

Minutes of the Meeting of  
**BROUGHTON AND BRETTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
held on **20 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**PRESENT:** Vice Chair: Councillor Keith Rogers

Councillors: Penny Brett Roberts, Phil Griffiths, Ros Griffiths, Tim Hawes,  
Lyndsay Jones, Mike Lowe, Beth McFadden, Ryan McKeown,  
Billy Mullin

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Derek Butler, John Kiersey and Sue Stevens. The Clerk advised that the Chair had had an accident at home and Members requested that a card expressing their good wishes be sent to the Chair.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be received.

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

**2015/16 END OF YEAR ANNUAL RETURN**

The Clerk confirmed that the Auditors had approved the accounts and shared a copy of the Auditor's Issues report.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and note the receipt of the approved accounts.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND BOUNDARY CHANGES**

A letter from the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils about the review of local Councils had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The Association sought the views of local Councils about the proposal to reduce the number of Councils from 735 to approximately 100. The Association had sought specific views as shared within the questionnaire.

Councillor Ros Griffiths expressed her concern that Community Councils could become too big and therefore unmanageable and lose local identity.

Councillor Billy Mullin stated there would be financial implications with larger communities subsidising the smaller communities which could result in an increase in Council Tax. Councillor Tim Hawes echoed these concerns in particular the loss of community identity.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk prepare a response to the Association for submission by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

## **THE 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES – INITIAL PROPOSALS**

The Clerk advised that the Boundary Commission's Initial Proposals had been published and the consultation period ended on 5 December 2016. Councillor Billy Mullin expressed his concerns that the new parliamentary areas would become too large for one Member of Parliament.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the proposals be noted.

## **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER/PLAY AREAS OVERVIEW**

The Clerk advised Members of the content of two letters that had been received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

The County Council had indicated that it could continue to manage and maintain four play areas within each Town and Community Council but at the same time had requested Community Councils to consider Community Asset Transfers. The County Council had also invited Community Councils to consider applying to the Play Area Grant Scheme for match funding towards the improvement of play areas or for new equipment.

Following a discussion it was agreed that an expression of interest be submitted to the County Council's Play Area Grant Scheme 2016/17 with a view to replacement equipment at the Community Council's play areas.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Flintshire County Council with an expression of interest for match funding of up to £10,000 to replace items of play equipment.

#### **BROUGHTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

Councillor Phil Griffiths expressed his dismay and disbelief at the way in which the County Council had managed this issue. He had recently attended a meeting of the School Governors with representatives from the County Council about this project and was disappointed that Mr Ian Bancroft, who had allegedly called the meeting, had been unable to attend. He referred to a previous meeting where it had been agreed that any future discussions would be held with all relevant stake holders, including the Community Council.

Councillor Billy Mullin expressed his dismay that the Local Authority appeared to be going ahead with plans to transfer the library to the school without allowing any of the key stake holders to be represented at meetings. The Community Council would be a key stake holder in any developments and in particular would be requested to provide financial assistance.

Councillor Ros Griffiths echoed these concerns and said that this had been a long standing issue and progress was limited.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of the County Council to express the Council's disappointment in how the project is being managed and the lack of progress.

#### **VACANCY – BROUGHTON SOUTH WARD**

The Clerk advised that as the recent Notice of Election and subsequent Co-option period had expired and no candidates had been forthcoming, a further Notice of Election would be displayed for fourteen days with effect from 21<sup>st</sup> September.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the election notice be placed on the Council's website and public notice boards.

#### **CHAIR'S REMARKS:**

In the absence of the Chair, there was nothing to report.