

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BODFARI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held by ZOOM conferencing software at 7pm Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Present:

Cllr Martin Shutt (Chair) (MS)  
Cllr Julie Burnage (Vice Chair) (JB)  
Cllr Sue Davidson (SD)  
Cllr Heather Griffiths (HG)  
Cllr Naomi Luhde-Thompson (NLT)  
Cllr Rebecca Parrin (RP)  
Cllr Alan Waterfield (AW)

Also present:

Cllr Christine Marston (CM) (DCC Councillor)  
Mel ab Owain (Clerk)

Abbreviations: DCC – Denbighshire County Council BCC – Bodfari Community Council

**1. Apologies:** None.

**2. Declaration of interests:** None.

## 3. Urgent Matters

i) The Clerk asked for the meeting to be recorded for the purposes of minute taking.

## 4. Minutes of the previous meeting:

These were approved as a true record.

Proposed: **SD** Seconded: **AW**

## 5. Matters arising from the previous minutes

4 (i) Ceramic Map. It was suggested that the ceramic map could be sited behind the street name sign. **ACTION: JB** would set up a working party to get the map installed.

4 (ii) Noticeboard. This had now been set up and was looking good.

4 (iii) New Park Entrance. **CM** reported that she had spoken to Andy Clerk (DCC) who was happy to draw up a design but this would be at a cost. Andy Clerk and Tim Towers were happy to meet BCC representatives on site. However, the Council felt aggrieved that:

a) This had dragged on for years

b) It was unfair that BCC should bear the cost of something the developer failed to do.

**ACTION: CM** would arrange a meeting between DCC officers and **NLT** and **AW**

4 (vi) Stiles. **MS** had still not received a timescale for these **ACTION: He** would chase up Adrian Walls (DCC) for a timescale.

4 (viii) Park Shelter. **MS** had met Howard Sutcliffe of the ANOB to discuss the project. **ACTION:** He would forward Howard details of the type of shelter the Council had in mind.

4 (x) Grass verges. The Clerk had tried to contact Joel Whalley (DCC) on this issue four times but had not received a reply. **ACTION:** **CM** would forward the Clerk Joel's direct line.

4 (xi) The Church. Several Councillors had attended a meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the future of the Church. They would also try to attend a second meeting scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> with the Church Architect.

8 (i) Report on Hannah Jane Smith Park. **ACTION:** The Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the latest inspection report and circulate it to members.

## 6. County Councillors Report

**CM** had previously circulated her monthly report. (see Appendix 1)  
In addition, she reported:

- i) That the Bryn Ffynnon Planning Application would be going to DCC Planning Committee in February.
- ii) Llanerch Bridge. 21<sup>st</sup> January would be the anniversary of the Bridge's collapse. DCC were hoping to circulate a newsletter to local residents and hold two public meetings over the next few months.
- iii) **CM** had met ANOB to catch up on developments. They are considering an application for National Park status.

## 7. Planning and Highways

### i) Highways

- a) **RP** reported a pothole on Maes y Graig. **ACTION:** **MS** would bring this to DCC's attention.
- b) The footpath past the Old School House had become very muddy. **ACTION:** **CM** would report this to DCC.
- c) **NLT** said that the road to her house remained in a very poor state of repair. It had worn through to the hard core in places and badgers were digging more up. **ACTION:** **NLT** would send photos to the Clerk who would take it up with DCC.
- d) **HG** said that she had received a number of letters from residents supporting the reduction of the speed limit. **AW** said that our object should be to compare Bodfari to other villages who already had lower speed limits. **ACTION:** **AW** would prepare a draft letter for **HG** to send to DCC.

ii) Planning. There were no planning applications this month.

## 8. Finance

a) Statements: The bank balances were as follows:

Community Account    £8,857.17

Business Account        £4,437.65

The last instalment of the precept - £1280 had been received. The precept request for £7400 for 2022-23 had been submitted.

b) War Memorial. **ACTION MS** had now received two quotations for the memorial's restoration and would apply to the War Memorial's Trust for a grant.

c) Payments:

i) Clerk's salary for December	£92.30
ii) Tax and Ni for November	£23.00
iii) Harold Smith PAYE services	£30.00

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

## 9. Village Playground and Park.

i) Commuted sums: £1237 were available for community projects in Bodfari but the application would need to be in by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That **AW** would seek three quotes for a single basket swing and the Clerk would prepare an application for the £1237 grant. The Council would consider contributing up to £1800 toward the final cost of the project.

Proposed: **JB** Seconded: **RP**

ii) Swing Repair. **AW** had removed the current swing on health and safety grounds following the inspector's report.

iii) Hannah Jane Smith Charitable Trust. The Clerk had submitted the annual return to the Charity Commission.

iv) Fencing. **AW** reported that some of the old fencing around the site had not been removed as Bodfari Environmental's machine to undertake this work was currently under repair. He hoped it would be back in action in a few weeks.

## 10. Correspondence

i) The Clerk had received an email from the Election Services Dept of DCC about costs for the forthcoming election. This would be in the region of £2500 for running both the County and Community Council elections across the ward, split between two. If there was no Community Council election then an administrative cost of £250 would be levied.

## 11. AOB

i) A stable had appeared near From Haul that had not apparently had planning permission.

**ACTION:** The Clerk would query this with DCC enforcement.

Next meeting: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Appendix 1

### **County Councillors report January 2022**

#### **Update on draft budget for 2022/23**

Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet is to discuss the Council's draft budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

At a meeting on January 18, Cabinet will discuss the draft budget and a proposal for raising Council Tax by 2.95% ahead of the proposals being put to Full Council for final approval at a meeting on 25 January.

As part of the budget process the Council has received the draft budget settlement announced by Welsh Government which suggests Denbighshire's budget will increase by 9.2% for the 2022/23 financial year, with increases of 3.3% and 2.2% the following two years.

The increase in funding comes with a number of new responsibilities the Council will be required to fund, including pay increases, ensuring the Real Living Wage for social care workers and mitigation for the end of the Covid Hardship Fund.

The Council therefore has a funding gap of £2.623million to fill for the coming financial year.

Proposals to fill this gap include operational efficiencies amounting to £634,000 and an increase in Council Tax of 2.95%.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, said: "This budget comes after a second difficult year dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, which has put an additional strain on resources for example, continued pressure on social services, schools, children's services and waste services.

"We have previously made a firm commitment to Denbighshire residents to try and protect services that the public value and expect as much as possible.

"The Council has a strong track record of doing this and we have tried to lead by example by being as efficient and effective as possible, reducing our budgets and making savings through better ways of working.

"Councillors will continue to scrutinise the budget over the coming weeks before it is put to Full Council for discussion and final approval on 25 January."

New responsibilities the Council will be required to fund following the draft settlement from the Welsh Government include:

- All pay increases for both teaching and non-teaching posts
- The responsibility to pay both our own social care and the private sector social care sector staff the Real Living Wage.
- The core operational costs in connection with the new Corporate Joint Committees as enabled by Section 74 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
- Mitigation for the end of the Covid Hardship Fund from the end of the current financial year

#### **Denbighshire businesses urged to apply for funding**

Further funding is available for businesses impacted by the latest restrictions arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

Denbighshire County Council is helping to administer the Welsh Government's Emergency Business Fund - January 2022.

Under the latest package of support, retail, hospitality, leisure and tourism businesses who pay Non Domestic Rates will be entitled to a payment of £2,000, £4,000 or £6,000 depending on their rateable value.

Applications for this element of the fund open from January 13.

A discretionary portion of the fund is also available to sole traders, freelancers and taxi drivers who are able to apply for £500 and businesses that employ people, but do not pay business rates, will be able to apply for £2,000.

Applications for this element of the fund open from January 17.

Businesses will need to re-register their details through an online process with Denbighshire County Council to receive their payments.

An eligibility checker from Business Wales is available to help businesses gauge how much they can expect to receive under the new support package.

Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill, the Council's Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets, said: "We are alerting businesses to the fund and encouraging those eligible to apply.

"We understand it has been a difficult period for businesses who have worked hard to support the local economy and local employment.

"We are working closely with the Welsh Government on administering this fund and have made the application process as simple as possible.

"Businesses should also be aware the Welsh Government is reopening the Economic Resilience Fund from January 17 to support businesses that have sustained a 60% or greater loss in trade, within the hospitality, leisure and supporting supply chain sectors and applications for this fund must be made directly to Business Wales.

"Businesses can qualify for both the Emergency Business Fund and the Economic Resilience Fund."

To find out more or apply you can visit <http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/coronavirus/emergency-business-fund-january-2022.aspx>

### **Consultation on coastal defences at Rhyl**

Denbighshire County Council has launched a consultation on proposals to improve coastal defences at Rhyl, between Drift Park and Splash Point.

The 28-day pre-application consultation for the Central Rhyl Coastal Defences Scheme will run between January 12 and February 9 and gives residents and other stakeholders the chance to comment on proposals ahead of submission of a planning application.

The proposed scheme aims to improve coastal flood defences to protect around 600 homes and businesses and protect the tourist economy from flooding events and coastal erosion well into the future.

The Council is working with Balfour Beatty and Mott MacDonald on progression of the scheme which is subject to the availability of funding and obtaining the relevant planning and environmental permissions.

If the scheme goes ahead, it would be partially funded by the Welsh Government, as part of its Coastal Risk Management Programme.

Between Drift Park and the SeaQuarium (western section) the proposals would include:

- a new stepped revetment;
- raised and widened promenade;
- a new sea defence wall at the rear of the promenade;
- improved access to the beach via steps and a ramp.

Between the SeaQuarium and Splash Point (eastern section) the proposals would include:

- rock scour protection, including boulders, to the foundations of the existing defences;
- concrete repairs to the existing defences.

Cllr Brian Jones, the Council's Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment, said: "The Council understands how important this busy area of promenade is to Rhyl's identity and economy.

"We have already engaged with the public and taken the views expressed into account when developing these plans, and we are again asking members of the community to have their say and take part in the pre-application consultation.

"The design standards for flood defences and the frequency and severity of weather events have changed since the existing defences were constructed, which means they cannot be replaced 'like for like'.

“We have considered a wide range of options and believe this proposal would provide protection to the promenade whilst maintaining access and sea views and improving the area for residents and visitors alike.”

The planning application documents and wider information are available to view

at <http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/community-and-living/coastal-defence/central-rhyl/pac.aspx>

You can comment on the proposals

at <http://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/651> and hard copies will be available to view during the statutory pre-application consultation period at: Rhyl Tourist Information Centre, The Village, West Parade, Rhyl, Denbighshire, LL18 1HZ, during the following opening hours:

- Monday – 1pm – 4pm
- Friday – 9.30am – 12.30 pm
- Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday – 9.30am – 4 pm

The Council will hold public exhibitions to display the draft proposals between 12pm and 8pm on January 25 and 26, at Rhyl Town Hall, 22 Wellington Road, Rhyl, Denbighshire, LL18 1HZ. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, attendance is by appointment only. To arrange an appointment contact the project team and confirm how many people will attend

via [centralrhylcoastaldefence@mottmac.com](mailto:centralrhylcoastaldefence@mottmac.com) or [0161 641 6998](tel:01616416998).

Following the pre-application consultation the Council will respond to the consultation feedback and submit applications for planning consent and if approved, construction would start in autumn/winter 2022 and is expected to take two and a half years.

### **Wetlands project sees first feathered guests arrive**

A makeover of a Denbighshire wetland is already providing popular with feathered visitors.

Denbighshire County Council has worked in partnership with Balfour Beatty to develop land at the Morfa, a 35-acre wetland in Prestatyn.

Three ponds have been created at the site opposite the Morfa Woods with the aim to protect and support local biodiversity, invertebrates, mammals, birds and plant life. And the new-look site has already been visited recently by Egrets and Mallards. Balfour Beatty, who worked on Rhyl East Flood Defence Scheme, provided support as part of their commitment with Denbighshire County Council in providing local community benefits.

And contractor Arwyn Parry dug out and profiled the ponds on site.

Welsh Government via their ENRaW grant scheme contributed towards the actual purchase of the land and to develop it as an important wetland resource over a three year period.

The land had previously been in private ownership

Cllr Tony Thomas, the Council’s Lead Member for Housing and Communities, said: “We are grateful for all the work on this site by everyone involved. It is good to hear that already the work is playing its part in attracting wildlife to the area

“We do hope that this site becomes a firm fixture in the local community and we also welcome support from nearby residents who want to get involved in managing the wetlands. For example, we have already run volunteer events to help with seeding, surveying the ponds and looking for what animals may take up residence in the new look landscape.

“We also would welcome support for a survey of our sustainable grazing project involving Belted Galloway cattle who are helping us to manage the landscape by keeping the grass length down.”

A wooden viewing platform already in situ on the site boundary is soon to be joined by two others to provide wide views of the wetland life.

Plans are also in motion to clear a series of draining channels on the site to help support local Water Voles by bringing back a natural habitat for the endangered species.

The wetland also sits next to the Prestatyn gutter and forms a natural sink during times of high rainfall, acting as an important flood defence. As the site returns to its natural form, without all the current vegetation, its water storage capacity will increase.

***Cynghorydd / Councillor Christine Marston***

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