

Llangollen Rural Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held via Teleconferencing
On Tuesday 2nd February 2021

17/20

Present

Cllr. Elfed Morris
Cllr. Darrell Wright
Cllr. Anthony Roberts
Cllr. Keith Sinclair
Cllr. Phil Jones

Cllr. Mrs Sue Kempster
Cllr. Mrs D J Evans
Cllr. Steve Jones
Cllr. Rod Playford
Cllr. Mrs Sian Williams

Chairman: Cllr. Elfed Morris

Clerk: Andrea Evans

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the last council meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed and were accepted as a true record. The minutes were signed accordingly by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Sinclair declared an interest in agenda item 8 - planning application number P/2020/0876.

4. Public Participation

None in attendance.

5. Report on police matters

The Clerk informed Councillors of the incidents reported on the Police UK website for October, November and December 2020.

6. Community Agent's report

Nothing to report.

7. Update from the Clerk on the work log

The Clerk provided an update on the work log and this was discussed.

Parking Fron Basin/Trevor Basin – Discussions with CRT and WCBC were on-going.

Dog fouling on the old railway line – Councillor Roberts agreed to ask WCBC to arrange for the enforcement officers to visit where problems had been reported: the old railway line in Trevor; the Pump Field in Garth; Canal-side in Fron and the Froncysyllte School playing field. He would also obtain signage for the entrances to the areas.

Cars parked on the A539 Llangollen Road near the old post office – The parking restrictions were due to be introduced in the next month.

New notice boards for Garth – The notice boards were complete apart from the installation of the glass. Regarding the positioning of the notice board near Hafryn flats it was decided that the Chairman, Councillor Wright and Councillor Playford would meet at the site to decide exactly where the notice board should be placed. Following this the Clerk would liaise with the Plas Madoc Estate Office to obtain the necessary permission.

Installation of a lockable gate at the George Avenue playground – The Clerk was awaiting a reply from the Economic Development Department at WCBC, regarding the reinstatement of the bottom fence, and removal of the kissing gate. Councillor Mrs S Kempster had consulted with the residents either side of the path, and reported that they had no objections to the installation of the gate if there was no encroachment onto their property. The contractor responsible for grass-cutting had asked if there would

be enough clearance for his machinery, and the Clerk would check the available clearance with a gate installed.

Possible use of the Froncysyllte school field - Discussions were on-going, but on hold due to Covid 19.

Footpath between Alma Road and School Lane – Collection of the necessary information to apply for the Modification Order was on-going.

Steps on the footpath near the Pump field – No further information had been received from WCBC.

Japanese Knotweed on the Offa's Dyke footpath – Cllr Roberts would speak to WCBC.

Noddfa Cemetery risk assessment – To be arranged.

War Memorial Garth – A contractor was being sourced.

Tree obstruction on entering the Bont Bridge – A reply had not been received from the Highways Department. The Clerk would contact WCBC again to ask for this to be investigated.

New planters at the entrance to the Rhos-Y-Coed estate – One quote had been received and it was decided that Cllr P Jones would enquire with the company if the price could be reduced.

Cleaning the stone pillars at Noddfa Cemetery – Barnett Engineering had offered to carry out the work free of charge.

8. Planning applications

Consideration of planning applications:

P/2020/0860 – Two storey side extension – 3 Pleasant View, Froncysyllte, Wrexham

The County Councillor had met with planning officers at WCBC and raised concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed extension to the next property, and possible subsidence caused by the groundwork. The application was receiving further consideration from the Head of Housing and the Lead Member for the Service.

Councillor Sinclair and Councillor Mrs S Williams left the meeting.

P/2020/0876 – Extension of existing external drinking area and new balcony to first floor – Aqueduct Inn, Gate Road, Froncysyllte, Wrexham

No objections

Councillor Sinclair and Councillor Mrs S Williams re-joined the meeting.

P/2020/0896 – Two storey rear extension – Tyno Isa Garth Road Garth, Wrexham

No objections

For information (Approved by WCBC):

P/2020/0723 – Extension to roof and alterations to rear – 1 Tyr Teulu, Woodlands Road, Froncysyllte, Wrexham

P/2020/0726 – Operation of 1 private hire vehicle – Vron Hyfryd, Yr Ochr, Froncysyllte, Wrexham

9. Correspondence update from the Clerk

All correspondence was listed in the Clerk's report and had been forwarded to Councillors. The Clerk highlighted the following emails:

'Update on launch of Understanding Welsh Places website 2' – The data team were checking why LRCC's contribution to the website was not accessible.

10. To consider the J C Edwards Wall Feasibility Study and decide how to proceed

Regarding the land required for the project, the Clerk had not received the solicitor's details from Eastman's. It was decided that the Clerk would again contact Eastman's to ask for the contact details of the solicitor, in order to progress with the acquisition of the land for the project. The Clerk would request a gift of land up to 10 metres depth. Cllr. Roberts also offered to contact Eastman's to obtain the details.

As Cllr. Playford had indicated that he would not be continuing as a councillor after the end of March, it was decided that Cllr. Mrs Kempster and Cllr. Roberts would work on the project.

11. Update from the Boer War Memorial Working Group

The working group proposed that a pre-application enquiry form was submitted to the War Memorial Trust in order to access a Professional Advice Grant of £2,000-£3,000. This would be used to fund a Conservation Report and Proposed Method Statement.

It was decided that the working group would formalise LRCC's position as custodian for the war memorial, and it would submit a pre-application enquiry form to the War Memorial Trust.

12. Picturesque Landscape Report

It was decided to continue to support the project, and that Cllr. Sinclair and Cllr. Wright would liaise with the project manager regarding community engagement.

13. Update on the Clinker Path Project

The proposal to add finger posts to the Clinker Path was discussed, and it was decided to support this.

Councillor Playford left the meeting.

14. Engaging with local young people in environmental issues

An email had been received from a resident suggesting that a competition for children would assist with engaging them in environmental issues. It was decided that Cllr. Sinclair and Cllr. Wright would look into this and report back to the Council.

15. Playgrounds and the SLA with WCBC 2021/22

The Clerk outlined the details of the SLA for inspections for 2021/22, and it was decided to accept the agreement for a further 12 months.

The bulk of the work required, following the annual inspections at the playgrounds, had been completed. The 2 cableways and basket swing had been inspected by HAGS. It was decided that the Clerk would request a quote from HAGS for work required on the cableway at the George Avenue playground.

16. Llangollen Urban, Llangollen Rural and Glyntraian Welfare Charities Update

Cllr. Sinclair informed councillors that the charity had agreed to provide funds for a 'chrome-book' or 'tablet', for one child at Garth CP and one at Fron CP, who were not able to access the internet to work on-line in the current situation.

17. Christmas lights 2021

Cllr. Wright and Cllr. Roberts had identified 64 lampposts on the A539, A5, Gate Rd. and Station Rd. which were suitable for installing Christmas lights. If using every other post then 32 decorations would be required, and it was estimated that the cost, under the Jan-March deal with the lighting company, would be approximately £3,500. Cllr. Wright was waiting for an estimate of the costs to attach, remove and store the decorations once they had been purchased.

The Clerk had obtained a quote from a lighting company for the lowest costs to provide 34 decorations, and shared the estimate with Councillors. A three-year rental agreement would be £3,500 per year, in addition to £3,400 each year for the company to install, remove and store the lights. In the first year there would be a cost of £300 per lighting column to install the sockets, a total of £10,200. Councillors decided the rental and associated costs from this quote were too high.

It was decided to ask the electrical engineer again for his costs, and to consider this item further at the next meeting when more information would be available.

18. Remembrance poppies on streetlights in November 2021

Councillors considered placing remembrance poppies on streetlights in November 2021 to commemorate Remembrance Day. It was decided that the Clerk would order 50 poppies, and Cllr. A Roberts and Cllr. P

Jones offered to attach them, in November 2021, to every other streetlight on the A539, A5, Gate Rd., Station Rd. and Garth Rd. (up to the cenotaph).

19. External Audit Report 2019/2020

The Auditor General for Wales issued Llangollen Rural Community Council a qualified audit report: 'The Internal Auditor has identified that the Council has failed to comply with their Standing Orders and Financial Regulations when awarding a contract. In future, the Council should award any contracts in accordance with their Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to avoid unlawful expenditure.' The Council accepted this recommendation.

20. Finance

Financial statements had been circulated as at the end January 2021: receipts for 2020/21; bank reconciliation; and budget monitoring against precept and receipts.

The Clerk informed Councillors that when notification of the Community Agent grant was received from WCBC, a decision would need to be made on whether to continue with the scheme.

The Clerk informed Councillors that managing the Community Agent scheme was becoming increasingly arduous due to an increased workload dealing with issues. This was having an adverse effect on the Clerk's time and hampering her ability to carry out work in the available hours. The Clerk proposed looking at other ways to manage the scheme which would not impact adversely on the work of the Council. The Chairman decided to call an extraordinary meeting of the Council on Monday 8th February 2021 at 7pm to discuss whether LRCC wished to continue with the scheme and how to proceed.

Payments made in January 2021 – authorised retrospectively:

HMRC	102364	£409.12
Wynnstay Joinery	102365	£822.00
Audit Wales	102366	£315.75
J Evans	102367	£78.46
D Jarvis	102368	NJC
J Evans	102369	NJC
P Green	102370	£620.00
WCBC	102371	£597.00
WCBC	102372	£819.00
NEST	DD	£32.24
Total		£5,197.12

Authorised payments this month:

D Lewis	102373	£130.00
P Ankers	102374	£250.00
HAGS	102375	£990.00
D Jarvis	102376	£23.02
J Evans	102377	£99.95
D Jarvis	102378	NJC
J Evans	102379	NJC
P Green	102380	£80.00
Total		£3,068.72

21 Investment Strategy

It was decided to discuss this at the next Finance Committee meeting.

22. Items for the next agenda

Offa's Dyke path, Clinker Path and the entrance to Canal-side, Froncysyllte

Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting – 2nd March 2021 at 7.00pm via Teleconferencing

Llangollen Rural Community Council
Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held via Teleconferencing
On Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.00pm

21/20

Present

Cllr. Elfed Morris
Cllr. Darrell Wright
Cllr. Anthony Roberts
Cllr. Keith Sinclair
Cllr. Mrs Sian Williams

Cllr. Mrs Sue Kempster
Cllr. Mrs D J Evans
Cllr. Steve Jones
Cllr. Phil Jones

Chairman: Cllr. Elfed Morris

Clerk: Andrea Evans

1. Apologies for absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr. R Playford.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To exclude members of the press and public due to consideration of confidential information contained with the next item of business

It was resolved to exclude members of the press and public due to consideration of confidential information contained with the next item of business.

PART 2

4. The contract between WCBC and LRCC for the provision of a Community Agent, which ends on 31st March 2021.

The contract between WCBC and LRCC for the provision of a Community Agent, which ends on 31st March 2021, was discussed.

The Clerk notified Councillors that the current Community Agent had submitted his resignation and would finish on 31st March 2021.

It was decided to enter into a contract with WCBC for the provision of a Community Agent for 2021/22, and that the Clerk would investigate the options for administering and managing the contract.