



Minutes of the Hybrid meeting of
BROUGHTON AND BRETTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
21st January 2025

PRESENT: Councillor Chrissy Gee (Chairman)

Councillors: Jeffrey Brett-Roberts, Penny Brett-Roberts, Barrie Gregory, Ros Griffiths, Sam Jennings, Mike Lowe, Ryan McKeown, and Billy Mullin.

Officers: Sharron G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer
Georgey Griffiths, Assistant Clerk

Others: None

118/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Klaus Armstrong-Braun, Sara Mason and Gareth Williams.

119/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

120/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

121/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

122/24 VACANCIES IN THE BROUGHTON NORTH EAST AND SOUTH WARD:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that there had been two vacancies in December following the sad loss of the late Councillor Veronica Gay and Councillor Adam Williams had been disqualified due to non-attendance at council meetings for six consecutive months.

Out of respect for Councillor Gay's family, the vacancies had not yet been advertised. Posters will be displayed on the council notice boards and social media pages as soon as possible.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

123/24 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman shared that she had recently attended the Flood Meeting which had been a positive meeting with 31 in attendance. There had been representatives from the Flood Group, Flintshire County Council, Welsh Government, National Rivers Authority, Welsh Water and other agencies and a thorough discussion had taken place.

It had been agreed that the attenuation tank at Main Road Broughton had not been fit for purpose and would be updated to a larger unit. It was also agreed that the Main Road be closed as soon as warnings of potential storms/floods are put in place. It had been recognised that the timely closure of the road would result in less flooding to adjacent properties as the cars exacerbated the issue. Colleagues from Planning and Streetscene acknowledged that they would work closely with the North Wales Police to instigate this.

The flooding issues in Bretton had been more complicated and a short-term solution had not been possible. However, colleagues commended the works that had been undertaken to date in order to help alleviate the problem. Discussions would also be required with the Hawarden Estate office as they had an attenuation tank on their land.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that this positive update be noted.

PLANNING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

124/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS 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.

125/24 POLICE MATTERS:

Members had no issues to raise. The PCSO had been invited to the meeting but could not attend due to shift patterns.

126/24 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

Members raised the following concerns:

- The trees by the Offa's Dyke Pub were still overgrown and covered the street light.

- A member had asked John Griffiths about a piece of land next to number 2 Church Walk that hadn't been maintained and rats had been evident in neighbouring gardens.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the issues be submitted to John Griffiths, Senior Highways Officer, for action.

127/24 COUNTY MEMBERS ITEMS:

A member said that they have been working closely with the Cabinet to ensure a sensible budget could be delivered and all members and officers had been working together to achieve this.

Another member added that there had been a further disappointment with the settlement in terms of the budget received from Welsh Government although it had been recognised that this was a draft proposal at this stage.

Broughton CP School were actively advertising for a new Head Teacher following the retirement of the current Head, Melissa Kendrick. Members commended Melissa and requested that a Retirement Card be sent from the Community Council.

The Chairman advised that the new Youth Club would hopefully secure a 12-month contract for the use of the Broughton and Bretton Community Centre and acknowledged the successful launch and progress to date.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

128/24 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were no reports.

LIGHTING AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE:

129/24 STREET LIGHTING:

A member reported that there had been two Christmas lights out by the shops and commended the Team on the speedy repairs.

The Chairman stated that a resident had asked for extra lighting columns on Church Road, Broughton and that she would obtain further information.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

FINANCE AND STAFFING COMMITTEE:

130/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £23,518.88 for January, be approved.

131/24 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the periods ending 31st November and 31st December, be approved.

132/24 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the cost to the council for the Service Level Agreement in January had been £6,841.74. £5,000 has been received from Flintshire County Council for play equipment. There had been a site meeting in January 2024 where it had been agreed that the play area on Brookes Avenue needed some investment. £5,000 had been received last year and the Community Council would need to match fund £10,000. It had previously been agreed that a Junior climbing frame would be added to the play area.

The Maintenance Team had replaced the surfacing and fencing on the pedestrian bridge at the Country Park. The pond work had been due to start on Monday 27th January at a cost of £6,600, a grant for which had been received.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

133/24 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2024-25:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Income and Expenditure report for the period ending 30th October 2024 be approved.

134/24 DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT DEMAND FOR 2025-26:

The Chairman of the Finance Committee referred to the comprehensive budget report, including the precept proposals, and said that she, the Chairman of the Council and the Vice-Chairman, together with the Clerk and Financial Officer had reviewed the draft budget line by line.

The report outlined inflationary increases on utilities, an update on the street lighting contract and a salary provision of 5% together with the additional requirements of Employers relating to national insurance.

Mandatory member allowances had been included at the new rate of £206 per member, subject to written confirmation by Members who wished to decline this.

A discussion also took place about the Management Agreement between the Community Council, the County Council and Gwella, the new Libraries and Leisure Services arms-length company to Flintshire County Council. Concern had been expressed that this agreement required renewal and members felt that the council's annual contribution of circa £13,000k should be challenged, reduced or withdrawn, together with confirmation of the NNDR position. Other members stated that they would not wish to lose such a valuable community facility. Another suggestion was that a "Friends of" association be established ran by volunteers under charitable status.

A member suggested that a leaflet be prepared for circulation to all residents to outline what the council does and where the money is spent. The Community Council is responsible for its own street lighting, staff, vehicles and play areas, but it might help the public to understand where the money is spent and outline the differences between the Community Council and Flintshire County Council. A statement could also be issued on the council's social media sites and in the community library.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) That the budget proposals for 2024-25 be approved and a precept of £162,863 be agreed; this represented an increase in the Band D charge of £6.41 that equated to £0.12p per week.
- (ii) That the Clerk and Financial Officer make enquiries about the Council's commitment to the Community Library and the options available.