

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BODFARI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held at Bodfari Church and by ZOOM conferencing software at 7pm Tuesday 12th April 2022

Present:

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

Also present:

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

1. Apologies:

None.

2. Declaration of interests:

Cllr Burnage declared a personal interest on items 11 and 12 iv.

3. Urgent Matters.

i. The Next Council. Only two candidates had put nominations forward for the election to the new Council on 5th May. This meant that the new Council could not function as it would not have a quorum.

The Clerk had contacted the Election Services Department at DCC. Steve Price of DCC confirmed that where there are so many vacancies on a town or community council that it cannot lawfully act, the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a County Council may by Order appoint persons to fill all or any of the vacancies until other councillors are elected or co-opted and take office.

The current Bodfari councillors would remain in office until the 9th May but following the elections, he expected that Denbighshire will request that an Order is made for at least one temporary appointment in order to allow Bodfari to act lawfully and take decisions.

ACTIONS: i) The Clerk would contact DCC as soon as possible after the election to try and move the process on.

ii) Bodfari CC would hold an additional meeting on Tuesday 3rd May to transact as much business as was practicable.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 8th February.

RESOLVED: That these were a true record. Proposed: **JB** Seconded: **MS**

5. Minutes of the meeting of 8th March.

RESOLVED: That these were a true record. Proposed: **MS** Seconded: **NLT**

6. Matters Arising.

- i) New Park Entrance. **CM** had asked for Denbighshire CC to fund a survey of the requirements for a front entrance and a footpath along the roadway. She was disappointed to be turned down and directed to ask Ms Rose of DCC for a grant.
- ii) Stiles. Still no response from Adrian Walls of DCC as to a timescale on the installation of replacements. **MS** to chase up
- iii) Park shelter (see 12).
- iv) Bee Friendly Scheme. The Clerk had applied to register BCC with this scheme.
- v) Complaint from Mr and Mrs Emslie. The Clerk had replied to the complainant pointing out that their complaint should be sent to the Public Services Ombudsman. BCC had also received advice from DCC, One Voice Wales and the Local Government Association.

7. County Councillors Report.

Cllr Marston had submitted a written report – see appendix 1.

8. Planning and Highways.

ii) Planning

- a. 41/2022/0242 School House, B5429 Nant Gwilym To Junction A541 Bodfari, Bodfari, Construction of a new vehicular access and associated works
- b. 41/2022/0243 School House, B5429 Nant Gwilym To Junction A541 Bodfari, Bodfari. Construction of a new vehicular access and associated works (**Listed Building application**)

RESOLVED The Council expressed no objection to either proposal but wished to point out that the Council has actively pursuing a project to lay a pedestrian footpath along the road edge of the area marked in orange on the site plan.

9. Finance

a. Financial report

Community Account: £8270.18 BMM Account (renamed by bank) £4,437.75

b. Payments

- i. Clerk's salary for March 2022 £92.30
- ii. Tax and Ni for March 2022 £23.00
- iii. Harold Smith – Pension re-enrolment £30.00
- iv. Bodfari Environmental – park maintenance £1104.00
- v. Clerk – refund of ICO data licence £40.00
- vi. One Voice Wales Annual Membership £64.00
- vi. Harold Smith PAYE £30.00

RESOLVED: That these payments be approved. Proposed **SD** Seconded **MS**

10. Audit.

Bodfari CC would be subject to an enhanced audit for the year 2022/23.

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

Only one application had been received from a charity/ community group:
Love North Wales Community Support – a body that supports vulnerable people referred to them by various agencies throughout our area

RESOLVED: That the Council awards a £250 grant to them. Proposed: **SD** Seconded **MS**

12. Village Playground and Park

i) Park Inspection:

May **SD**

June: **RP**

July: **MS**

ii) Park Shelter. Further to **MS'** discussions with Howard Sutcliff of the AONB, he had been introduced to Gwenno Jones in DCC regarding the 'Green Communities' funding application for a park gazebo. **NLT** also suggested that BCC contact Iwan Edwards of Renew Wales with regard to the horticultural aspect of the project.

ACTION: MS would contact Gwenno and Iwan with a view to putting together an expression of interest.

iii) Grounds maintenance contract. Bodfari Environmental had put in a bid to maintain the park for the forthcoming year.

ACTION: The Clerk would look for two more bids.

iv) Other: **MS, SD and RP** had inspected the park recently and reported that the furniture needed power washing.

ACTION: The Clerk would contact the Clerk of Aberwheeler who had recently had similar work undertaken.

Also it was also noted that the goalposts needed replacing.

ACTION: JB would ask Ant Burnage to cost a number of options for metal posts.

iv) The Small Gate. This was in a dangerous condition and the Clerk had asked two local tradesmen if they could replace the gate as a matter of urgency. Simply Green Garden Services had quoted to do the job for £140 plus materials.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was to ask SGGs to do the work. A maximum of £250 would be allocated to do the work.

Proposed: **MS** Seconded: **AW**

v) Fence. Bodfai Environmental would remove the remains of the old fence as contracted shortly.

13. Queen's Jubilee

SD reported that plans were well advanced for an event on 5th June in the school grounds. The village group organising the event were asking if the Council could pay for i) A music licence ii) Insurance and iii) Commemorative mugs for the village children.

RESOLVED: That the Council earmark £500 to support this event pending further discussion.

Proposed: **JB** Seconded: **MS**

14. Correspondence: None

Appendix 1 County Councillors report.

Initiative helps set up new Dyserth care and support micro-enterprise

Dyserth residents can lean on a new local micro-enterprise for care and support.

Lean on Me has started up in the town thanks to the support of a partnership between social enterprise Community Catalysts and Denbighshire County Council.

Community Catalysts offer free professional advice to help people work for themselves offering care and support across the county.

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.

One of these is Wendy Williams who has launched Lean on Me – a community micro-enterprise and 'friendly service that offers help and home'.

Wendy, who helped older people at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd as part of the Red Cross Resettlement Team, worked with Denbighshire Community Catalyst Nick Hughes to bring to life her idea for providing support to local residents.

For more information about the project and how to get involved, contact Nick Hughes the Denbighshire Community Catalyst on [07787 436](tel:07787436199)

[199](tel:07787436199) or nick.hughes@communitycatalysts.co.uk

You can also find out more by leaving your details below.

<https://www.communitycatalysts.co.uk/project/work-for-yourself-care-help-at-home/#Top>

Woodland classroom adds in home for mammals

An addition to a new woodland site is providing a nocturnal education theme.

Work has been carried out at an old primary school field on Llanrhydd Street, Ruthin to establish a new woodland.

Denbighshire's Woodland Creation Project has seen 800 trees planted at the site already this year as part of a continuing effort to reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity.

This is part of 5,000 trees planted this year to also create new woodlands at Maes Gwilym, Cae Ddol and at Maes Esgob.

These new trees are in addition to the planting of over 18,000 across the county as part of the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22 focus on the preservation of the natural environment and also the maintaining and enhancing biodiversity within the county.

A number of school children were able to help plant the trees on their old school field in Ruthin.

And now an outdoor classroom area has been crafted on the site not only to help the children learn about biodiversity but also give a helping hand to local nocturnal residents.

The classroom has been constructed of wood by local craftsman Huw Noble who has incorporated a unique feature.

The structure contains a 'Bat Roof' which has been specially designed to provide the features bats need to roost during the day. Over time, as the habitats on site develop, it is hoped that this structure will support local populations of these rare creatures

Emlyn Jones, Denbighshire County Council's Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services, said: "We are grateful to all the volunteers, school pupils and local members who have worked not just on the Llanrhydd site, but all the sites to help continue to reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity across Denbighshire.

Volunteer opportunities at Tree Nursery

A new Denbighshire initiative is opening the doors to volunteers interested in biodiversity.

Denbighshire County Council's local provenance tree nursery at Green Gates Farm, St Asaph, aims to produce 5,000 native wildflower plants a year alongside 5,000 native trees.

This project has been funded by Welsh Government, through the Local Nature Partnerships Cymru ENRaW project and Local Places for Nature grant.

Already the team at the site is seeing the fruits of their labour with the first native wildflower seeds germinating at the nursery.

Following the Council's declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019, this project is part of an ongoing commitment to enhancing biodiversity across the county.

And now the team are welcoming any volunteers to the site who may have an interest in the local environment, keen plant growers or those who generally want to learn more about the wildflower and tree planting projects the Council runs.

If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch

at biodiversity@denbighshire.gov.uk <<mailto:biodiversity@denbighshire.gov.uk>>.

Work to begin on Electric Vehicle Charging points

Work is due to start on the installation of a county wide Electric Vehicle Public Charging Pilot.

Denbighshire County Council has secured a total of £57,400 grant funding from the UK

Government's Office for Zero Emission Vehicles supported by the Energy Saving Trust, to support the delivery of an Electric Vehicle Public Charging Pilot.

The pilot will provide fast charging points in eight public car parks across Denbighshire for use by the public.

Public chargers will be installed at:

- Fern Avenue, Prestatyn
- Factory Ward Car Park, Denbigh,
- Bowling Green Car Park/ Lower High Street, St Asaph
- Market St Car Park, Llangollen

- Pavilion Car Park, National Pavilion, Llangollen
- Cae Ddol Car Park, Crispin Yard, Clwyd Street, Ruthin
- Craft Centre Car Park, Park Road, Ruthin
- Morley Road Car Park, Rhyl

Work on the pilot is expected to be completed by early summer.

The county car parks have been chosen using a range of criteria including location and accessibility and include a mixture of key routes and car parks close to residential properties without access to off-road parking.

The chargers will be in place to support residents to transition to an electric vehicle where they didn't previously have access to a charging facility.

The project is part of the Council's action to tackle climate change following the declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019 and adoption of the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy in 2021.

Rural Denbighshire communities get internet speed boost

Residents and businesses in a Denbighshire village have been connected to fibre broadband. With support from Denbighshire County Council, the Groesffordd Marli Fibre Community Partnership, which contains 37 properties, including 13 businesses, has been provided with a Fibre To The Property Internet (FTTP) connection with speeds of up to 900mbps, via Openreach's Fibre Partnership programme.

This installation was funded through the Welsh and UK government Gigabit Vouchers scheme at no cost to residents or businesses.

Members of the community contacted the Council's digital officer who then assisted with the application and organisation of the bid.

Properties in Groesffordd Marli can now order fibre-based internet up to 900mbps, an improvement over the 1mbps some of them were receiving before.

Nicola Kneale, the Council's Joint Interim Head of Business Improvement and Modernisation, said: "Residents and businesses will now benefit from faster internet speeds which will improve their access to the internet.

"These speeds will allow for a wider range of services including the streaming of HD and 4k content and means more members of a household can access the internet at the same time.

"We are pleased to have been able to support the community with this application and will continue to work with rural communities on improving their access to faster internet speeds."

Communities in the Trefnant area, 23 properties including eight businesses, and Llandegla area, eight properties including six businesses, have recently been successful in their bids for the scheme and are currently awaiting installation.

Improving digital connectivity and broadband infrastructure in Denbighshire is a priority for the Council, and for more information or to discuss how you can increase your internet speed contact communitydevelopment@denbighshire.gov.uk

Update on the resettlement of Ukrainian families in Denbighshire

Volunteers who have offered to house refugee families from Ukraine are being contacted by Denbighshire County Council.

As part of its on-going commitment to support the UK Resettlement Scheme, the Council is contacting all residents who have offered support to those displaced by the conflict.

The Council has been working closely with Welsh Government and is making the necessary arrangements to start resettling families from Ukraine as soon as possible.

Denbighshire has a long history of accommodating and supporting refugees and over the last five years the Council has resettled 25 families, made up of 95 individuals, predominantly in response to the refugee crisis in Syria and Afghanistan.

Ann Lloyd, the Council's Interim Head of Service for Community Support Services.

If anyone has any enquiries, or would like to offer accommodation, they should

email ukresettlement@denbighshire.co.uk and for more information visit <https://gov.wales/homes-ukraine-guidance-sponsors-html>

Information on business rate relief in Denbighshire

Traders in Denbighshire are being informed of business rate relief being offered for the coming financial year.

In December 2021, the Welsh Government announced an extension to the business rate relief scheme to support businesses across Wales for 2022/23.

Denbighshire County Council will be administering the support in the county on behalf of the Welsh Government.

All occupied properties wholly or mainly being used as retail, hospitality and leisure businesses are eligible to receive 50 per cent business rate relief.

This is a reduction from the last two years of the Welsh Government scheme where businesses were able to receive 100 per cent rate relief and means in many cases traders will have to pay a portion of business rates for the 2022/23 financial year.

You can apply for the scheme online via the Council's website.

Steve Gadd, the Council's Head of Finance and Property, said: "The Welsh Government has announced the scheme will be application based and therefore businesses will need to apply for this rate relief.

The Welsh Government has said businesses will receive their annual bill without the relief being awarded and that a revised bill will be issued later in the year.

For more information or to apply please

visit <http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/business/business-rates/relief-and-reductions.aspx>

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