

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BODFARI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held at The Woodlands Skills Centre, The Warren, Mold Road, Denbigh LL16 4DT on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Present:

Cllr Martin Shutt (Chair) (MS)

Cllr Sue Davidson (SD)

Cllr Heather Griffiths (HG)

Cllr Alan Waterfield (AW)

Also present:

Cllr Christine Marston (DCC Councillor) (CM)

Mel ab Owain (Clerk) (MaO)

## 1. Apologies:

Cllr Julie Burnage (JB)

Cllr Rebecca Parrin (RP)

Cllr Naomi Luhde-Thompson (NLT)

## 2. Declaration of interests:

None.

## 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**RESOLVED:** That with one minor amendment that these were a true record of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Proposed: **MS** Seconded: **AW**.

## 4. Matters Arising

- i. Ceramic Map. This would be carried forward to a future meeting. **ACTION: JB**
- ii. Noticeboard. This would be carried forward to a future meeting. **ACTION: JB**
- iii. New Park Access. **CM** reported that Tim Towers of DCC had asked Andy Clerk from his department to draw up a plan. He had not got back to her. **AW** suggested we consider going to the press with the issue as many residents felt let down by DCC.
- iv. War Memorial. **MS** had found another company who could quote for this work and would ask them for a formal quotation (**ACTION**).
- v. Planning query on barn. A retrospective planning application had been lodged with DCC for this site.
- vi. Footpath styles. **MS** had still to chase DCC for a timescale (**ACTION**).
- vii. Boules Court. **AW** stated that BCC had not been charged for this work.
- viii. New Park Shelter. **MS** had arranged a meeting with the AONB on 7<sup>th</sup> January to discuss grant applications.
- ix. Speeding through Village. This would be carried forward to a future meeting. **ACTION: HG**.
- x. Verges. **MaO** had spoken to Rachel Carter, the Director of 'Places for Nature' who directed him to Joel Whately, the local PforN officer. He was awaiting a response to his email.
- xi. The Church. **MS** had not had time to visit St Asaph Church yet. **SD** said that the Diocesan report on the Church closure contained many inaccuracies. Residents at a recent coffee

morning wanted the church altered by removing some of the pews so that it could function as a community space. A public meeting had been scheduled for January to discuss the matter.

## 5. County Councillors Report

**CM** had previously submitted a written report to members (See appendix 2)

In addition, **CM** reported:

i. Llannerch Bridge. 753 residents had responded to the consultation. DCC would now look to fund the rebuilding with money from the Welsh Government. **CM** was hoping to hold a public meeting once the responses had been analysed. Both the Leader and CEO of Denbighshire had promised to attend.

ii. Commuted sums of up to £1237 were for items in public areas in Bodfari.

**ACTION:** The Clerk would circulate information on this grant and put it on next month's agenda. Applications had to be made by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

## 6. Planning and Highways

i. Planning.

a) **41/2021/1200**. The Council had no objection to this application but noted that this would double the footprint of the building and asked for measures to be put in place for the mitigation of light pollution.

b) **41/2021/1199**. The Council objected to this application on the grounds that: It significantly overlooked neighbouring properties. It would contribute greatly to light pollution in the area which would be at variance with the ANOB supplementary guidance on dark skies that DCC has adopted.

ii. Highways

DCC will be carrying out an assessment on the damage on the A541 in the near future. Some delays might occur as they will be using stop/go boards during the process.

## 7. Finance

a) The Clerk had not been able to access the online banking system but would do so as soon as the previous clerk returned from holiday.

b) The Clerk's salary was confirmed as Local Government Scale SC1 pt12.

c) Payments:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| i) Play Inspection Company – play equipment annual inspection: | £132.00 |
| ii) Clerk's salary for November                                | £46.25  |
| iii) Tax and NI for November                                   | £11.40  |

**RESOVLED:** That these payments be approved. Proposed **MS** Seconded **HG**.

d) Budget and precept 2022-23

A budget of £8,000 be set for 2022-23 with a precept requirement of £7,400.

(See Appendix 1)

**RESOVED:** That this budget be adopted Proposed: **MS** Seconded: **AW**.

## 8. Village Playground and Park

i) The annual inspector's report had been received on the play area. **MS** would circulate it to all members (**ACTION**).

ii) The inspector reported decay in the swing structure. The meeting asked that this be dismantled at the earliest opportunity. **ACTION: AW** would dismantle the structure.

The Council also discussed the replacement of the swings. Three options were available: a wooded structure, wooded with steel footings or all steel.

**ACTION: AW** was asked to obtain 3 quotations for all steel swings.

iii) Hannah Jane Smith Charitable Trust. The Clerk had received a notice from the Charity Commission requiring an annual return. **ACTION:** The Clerk would contact the previous Clerk (Ms Roberts) to confirm that the Council were acting as sole trustees and the type of return the commission would require.

iv) Damaged exit sign. **ACTION: MS** would get in touch with the manufacturer.

## 9. Correspondence

i) **JB** had received an email requesting that LNWCS be considered for a grant. This would be considered during the annual grant awards in March.

### Appendix 1 Budget 2022-23

**BODFARI COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL  
2022/23 Budget**

**AGREED BUDGET**

		£	£
<b>Income</b>			
Precept			7400
Projected VAT repayment			600
Total Income			<b>8000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Notes</b>		
Clerks salary and expenses	Including HMRC payments	3000	
stationery / postages		100	
Audit fee		300	
Insurance		400	
grass cutting		1300	

playground inspection	Annual inspection fee	140
subscriptions	One Voice Wales	60
room hire		500
Flowers for planter		100
Website maintenance		100
donations		400
misc	misc - eg advertising, training, playground repairs	400
ICO		50
Annual Report		250
Councillors allowances		900
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>8000</b>

## **Appendix 2 County Councillor's Report**

### **Tourism signage to promote Vale of Clwyd**

Work to install brown tourist signage on the A55 promoting the Vale of Clwyd will take place next year.

The bilingual signs will be installed in advance of Junctions 27/27a for westbound traffic and in advance of Junction 27 for eastbound traffic in late February/early March 2022.

The signs will include Denbigh Castle, Rhuddlan Castle and St Asaph Cathedral all under the heading 'Vale of Clwyd'.

Additional brown signage will also be erected in Denbigh, Rhuddlan and St Asaph to direct traffic to the respective attractions.

The signs are being jointly funded by Denbighshire County Council, the City of St Asaph Council, Denbigh Town Council, Rhuddlan Town Council, CADW and St Asaph Cathedral.

### **Update on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment**

The draft Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment report for Denbighshire will be discussed at a meeting next week.

Denbighshire County Council has undertaken an assessment of current accommodation need for Gypsies, Traveller and Travelling Show people. This process did not include looking for locations for sites.

The Communities Scrutiny Committee will discuss the draft Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment on December 9 before it will be considered by the Council's Cabinet on December 14 ahead of submission to Welsh Government.

The process has identified the following need over the next five years:

- There is a need for 8 residential pitches to meet the identified needs of 3 households/extended family groups in the county.
- There is no evidence of need for a permanent transit site. It is recommended that a management based approach should be developed based on best practice from across the UK. The process included talking to Gypsy and Traveller families, key stakeholders and representative groups and was part of a legal duty to undertake a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment every five years as a requirement of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and for the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) the Council is currently working on.

Councillor Mark Young, Denbighshire County Council's Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities, said: "This work has been conducted in line with the Welsh Government methodology and we have established a Task and Finish group made up of elected members from across Denbighshire to ensure it has been carried out correctly.

"The Council has taken on board concerns raised during previous work and both senior officers and Cabinet members are involved in this project and we are keeping key stakeholders and members of the community updated. This work does not seek to identify locations to meet this need, that would be a future piece of work and necessary for the LDP."

### **Improvements to public computer facilities in Denbighshire libraries**

A programme of upgrading and improving the public access technology facilities in all libraries in Denbighshire has started.

The work began on Saturday, November 20, and is anticipated to take 6-8 weeks to complete.

The project will see new public access computers installed, a new PC management system, self-service printing, an online booking system and printing via Wi-Fi.

Each week one or two libraries will be upgraded and during that week, customers will not be able to access computers or printing at that particular library.

Customers will be informed by staff and notices at each library and via social media, and advised to consider visiting another library to use the computers there.

The programme started at Rhyl Library and will roll out across the county in the coming weeks.

Customers are advised to check with their local library before making a special journey to use the library computers or printing.

The free public Wi-Fi will remain available during this time.

### **Funding bid for Levelling Up Fund**

A multi-million pound funding bid for community-based projects in Denbighshire will be submitted to the UK Government.

On November 23, Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet discussed the submission of a £10million bid, under the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund programme, which will be carried out in partnership with Conwy County Borough Council, for the constituency of Clwyd West.

The proposed projects in Denbighshire focus on Ruthin and the surrounding areas as well as Moel Famau and Loggerheads country parks and will target cultural and heritage investment and aim to protect historical places and enhance green spaces bringing benefits to local communities including enhancing wellbeing while further enticing tourism and strengthening related economic activity.

Cabinet supported the theme of the bid and the proposed projects to be included in the Clwyd West submission.

A separate bid for funding for projects in the Vale of Clwyd constituency will also be considered by Cabinet in the near future.

A £15 million bid for the Clwyd South constituency which covers areas of Denbighshire and Wrexham has already been approved and includes the implementation of the Trevor Basin Technical Masterplan, a project to support cross-border visitor connectivity in the Dee Valley and work to improve visitor connectivity and infrastructure in the Corwen area.

Each constituency area bid can be up to a maximum of £20 million of capital funding under the Levelling Up Fund programme.

Cllr Hugh Evans OBE, Leader of the Council and Lead Member for the Economy, said: "The Levelling Up Fund is an important source of funding to help further regeneration in Denbighshire. We have engaged with the Levelling Up agenda to bring forward the benefits of investing in our communities.

"We worked closely with Wrexham Council on the Clwyd South bid and we are now working with Conwy Council on the Clwyd West bid.

“This particular bid for Clwyd West shows our commitment to securing funding for our rural communities and forms part of our ambition to work closely with communities to bring about a wide range of benefits for residents.

“We hope these projects will further entice tourism and strengthen the economy, creating jobs here in Denbighshire.

“The combined bids submitted for Denbighshire under the Levelling Up Fund will total in the region of £35million and regeneration is at the forefront of this work, allowing the Council to work in partnership with, and in the heart of, our communities.”

Once finalised the bid will be submitted to the UK Government with a decision on the outcome of funding expected next year.

David Jones, MP for Clwyd West, said: “I have worked closely with Council members and officers over the last few months, as well as with members of Ruthin Town Council and interested members of the public, to help produce a proposal that has real merit and will, I trust, meet with Government approval.

“I believe the proposal will be transformational for Ruthin, the villages of Gwyddelwern and Bryneglwys, and Loggerheads and Moel Famau country parks.”

### **Update on Llannerch Bridge**

Denbighshire County Council’s Cabinet has agreed to support the principal of replacing Llannerch Bridge.

During a meeting on November 23, the Cabinet agreed to support the principle of replacing the bridge, subject to securing the necessary funding, as well as making an approach to Welsh Government to request external funding.

The Council will now commission further ground investigation and flood modelling work to ensure a design can be developed which will meet the requirements of the planning process.

Llannerch Bridge, which provided a crossing of the River Clwyd between Trefnant and Tremeirchion and was also used as a route to the A55, collapsed during Storm Christoph in January.

Councillor Brian Jones, the Council’s Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment, said: “This is a major step forward in getting this vital link back.

“The importance of the route has been emphasised by the level of interest shown in the recent public engagement held by the Council which attracted around 750 responses.

“I would like to thank the fantastic response from the public which will help the Council build a business case for funding a replacement bridge.

“The responses were also really useful in terms of our thinking about how any new bridge should look.

“However, there is still much work to be done before we get to the point where funding can hopefully be secured for the project.

“Unfortunately, replacing Llannerch Bridge will not be a quick or easy process, and it will not be possible to provide an accurate timescale for it until we have secured funding for the project.”

Wishing you a very happy and healthy Christmas

***Cynghorydd / Councillor Christine Marston  
Tremeirchion Ward***