

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BODFARI COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held at Bodfari Church and by ZOOM conferencing software at 7pm Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Present:

Cllr Martin Shutt (Chair) (MS)

Cllr Sue Davidson (SD)

Cllr Naomi Lude-Thompson (NLT)

Cllr Rebecca Parrin (RP)

Also present:

Cllr Christine Marston (DCC Councillor)

Mel ab Owain (Clerk)

## **1. Apologies:**

Julie Burnage (JB)

Heather Griffiths (HG)

## **2. Declaration of interests:**

None.

## **3. Urgent Matters**

The Clerk had received a complaint from A. and N. Emslie of Brynn Ffynnon, Bodfari about the Council's handling of planning applications at their property.

The Clerk informed the Council that complaints about the conduct of Councillors in Wales were dealt with by the Public Services Ombudsman.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk reply to Mr and Mrs Emslie suggesting that they send the complaint to the Ombudsman.

## **4. Biodiversity**

Liam Blazey of Denbighshire County Council spoke about boosting the biodiversity along the verges and how this could be achieved. Mr Blazey gave an overview of their efforts to boost wildflower meadows in Denbighshire especially along roadside verges. Wildflower meadows accounted for less than 15% of the UK's land surface. However, calcic meadows such as those found in Denbighshire were particularly rich in biodiversity.

He would forward details of Denbighshire's programmes on email. The first step would be for Bodfari CC to register for bee friendly status.

## **5. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

Of the councillors attending, only one (the Chair) had been present at the previous meeting. The February minutes were therefore held over for approval at the next meeting.

## 6. Matters arising from the minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> February

i. 5 Park entrance. **CM** had received a positive response from Emlyn Jones DCC about a site visit and he would come back with dates.

**ACTION: CM** would chase up a date for this visit.

ii. 5 Stiles. **MS** had still not received a response from Adrian Walls.

**ACTION: CM** would chase this up.

iii. 5 Park shelter. **MS** had still not heard from Howard Sutcliff of the ANOB.

**ACTION: MS** would chase this up.

iv. 11 Queen's Jubilee. See item 13.

## 7. County Councillor's report

Cllr Marston had previously circulated a written report – see Appendix 1.

**CM** also asked if councillors had experienced low water pressure in the village – several had.

## 8. Planning and Highways.

i) Highways – 30mph limits. The Clerk had received a response from Ben Wilcox-Jones which failed to answer the question.

**ACTION:** The Clerk would repeat the question.

ii) Planning – None.

## 9. Finance

a) Financial report: Community Account: £8441.97 Business Account: £4437.73

b) Payments:

i) Clerk's salary for February £92.30

ii) Tax and NI for February £23.00

iii. Clerk's Expenses 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 21 - 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 22 £49.49

*iv. Information Commissioner £40.00*

*v. BHIP Insurance £228.32*

*vi. Arfon Parry – Web hosting £33.00*

*vii. One Voice Wales £61.00*

viii. Green Barns – notice board supplies £199.00

ix. Ysgol Bodfari – S137 Donation £250.00

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

c. Clerk - Additional hours for sorting out archive

The Clerk had presented a bill for 4 hrs @ £11.50 per hour (gross total £46.00 less PAYE) for sorting out the archive.

**RESOVLED:** That this be approved. Proposed **SD** Seconded **RP**

## 10. Review of Asset Register

**RESOLVED:** The amended register with the addition of two sweet chestnut trees will be adopted. Proposed: **MS** Seconded: **RP**

**11. Community Grants.** It was agreed to defer a decision on these grants until the next meeting.

12. Village Playground and Park

i. **AW** would undertake the inspection this month.

ii. a) The gate had not been fixed. **ACTION:** The Clerk would ask **AW** to see to it.

b) The meeting thought that many items in the park were looking worn.

**ACTION:** **MS, RP and SD** would inspect the park next Sunday (13<sup>th</sup>) at 10.30.

## 13. Queen's Jubilee

i. Dee Jones, a member of the group arranging events for the Jubilee in the villages, outlined to the meeting what they had planned, including an event for the whole community in the school grounds. They were also considering giving a memento to each of the village children.

They asked if the Council would consider hiring a marquee and paying for the mementoes. Ms Jones was asked to obtain some prices for the Council to consider.

ii. **MS** had looked into to the costs of purchasing a metal beacon. He had been quoted £2,200. It was decided not to proceed with this proposal.

## 14. Correspondence

None.

## **Appendix 1 County Councillors Report**

### **Statement on conflict in Ukraine**

Denbighshire County Council is working with partner organisations around supporting those impacted by the conflict in Ukraine.

The Council has been meeting with the Welsh Local Government Association as part of a collective response in Wales to ensure a joined-up approach to the crisis.

Denbighshire residents wanting to donate items to those in Ukraine forced to leave their homes can do so via the Wrexham branch of the Polish Integration Support Centre.

Visit <http://www.facebook.com/PISCWrexham/> or contact [0752367826](tel:0752367826) for more information or check social media for any local collections.

Residents can also visit <http://www.redcross.org.uk> for details of its Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

### **Creating resilient communities in Denbighshire**

Focus has been given to keeping Denbighshire healthy over the past five years.

Building independence and resilience in our communities has been a priority for Denbighshire County Council as part of its Corporate Plan 2017-2022, which set the direction for the authority for the past five years.

During this time the Council has secured recognition from the Alzheimer's Society for working towards becoming a Dementia friendly organisation and the Council launched its Carers' Charter, a commitment to unpaid carers throughout the county.

The number of allotment spaces in the county has increased to 272, including an extension of the allotment site in Denbigh by 30 plots.

Work has also been carried out to raise awareness of and prevent domestic abuse, while safeguarding learning has been provided for staff to offer guidance on reporting concerns they may have about vulnerable people living in our communities.

Councillor Bobby Feeley, the Council's Lead Member for Well-being and Independence, said: "We have been working hard to create resilient communities in Denbighshire, focusing on promoting people's health and well-being and encouraging them to remain as independent as possible.

The Council helped create Community Resource Teams (CRT) to provide seamless health and social care services in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. They focus on working together to provide care closer to home, offering better provision with an increased focus and investment on prevention and early intervention delivering comprehensive, flexible and responsive multi-agency and multi-disciplinary community health and social care services.

Health staff including community nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and older person's mental health teams and social services staff including social workers, occupational therapists, social care practitioners, community navigators and dementia social care practitioners are based together and other services link with the teams, for example carer assessors, voluntary organisations and GPs. Rhyl's CRT has been in place since 2017, Ruthin and Corwen were established in February 2019, Denbigh was established in 2020 and Prestatyn opened in April 2021.

The Council launched its Carers' Charter on Carers Rights Day in November 2020.

It was produced in consultation with local unpaid carers and Denbighshire Carers Strategy Group.

It sets out the Council's pledge for unpaid carers to have the right to be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity as well as the right to an individual assessment for the needs of the unpaid carer to be identified separately from the person for whom they are caring, as well as giving unpaid carers a voice.

The Council was also involved in the adoption of Young Carers ID Cards for North Wales which launched in March 2021.

Information on the Live Fear Free campaign may be found at <http://www.gov.wales/live-fear-free> <<http://www.gov.wales/live-fear-free>>."

In February 2020 Denbighshire County Council was given recognition for its efforts to work towards becoming a dementia friendly council with Alzheimer's Society recognition through its Dementia Friendly Communities initiative for its work to raise awareness and provide support.

This included the delivery of Dementia Friends information sessions for staff and councillors, a staff engagement network, while libraries in the county offer a books on prescription service. There is also a reduction in Council Tax for people living with dementia, while help with wheelie bins is also provided.

Denbighshire's library service continued to provide a valued service during lockdown, despite the buildings being closed and the staff team being redeployed to our proactive calling work. Libraries'

digital offer was supported by a £250,000 investment from Welsh Government into the all-Wales Borrowbox service of downloadable e-books and e-audiobooks to increase the range and volume of stock available while Denbighshire also invested in Pressreader, giving free digital access to over 3,000 worldwide newspapers and magazines.

Since the pandemic the service has operated digitally.

For further information on the support that is available in Denbighshire please contact Denbighshire Single Point of Access by phone on [0300 456 1000](tel:03004561000) or email [spoa@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:spoa@denbighshire.gov.uk)<<mailto:spoa@denbighshire.gov.uk>>.

You can find out more about the Corporate Plan 2017-2022

at <http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/corporate-plan-ambition-achievements><<http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/corporate-plan-ambition-achievements>>

### **Thinking of becoming a councillor?**

Denbighshire County Council is hosting an information event aimed at the county's residents who are thinking of becoming a county councillor.

The next county council elections will take place on Thursday, 5 May 2022, on the same day as the city, town and community council elections.

Council representatives will be on hand to provide information on the role of the county councillor, how the Council works, the issues county councillors will face after the elections, the nomination and election process and the support available to councillors once elected.

The event will be held on Zoom starting at 6pm on Tuesday, 1st March 2022 and will last for approximately an hour.

If you would like to attend please email [democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk) or telephone [01824 712589](tel:01824712589) / 712575.

For further information about any aspects of the elections process, please visit:

<http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/voting-and-elections/be-a-councillor.aspx> or call [01824 706000](tel:01824706000).

### **Reminder of Public Space Protection Order in Denbighshire**

Dog owners are being reminded to pick up after their pets while out walking.

A Public Space Protection Order is in force in the county which allows Denbighshire County Council to take action, including issuing fines against owners who allow their dogs to foul in an area of public land without cleaning up after them.

The Council works with District Enforcement who deploy officers to regularly patrol the county in order to prevent littering and irresponsible dog ownership.

Protection Order and could receive a £100 fixed penalty notice.

To report a dog owner not clearing up after their pet, please provide a description of the person, a description of the dog as well as the time and location of the offence.

All litter bins and your black bin at home can be used to deposit dog mess which is bagged and tied and free dog bags can be collected from the Council's one-stop shops.

To report an incident of dog fouling visit <http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/environmental-health/dog-issues/report-a-dog-related-issue.aspx>

### **New woodland creations take shape**

Nearly 5,000 new trees have been planted across Denbighshire to help reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity.

Denbighshire County Council's Woodland Creation Project is laying down roots across the county thanks to the support work of staff, volunteers and elected members.

In July 2019, the Council passed a motion to declare a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency. A Climate and Ecological Change Strategy was approved by Council in February 2021, committing the Council to become Net Carbon Zero and more Ecologically Positive Council by 2030.

This includes reducing the Council's carbon emissions from several sources.

It is not possible to reach net carbon zero by reducing emissions alone. Any carbon emissions that we cannot eliminate will therefore have to be offset. The Woodland Creation Project will help the

council achieve that carbon zero goal by contributing to the amount of carbon sequestered (or absorbed).

Volunteers and Council staff have planted 800 trees at Llanrhydd, 2,500 at Maes Gwilym, 1,500 at Cae Ddol and 150 trees at Maes Esgob. This included a number of school children who were able to plant the trees on their old school field in Ruthin, as well as enhance the Maes Gwilym woodland in Rhyl.

For more information on the Council's Climate and Ecological Change work please click <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/environmental-health/climate-and-ecological-change/climate-and-ecological-change.aspx>

### **Woodland takes shape thanks to volunteer help**

Volunteers have dug deep to bring new natural life to a popular Rhyl green area.

A group of kind-hearted volunteers recently rolled up their sleeves to help plant trees at Glan Morfa. Glan Morfa is an all-ability trail following the banks of the River Clwyd estuary. The wide path takes you through the young community woodland before cutting back towards the estuary.

The Council is continually working to maintain, improve and increase the biodiversity landscape of the county by protecting vulnerable species and habitats for the benefit of both wildlife and people who live and visit Denbighshire.

Some of the work already carried out across Denbighshire includes the planting of over 18,000 trees and the enhancement of biodiversity in the County, with 60 sites being managed to create wildflower meadows.

The Council has also established a project to look at creating four new woodlands across Denbighshire and is planning to plant nearly 5,000 trees before March this year.

Many charities, community groups, volunteer groups, and schools are helping Countryside Service staff to plant trees.

And at Glan Morfa, staff were joined by a committed team of countryside service volunteers to plant the trees around the timber roundhouse area that will be used for community events and classes for green woodworking and sustainable use of woodland coppice product.

Cynghorydd / Councillor Christine Marston

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