

## **BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of meeting the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**PRESENT: Councillor A. Locker (Chairwoman)**

**COUNCILLORS:** R. Davies, B. T. Doleman, A. Griffiths, J. Humphreys, S. L. Jones, C. P. Owens, W. Owens, K. Rush, Y. Rush, T. Strong, D. J. Williams and C. Williams.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs. L. Wood, Clerk.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor B. Gittins.

### **95. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM**

There were no Members of the Public present.

### **96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

### **97. POLICING MATTERS**

There were no Policing matters to report.

### **98. STREETSCENCE**

The Clerk reported on behalf of Mr. T. Cartwright, Flintshire Street scene that he would no longer be able to attend the meetings due to lack of resource and capacity within the portfolio and asked any issues were reported via the Clerk.

The Chairwomen proposed that a Streetscene item is placed on the agenda as a monthly standing item. Councillors agreed

The following issues were reported:

Councillor A. Griffiths – the tree by old Cafe, Gadlys Lane is overgrown and very dangerous, this has previously been reported. In view of recent high winds, this needs urgent attention as it is a health and safety matter. If this is not dealt with, this matter will be reported directly to the Chief Executive and Leader of Flintshire County Council.

Councillor C. Williams - Old London Road, off Tyddyn Messham, this area is covered with leaves, nettles growing and is very muddy therefore a slip hazard. It has been previously reported and was due to be cleaned over a year ago, this needs doing as soon as possible.

Councillor T. Strong - Willow tree by Stag Car Park, the branches are overhanging and are very dangerous and has been reported several times.

Councillor A. Locker – the Bus Shelters in the village are still covered in obscene graffiti and weeds growing out of the shelters, these look unsightly and need clearing, tiding and making safe.

Councillor K. Rush informed members of a Flintshire County Council programme of renewing all bus stops.

**RESOLVED:** That Street scene is a standing item on the agenda and that the above issues will be reported to Mr, T. Cartwright, Flintshire Street scene.

## **99. MINUTES**

Councillor C. P Owens said that on the Policing minute number 79, Councillor B. Gittins did not mention the Bagillt Community Volunteers when reading his report and proposed this was removed from the minutes. The amendment was seconded and a vote was taken which the majority agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the amendment relating to minute 79.

## **100. CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairwoman reported that she had met with the Head teacher of Ysgol Glan Aber at his request. The Head teacher wished to express his thanks to the Community Council for the recent Christmas donation which supported the schools visit to the pantomime.

The Head teacher asked if the selection boxes that had been given to the school were also from the Council. The Chairwomen explained no.

Councillor J. Humphreys confirmed the selection boxes were donated by the Bagillt Community Volunteers and that both schools had been consulted and it had been agreed.

Councillor R. Davies added that a sticker with from Bagillt Community Volunteers was also attached to each selection box.

**RESOLVED:** That the report was noted.

## **101. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

There were no reported from Representatives or County Councillors.

## **102. PLANNING**

The Clerk reported no planning applications had been received.

Councillor C. P. Owens reported that that last planning application received was in October, therefore was concerned the portal may not be working correctly and proposed we write to Flintshire Planning to query this. Councillors agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk will write to Flintshire Planning to ascertain if it is correct that the Community Council had not received any planning applications, notices etc since October 2023.

### 103. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

#### December 2023

Voucher No	Name	Details	£
68	Mrs. L. Wood, Clerk	Clerks Salary & Expenses	1213.28
69	HM Revenues & Customs	Tax & NI - Clerks Salary	484.58
70	Clwyd Pension Fund	Employers & Employees' Pension Contribution for Clerk	424.54
71	Opus Energy	Community Library Electricity	3.00
72	Royal British Legion	Wreath	20.00
73	Mega Electrical	Xmas Lights	1260.00
74	AVOW	Payroll Charges July – Dec 2023	75.48
	HSBC	Bank Chagres	5.00

#### January 2024

Voucher No	Name	Details	£
75	Mrs. L. Wood, Clerk	Clerks Salary & Expenses	910.44
76	HM Revenues & Customs	Tax & NI - Clerks Salary	273.30
77	Clwyd Pension Fund	Employers & Employees' Pension Contribution for Clerk	299.75
78	Opus Energy	Community Library Electricity	175.23
79	SLCC	Membership	183.00
80	Flint Town Council	Printing Charges	15.30
	HSBC	Bank Chagres	5.00

**RESOLVED:** That the above-mentioned accounts be paid.

#### **104. YOUTH SHELTER**

Councillor Y. Rush asked if there had been any update on Youth Shelters since it was raised some months ago at Council.

Councillor J. Humphreys said he along with Councillor T. Strong has previously raised this matter but the location caused a stumbling block and costings were being considered.

Councillor Y. Rush asked for this to be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

**RESOLVED:** That Youth Shelters is added to the next meeting agenda.

#### **105. BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

Councillor C. Williams on behalf of the Bagillt Community Library reported on this matter following questions from the previous meeting.

Councillor C. Williams thanked Councillor J. Humphreys for taking the time to scrutinise the accounts to ensure donated Council money was spent in a way to benefit the residents. A brief report detailing why the Library was closed and the work that has been done to re-open and improve the Library.

At the previous meeting, it was asked between November 2022 and November 2023, how many people used the Library and took books out. Unfortunately the Library does not have and are not required to have a database of this information, however the volunteers estimate there is a turnover of approximately 20 books a month.

Another question, who uses the Library and do we keep a record. Over the last few years, a number of organisations, groups and clubs have used the Library. The Library does charge a hire cost however, if we have a small, newly set up group, we ask for a small donation whilst they establish their group.

The Library has recently obtained a grant to set up a Community Cinema, equipment that could be also used for sharing information at meetings and we have also been informed we have been awarded a grant to extend the Library.

From grants, donations and the sale of books, we have been able to purchase many items for the Library. The accounts are audited annually and are available for public inspection.

To conclude Councillor C. Williams said it is hard to estimate on the many hundreds of hours the volunteers contribute to the Library and without the support of the Community Council, the Library would not function.

Councillor J. Humphreys said he certainly does not wish to see the Library close and asked the questions, as we ask these questions of other groups within the village if they apply for Council funding. He asked why the Library has restricted opening times which does mean the facility is not always accessible for children.

Councillor W. Owens said the Library is run by volunteers and we need more volunteers in order to open the Library at other times.

**RESOLVED:** That the report was noted.

#### **106. PLAYScheme**

The Council considered a response from Flintshire County Council regarding the concern about low attendance at the summer play schemes.

Councillor C. P. Owens proposed the Council opts to hold a 6 week scheme, however have just one playscheme running at one time, so 3 weeks at Merllyn site then 3 weeks at Victoria Road site, as hopefully children from both areas will attend both, hence boosting the numbers attending. Councillors agreed.

Councillors also agreed to invite a Flintshire Play scheme Officer to the meeting to discuss matters.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk will write to Flintshire Play scheme Officer to ascertain if we can have one 6 week scheme covering 2 areas and invite the Officer to the next meeting.

#### **107. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2024/25**

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on Estimates for 2024/25, which was prepared in consultation with the Chairwoman and Vice Chairman and taking into consideration the decisions that were made at the November meeting. See Appendix A.

The report indicated an increase in the precept if the proposals were approved.

Councillor C. P. Owens proposed an amendment to the report in order to reduce the increase, namely by Decreasing the budget for the Play area improvements and a decrease to the Playscheme as per the previous agenda item discussions. Councillors agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That a precept of £46,662.00 be made on Flintshire County Council for 2024/25, which equated to a Band D charge of £31.71, an increase of 2.03% and the amended report is agreed and approved.

#### **108. INVESTMENTS STRATEGY 2024/25**

The Council considered the Annual Investment Strategy for approval and adoption.

Councillor W. Owens reported she believed the HSBC, Shotton is on the list of branch closures. The Clerk had not been informed and as and when, she is, the policy will be amended accordingly and brought back to Council for approval.

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Investment Strategy was approved and adopted.

**109. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**a. Budget Monitoring Report**

The meeting considered the Budget Monitoring report and Bank reconciliation statement for the second quarter to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. See Appendix B.

**RESOLVED:** That the financial information be noted and approved.

**b. Checks of Supplier Data**

In order to meet the requirements of the financial regulations and internet banking, it is necessary for a programme of regular checks of standing data with suppliers to be followed. This required a Councillor to look through the accounts and certify a number of invoices and payment receipts.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor K. rush reviewed a selection of invoices and payment receipts which were certified as correct.

**110. AUTHORITY FOR ACTION DURING RECESS PERIOD**

**RESOLVED:** To note the actions of the Chairman and Vice Chairman on agenda item 10 – Accounts.

**110. 2023-24 NATIONAL PAY AGREEMENT**

The Clerk reported that information has been received from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) where it has been agreed the new pay scales for 2023-2024 to be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

**RESOLVED:** That the above was noted and approved with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

**111. CORRESPONDENCE & CLERKS REPORT**

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk’s Report was noted.

**112. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Councillor J. Humphreys requested Community Events is placed on the next agenda.

Councillor C. Williams requested Remembrance Service is placed on the next agenda.

<b>Date of Council Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>
..... <b>Chairwoman</b>	