



Minutes of the 'Virtual' Meeting of
BROUGHTON AND BRETTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
21 SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Ryan McKeown (Chairman)

Councillors: Klaus Armstrong-Braun, Penny Brett-Roberts, Chrissy Gee, Ros Griffiths, Donna Lalek, Adam Lee, Mike Lowe, Billy Mullin, Linda Thomas and Adam Williams

Officers: Mrs S G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer
Fran Griffiths, Administrator

37/21 PRESENTATION BY DAN COLLINGS, SITE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, AIRBUS:

The Chairman welcomed Dan Collings to the meeting. Dan outlined that he had been appointed to replace Phil McGraa, who members had previously met, and that he had joined Airbus as an apprentice 11 years ago. His role would be to provide support for the community and internal systems and he had been in his current post for three months.

Dan had been working on the annual Community Awards. The final 10 nominations would be published in 'The Leader' and he encouraged members to vote for their favourite schemes. The winners would be decided by votes from members of the public.

Approximately 20 volunteers from Airbus had recently carried out a successful litter pick in Broughton in aid of 'World Clean Up Day' that had been encouraging. Dan also advised of the forthcoming 'Foundation Flying Challenge' when Airbus choose a high school, previously identified as having the potential for pupils to drop out of education, and mentor the students and introduce them to the world of industry.

A member asked if Dan could assist in the clean-up of the churchyard at St. Mary's Church Broughton, which unfortunately had been neglected for some time. The Chairman said that he would meet the Reverend and Church Warden on Thursday 24th September to discuss the problem.

The Chairman thanked Dan for his informative presentation.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and note the presentation.

38/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Derek Butler (illness) and Lindsay Jones (urgent family commitment).

The Clerk and Financial Officer asked the council to consider an extension to the statutory six months for Councillor Derek Butler due to the serious illness he had been suffering; this was in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, s85(1).

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve an extended period of five months' absence for Councillor Derek Butler in accordance with legislation.

39/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Adam Lee, Ryan McKeown and Billy Mullin declared an interest in item 47/21 and Councillor Ryan McKeown declared an interest in item 28. Declarations of interest forms would be submitted in due course.

40/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

41/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

42/21 CO-OPTION IN SOUTH WARD:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that no expressions of interest had been received for the vacancy in the south ward and that it would be re-advertised. The closing date for applications would be 8th October 2021.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

43/21 WELSH GOVERNMENT BRIEFING FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a briefing from Welsh Government about proposed changes to future meetings of Community and Town Councils meetings. There had been three main changes including the enablement of hybrid meetings to take place so that members, members of the public and press could attend virtually, electronic agendas to be published and a decision notice to be issued within seven working days of the meeting.

Due to the rising rates with the current pandemic and the risk to council staff, members, and members of the public, it was recommended that virtual meetings continue until the risk is minimised.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- i) To continue to hold virtual meetings until at least January 2022;
- ii) Accept the need to provide hybrid meetings post January 2022; and
- iii) To accept that electronic copies of agendas will be distributed to members, subject to any member writing to the Clerk and Financial Officer requesting a paper copy.

44/21 REPLACEMENT FENCING AT COUNTRY PARK, BROUGHTON:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that whilst the play area at the Country Park had been upgraded two years ago, the surrounding wooden fence had been in a state of disrepair and in need of replacement. In addition, there had been a recent incident with the gate and whilst the gate met current Health and Safety guidelines, it would be more efficient to replace the gate whilst replacing the fence.

The cost for the replacement fencing had not been budgeted for and three quotes had been sourced. Council could consider the use of reserves or the contingency fund of £5,000 and the county council had already indicated that it would be able to provide match funding for this purpose. Alternatively, this work could be implemented in April 2022 following budget provision being made in the 2022-23 budget.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the replacement fencing be approved with the cost to be met from the Council's reserves and that the work be awarded to company B.

45/21 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

Members considered a request to leave the council's Christmas lights on for 24 hours, 7 days a week, similar to other community and town councils. This would save the council's workforce time and resources and the cost to keep the lights on would be minimum due to the use of LEDs.

The council also considered the purchase of an additional six Christmas lights for the community of Bretton. The remaining balance of mandatory member allowances of £900 could be used for this purpose or the council's reserves could be used.

IT WAS RESOLVED TO:

- i) Leave the Christmas lights on for 24 hours, seven days a week; and
- ii) Purchase an additional six lights from the Member Mandatory Allowance balance for Bretton.

46/21 2021 PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a report following the annual play area inspections. There had been no major issues identified and the reports would be available for inspection in the office if required.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

47/21 STORAGE FACILITY AT BROOKES AVENUE, BROUGHTON:

The council had been asked to consider a request from Broughton United Football Club for a storage facility to be located on Brookes Avenue, accessible by coaches and committee members of the club. A member stated that they had outgrown the facility currently provided by the community centre and had had to pay the caretaker regularly which had become an increased financial burden on the club. It had been suggested that an environmentally decorated storage container could be placed on the playing field.

The Clerk and Financial Officer outlined that the Brookes Avenue playing field had been leased from the county council and any approval to site such a facility would be required.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To approve, in principle, the installation of a storage container on Brookes Avenue, subject to approval and location to be agreed by the county council.

48/21 PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY:

The council had been asked to consider a request for a financial contribution towards the annual pensioner's Christmas party that usually took place at the Offa's Dyke public house in Broughton. In the past approximately 120 residents had been catered for over 2 days in the lead up to Christmas.

Whilst members were in agreement that the Pensioners' Party should go ahead and wished to provide this support to the residents who looked forward to having a Christmas meal, the previous event had been subsidised through raffle ticket sales and a weekly bonus ball. A member asked whether this money had been retained in a bank account. The Chairman said that he would speak to the manager of the Offas Dyke to ascertain the location of the money raised and to ask whether a solution could be agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer any decision pending discussions with the Offa's Dyke public house.

49/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the updated list of payments in the sum of £2,737.68 for the August recess be noted and the list of payments in the sum of £16,382.10 for September be approved.

50/21 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the bank reconciliations for the periods ending 31st July 2021 and 31st August 2021.

51/21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) County Council Members:

It was noted that the participation of those Councillors who were also Members of the County Council, in both the debate and subsequent vote, was on the basis that the views expressed were preliminary views taking account of the information made available to the Community Council.

The County Councillors reserved their final views on the applications until they were in full possession of all relevant arguments for and against.

(b) That the County Planning Authority be advised of this Council's observations on the applications submitted to it for consideration, *as per the attached schedule*.

(c) There were no planning appeals.

(d) That the planning decisions be noted.

52/21 POLICE/HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS:

A Member stated that there had been an overgrowth of weeds along various roads throughout the village.

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that members could search crime statistics and incidents in their local area by clicking on the link provided on the agenda to the North Wales Police website.

The Chairman asked the Clerk and Financial Officer to ask if the recently appointed Police and Crime Commissioner could be invited to a future meeting of the council.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates and for the Clerk and Financial Officer to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner.

53/21 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the cost to the council for the joint maintenance agreement for September amounted to £5,486.62 and that she had received the second instalment of the precept from Flintshire County Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED TO: note the updates.

54/21 COUNTY MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Billy Mullin said that he would make some enquiries about the concerns raised by Airbus over the proposed new development at Warren Hall.

Councillor Mike Lowe said that together with Councillor Billy Mullin, he had visited a local resident regarding the condition of a neighbouring empty property and that the county council had written to the owner of the property. The overgrowth had subsequently been cut back.

55/21 MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Adam Lee stated that he had noticed an increase in dog fouling in the village and in particular on routes to the primary school. The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that he should report all incidents, via the county council's app, so that it can be logged and appropriate action taken.

56/21 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

There were none.