

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ABENBURY COMMUNITY COUNCIL on the 9th of May 2022

**Members Present:** Councillors, P. Done, C. Borland- Jones, W. Wilson, D. O'Brien, G. Williams, S. Clutton

**Chair:** Councillor D. O'Brien **Clerk:** S. Baxter

**Apologies:** Councillors A Reeves, M. Morris (WCBC)

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1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were given and accepted. It was noted that this meeting is the first in the new term of the Council, following the elections. Members signed the declarations of acceptance of office as required by law.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Members were reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of any personal and/ or prejudicial interest on the form provided for this purpose for any item under discussion.
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** There were no members of the public present.
4. **TO ELECT A CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL AND RECEIVE THE CHAIR'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE:** Councillor Done nominated Councillor O'Brien to serve as Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Wilson and was accepted by Councillor O'Brien. Councillor O'Brien took over the meeting as newly elected Chair of the Abenbury Community Council.
5. **TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL:** Councillor Done proposed that Councillor Borland - Jones be asked to serve as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien and accepted by Councillor Borland- Jones. Councillor O'Brien thanked Councillor Done on behalf of the Community Council for his two-year period serving as Chair.
6. **REVIEW AND AFFIRM COUNCIL DOCUMENTS:** The following Council documents were reviewed and reaffirmed for the Council year 2022-2023: - Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Internal Controls document.
7. **APPROVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL 2022-23.** The Schedule of meetings prepared by the Clerk was **APPROVED** .
8. **CRIME FIGURE REPORT AND POLICING MATTERS:** The Clerk advised on the difficulties experienced with obtaining the crime reports for the last two months. She advised that she has raised the issue of information and meetings with the Sergeant Nathan Jones, and with the Town and Community Council Forum. A discussion took place, covering the information that had been promised to Community Councils on a regular basis which has now declined, with less engagement taking place, and concerns raised about reduced police resources. A concern was also raised as to the amount of police resource being demanded by the prison. Councillor Borland -Jones proposed that a letter be sent to North Wales Police raising these concerns. This was **AGREED**. Action: Clerk will write to North Wales Police.
9. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD:** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, were **APPROVED** as an accurate record. It was noted that the meeting that was due to be held in April 2022, was cancelled due to lack of attendees and the difficulty in rearranging due to the Easter Holidays.
10. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The question was asked about progress with speeding checking as previously requested. The Clerk advised on the recent response received from WCBC, when following up on the letter previously sent raising concerns about Cefn Road and Pentre Maelor. After discussion it was **AGREED** to write again to WCBC asking what they are prepared to do in relation to what the Community Council is asking them to do in order to improve traffic safety in these locations. It was noted that the Police have carried out some speed surveys.

**11. FINANCIAL MATTERS, BUDGET, AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS: i) The payments for April and May 2022 were APPROVED:**

Date	Payment To	Reason	Amount
<b>April 2022 EXPENDITURE</b>			
	Clerk- ( salary 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 )	Clerk's salary NJC rates 20 contracted hours	
		Payment S Baxter	
	Excel Signs	Invoice re: Abenbury Signs	787.20
	One Voice Wales	Renewal of membership	178.00
	WCBC	Quarterly Maintenance Street lighting	138.56
	Family Friends	Donation	50.00
	Offa Community Council	Donation ( RWF Monument)	50.00
	Wrexham Gymnastics Club	Donation	100.00
	Calon FM	Donation	50.00
	Llangollen Eisteddfod	Donation	100.00
<b>INCOME</b>			
	Precept 2022-23	WCBC	3410.00
<b>May 2022 EXPENDITURE</b>			
	Clerk- (salary 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2022 )	Clerk's salary NJC rates 20 contracted hours	
		Payment S Baxter	
	WCBC	Quarterly Maintenance Community Street lighting	138.56
	S. Baxter	Clerk's expenses	135.07
	Pentre Gwyn Community Association	Hire of meeting room	385.00
	<b>INCOME</b>		
	Caia Community Council	Contribution to Fitting of defibrillator at Pentre Gwyn Community Centre	123.84

- ii. END OF YEAR REPORT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2021-22: This item was **DEFERRED** to the next meeting.
- iii. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT: This item was **DEFERRED** to the next meeting.
- iv. REPORT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR: The Clerk advised on the reports received from the External Auditor, being Wales Audit Office, for the previous two financial years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. In both cases the Auditors report was satisfactory, issuing unqualified reports in both cases. The External Auditor had however mentioned advice on the amount of Reserves being built up. This was noted, however it was discussed and AGREED that due to the boundary changes and consequent loss of precept income, whilst trying to keep the precept low and affordable, an amount had been set from Reserves to support the precept as it adjusts in forthcoming years. The Reserves have been earmarked; therefore it appears to be a standard comment.

**12. PROGRESS ON COMMUNITY CENTRE SITE:** The Clerk advised that the report has been sent to Wrexham Council, however nothing heard back as yet. This may be because of the Election period, and she will now chase the matter. A discussion took place pointing to the length of time this matter has been discussed. It was **AGREED** to follow up with funding organisations, including those of WCBC to invite them to a site meeting and to see if proposals can be drawn up for the Community Garden/ green area which can then be discussed. The security of the site was also raised. Action: Clerk to set up site meetings.

**13. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:** The Clerk presented a report updating on several matters. She will follow up on the re-siting of the bins. Advice had been received from One Voice Wales on two new duties for Community Councils, and these were noted. The issue of meetings concerning a lorry park were discussed. The possibility of a press release was discussed and agreed. A discussion took place about Community Engagement, and it was **AGREED** to proceed with upgrading the Community Council website.

**14. TO CONSIDER ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED UNDER THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED):**

- i. **P/2022/0411: Erection of Industrial Unit- Land next to Unit 33 Abenbury Way, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham.** This case was discussed and although no objections were raised, there were concerns raised about the lack of lorry facilities, giving rise to problems for residents of litter and human waste, and the additional traffic this would generate. These concerns were to be passed to WCBC Planning department.

**15. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS:** Councillor Wilson wished to raise an issue that had occurred recently as a tree had blown down on the Oval. Councillor Borland-Jones raised an issue concerning damage to a goal post after the gales. The Clerk will investigate. An issue of fly tipping was raised at Erlas Lane, and it was reminded that promises had been made of some cameras. The Clerk will raise with Greg McArthur, WCBC. Councillor Clutton advised of a large pothole on the link road near Redwither Lane. It was agreed that Councillor Clutton will look into how best to report this. Councillor Williams asked about grass cutting which seems more infrequent than previously. It was agreed to ask Councillor Morris to enquire. Councillor Done advised he has spoken to a resident who may be interested in joining the Community Council. Councillor O'Brien raised the issue that the noticeboard requires moving, due to the boundary changes, and proposed that the noticeboard be donated to Caia Community council and another one purchased. This was **AGREED**.

**16. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on the **13<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, and will commence at 7 p.m.**

**SIGNED:**

**COUNCILLOR D. O'BRIEN**

**CHAIR ..... DATE .....**

**i) This meeting took place as a Hybrid meeting, using 'Go To' Meetings software, under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (following The Local Authorities (Coronavirus)(Meetings)(Wales) Regulations 2020.) which make provision for meetings to take place both in person and with remote attendance.**