

Minutes of the Meeting of
BROUGHTON AND BRETTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
18 OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Sue Stevens (Chair)

Councillors: Penny Brett Roberts, Derek Butler, Phil Griffiths, Ros Griffiths, John Kiersey, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin and Keith Rogers

Officers: Mrs S G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer

Outside rep: Sam Torr, Leader

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tim Hawes, Lyndsay Jones, Mike Lowe and Beth McFadden.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Penny Brett Roberts declared an interest in item 4, Broughton Community Library. She duly completed her Declaration of Interest Form and withdrew from the meeting whilst discussions took place.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS:

The Clerk apologised for referring to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 instead of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 for the following item of business.

BROUGHTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY:

The Chair welcomed Mr Ian Bancroft, Chief Officer, Organisational Change and Damien Hughes, Schools Modernisation Project Manager, to the meeting. Ian Bancroft provided a summary of the proposal to change the ownership and management of the Community Library at Broughton which would involve the School taking over the ownership of the building but that the County Council would continue to provide a professional library service. The Community Council had been requested to consider an annual contribution towards the revenue costs of the Library. This arrangement would be called a “co-operative agreement”.

The overall proposal centred on three principal areas:

- The requirement for 2 additional classrooms to meet increasing pupil numbers and reconfigurations to the school/library space
- Ownership and future management of Library Building and service
- Future ownership and management of the Youth Centre building

Ian Bancroft confirmed that approval “in principle” would be required before the end of November in order to effect the changes in September 2016. He confirmed that the Section 106 monies of £521k had been secured for the capital element of the project and he had provided, as requested, a breakdown of the revenue costs associated with the Library. The Clerk, Head Teacher and School representatives had subsequently reviewed the revenue costs and had identified areas where the school could absorb some costs and other costs could be challenged and/or reduced further. The total revenue costs proposed of £14,124.00 could at least be reduced to £8,676.00 if not further and subject to annual review.

Members raised a number of questions about the proposal to which the officers present answered accordingly. A key issue for resolution centred on the NNDR costs of the building as discussed above with the revenue costs. Ian Bancroft stated that NNDR was based on floor space but that confirmation of the queries would need to be directed to the Council’s NNDR team including the impact of the Youth Centre building.

Following some internal discussions between the school, the Clerk and the Library service, there were no outstanding queries about the reconfiguration of the space to meet both the needs of the School and the Library Service.

Members were overwhelmingly keen to retain a library service for the local community and to ensure that the school had the necessary resources to cope with increased pupil numbers and therefore agreed “in principle” to the proposals.

Ian Bancroft confirmed that the transfer arrangements of the building would become effective from 1st April 2016 and the school building changes be implemented by September 2017.

Councillor Butler sought assurances that the proposal would provide a satisfactory resolution for the School and its future demands whilst at the same time ensuring that the needs of the local community were met.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) that approval, in principle, be agreed to a “co-operative agreement” for the future ownership and management of the Library Service and Youth Centre building and the school reconfiguration ;
- (ii) that a meeting be held prior to the 15th November with representatives from the County Council, Community Council and School to review the accuracy of the revenue costs with a view to confirming the Community Council’s contribution at its meeting in November.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th September 2016 be received as a true record and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meetings of the following Committees held on 20th September 2016 be received:

Planning & General Purposes Committee
Lighting & Amenities Committee
Finance & Staffing Committee

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES CONSULTATION

The Clerk advised Members of the current consultation and asked the Council to consider a response. The consultation period would run until 12th December 2016 and could be viewed on-line.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the consultation be noted.

VACANCY – BROUGHTON SOUTH WARD

The Clerk advised that following the publication of a Notice of Election no request for an election had been forthcoming. This had been confirmed verbally by the County Council but formal notification was awaited.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the current position.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

Due to the Chair being unwell during the previous month she had nothing to report but thanked the Council for its good wishes during her illness.