### OVERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**11TH FEBRUARY 2020**

**PRESENT**: Cllr Alstead, Cllr Ashton, Cllr Copeman (Chairman), Cllr England, Cllr Hellingman, Cllr Lynch, Cllr Pugh, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Walker and Cllr Whittaker

County Councillor McCusker

1. **4533. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Clerk

1. **4534. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL & PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ANY ITEMS DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING**

None disclosed.

1. **4535. COMMENTS & QUERIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC attending the MEETING -** No representations made.
2. **4536. TO CONSIDER ANY POLICE MATTERS**

Cllr Whittaker looked at police stats online and reported 3 crimes identified. One in Bettisfield, 1 in Hanmer and another unidentified.

1. **4537. County Council matters**

* **The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales** – Cllr McCusker explained about the new boundaries.
* **Increase to Council Tax** – there will be an increase to 6.9 or 6.95, the extra income will see a million pounds ringfenced for transport, pot holes, survival of rural bus routes, education etc.
* **Fence in Conservation Area** - Cllr Pugh reported concerns about the fence in the corner of Sundorne (the fence should be 6 feet away from the highway?) The quality of the fence was discussed and Cllr Pugh is to look into it.

Cllr McCusker asked about the wooden fence placed around a property on Sundorne, Willow Street, he had received a number of unfavourable comments regarding it. Cllr Pugh had already contacted the Conservation Officer who had confirmed that they too had received complaints and the Enforcement Officer was dealing with it. Cllr Pugh had mentioned this at the January meeting.

* **Clearing ditches** - this was discussed at length. County Councillor McCusker informed the meeting that the landowner is responsible if the water comes from their land. In short the WCBC are responsible for clearing the gulleys on the highway. The ditches were the landowners’ responsibility. The gulleys are due to be cleared over the weekend 14th-16th Feb. Cllr Ashton challenged the view that the ditches were not WCBC responsibility. Cllr Lynch questioned why farmers could not be employed to clear ditches etc as in other countries. It was felt personal liability would be a problem.

**Action** – Cllr England would photocopy the information from the leaflets from other areas and County Councillor McCusker would have further discussions with Gareth Williams (WCBC) about putting together clear information and report back at the next meeting.

* **Speed of vehicles on Salop Road -** Resident raised concern over the speed of traffic on Salop Road and two vehicles driving through Overton between 5.30am/6am which have modified exhausts and appear to be driving at speed.

The Clerk has forwarded the information to the Police to ascertain if any monitoring can be carried out at this time of the morning.

**Action:** Discussed and will be monitored. It was emphasised that at the early hour it was genuinely a fast car not perception of speeding.

* **Request for a zebra crossing:** Councillor McCusker explained that we could not apply for a grant as the road in Johnstown was a B road not an A road as here and the crossing was next to a school. It was felt we had fully explained the reasons previously in the Oracle.

1. **4538. TO AGREE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th JANUARY 2020**

**RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous council meeting held on 14th January 2020 were approved by members**

1. **4539. TO AGREE AND SIGN MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD**

Cemetery Committee Meeting 17th January 2020 – Members discussed looking after the benches in the cemetery, it was proposed OCC tries to contact owners and request the benches are maintained, failing that take them over and maintain them ourselves.

Playingfield Committee Meeting – 17th January 2020

**RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous committee meetings were approved by members**

1. **4540. TO NOTE ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.**

**For information only**

* Tree with major broken / hanging branches in the Millennium Meadow – work carried out
* Cllr McCusker clearing leaves from pavement at the junction of Willow Street and Wrexham Road

Highways issues reported – after a visual inspection carried out with Cllr McCusker and WCBC Highways

**Argoed Lane**

2 potholes identified

1 highway edge deterioration noted

**Cloy Lane**

1 pothole identified

Letter requesting hedge fronting lane is trimmed

Blocked gullies – resident advised about the gulley clearing rota set up by WCBC

Note: **Clarification from WCBC requested as to who is responsible for clearing ditches adjacent to land and roads - see agenda item 5.**

Highways issues reported

**Ellesmere Road**

Pothole on the sharp right hand bend filled

3 other Potholes identified

**St Martins Road** – no significant potholes

**Willow Street** – condition noted.

**Wrexham Road**

1 Pothole identified

Lane leading known as Pentre to the boundary

Potholes due to be filled within next 28 days

1. **4541. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM CLLRS RE: CONSULTATIONS AND MEETING ATTENDED SINCE THE LAST FULL COUNCIL MEETING**
   * 1. Meeting with new contractor taking over from Peter Lynch on 1st April 2020 – Cllrs Lynch and Roberts

The Clerk forwarded photographs of all the hedges which come under the Specification of Works to the Contractor for future reference and information. Contractor given two copies of the contract to sign, return one to occ. Insurance documents required in March. - Councillors noted.

1. Meeting with the Arborologist from WCBC regarding Oak 87 in the Millennium Meadow and the possible Retrenchment pruning of this tree.

**Recommendation: The Arborologist recommended the tree was felled and replaced due to Acute**

**Oak Decline (many areas are showing stem bleeding - this looks like dark weeping patches on the stem). The stump of the tree should be left as it is an important habitat.**

**The felling of the tree can take place after the summer, if members decide they would like to see how it looks if full leaf. The 5-day notice was applied for and granted by WCBC. This enables OCC to decide when to fell the tree, within a reasonable period.**

**Resolution:** Members felt that the felling of the tree would be best around April but weather dependent. Logs could be left for people to take. Discuss further in March.

It was noted that the tree guards around the new saplings need to be unblocked, all the weeds around the base of the trees need to be cleared and fresh mulch placed around the base.

**Action:** The Playingfield Committee would organise the spreading of mulch etc.

Arborologist discussed long term management strategy for the trees in The Avenue, the only tree highlighted within the report for long term management is: 51 (T1) Larch – recommendation: - Consider removing T1 as part of long term management strategy – Work must be carried out by contractor qualified to work in close proximity to power lines – this could be removed at the end of the financial year 20/21 if there is money remaining in the budget or it could be precepted for in 21/22

**Resolution:** It was felt that as the Larch tree was not urgent to precept for 3 or 4 years.

1. **4542. REPORTS / ISSUES / DRAFT DOCUMENTS**
2. The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales – Councillors thanked Cllr Whittaker for his work in reading the documents and summarising the main points.

**Resolution:** It was agreed that there was nothing to put into the consultation.

1. Dementia Friendly Communities update - Cllr Coles had e-mailed letters for Councillors to give to businesses. Members were to check which businesses they were to approach and let her know.

1. Update from Cllr Ashton on;

Consider a Christmas Card competition run by OCC for the Playgroup and St Mary’s Primary School for Christmas 2020

Members to consider an award for outstanding services/contribution nomination for residents of Overton for 2020

**Cllr Ashton requested that these agenda items are carried forward to March meeting.**

1. Update on selling of OCC ride on mower - No uptake yet on sale of lawnmower, wrong time of year. Moved to garage - Cllr Lynch will continue to try to sell it and give it a boost on Facebook in Spring.
2. Main security gate at the public toilets requires some repainting/retouching.

**Action:** The Amenities committee will sort it out and paint where necessary.

1. For information only: Annual Financial timetable for actions – small to medium Town and Community Councils – Members were aware that an annual report needs to be compiled.
2. Approval from council for 2 days of overtime worked by the Clerk (grant applications).

**Resolution:** All agreed

1. Update on parade launch party

**Parade**

Cllr England outlined that it had been a success with everyone enthusiastic to be involved and take ownership of their part. An article has been submitted to The Oracle re the parade and the possibility of a community CD.

* Cllr Hellingman suggested a creative arts workshop in March to prepare for the parade and is happy to work on it.

**Fete**

* Cllr Lynch offered to take photos ready for the OCC information stall at the fete.
* Cllr Roberts will help to prepare boards for displaying information.
* Cllr Alstead will help to design a questionnaire for the public to give their views about future projects etc.
* Cllr Pugh is happy to co-ordinate and man the stall with councillors helping on a rota.
* PA system was discussed, Councillor McCusker would try to locate one which the schools use and Cllr Copeman suggested borrowing one from AVOW as we are members.

1. **4543. TO RECEIVE ANY CORRESPONDENCE**
2. One Voice Wales Response - Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill – emailed to members 21st January
3. WCBC confirmation of receipt of Notice of Community Council Precept for 20/21 - £67,469

**Noted by members**

1. **4544.TO CONSIDER ANY HIGHWAY MATTERS**

* Dangerous pavements outside the Corner Shop – Cllr Pugh requested the condition of the pavement is reported to WCBC.
* A resident had complained about potholes in Lightwood Green to WCBC and had not received an acknowledgement.
* Musley Lane now impassable from the main road.
* Cllr Roberts reported the pot holes 100m before Eastwick Nurseries on the same side as the nursery and 100m before the dip in the road into Queensbridge.
* Cllr England repeated the concerns raised about Argoed Lane as the road is disintegrating badly on one side making it hazardous for motorists in the dark.

1. **4545. TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS/DECISIONS** – none received
2. **4546. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF INCOME AND PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS – see addendum**

**Proposed Cllr Walker and Seconded Cllr Roberts Resolution: All in favour**

**Payments and Receipts reports approved by full council and authorised signed by three councillors.**

1. **4547. TO RECEIVE ANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR TO DATE**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OVERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL INCOME 2019/2020** | **£** | Opening Balance minus Community Agent Annual Grant | **Ringfenced** | | | | | **£** |
| Opening Balance at 1 April 2019 | £ 68,008.00 | £ 20,833.00 | Community Agent Annual Grant | | | | | £ 47,175.00 |
| Precept 2019/2020 | £ 51,508.00 | £ 51,508.00 | Reserve (40% of Precept) | | | | | £ 20,603.00 |
| Income | £ 8,660.00 | £ 8,660.00 | Grant towards new public toilets at the Playingfields | | | | | £ 1,000.00 |
| **Income** | **£ 128,176.00** | **£ 81,001.00** | Community Chest Grant 2019/2020 (Previously known as Solar Panel Contribution) | | | | | £ 2,683.00 |
|  |  |  | Unspent Community Chest Grant from 2018/19 | | | | | £ 1,500.00 |
| **Less Ringfenced Total** | **£ 72,961.00** | **£ 25,786.00** | **Total Ringfenced** | | | | | **£ 72,961.00** |
| **Total** | **£ 55,215.00** | **£ 55,215.00** |  | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | | | | |  |
| **Actual** expenditure to January 31st | £ 48,541.59 | £ 48,541.59 |  | | | | |  |
| Forecast expenditure to YE March 31st | £ 7,731.00 | £ 7,731.00 |  | | | | |  |
| **Expenditure** | **£ 56,272.59** | **£ 56,272.59** |  | | | | |  |
| Reserve for April 19 to March 2020 | £ 20,603.00 | £ 20,603.00 |  | | | | |  |
| Forecasted balance at YE 31 March 2020 | **£ 19,545.41** | **£ 19,545.41** |  | | | | |  |
| Proposed by: Cllr Hellingman |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seconded by: Cllr Alstead |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Resolution: All in favour -** Councillors were happy with the new layout of accounts. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **4548. TO SET ANY DATES FOR MEETINGS**

Cllr Lynch felt that the agenda had to be agreed with Clerk before setting a date for the Amenities Committee and the Finance Committee wanted to liaise with the Clerk before setting a date for the next meeting.

1. **4549. TO RECEIVE ANY AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MEETING AND CONFIRM DATE (11th FEBRUARY 2020)**

* Parade and Fete update.
* Cllr Ashton reporting on Christmas Card and Overton Award.
* Public toilets on the Playingfield- discussion of tenders.
* Car parking sign

Cllr Coles arrived as the meeting closed

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.40hrs.**