

CYNGOR CYMDEITHAS BODFARI
BODFARI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Bodfari Community Council
Held on the Tuesday 12th May 2020

***Held ONLINE via ZOOM due under s78 of the Corona Virus Act 2020**

Present

Cllr Martin Shutt (MS) Chair
Cllr Alan Waterfield (AW) Outgoing Chair
Cllr Naomi Luhde-Thompson (NLT)
Cllr Sue Davidson (SD)
Cllr Rebecca Parrin (RP)
Cllr Julie Burnage (JB) Vice chair
Cllr Christine Marston (CM) DCC representative
Cllr Heather Griffiths (HG)
Clerk Antony Burnage (AB)

1. Apologies for absence

None. HG joined the meeting at 19:40pm

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Clerk vacancy

Appointment of Mr Antony Burnage proposed and agreed at the AGM prior to the council meeting (see AGM minutes)

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 14th April 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record (pMS sRP).

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

35(i) All agreed that the event to celebrate the combined Bodfari community day and the Bodfari school 50th anniversary is now cancelled until further notice. It is not likely to be re-arranged until Summer 2021. No further action required.

109(i) Online banking to be explored as an option to the current system (using cheques and signatories) if the proposed new working practices can satisfy security and accountability requirements. Electronic payments will introduce efficiency and also satisfy the current conditions re: COVID 19 and the need for social distancing. **Action AB**

119(i) Investigate the possibility of holding a virtual consultation event on 23rd June 2020 where the public are invited to join the discussion re: candidate sites in Bodfari in Denbighshire's Local Plan.

Concern expressed that the public should not /cannot be excluded from such meetings and where possible and in a controlled manner, technology should be used to create a public forum. A notice will be posted on BCC facebook page and a hard copy on the village notice board **Action MS NLT**

XX (i) The Downing Arms. Further reports of polystyrene beads in the river have been received from Cllr HG. Despite the situation being reported previously by CM to Public Protection DCC and NRW no reply has been recorded which is probably due to COVID 19 disruption. It was decided that Cllr MS will contact the developer/owner of the site direct as a 'concerned neighbour' rather than as a councillor. **Action MS and CM** to report back if any feedback from Public Protection DCC and NRW is received.

XX (ii) Site formerly known as Aberwheeler Nurseries. Further concerns about the condition of this site and the potential environmental impacts have been received. It is understood that the nursery

site was leased to DCC and that the lease may still be in place placing a duty of care on DCC to maintain it. It is believed that all the buildings on the site remain the property of DCC. DCC is to be contacted to establish whether the lease is still in place and if so, what actions they propose for the site. If not, then can they provide contact details for the owner or the owner's representatives. A complaint has been received concerning the roadside field between Forge Farm and Ty Nant Helygen which is unmanaged. Catrina and Dave Shaw from 'Minffordd', Mold Road are concerned about the invasion of thistle and Ragwort from these sites onto their own neighbouring land. The roadside field is believed to belong the Mr John Wright and attempts will be made to get a contact number for him – JB knows someone who is related to John Wright and will attempt to make contact this way. **Action CM MS JB.**

6. County Councillor's Report

(i) See attached report.

7. Planning

(i) Station House. DCC Planning Dept have recommended that the plans be approved and deem previous concerns by BCC as not relevant. Noise levels to be monitored and investigated if needed.
(ii) Planning Application 41/2020/0308. Screening of construction on the land adjacent to Ty Draw not sufficient and laying of the hedging to be suggested as an improvement to the scheme. **Action AW**

8. Highways/Footpaths

(i) Nothing to report.

9. Finance/Payroll

(i) Bodfari Environmental for park maintenance payment £984.00 approved at previous meeting (14th April 2020).

(ii) Playground Inspection payment £114.00n approved at previous meeting (14th April 2020).

Not confirmed whether these payments have been made. **Action AW AB**

(iii) It is not clear where the bank statements are currently being sent. The previous clerk was given AW's address so they could be forwarded but none have been received. This could be due to them not being due or the failure of the bank to change the details. As the bank will be contacted re: online banking this can be addressed. **Action AB.**

(iv) Payment of Clerk's salary to be set up once the new banking arrangements have been finalised.

10. Village playground and park

(i) Dog fouling has been reported to DCC but they are not willing to take any action as it was deemed to be outside the park area.

(ii) An inspection was completed (NLT) and the area was found to be neat and tidy with no damage reported. MS to create share the inspection rota for each month and create an electronic version from the current PDF printed version. JB will complete the June inspection and RP the July inspection. **Action MS**

(iii) NLT to prepare sign to remind users that the park be used for exercise only and of the need to be mindful of social distancing rules. RP to laminate. **Action NLT RP**

(iv) NLT to add sign on preventing dog fouling by the Park. RP to laminate. **Action NLT RP**

(v) RP states that she is happy to maintain and water the planters

(vi) MS has posted on facebook reminding users about the problem of dog fouling.

11. Correspondence Received.

(i) One Voice Wales application. Renewal of the annual subscription (fee £60) has been received by AW. It was agreed to continue with membership as it gives access to useful resources for council members. **AW to forward the application to MS.**

With the new appointments of Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk now confirmed, arrangements for correspondence to be sent to them will be made. Contact numbers and email addresses to be supplied where required.

12. AOB

(i) CM to forward email from Karen Evans (Demographic Service Officer) at DCC requesting details of the new Clerk. **Action CM MS**

(ii) It is noted that collection of green bins will re-start on 18th May 2020.

(iii) Broadband. HG advised that superfast broadband is not available to everyone in the village as BT will not open the network to other providers. MS stated that he had been informed by BT that fibre optic connection was possible by overhead cables but that no installations are being completed during the COVID 19 lockdown. Project to continue. **Action HG.**

(iv) Traffic calming measures have been suggested for the road near Bont Tryffydd, to be discussed further. **Continued investigation HG.**


(v) Public Meetings. Re: 119 (i) above, further discussions to be held about how to include the public in open meetings because of the need to provide information about planning applications/discussions etc., because despite COVID 19 restrictions planning deadlines remain the same. How can this be achieved in a controlled fashion? Online forums like Zoom suggested with public invitations advertised on the CC Facebook page. **Action to explore the suitability of a digital platform MS NLT.**

(vi) The church bell will continue to ring every Thursday evening in appreciation of the work done by Key Workers during the COVID 19 epidemic. The Church Warden has also been asked if the church can be lit by blue light instead of white at night but she is reluctant to do this because of the commitment to turn the light on and off each time. John Unsworth (Dinorben Arms Landlord) is believed to be a church key holder and will be asked if he is willing to do this. **Action CM**

13. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th June 2020 under s.78 Coronavirus Act 2020 tbc to take place ONLINE at 7pm.

There being no other business, the ONLINE meeting closed at 20.30pm.

Signed.......... Chair

Date..12/06/20.....

Minutes prepared by Clerk Mr A Burnage 13th May 2020.

Distribution: MS, NLT, SD, RP, AW, HG, JB, CM. Via email.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Christine Marston (CM) DCC representative

Council to start grass cutting

As of Monday (May 4) Denbighshire County Council will be reintroducing grass cutting in open spaces in the county.

The grass is now in desperate need of cutting, following the recent good weather and leaving it any longer would make it dangerous and impractical to cut, therefore the work needs doing now.

Undertaking this work will also make it easier for people to partake in their daily exercise. Grass cutting will also take place on roadside verges, to ensure the safety of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists through improved visibility.

The Council will also be starting to resume some further aspects of highways maintenance, including gully cleansing and siding works. Again, this work will only be done to a limited extent, and only where it is deemed to be essential.

Council says Thank You to the NHS

NHS workers have been given a special thank you on their way to work.

Diolch yn Fawr GIG/ Thank You NHS has been painted on the approaches to Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan.

The work was carried out by Denbighshire County Council, with the help of contractors K T L Contracting, of Llanbedr DC, and L & R Roadlines of Ellesmere Port.

All parties involved carried out the work free of charge.

AONB Sites

Loggerheads Centre and Café Closed.

Loggerheads and Moel Famau Car Parks in Denbighshire are closed as are the footpaths that lead from them. Horseshoe Falls Car Park in the World Heritage Site is also closed, as is the footpath to the Church.

AONB Rangers patrolling daily and liaising with members of the public who are driving to our sites.

The Ranger Team have set up fencing for the Little Terns, to ensure they remain undisturbed.

All AONB volunteers stood down at the moment because of Covid 19 Regulations.

Elections

The Coronavirus Act 2020 postponed all scheduled elections for due to take place 7th May 2020, this included the election of a Police & Crime Commissioner for the North Wales Police area. This election will now take place on Thursday 6th May 2021 along with elections to the Welsh Parliament. The Act also gave Welsh Ministers the powers to make regulations in respect of local government elections in Wales.

The Welsh Government have now made The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections) (Wales) Regulations 2020 for the postponement of local government by-elections. The Regulations will postpone any by-elections which would have been held in the period from 16th March 2020 to 31st January 2021 and require them instead to be held on a date between the period commencing on 1st February 2021 and ending on 16th April 2021.

The by-election for a county councillor for the Corwen Electoral Division was planned to take place on 7th May 2020. This will now take place on a date set by the Returning Officer in the period commencing from 1st February 2021, it is our intention to also schedule any other by-elections which may occur on the County or City, Town & Community Councils on the same date.

Garden waste service to resume in Denbighshire next week

Denbighshire County Council has announced that its garden waste collections service is set to resume on Monday, 18th May.

The garden waste bins will be collected on the usual collection days and residents that have subscribed to the service are asked to put their bins out by 7am on collection day. Those that have already subscribed have received the relevant information.

People who have not renewed their garden waste subscription are being asked to do so immediately online:

<https://gardenwaste.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/Renewal/Renew> or by phoning [01824 706000](tel:01824706000).

Residents are also being informed of the following information:

- collections may run late due to the high demand, please leave your bin out if it appears that the Council team has not attended your property (teams will work late and at weekends if necessary);
- make sure your green bin(s) only contains garden waste;
- no extra waste will be taken so please do not set any out;
- no missed collection reports will be accepted during this two-week period;
- The Council will not be charging subscribers for collections made in May;
- Subscription charges will begin again on 1st June;
- please clean the handles of your green bin before and after collection;
- make sure you wash your hands before and after touching your bins;

The Council will extend subscriptions by a period equivalent to the length of the current stoppage (residents have not been charged during this break in service);

Councillor Brian Jones, Cabinet Lead Member for Waste, Transport and Recycling, said: “We fully understand that there has been disruption to the service and we would like to thank people for their understanding.

“The national restrictions meant that some staff needed to either self-isolate or were feeling unwell and we needed to make the difficult decision to suspend the service. However, we have had daily discussions around the earliest point we could reintroduce the service and we have drafted in external contractors to help us. We have also been involved in regional discussions and now is the right time to be reintroducing the service.

All our staff will be working to social distancing guidelines, for their own safety and that of others”.

Discussions are still being held at regional and national level about household recycling centres and the Council will inform residents of developments when information becomes available.

Don't find yourselves in a fine dog fouling mess

Dog owners in Denbighshire are being reminded to clean up after their animals, or face a fine.

The Council has seen an increase in the number of complaints made by members of the public about owners not picking up after their dogs, in particular since the start of the lockdown.

The Public Spaces Protection Order still exists, which makes it an offence to not pick up dog mess in public open spaces. With the increase in number of people walking as part of their daily exercise during the coronavirus outbreak, the Council wants to remind people that the law is still place. That includes the ban on dogs using certain sections of the beaches from 1 May until the end of September.

The Council does not tolerate dog mess and anyone who fails to clear after their dogs could be issued with a £100 fixed penalty notice or a fine of up to £1,000 if the matter goes before the courts.

Councillor Mark Young, Cabinet Lead Member for Safer Communities, said: “ Dog fouling remains the greatest environmental issue that people want the Council to address and we have seen a rise in the anti-social behaviour by a small percentage of dog owners. As always, the majority of Denbighshire residents act responsibly and comply with the law, and we thank them for that.

“Everyone is encouraged to respect our environment and report any incidents of dog fouling. There is no excuse to ignore the fact that dogs must be under control at all times and foul must be cleared and disposed of responsibly. Any belief that flicking foul to the side or the road and verges is incorrect, it must be removed and disposed of in a bin. All waste bins in Denbighshire can be used for the disposal of dog poo bags. If no bin is available take the bags home. Leaving them on the road is also an offence that can be dealt with as an offence of littering and a Fixed Penalty Notice of £75 issued.

“Thankfully the majority of dog walkers are very responsible but there are clearly some who seem to think that the implementation of Government instructions concerning the Covid-19 virus justifies giving them the right to disrespect our beautiful environment”.

Note to Editors: For further information, please contact the Communications Team, on [01824 706222](tel:01824706222).

Joint patrols to tackle doorstep rogue trader crime

Police and Trading Standards officials in Denbighshire are launching joint patrols in marked vehicles to clampdown on rogue traders committing doorstep crimes.

It comes after a number of reports in neighbouring areas of residents being approached to have their driveways or roofs cleaned to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Cllr Mark Young, Denbighshire County Council's Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities, said "We are concerned that unscrupulous traders are trying to take advantage of people on their own doorstep. Unfortunately, there are people who prey on the vulnerability of others, don't become a victim of these cowboy con men. If work needs doing then make your own appointments with reputable tradesmen – if you didn't call them then don't use them.

Genuine trades people will welcome you asking for references and identification, check them both carefully."

Sgt Beth Jones of North Wales Police added "Officers from both North Wales Police and Denbighshire Trading Standards will be increasing their presence in the local area to identify and where necessary challenge such activity. To state that this type of work is needed to keep you safe is a nonsense and scaremongering. It is likely to lead to traders declaring other urgent work is needed and this type of criminality will not be tolerated."

Denbighshire Trading Standards urge people to be on their guard and to follow these simple steps to avoid being caught out:

- Be cautious with anyone who turns up at your door without an appointment.
- Be cautious of any leaflets that you receive through the door offering such services.
- Ask for identification and get comprehensive contact details. A mobile telephone number is not good enough.
- Always make sure you get a written quote for any work to be carried out including written cancellation rights.
- Only pay after the work has been satisfactorily completed
- If in doubt, keep them out!

Anyone wanting advice on doorstep trading, or to report an incident, can contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on [0808 223 1133](tel:08082231133) ([0808 223 1144](tel:08082231144) for Welsh language) which gives free, independent and impartial advice on all consumer issues, or the police on 101. Any person feeling intimidated or threatened by any doorstep seller should shut the door and call the police emergency number 999.