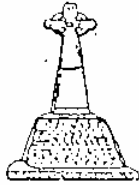


BRYMBO



CYNGOR CYMUNED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Bethan M Hughes Clerk and Financial Officer

15 Chestnut Avenue Wrexham LL12 7HS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRYMBO COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2024 AT BRYMBO SPORTS AND SOCIAL COMPLEX.

Present (Chair) Cllr P Rogers (also CBC)

Brymbo Ward- Councillors D Ashworth, J Garston, K Mathews, W Martin, S Rawlinson, and C Williams.

Tanyfron Ward- Councillor J Barton and C Harris

Bwchgwyn Ward- Councillors K Peacock, M Peacock, and J Williams.

County Borough Councillor P Rogers

Apologies Cllrs G Hughes., J Phelen and CBC J Wellens.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST-None

2 COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

CBC Rogers opened by saying that the storm at the weekend had caused significant issues around the whole of the County. He asked members to e-mail him with outstanding issues involving trees, damaged grit bins and lighting issues.

CBC Rogers said that he had attended a meeting to discuss increasing the hours at Bryn Darland Doctor surgery. He was also meeting with the area manager of the local pharmacy in the New Year to discuss the refurbishment of the building.

3. ROADS

Cllr Martin asked if signs could be placed directing vehicles/people to the Community Clinics as people were coming from outside the village and could not find it.

Members agreed that there was a need.

4. BUS SHELTER SERVICES AND STOPS

Cllr Mathews said that bus drivers had told residents that outside number 24 was not an official stop. The Chair said he would speak to Andrew Mytton to erect bus stop signs there.

5. PLAYING FIELDS AND PLAYGROUNDS

No further information.

6. ST MARY'S CHURCH AND WAR MEMORIALS

The Chair said that the day before the public meeting was being held the Church had withdrawn their offer of the lease. They had said that they would not enter any discussions with Cllr Rogers and that they would deal with CBC's P Wynne and CBC Brown. The Clerk had responded by e-mail saying that she needed to be kept fully informed as neither CBC's Brown or Wynne were able to make any decisions on behalf of BCC. Hayley Matthews (Clergy) had requested to speak to the Clerk. The Clerk had telephoned her, and she relayed that the roof was in a poor condition and there were two options available. The first option would be to spend approx. £600 k to repair it and the second option being to remove the roof completely and leave the building as a living ruin.

HM sent over documents and e-mails to the Clerk which she then circulated to all members. In one of the e-mails, it stated that CBC's Wynne and Brown had suggested that BCC take over responsibility for the building. An e-mail had been sent by CBC Brown to CBC Rogers (and circulated to members) stating that this was not what he had put forward.

Members agreed that a meeting should be arranged between representatives of the Church and members of BCC in the New Year to discuss the future of the Church and the erection of fencing.

7. PLANNING

PROPOSAL: INSTALLATION OF GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SCHEME,
BATTERY STORAGE AND GRID CABINET LAND OFF, BRYMBO ROAD BRYMBO
P/2024/1578-No observations.

8. LIGHTING

The Chair told members that there had been problems with the timer light switch at the Tanyfron MUGA.

A member of the public had been opening the cabinet and switching the lights off. As a result, the CC would have to fund extra security measure as this was a major Health and Safety issue amongst others. The Chair asked if there was feedback regarding the Christmas light switch on. Members said that the rules and regulations had been discouraging and people had commented that they preferred it during the week rather than a Saturday.

Also, the lighting was not great outside and residents said that visiting Santa was expensive.

Cllr Rogers said that the CC would set up a working group in readiness for next year's event.

9. PRECEPT

The Clerk had not received the tax base from WCBC however budgets had been drawn up and circulated prior to the meeting. The Youth and Play expenditure for the next budget year had been received.

The Play expenditure would cost £7127.05 to continue at the same level. The Youth provision would increase to £22550.03 an increase of £2551.53. With these figures in mind the total proposed expenditure for 2025/2026 was expected to be approx. £144782.93. The Clerk had drawn up three options for the next budget year.

Option 1

Based on last year's tax base, which was 1941, an increase of £14.90 from £59.69 to £74.59 which equated to £1.24 per month. This would cover all expenditure for 2025/2026.

Option 2

To take away the expected VAT refund from the expected expenditure leaving a total of £139782.93. This would be an increase of £12.32 per annum and £1.02 per month.

Option 3

Amalgamate Bronwen's Green with Brymbo Environmental Fund.

This would be an increase of £8.97 per annum and £0.74 pence per month.

Members discussed all three options. The Chair reminded members that the previous year an unexpected cost to the Council had been Brymbo pool which had been classed as a reservoir and funding for this had been taken out of the capital reserves. This was now an ongoing cost. Also, the energy prices were due to increase as well as prices in general. It had been noted that funds had been decreasing. Members were in favour of not wanting to cut any services that were being provided.

Cllr Ashworth proposed, and Cllr Williams seconded that members agreed to go ahead with option one where all proposed expenditure was covered by the precept. A vote was taken. All were in favour. The Clerk upon receipt of the tax base would calculate the actual increase and advise members before the next meeting.

10. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Clerk had received the Audit report for the previous year and the one for 2023/2024 which had been a detailed triannual report

The report for 2023/2024 said that:

- 1. The Council has not maintained adequate accounting records. Payments of clerk's salary are not individually recorded and are undated. I am unable to conclude whether the clerk has been paid the correct salary for the year due to a poor audit trail between the contract of employment and gross salary paid for the year. The clerk's contract of employment stipulates that the clerk should be paid monthly. However, our audit identified that the clerk is paid quarterly. I am unable to conclude whether the clerk has been paid the correct salary for the year. There is a discrepancy of £44 between the gross salary paid and the salary per the contract of employment. We recommend that the Council reviews the calculation of the clerk's salary monthly to ensure that the payments are made accurately and on a regular basis.*

The Clerk told members that she was paid monthly and that all pay slips, pension details, Tax/NI details had been sent to the Auditor. All salary payments to the Clerk were in the monthly minutes and detailed in the excel spreadsheet for the bank reconciliation. She had never been paid quarterly. The payroll company had also sent all end of year details which had been forwarded to the Auditor.

- 2. The Annual Governance Statement is inconsistent with the Council's internal controls and governance arrangements for the year: The Council has not followed its procedures for the approval of payments. My audit identified several payments that were made before Council approval. Our audit identified several payments made by the Council that did not comply with the*

Council's proper processes. Ten out of twenty payments examined were only approved by the Council after the payment was made. In addition, we were unable to identify approval in the minutes for a further payment.

The Clerk told members that this was because of two meetings being cancelled and payments needed to be made to companies and services.

3. *I have not been able to establish whether the Council obtained the appropriate quotes or tenders for contracts exceeding the thresholds specified by the Council in its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations*

This was a s a result of new lighting columns being erected and Mega Electrical (BCC maintenance provider) used a contractor for the footings and groundworks. This was out of BCC's control.

2024/2025 ANNUAL RETURN

Audit opinion: Qualified, based on my audit, no matters have come to my attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return

: • has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices.

- that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met.*
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and*
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.*

11. LODGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

A meeting had been held with residents. The building had not been used prior to Covid. A local resident had shown interest in using the building and land to set up a community café. This was the only viable option at present.

12. BWLCHGWYN TENNIS COURTS

A small number of residents had objected to the use of the tennis courts as only tennis courts and also the charge for use of the tennis courts. Members had previously discussed that there was an option for dedicated free time which could be used by children and the Youth service which ran in the village hall. Members agreed that this would be looked at before the next meeting and the matter would be put on the agenda.

13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

93	SLCC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	183.00
94	CLLR ROGERS RE-IMB SELECTINO BOXES	459.00
95	PRETTY GREENERY BRYMBO WAR MEMORIAL	80.00
96	BRYMBO SPORTS AND SOCIAL ROOM HIRE	75.00
97	LITEMANIA CHRISTMAS LIGHTS	846.70
98	SHERRATT BRONWENS GREEN	348.60
99	REBECCA ROYAL XMAS SWITCH ON	200.00
100	SCOTTISH POWER ENERGY	1099.60
101	MEGA ELECTRICAL XMAS LIGHTS	2658.00
102	AVOW PAYROLL	49.50
103	B HUGHES SALARY	*

104	INLAND REVENUE TAX/NI	1248.96
105	P ROGERS REFUND KEYS/TIES/XMAS SWITH ON	60.41
106	BVHA YOUTH PROJECT	120.00

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Signed Chair