

Llangollen Rural Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held via Teleconferencing
On Tuesday 1st June 2021

6/21

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
Cllr. Mrs Moira Griffiths

Chairman: Cllr. Elfed Morris

Clerk: Andrea Evans

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence. The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Mrs Moira Griffiths to her first meeting.

2. Minutes of the last council meeting

The minutes of the previous meetings, the Annual Meeting and the Council Meeting held on 11th May 2021, had been distributed and were accepted as a true record. The minutes were signed accordingly by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Participation

None in attendance.

5. Report on police matters

The Clerk presented the report received from PCSO Lara Shiers. During May there had been one incident of attempted thefts/thefts from vehicles in Trevor which was being investigated. NWP would continue to monitor this and deliver crime prevention material to local residents.

There had been one report of ASB Nuisance in the Trevor area and the individual had been dealt with.

A report had been received of two males attempting to take scrap metal from a garden in Garth. CCTV images have been circulated with NWP Wrexham Rural for identification.

Following concerns raised about speeding along Llangollen Road, PCSO's had carried out speed checks. The highest speed recorded was 29 mph. The location would be considered when checks were next carried out.

During the month there had been 3 minor RTC reports; 2 in Fron and 1 in Trevor (all were 'non-injury RTC').

6. Update on the Community Agent's scheme

The Clerk had circulated the new email address for the Community Agent to Councillors, together with the current poster detailing the service and the new appointment for LRCC. The Clerk had not received a report for the previous month.

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 between the County Councillor, CRT and WCBC were ongoing.

Dog fouling on the old railway line – an update had not been received regarding the request for enforcement visits by WCBC.

Cars parked on the A539 Llangollen Road near the old post office – Installation of the parking restrictions had commenced but the signs had not yet been installed.

New notice boards for Garth – The Community Council were awaiting the decision of WCBC, regarding the proposed site of the notice board near Hafryn flats. It was decided to use an alternative site not owned by WCBC to avoid any further delay.

Installation of a lockable gate at the George Avenue playground – The Clerk had still not received a response from the Economic Development Department at WCBC, regarding reinstatement of the bottom fence, and removal of the kissing gate. Cllr. Roberts told Councillors that WCBC had informed him that a contractor had been engaged by WCBC for the work to be done. The Clerk was waiting for confirmation from WCBC regarding the clearance available for grass-cutting machinery if a gate was 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.

Japanese Knotweed on the Offa's Dyke footpath – Cllr. Roberts informed Councillors that the work had been added to WCBC's treatment program which would be done in September.

Noddfa Cemetery risk assessment – To be scheduled.

Memorial Garth – Cllr. Morris offered to find a new contractor willing to carry out the work.

Tree obstruction on entering the Bont Bridge – The work had been done and visibility was much improved. It was decided that Councillor Roberts would arrange for 3 saplings, which were growing out of the bridge, to be removed.

Cleaning the stone pillars at Noddfa Cemetery – Barnett Engineering had offered to carry out the work free of charge. Cllr. Morris offered to speak to Barnett Engineering to see when the work could be completed.

Water running into the Trevor playground – The water was still running into the playground. Cllr Roberts would ask for further investigations to be carried out. The situation would be monitored.

Easement required for the JC Edwards wall land – The solicitor acting on behalf of the Community Council was ready to proceed, but the Clerk was waiting for a reply from Eastman's.

Safety issues on Gate Road due to parked cars – A site meeting had taken place on 27th May, between the County Councillor, Fron Community Councillors and Darren Green of the Highways Department of WCBC, to discuss the situation. No proposals for solutions had been forthcoming.

Flooding on the A539 – Cllr. Roberts had arranged for the gullies to be cleared out, and one to be inspected due to a possible collapse.

8. Planning applications

For information (Approved by WCBC):

P/2021/0345 – Single storey rear extension – **Llety, Froncysyllte, Wrexham**

9. Correspondence update from the Clerk

All correspondence was listed in the Clerk's report and had been forwarded to Councillors. In response to a letter received, it was decided that the Clerk would arrange for the permanent planting areas and the garden area at the Community Centre in Trevor to be tidied.

10. Donation to Splash

The donation of £1500 to Splash Magic was confirmed.

11. Bilingual signs on the speed signs

It was decided that the bilingual plate in store would be attached to the Trevor speed sign, and the Clerk would purchase a bilingual plate for the Garth speed sign.

12. Update from the Boer War Memorial Working Group

A pre-application had been submitted to the War Memorials Trust.

13. The LRCC Facebook page

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It was decided that the name of the page would be changed to Llangollen Rural Community Council and posts would be made by 'Admin'.

The Chairman asked about re-commencing publication of the Community Newsletter, and it was decided that this would be discussed at the next meeting together with a review of the Clerk's hours.

14. Allocation of a piece of land for a mini allotment for children

One of the recent applicants for the position of Councillor had suggested providing a mini allotment for children and this was discussed. It was decided that Cllr. Wright would speak with the applicant to establish if she wished to carry out this project using planters on the Trevor Green.

15. Internal Audit report 2020/21

The Clerk presented the internal audit report to Councillors and the 3 report recommendations were accepted for implementation. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for completing the work required for the audit.

16. Approval of the Annual Return 2020/21

The Annual Return and the associated documentation had been shared with Councillors. It was decided to approve the Annual Return which was duly signed by the Chairman. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the work carried out preparing for the external audit.

17. Finance

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

Authorised payments:

P Ankers	102410	£410.00
P Green	102411	£588.00
JDH Business Services	102412	£191.52
RJ Tree Services	102413	£300.00
J Evans	102414	NJC
J Evans	102415	£65.67
NEST	DD	£33.47
Total		£2,390.94

16. Items for the next agenda

Publication of the newsletter

Consideration of the Clerk's contracted hours

Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting – 6th July 2021 at 7.00pm via Teleconferencing

Llangollen Rural Community Council
Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held via Teleconferencing
On Tuesday 22nd June 2021 at 7.00pm

9/21

Present

Cllr. Elfed Morris
Cllr. Keith Sinclair
Cllr. Darrell Wright
Cllr. Phil Jones
Cllr. Mrs Moira Griffiths

Cllr. Mrs Joyce Evans
Cllr. Anthony Roberts
Cllr. S Jones
Cllr. Mrs Sian Williams

Chairman: Cllr. Elfed Morris

Clerk: Andrea Evans

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public participation.

None present

4. Consideration of planning application: P/2021/0560 – Redevelopment of canal basin for use as boat hire business including erection of 2 buildings and storage enclosure – Trevor Basin, New Road, Trevor, Wrexham

For this item, the Chairman welcomed Becky Lowry of WCBC as Councillors wished to share their concerns regarding the application.

Cllr. Roberts had met with CRT and WCBC regarding inaccuracies within the pre-application, but these had not been addressed in the actual application. He had highlighted concerns about the P3 Transport Assessment Report with regard to the management of vehicles and pedestrians, access to and egress from the site, parking, and the storage of waste.

Access to the site was from the road linking the A539 to Queens Street which was a busy link between villages. A study carried out in June 2018 recorded 3,500 vehicles over a 7 day period. The application indicated no increase in visitor numbers, but it was felt that this was not accurate given the current proposals regarding development of the whole WHS.

The proposed road on the site was shown as 5 metres wide when planning indicated this should be 5.5 metres wide. Also there was a 1.5 metre wide pedestrian line at the side which reduced the width. The track was heavily pedestrianised with access to the canal tow paths for walkers and cyclists. Pedestrian safety and cycling facilities had not been adequately addressed. The proposed car parking was inadequate given the number of vehicles occupying the current site on a daily basis.

Becky Lowry agreed to speak to CRT and the Planning Department about the concerns to ensure that the plans met the needs of all parties, including the council and residents, and to help mediate a satisfactory conclusion.

Concern was expressed about the performance of CRT, and its apparent disregard for residents' views, which could result in a loss of support as the Community felt let down. Councillors highlighted the unresolved problems with coaches parking at the Fron Basin, the effect on residents, and the fact that this had not been addressed by CRT. The Community Council was concerned on the impact of the plans for the future if it was not done properly.

Becky Lowry told Councillors that the partners did not want to lose the support of the Community or cause adverse effects for residents. She would follow up the concerns and liaise with Cllr. Roberts and the Clerk. The Chairman thanked Becky Lowry for attending and she left the meeting.

It was decided that the Community Council would object to the planning application on the following grounds:

- The Transport and Pedestrian Management Report contained inaccuracies regarding the management of vehicles and the many pedestrian users of the site.
- Parking for 21 vehicles was not adequate as there were regularly more than 21 vehicles on the current site. Overspill parking could impact on vehicular and pedestrian safety.
- Access to the site and highway safety had not been adequately addressed.
- Traffic generation – it was stated that there would be no increase in visitor numbers, but current proposals for the WHS as a whole would likely result in an increased number of visitors.

5. To discuss and consider any issues arising as a result of coaches parking in Froncysyllte, at and near the Fron Basin.

Cllr. Roberts outlined the current situation. Actions to alleviate the issues had been agreed by WCBC following the site meeting held on 21st June with WCBC lead members, WCBC, CRT and Cllr. Roberts. The Community Council welcomed the actions, in particular that the alternative proposals for the operation of boat trips would be included in the commission for the WHS Transport/Visitor Management Study. It was resolved to await the outcome of the current actions by WCBC, and the further meetings between the parties before deciding on any further action.

6. To consider the Council's response to a Freedom of Information request regarding parking issues at the Fron Basin.

The Council had received a Freedom of Information request and this was discussed. It was estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the limit set by the Freedom of Information Act, and therefore it was not possible to take the request further.

The Clerk would reply to the request explaining the reasons why the information could not be provided, specifying the applicable exemption and why it applies. The Clerk would provide advice as to how the request could be refined so that it could be answered, and also details of the Appeals procedure.