



Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of
BROUGHTON AND BRETTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
17 JANUARY 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Penny Brett-Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: Klaus Armstrong-Braun, Jeff Brett-Roberts, Chrissy Gee, Veronica Gay, Barrie Gregory, Ros Griffiths, Samantha Jennings, Donna Lalek, Mike Lowe, Sarah Mason, Billy Mullin and Ryan McKeown

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

Also present: Lee Shone, Road Safety Officer, Flintshire County Council

102/22 PRESENTATION:

The Chairman welcomed Lee Shone to the meeting. He had attended the meeting to provide an update on the zebra crossing on Main Road, Broughton. It would be converted to a pelican crossing and additional white zig-zags would be installed on top of the red banding together with a buff anti-skid surface and beacons with LED halos. Vehicle activated zebra crossing warning signs would also be installed on either side of the approaches to the crossing. It had been anticipated that this work would be completed by the end of February 2023. Mr Shone would apprise members of the timeline as soon as it had been determined.

Mr Shone also advised that a topographical survey had been carried out at the Broughton Hall Road/Main Road junction. A decision on a solution to improve the junction would be made within the next few weeks. Consideration would need to be given to the flight path to Airbus and the potential need to update the LED columns on Main Road.

Councillor Penny Brett Roberts thanked Mr Shone for his informative presentation.

103/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Gareth Williams (IT issue).

104/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Chrissy Gee declared an interest in item 7(iv), Planning Decisions, and would complete her Declaration of Interest form in due course.

105/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th November 2022 be approved as a correct record.

106/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

107/22 CHAIR'S REMARKS:

The Chairman said that on 8th December, she had attended an all day Innovative conference which had been very interesting and she had the Airbus bi-annual liaison meeting. Councillor Ros Griffiths had also attended and had taken notes which would be circulated to all members for information.

Councillor Donna Lalek, Chair of Planning, presented the following items:

108/22 PLANNING APPLICATION AND DECISIONS:

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) That the planning decisions be noted.

109/22 POLICE MATTERS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that PCSOs Helen Holden and Victoria Davies had been in regular contact with the office, but had unfortunately been off duty this evening. They hoped to attend future meetings.

There were no further issues to report.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

110/22 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

John Griffiths had been unable to attend the meeting due to a call-out.

Members reported many potholes in the area, particularly in the area of the Airbus roundabout and Church Road. A member said that he had spoken to John Griffiths about this who had confirmed that he would look into the issues.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

111/22 COUNTY MEMBERS ITEMS:

Councillor Ryan McKeown confirmed that as the budget had not yet been set at the county council, the cost of the 2023 garden waste scheme had not been decided. The issue of three weekly bin collections had also been awaiting an agreement.

112/22 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that the planting of the Queen's canopy trees was in hand and would be completed by the end of the March 2023.

113/22 STANDARDS COMMITTEE, FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated the latest letter from the Chief Officer, Governance at the County Council following visits to Town and Community Councils by members of the standards committee. Of note was the confirmation that members did NOT need to declare an interest in grants less than £500.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the report.

Councillor Mike Lowe, presented the following items:

114/22 STREET LIGHTING:

A member reported a light out outside 31/33 Windsor Drive.

Councillor Ros Griffiths, Chair of Finance, presented the following items:

115/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £14,142.14 for December be noted and in the sum of £11,042.97 for January be approved.

116/22 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the bank reconciliations for the periods ending 30th November 2022 and 31st December 2022.

117/22 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the Council's contribution to the Joint Maintenance Agreement for December had been £8,605.40 and for January had been £5,884.73

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the updates.

118/22 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a report on the council's financial position at the end of November key movements in the budget. It was also suggested that the two grant schemes, Community Chest and Small Grants, be merged.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the report and agree to the merger of the two grant schemes into one combined scheme.

119/22 DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT DEMAND FOR 2023-24:

Councillor Ros Griffiths as Chairman of the Finance Committee had met with the Clerk and Financial Officer to review the budget line by line and recommended the draft budget and precept demand to full council.

The budget included the following recommendations:

- i. Inflationary increases on utilities and other annual costs at 11%;
- ii. Increases on gas and electric based on existing data and expected increases;
- iii. Salaries had been budgeted at an increase of 5% based on an average of other councils;
- iv. National Insurance contributions for both the employer and the employee increased by 1.25% in April 2022 but had been reduced again in November 2022;
- v. Employer pension contributions had increased by 1.3% from 21.8% to 23.1% following the recent three-year actuarial valuation from the Clwyd Pension Fund.
- vi. Mandatory Member Allowances had increased to £156 per member, plus consumables upon receipt.

An amount of £2,000 has also been included in the budget for the King's Coronation celebrations/commemorations.

Councillor Ryan McKeown thanked the Chairman and the Clerk and Financial Officer for the work undertaken with this budget, particularly being able to maintain services during the current difficult financial climate.

IT WAS RESOLVED: (i) to approve the Draft Budget 2023-24 as outlined above and (ii) to agree the precept at £131,341 which equates to a council tax band D property of £47.57 representing an increase of £4.15 per annum, therefore £0.08 per week.

120/22 THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the exclusion of the press and public as the following item contained tender documentation for play area improvements at Brookes Avenue play area.

121/22 BROOKES AVENUE PLAY AREA:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that she had received three tenders for a replacement nest swing at Brookes Avenue and circulated a table showing the quotes.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the quotation from company "B" in the sum of £3,589.13.