

## BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of meeting the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**PRESENT: Councillor A. Locker (Chairwoman)**

**COUNCILLORS:** R. Davies, B. T. Doleman, B. Gittins, A. Griffiths, J. Humphreys, S. L. Jones, C. P. Owens, W. Owens, K. Rush and Y. Rush, T. Strong, C. Williams and D. J. Williams.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs. L. Wood, Clerk, Mr. D. Morris and T. Collins, Flintshire Playscheme and Members of the Public.

### 157. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

Members of the Public present requested to speak on Agenda item 9c, 11 and 17.

### 158. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

### 159. SUMMER PLAYSHEME

Mr. D. Morris, Flintshire Lead Officer for Play Developments and Mr. Tom Collins, Flintshire Playscheme Officer attended the meeting and gave an overview and aspirations for the schemes in the village for summer 2024.

Mr. D. Morris also reported that they are actively looking for funding to provide play provisions within areas of need and it is proven to reduce anti-social behaviour.

**RESOLVED:** That the report was noted.

### 160. POLICING MATTERS

There were no Policing matters to report.

### 161. STREETSCENE MATTERS

The Clerk reported following the issues raised at the previous meeting, Mr. T. Cartwright had confirmed these had been dealt with.

**RESOLVED:** That the report was noted.

## **162. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairwoman.

## **163. CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairwoman reported she had donated the Chairwomen's fund equally to five charities, Flint RNLI; Search and Rescue Dog Association; Brain Tumour Research; Glanrafon Centre and Bagillt Heritage Society.

The Chairwoman also reported she attended the official opening of Bagillt Bowling Club and it was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

**RESOLVED:** That the report was noted.

## **164. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Councillor K. Rush reported he had received numerous calls from residents regarding fly tipping on the coastal path this matter has been reported to Flintshire Streetscene and the Flintshire Coastal Ranger.

Councillor R Davies added he spoken to the Coastal Ranger and that the matter had been dealt with.

**RESOLVED:** That the report was noted.

## **165. PLANNING**

a. There were no Planning Applications received.

b. There were no Planning Decisions received.

c. The Environmental Impact of Unplanned Developments in the Village

Following the previous resolution for County Councillors to make enquires with Flintshire County Council regarding unplanned developments in the village, Councillor R. Davies shared a response from Mr. M. Parry-Davies, Flintshire Service Manager – Development.

The email detailed that that any sites or alleged unauthorised work(s) will need to be logged as a separate enquiry/complaint. If these are being submitted on behalf of the Community Council then the Clerk would log this complaint. All enforcement complaints are kept confidential.

However, before making the complaint, It is suggested that the Planning Portal is checked as it may be that some of these alleged unauthorised work(s) are permitted development and therefore do not need planning permission.

A Member of the Public addressed the Council and asked which site this enquiry relates too in the village as felt it was concerning the brewery development that had previously been discussed at Council.

Councillor K. Rush referred to the Council's objections relating to this development as the Member of the Public present was involved with this development, he read a letter from a resident and shared a number of local concerns relating to this development. He expressed the Council were not against the development but the fact the works took place without planning permission.

The Member of the Public responded to this and also stated that Councillor C. P. Owens had contacted the Welsh Government regarding his planning application. Councillor C. P. Owens said which is not true and slanderous.

The Chairwomen intervened and called for order as the discussions became heated.

**RESOLVED:** That the reports were noted.

#### 166. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

| Voucher No | Name                             | Details   | £      |
|------------|----------------------------------|---|--------|
| 1          | Mrs. L. Wood, Clerk              | Clerks Salary & Expenses  | 923.27 |
| 2          | HM Revenues & Customs            | Tax & NI - Clerks Salary  | 283.61 |
| 3          | Clwyd Pension Fund               | Employers & Employees' Pension Contribution for Clerk and Deficit             | 307.20 |
| 4          | Valda Energy                     | Community Library Electricity<br>** Paid via Direct Debit on the 10/4/24      | 82.08  |
| 5          | Cllr. C. P. Owens                | Reimbursement of the payment for Insurance cover for Community Library        | 239.38 |
| 6          | Information Commissioners Office | Data protection fee   | 40.00  |
| 7          | Bagillt Web Design               | Additional Hours to contract 1.4.23 – 30.3.23 covering period 25.2.24- 8.3.24 | 52.50  |
| 8          | Zurich Insurance                 | Community Council Insurance   | 701.12 |
| 9          | The Flower Bowl                  | 8 x artificial hanging baskets for the village                                | 400.00 |
| 10         | Flint Town Council               | Photocopying Services   | 18.00  |
|            | HSBC                             | Bank Charges  | 5.00   |

**RESOLVED:** That the above-mentioned accounts be paid.

#### 167. BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

A Member of the Public addressed the Council and said they had spoken to a number of residents regarding the Council meeting being held in the Library and that an alternative building such as the Church, should be used due to restricted capacity in the Library. Residents do not feel this is a Community Council.

Councillor C. Williams reminded the public that anyone can join virtually and still hear the proceedings.

The Member of the Public said many residents, especially the older generation do not use I.T.

Councillor T. Strong said it is unfair for those who have to wait outside for others to leave before they can enter and then they miss the opportunity to make a comment on an agenda item and proposed the Council consider using the Church for future meetings.

Councillor S. Jones said many years ago both schools were use, alternative months and proposed this was considered.

Councillor J. Humphreys suggested enquiries could be made with alternative venues to ask about capacity and availability.

Councillor K. Rush said the Clerk should check previous minutes and resolutions as he believed the decision to continue to hold Council meetings in the Library was resolved within the last 6 months therefore following standing Orders, this cannot be changed. Councillors agreed to look into this matter and report back to the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that following a previous resolution to contact Flintshire County Council to ascertain when the Community Asset Transfer on the Community Library building will be completed and to query the responsibility for the Electricity payments, that no response had been received to date. Councillor K. Rush added he had also been in contact with the Legal department and was advised the Officer dealing with the Community Asset Transfer was on long term sick.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk will check previous minutes/resolutions and report back to Council.

## **168. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **a. Budget Monitoring Report**

The meeting considered the Budget Monitoring report and Bank reconciliation statement for the fourth quarter to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. See Appendix C.

**RESOLVED:** That the financial information be noted and approved.

### **b. Checks of Supplier Data**

In order to meet the requirements of the financial regulations and internet banking, it is necessary for a programme of regular checks of standing data with suppliers to be followed. This required a Councillor to look through the accounts and certify a number of invoices and payment receipts.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor A. Locker reviewed a selection of invoices and payment receipts which were certified as correct.

## **169. ACCESS TO INFORMATION – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES**

The Council considered a report of the Clerk which follows the advice received from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) that the Council were required to publish their Determinations for the last financial year and the amount of allowances and expenses paid to Members in that year by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

In addition to sending a copy of the list to the IRPW for their information, it also needed to be displayed locally by way of the three Council Notice Boards and Council website. See Appendix B.

NOTE: Councillor C. P. Owens abstained from the vote.

**RESOLVED:** That the actions as reported by the Clerk be agreed in relation to the Council's duties, as informed by the IRPW.

## **170. COUNCIL POLICES**

The Council considered the Internal Controls Policy and the Annual Risk Assessment for approval and adoption.

**RESOLVED:** That the Internal Controls Policy and the Annual Risk Assessment were approved and adopted.

## **171. STREET FUNITURE INSPECTION**

The Clerk shared quotations following the issues regarding the bus shelters which were identified on the Annual Street Furniture inspection which had been carried out the previous month.

Councillor S. Jones proposed we accept the quotation from Serridge External Cleaning. Councillors agreed.

NOTE: Councillors R. Davies, B. Gittins and W. Owens abstained from the vote.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk inform Serridge External Cleaning to carry out the works on the village bus shelters.

## **172. COUNCILS WEBSITE**

Following the previous resolution to obtain three quotations for a new Council website, the Clerk had previously shared all the information and confirmed the costs of each of the quotations.

Councillor C. Williams said the Council have a legal obligation to have a website and we have always had a basic website in order to keep the costs down. Before making a decision regarding a new website provided, as a Council we should discuss what we would like on the website therefore proposed we set up a small working group to agree this and said it would be beneficial to have Councillor C. P. Owens attend this working group in an advisory capacity due to his website knowledge and also as the Clerk. Councillors agreed.

The Chairwoman called for volunteers to for the working group. Councillor C. Williams and J. Humphreys volunteered to attend the working group.

Councillor S. Jones said there are approximately 4000 residents in this village and we have only received one complaint about the website and as a Council we do not have a budget for a new website, and asked Councillor C. P. Owens as owner of Bagillt Web Design time to re-consider his decision to terminate the website contract with the Council. Councillor C. P. Owens said he would need time to consider this.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor C. Williams and J. Humphreys to attend the working group with the Clerk and Councillor C. P. Owens in a website advisory capacity.

### **173. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Council considered the application for Financial Assistance from the Bagillt Action Group, which was deferred at the last meeting pending additional information.

A Member of the Public who was also a member of the Bagillt Action Group shared concerns regarding the delay with making a decision on this application, she explained that the Action Group have already provided a number of community events which have been possible due to the donations received from local businesses. The Member of the Public said on behalf of the Action Group, they have already submitted all information required including bank statements therefore no more information will be given and would appreciate a decision to be made on this application.

Councillor J. Humphreys said this group have already provided vast amounts of evidence and no other group has ever been asked for this amount of information in order to agree financial assistance.

Councillor K. Rush said the previous submitted bank statements did not show information of income and expenditure. The Member of Public responded to say a lot the donations are from collection boxes, therefore it is unknown who has given.

Councillor C. P. Owens added it is in everybody's interest that all the information is given before the Council makes a decision and suggested this information could be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

Councillor B. Gittins said the group has not been running a year therefore was unable to produce year end accounts and also following advice from the FLVC, a bank account was opened with the Credit Union, currently the only bank who do not charge and they do not produce detailed statements with income information.

Councillor K. Rush proposed that if the Bagillt Action Group can produce a list of where the income has been received from, the Council should re-consider this application at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That in relation to the application from the Bagillt Action Group this application will be re-submitted with more information for the Council to consider.

### **174. PROPOSED FINANCIAL AGREEMENT POLICY**

Councillor J. Humphreys asked for this item to be deferred until the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the item is deferred till the next meeting and that Councillor J. Humphreys will prepare a draft policy which can be circulated prior to the next meeting.

### **175. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION POLICY**

Councillor C. P Owens had circulated a revised financial assistance application policy and it was

resolved at the last meeting that this matter was deferred to allow Councillors time to read the proposed policy.

Councillor C. P. Owens proposed the new amended policy was adopted.

Councillor R. Davies proposed an amendment which was to keep the Financial Assistance Policy as it is as he was totally against the amendments as these were excluding more organisations and groups from applying.

Councillor B. Gittins was also against the removal of the sentence 'giving assistance if directly benefiting the community'.

Councillor K. Rush said the issue is some organisations has requested funds on several occasions and the money should be divided between more groups. Councillor R. Davies said as Council vote on each application, this could be a reason for a refusal so can be considered each time, therefore this issue is covered.

The Chairwomen took at vote on the amendment which was carried.

NOTE: Councillors B. Doleman, A. Griffiths, S. Jones, Y. Rush, W. Owens, C. Williams and J. Williams abstained from the vote.

**RESOLVED:** That the Financial Assistance Policy has no amendments and is approved as is.

#### 176. FACEBOOK

Councillor. T. Strong asked this matter was deferred until after the website matter was resolved.

**RESOLVED:** That this item will be brought back on the agenda once the website matter is resolved.

#### 177. CORRESPONDENCE & CLERKS REPORT

There were no correspondence or reports.

#### 179. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The deferred items: Financial Applications; Proposed Financial Agreement Policy and Facebook.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Date of Council Meeting</b> | <b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2024</b> |
| .....<br><b>Chairwoman</b>     |  |