

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BODFARI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held at the Woodlands Skills Centre and by ZOOM conferencing software at 7pm
Tuesday 8th February 2022

Present:

Cllr Martin Shutt (Chair) (MS)

Cllr Julie Burnage (Vice Chair) (JB)

Cllr Heather Griffiths (HG)

Cllr Alan Waterfield (AW)

Also present:

Cllr Christine Marston (DCC Councillor)

Mel ab Owain (Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllr Sue Davidson (SD)

Cllr Rebecca Parrin (RP)

2. Declaration of interests:

None.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting:

RESOLVED: These were approved as a true record.

Proposed: **AW** Seconded: **JB**

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

5/4/(i) Ceramic Map. Ongoing, carried forward.

5/4 (iii) New Park Entrance. **CM** reported stated that she would like Emlyn Jones, Head of Services at DCC, to come to a site meeting. Phillip Billington (DCC) had looked at the park and noted that there were already two access points and that further access points would be difficult. The meeting, however, felt that a decent access point to the bottom of the park was necessary and this should have been provided by the developer. **CM** felt that we should get a cash commitment from DCC. **ACTION:** She would continue to try and arrange a site meeting.

5/4/(iv) Stiles. **MS** had chased Adrian Walls up but had not received a response. **ACTION:** He would contact Mr Walls again.

5/4 (vii) Park Shelter. **MS** had passed proposals for a shelter to Howard Sutcliff (AONB) and was awaiting a response.

5/7 a, b and C. **MS** had logged these complaints with DCC.

5/8 (i) Park safety inspection report. The Clerk had now circulated this to members.

6. County Councillors Report

CM had submitted a written report. See appendix 1

7. Planning and Highways.

i) Highways: MS highlighted DCCs new online roads complaint system and encouraged Councillors to use it: <https://myaccount.denbighshire.gov.uk/en-gb/Pages/Form-Pages/Pothole.aspx>

ii) **41/2021/1213** 1, Warren House, Llandyrnog to Rose Garden Bend, Bodfari

RESOLVED: the Council had no objection but the Clerk was asked to point out to DCC the historic significance of the shed in question i.e. it was where Vivian Hewitt, who made the first flight from Holyhead to Dublin in 1912, stored his aircraft.

8. Finance

a) Balances: Community Account £8708.37 Business Account £4,437.63
The Clerk was currently preparing to reclaim VAT for 2019-20 and 2020-21

b) War Memorial. **MS** had now submitted a grant application to the War Memorials Trust

c) Payments:

i) Clerk's salary for January £92.30

ii) Tax and Ni for January £23.00

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

9. Review of Key Documents.

i) Risk Assessment. The meeting expressed the view that the contractor's liabilities in sections 3 and 8 be increased to £10m.

RESOLVED: That this assessment be adopted with the Above amendments

Proposed: **JB** Seconded: **AW**

ii) Asset Register. The Clerk would circulate a copy of the last register for comment. The register would be finalised at the next meeting.

10. Village Playground and Park

i) Commuted sums grant: The Clerk had submitted an application for a commuted sums grant of £1237 from DCC towards a new set of swings for the park.

ii) Park inspection should feature on all future agendas.

11. Queen's Jubilee

The Chair had been approached by Dee Jones on behalf of the church asking if the Community Council had any plans for the Jubilee.

ACTION: As a first step MS would ask for quotes from local fabricators for a metal beacon. Richard Jones of Dyserth and Celtic Ironworks in Ruthin were mentioned as possibilities.

It was believed that 5th June would be the day that beacons would be lit.

12. Correspondence

None.

Appendix 1 County Councillor's Report

Annual winter maintenance work at Marine Lake

Denbighshire County Council is informing residents in Rhyl and visitors to the town about the pre-planned annual winter maintenance taking place.

Work to empty the lake will start on Monday, February 7, and signs will be in place informing people of the work.

Once the lake is empty, any debris will be cleared and annual works to the revetments - the supporting wall around the lake - will be carried out

The work of re-filling the lake will begin on Monday, February 21 and will take between three and five days to re-fill.

No events are scheduled during this time and the intention is to complete the works out of season. We would like to thank residents for their understanding at this time.

Empty homes matching service for Denbighshire

Empty home owners can take advantage of a free matching service with potential developers.

Denbighshire County Council is running a matching service to put empty property owners in touch with potential investors to increase the chances of the property being transformed into a home. There are potential investors ready to take forward opportunities.

It is part of the Council's work under its Corporate Plan to reduce the number of empty properties in the county and to create more housing for residents.

Cllr Tony Thomas, the Council's Lead Member for Housing and Communities, said: "The Council has been working hard to ensure that empty properties are brought back into the market and can be used as homes for residents.

"Selling a property through this scheme can save empty home owners money on estate agency fees and Council Tax, if the property has been empty for more than six months, as well as ongoing maintenance costs of the property.

"There are a number of property developers who are signed up to the scheme and who are looking for opportunities throughout Denbighshire."

If you are an empty home owner looking to sell your property or a potential investor please get in touch at strategichousing@denbighshire.gov.uk and we will provide you with further information

Could you offer care and support in Denbighshire?

Could you offer help at home to people in your neighbourhood?

An exciting initiative is now up and running across Denbighshire which means you can get free professional advice to help you work for yourself offering care and support.

Many people in the area are looking for support at home.

Join a free online event on Thursday 24 February to find out more in a relaxed setting.

Learn about the support you can get, ask questions and hear about others who have already set up.

A number of people from a range of backgrounds are already in the process of setting up in Denbighshire.

They are offering various services, from help with washing and dressing, cooking, cleaning, support with hobbies and more.

Nick Hughes, who is leading the project for Community Catalysts, said: "Lots of people in Denbighshire need some extra help to live the way they want to, perhaps because they are older,

disabled or have a long-term health condition. We can help you set up as self-employed offering care and support. You don't need to have a professional background in care or know how to run a business – you just need to know what good care looks like.”

Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Well-being and Independence, said: “We are really pleased to be working with Community Catalysts to help provide more support to the older and disabled population. This is a fantastic programme which can really help caring entrepreneurs bring their own ideas to life for caring and supporting people and I look forward to seeing those with great initiatives take up the worthwhile guidance given through this partnership.”

The project is being run by social enterprise Community Catalysts and funded by Denbighshire County Council.

To find out more about the process of setting up and to ask any questions, come along to a free online event on **Thursday 24 February at 12pm or 6.30pm.**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/offer-care-and-support-in-denbighshire-tickets-256129870337>

You can also contact Nick Hughes, Denbighshire Community Catalyst on nick.hughes@communitycatalysts.co.uk

Have your say on Council's ambitions for next five years

Residents are being invited to have their say on Denbighshire County Council's focus for the next five years.

Housing, the climate and environment, the economy, young people, connected communities, addressing deprivation and continuing to provide a well-run, high performing Council are all themes to be included in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027.

The Corporate Plan sets the focus for the Council's ambitions for the next five years including the vital core services it provides for residents such as education and social care.

The Council is launching an online survey to find out what members of the public think.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, the Council's Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets, said: “This is a chance to tell us what you think about our direction for the next five years.

“Asking the views of our residents helps inform our decision making and allows you to tell us what our focus should be.

“I would encourage as many people as possible to take this chance to help improve services and your local area.”

Between May and July last year, the Council ran an engagement exercise called Continuing the County Conversation where we asked people to tell us what they thought about our planned work programme for 2022-2027.

From this initial engagement activity, we have created the draft themes for our new corporate plan. The online survey is running between January 28 and March 11.

To take part and have your say, please

visit <https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/662>.

If you cannot complete the survey electronically, paper copies of the survey are available on request in all Denbighshire libraries and can be returned to libraries or posted to Strategic Planning and Performance Team, Denbighshire County Council, PO Box 62, Ruthin, LL15 9AZ.

Denbighshire budget approved for 2022/23

Denbighshire County Council has approved its budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

At a County Council meeting on January 25, the budget which includes raising Council Tax by 2.95%, was agreed.

As part of the budget process the Council's draft settlement announced by Welsh Government 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: "We have now completed the budget process for the 2022/23 financial year.

"It comes after a second difficult year dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, which has put an additional strain on resources.

"We took a balanced approach to this year's budget which aimed to recognise and remedy service pressures in order to build resilience, to ensure services were challenged to deliver efficient services, to minimise the impact of proposals on services users while keeping Council Tax increases as low as practicable.

"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."

Note to editors:

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

Ambassador Scheme proves popular across North Wales

A scheme providing people with training and knowledge about tourism in North Wales is proving popular.

With over 2,000 people signed up, there are over 1,350 who have become Ambassadors for at least one of the regions in Wales, including Denbighshire Tourism Ambassadors - and this continues to grow.

The Denbighshire scheme offers 12 online training modules on a variety of themes including walking, cycling, towns, history, arts, coast, Welsh language and food tourism. There are 3 levels of awards – bronze, silver and gold, depending on the number of modules completed.

Leader of Denbighshire County Council, Councillor Hugh Evans OBE, said: "We know continuous learning can have a positive impact on people's lives. Whether you are looking to learn more about the area, improve job prospects or meet new people, becoming a Denbighshire Ambassador is a great way to start the year. The scheme will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the area as well as giving you the opportunity to attend events and visit some of our key sites across the county."

Denbighshire was the first to launch an online scheme of its kind in Wales.

It's totally free and open to everyone. Residents, volunteers and local community groups are particularly encouraged to become Ambassadors to learn more about the special qualities of Denbighshire.

Resident Wendy Davies said: "After booking 2 weeks off annual leave I discovered I had to self-isolate for 7 of them. Bored with watching the television, I couldn't concentrate on books and being as I couldn't leave my house for my usual hobbies of walking, gym, cycling, I decided to do the online

modules. I loved it. The videos and information is mind blowing, so much knowledge and information has been put into it. It really opened my eyes to looking at Denbighshire in a different light. Looking forward to moving onto gold level.”

Paul Hughes, walking group leader for the Vale of Clwyd Mind commented: “I chose to become a Denbighshire Tourism Ambassador because it gives you more information, it’s always handy to have more knowledge when you’re leading people on walks and taking people around the different areas. The course is free as well which always helps. And you can do it at home over a couple of evenings a week, so it’s brilliant. You can’t have enough knowledge as they say, it’s always nice to learn something new.”

Richard Hughes, from Bracdy Holidays in Llandyrnog and Gold Tourism Ambassador, said: “Many of our visitors to Bracdy Campsite have never stayed in the area before. They are amazed by the beauty of The Clwydian Range behind the site and the stunning views across the Vale of Clwyd. We’re here to answer questions about Denbighshire and so to improve our local knowledge we’ve become Ambassadors. We love our visitors to ask questions and we like to have the answers and with 2000 years of historic events to talk about, the wide open spaces and the bustling market towns there’s always plenty going on.”

Snowdonia National Park and Conwy County Borough Council have since launched similar schemes and Gwynedd, Flintshire, Anglesey and Pontcysyllte World Heritage Site are busy preparing to launch their schemes during 2022. Ambassadors are actively encouraged to sign up for all courses to extend their learning about North Wales and be part of a wider community.

For more information on the scheme and to sign-up please visit <http://www.ambassador.wales>

Update on Llannerch Bridge

Residents are being informed of progress to replace Llannerch Bridge which was washed away during Storm Christoph last year.

Following informal discussions with Natural Resources Wales and a period of public engagement in September and October 2021, Denbighshire County Council’s Cabinet met on November 23, 2021, and resolved to support in principle the replacement of Llannerch Bridge, subject to the securing of necessary funding.

The Council is funding the initial cost of ground surveys and other specialist work which will then enable the Council to build a business case and bid for external funding to design and construct a replacement bridge.

Residents will see signs of activity at the Llannerch Bridge site in the near future as the specialist surveying and mapping work commences.

The Council will be publishing quarterly newsletters to keep residents informed of the latest activity, with the first newsletter being published in the coming weeks.

It is hoped that, subject to Covid restrictions, public meetings will be held later in the spring, giving residents the chance to discuss any questions or concerns.

Cllr Brian Jones, the Council’s Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment, said: “We would like to thank residents for their patience and understanding as we work to secure the best possible future for this complex site.

“We would also like to thank residents again for sharing their initial thoughts with us, the 750 responses we received during our public engagement exercise represent a significant proportion of the local population of Tremeirchion and Trefnant, meaning that we are confident that the information they have provided us is representative of those communities.

“Now that we have confirmed in principle that we will be seeking to replace Llannerch Bridge, we look forward to being in more regular contact with residents to keep them updated on this project as it progresses.”

Cynghorydd / Councillor Christine Marston Tremeirchion Ward

