bank	Interest	248.32

The report prepared by the Clerk on the draft budget, and precept for 2024-2025 was considered. After discussion it was RESOLVED to set the budget as outlined in the draft report, at £15,129.00, with a contribution from reserves of £2000. Therefore, the precept to be requested will be £13, 129, which represents £41.68 per household per annum. A query was raised about the amount shown for the Play provision for 2024-2025. The Clerk is to raise a query on the amount quoted in the recent letter received, of £4897.42. It was thought that this represents a large raise, and therefore if the amount is confirmed as being at this amount, the provision is to be reduced to two sessions per week.

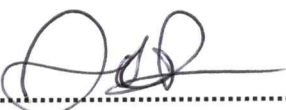
234.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY CENTRE SITE -LEASE AND COSTS, AND CONSIDERATION ON HOW TO PROGRESS. The Clerk advised on recent communication from WCBC Assets department and presented a report on cost considerations and possible risks to the project as had been requested. This was considered and discussed. It was RESOLVED that Abenbury Community Council should continue with taking over the lease for this area of land, and the responsibilities therein as outlined. It was acknowledged that this will lead to future costs to be raised within the precept. In terms of the project proposal, it was RESOLVED to continue but to scale this down for the moment, until project costs and community engagement can be better ascertained. The Chair asked Members to

Clerk to advise JC

	consider ideas for the future alternative spend of capital reserves if these were not to be used towards the project overall.	
235.	<p>CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE: The Clerk advised on two matters currently outstanding. A response from Gary Hall was considered regarding the lorry park. It was RESOLVED to write a further letter expressing dissatisfaction at the lack of response to the letter previously sent, and to also contact the Lead Member for Environment, Ms Rachel Penman and Ms Lesley Griffiths AM to ask that a meeting be set up to discuss the issues as no progress has been made since last April.</p> <p>Regarding the current vacancies, the Clerk advised that there are three vacancies which have now all been advertised on co-option and no responses have been received. Following on from the previous meeting the Clerk had drafted a flyer, which was approved to send to all households, if necessary, via mail. The Chair suggested the use of social media at a cost of £200. The Clerk will enquire as to other Community Councils.</p>	Clerk
236.	PLANNING MATTERS: There were no Planning matters to be discussed.	
237.	REPORTS FROM MEMBERS: Councillor Wilson reported a light out on the Oval. A concern was also raised about a wide piece of grass in the same location that seems to have been removed by contractors. It was agreed to contact Jacinta Challoner WCBC for advice. It was noted that the Local Development Plan has been adopted by WCBC.	
238.	NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday the 12 th of February 2024.	

COUNCILLOR D. O'Brien
CHAIR.


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DATE.....12.2.24.....