



Minutes of the Hybrid meeting of
BROUGHTON AND BRETTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
21 MARCH 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Penny Brett Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: Klaus Armstrong-Braun, Jeffrey Brett Roberts, Veronica Gay, Ros Griffiths, Samantha Jennings, Donna Lalek, Sarah Mason, Ryan McKeown and Billy Mullin

Officers: Mrs S G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer

Also present: Mark Morgan, Standards Committee Observer
Flintshire County Council

139/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Chrissy Gee (illness), Barrie Gregory (business), Mike Lowe (personal) and Gareth Williams (personal)

140/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Ryan McKeown declared an interest in item 24, Small Grant Application, and duly completed his Declaration of Interest form.

141/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

142/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

With regard to item 125/22, the Clerk and Financial Officer had requested a further update from Lee Shone, Road Safety Officer at Flintshire County Council and in relation to minute number 131/22, she said that Andy Dunbobbin, Police and Crime Commissioner, would attend the Community Council meeting on 23rd May 2023.

143/22 CHAIR'S REMARKS:

The Chairman said that she had attended the Mayor of Holywell's Charity Buffet at the Stamford Gate on 22nd March and would attend the Chairman of Flintshire County Council's Charity Dinner at the Beaufort Park Hotel on 24th March.

PLANNING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

144/22 STANDARDS COMMITTEE, FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the contents of the letter be noted, in particular, the reference to the role of a good Chairman and relevant training.

145/22 VEXATIOUS COMPLAINT/COMMUNICATIONS POLICY:

Members welcomed the policy and said there have been too many incidents of Clerks being bullied across the sector. She suggested that the policy be read in conjunction with the Civility and Respect pledge, the Code of Conduct and the Bullying and Harassment policy and that this be outlined within the policy.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the policy for adoption.

146/22 TRAINING NEEDS SURVEY 2023:

The Clerk and Financial Officer shared the details of a training needs survey that the Society of Local Community Clerks (SLCC) and One Voice Wales (OVW) had circulated to all Community and Town Councils in Wales for completion. The closing date had been 28th March 2023.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Chairman, the Clerk and Councillors Veronica Gay and Ros Griffiths complete the survey.

147/22 H.M. KING CHARLES III CORONATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- i) to purchase commemorative coins for members, members of staff and school children of Broughton and Bretton; and
- ii) to advertise that small grants would be made available for community and resident groups to hold street parties or other celebrations. Grants would not be given to individuals, only properly constituted organisations.

148/22 BIODIVERSITY SECTION 6 DUTY AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had provided an Environmental Action Plan that had incorporated the Section 6 Duty requirements, together with a list of initiatives that Town and Community Councils could do to combat Climate Change, taken from the Friends of the Earth organisation.

Free trees had been purchased to participate in the late HM The Queen's Tree Canopy scheme. A member highlighted that free trees had been available from the Woodlands Trust.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- i) to note the contents of the report and send any additions, to the Clerk and Financial Officer by 1st April 2023;
- ii) appoint a Climate Change/Biodiversity Champion and
- iii) acknowledge that there is a climate and nature emergency for the community of Broughton and Bretton.

149/22 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.
- (d) There were no planning appeals.

150/22 POLICE MATTERS:

The Chairman and members welcomed Sergeant Kerry Nash to the meeting and in particular, were grateful for her attendance.

The Sergeant outlined her recent career including 20 years as a member of the police force. She outlined the resource difficulties facing the police and the problem retaining PCSOs after they get promoted to police officer. She added that since the shift changes of PCSOs there had been a noticeable increase in anti-social behaviour.

Kerry agreed to circulate an updated contact list to members to reflect the changes in staffing and said PCSO Victoria Davies would be the PCSO for Broughton, Bretton and Saltney. She referred to the public facing website of North Wales Police to review recent police activity noting that this was not always up to date.

She had delivered shop lifting packs to retailers at Broughton Park and stressed the importance of recording incidents on 101 and referred to the Community Alert System. There had also been some recent promotional campaigns including the disposal of syringes and security awareness.

A member referred to the proposal at the County Council to consider CCTV at local schools to combat the parking problems experienced at most schools as this appeared to be a highly reported matter. Another member referred to a recent incident about petrol station scams and requested members to be aware.

In response to a question from a member about drug use at a location in Broughton, the sergeant confirmed that there had been no reported incidents in the last two years at this location.

The Chairman, on behalf of members, thanked Sergeant Nash for attending the meeting and sharing valuable information.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

151/22 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

The following issues were reported:

- i) potholes at Church Road/Westminster Crescent, Manor Lane and near Airbus. The road leading to the doctor's surgery had been patched but required a full resurface and a member confirmed that colleagues at the County Council had said that this would be included in the next capital programme.
- ii) A member requested a list of potholes due to be repaired and the policy that the County Council adhere to, stating that the pot hole repairs should be sealed first as some of the recent repairs had already started to deteriorate. The Clerk and Financial Officer stated that the Highways team had been facing a losing battle as recent repairs had been undertaken just prior to the recent cold spell and snow.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the updates.

152/22 COUNTY MEMBERS ITEMS:

Members reported on the following issues:

- i) Confirmation that the budget had been agreed in February with a 3.95% council tax rise and the Local Development Plan had been approved and accepted by the council.
- ii) Good news that Airbus had secured new orders.
- iii) A member referred to the proposal to introduce CCTV around schools as mentioned above; and
- iv) A member referred to a recent Facebook post that had been inaccurate. The post had indicated that the Labour party had endorsed the budget but both members of the Labour party and Independents had supported the budget in order to safeguard social care homes, pension fund and pothole budget. The alternative budget proposed would not have safeguarded these issues and would have saved the electorate £17.00 per annum.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the updates.

52 Chairs signature _____

153/22 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

A member referred again to the new lights installed at the Airbus factory car park stating that they were too bright and requested that Airbus be informed. Another member said that Airbus had replaced mobile lights with permanent lights for the safety and security of users of the car park.

A member referred to the use of council email addresses and the Clerk and Financial Officer said that she would submit a report to the April meeting. A Cyber Protection Manager had been appointed at Flintshire County Council and this had been a requirement in order to address cyber security and validate the council's insurance.

LIGHTING AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE:

154/22 STREET LIGHTING:

A member complimented the Council's workforce on streetlighting maintenance as there had been very few reports of faults recently.

155/22 COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Item agenda WITHDRAWN until the next meeting.

156/22 ACCESS TO THE REAR OF THE COUNTRY PARK:

Item agenda WITHDRAWN until the next meeting.

FINANCE AND STAFFING COMMITTEE:

157/22 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES FINAL REPORT:

The final report had been issued that referred to the tax element of mandatory member allowances. Although the IRPW could not provide specific advice on matters of taxation, they had concluded that the mandatory allowance of £150 would be below the threshold for Income Tax. As previously reported, mandatory member allowances would be paid in March 2024 for the municipal year 2023-24.

A member asked if there had been any scope for a rebate to which the Clerk and Financial Officer replied that it would be the responsibility of the individual member to speak directly to HMRC.

During the discussion, Councillors Ryan McKeown and Billy Mullin had requested that an item be put on the April agenda for approval to donate their allowances to the local church for grounds maintenance.

IT WAS RESOLVED: (i) to note the welcome position on member allowances and (ii) to add an item to the April meeting for Councillor Ryan McKeown and Billy Mullin.

158/22 PERSONAL ID CARDS FOR STAFF AND MEMBERS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the quote of £163.75 from Total ID, Mold to produce ID cards and lanyards.

159/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £19,594.25 for March, be approved.

160/22 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the bank reconciliation for the period ending 28th February 2023.

161/22 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised on the following items:

- That the Council's contribution to the Joint Maintenance Agreement for March had been £5,823.42;
- The dates for the May and June meetings will be moved to 23rd May and 27th June, respectively.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the updates.

162/22 SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a grant of £400 be given to Brookes Avenue Community Centre for the purchase of a new cooker and a grant of £500 be given to Broughton War Memorial Institute for the purchase of a new laptop.