

OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Report of the Management, Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 18th January 2022

MEMBERS

Councillor Sarah Roberts (Chairman)

“ John Williams (Vice-Chairman)*

“ Christine Griffiths

“ Caroline Dawson *

“ Kevin Hughes

“ R Alun Jenkins

“ Alex Jones

“ Angela Jones

“ David Jones*

“ Barbara Lloyd

“ Elane Roberts

“ Graham Rogers

“ Jim Steele

“ Linda Subacchi

“ Steven Vale*

“ Keith Williams

“ Graham Wynn

“ Phillip Wynn

* Absent

The meeting was also attended by Mr Marc Williams and Mr Mark Jones of Belgrave Rd. Both spoke to members on their concerns regarding the planning application recently submitted for 8 apartments on Belgrave Rd. Concerns raised were the development would be out of keeping in the Conservation Area, the impact of the increased traffic on the junction with Sontley Rd, additional hard standing contributing to flooding issues in the area. Residents were in agreement that building 2 houses on the land would be preferable to an apartment block.

283 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs John Williams and Steven Vale.

284 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

285 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Management, Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 14th December 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record.

286 MATTERS ARISING

1. Slimming World outstanding invoice – no further information was available.

2. Budget 2022-23 – the Clerk had contacted Mr Graham Lloyd from WCBC with regard to an additional School Crossing Patrol for Victoria Rd. Unfortunately as there is already a Pelican Crossing in situ it is not policy to place a SCP there. The current SCP vacancy on Fairy Rd is being advertised. The Clerk was asked to request additional enforcement action from WCBC outside all the schools in Offa with priority given to Victoria School in view of the recent incident where a child was run over on the crossing.
3. Precept - The Clerk reported that at the previous meeting the decision had been taken to keep the precept at the same level as the previous year which was £188,000.

287 OFFA COMMUNITY AGENT

The monthly report of the Offa Community Agent was received and accepted:

- Welsh water and Severn Trent water company are now able to help people and residents who need support in the way of reducing and applying for financial help through the water board schemes. This can be achieved either by attending our wellbeing groups or one to one consultation.
- Resident help was needed on xmas eve which I attended and sorted.
- Another resident will now attend Salvation army every Wednesday for a 3 course lunch, and we are to let residents know that salvation army propose to do these food cafeterias each week at cost of £3.50 on going for those in the community wanting friendship and hot set meal at extremely cheap rate.
- Food bank vouchers have been issued for this month.
- Morrisons are going to keep supporting the wellbeing club monthly which is fantastic news. So, the cost is ongoing free to attendees
- Some of the residents' cases are still ongoing and follow-ups from last year continue.
- And lastly, we are hoping that a wellbeing club can open in February at Luke O'Connor house. This is currently being advertised.
- Meanwhile we have started back in the Parciau Community centre and 10 residents attended the last session. We had a new volunteer referral from Wales & West, and she attended and helped and is returning on Thursday with another 2 residents to attend the wellbeing club which is amazing news.
- Sarah at the request of the wellbeing club has ordered a companionship real dog for the residents to connect with. This is used in many companionship settings

288 ADMIN OFFICER REPORT

The report of the Admin Officer was presented and accepted:

BOOKINGS FOR THE CENTRES

Bookings for the Parciau Centre are still doing well, with the return of the Bowling team on a Monday from the end of January. The Pensioners did cancel for 2 months, in December and January, but they will return in February. There is also a new booking from the 19th January from the Caia Partnership every week until the end of March. This means the centre is full during the week. Unfortunately, we have lost Theatre-train as they have found a venue for all 3 age groups at the same time, which is what they have wanted all along. The Parciau centre is just too small for all 3 together. This has opened up the centre for parties instead.

I have had to refuse one family and friend's group for future bookings after their last party on Sunday 16th January was left in a terrible mess. They have agreed that they will not receive their £30 deposit back as they need to pay for the extra cleaning time.

Maesgwyn has a potential new booking for a Monday and Tuesday morning, and a Saturday night. Phil Wynn has secured a booking from a Portuguese group to use the Main hall on a Saturday, and the Meeting room during the week. £49 a week after block booking discount. This also means the Maesgwyn has a booking every day apart from a Sunday, with only booking space for a Monday and Tuesday afternoon if needed. Finally the price for a roller shutter door has come through from Northwest Automation to put in place covering the main door. Price is £1695.00 plus vat. 2 other quotes have been requested but there has been no response. **It was AGREED to proceed with the quote received.**

The Luke O Connnor House is still booked every day during the week by Hafal who use the small bottom room. There is a small room which can be rented out, but it needs updating, and also a larger double room. The main issue with this double room is the post for the centre is delivered into a post box built into the wall in this room, which means the groups will all need access to this if they have post sent to the building such as Offa Council and Hafal.

It has also been discussed that a Well Being Group would be beneficial to the residents from the estate, and it could be held in the Main hall once a week. Grants have been made available for these Groups and a charge for rent could be made to each group to cover the centre expenses.

The admin officer reported that several requests have been made by groups using the park for a defibrillator to be purchased and located nearby for users of the park. **This was AGREED and the admin officer will investigate further the possibility of grant funding.**

289 RWF PROJECT

The Clerk reported the current income balance raised towards the project was £64,628.

The project will commence in January and there will be a 'cutting the sod' ceremony on Tuesday 25th before groundworks commence. It will be a good photo opportunity with Colonel Nick Lock and the Mayor of Wrexham performing the task of 'cutting the sod'. Local schoolchildren from Ysgol Bodhyfryd will be in attendance to read in Welsh and English a poem by Hedd Wyn a former RWF Officer and famous Welsh poet. Other RWF officers and comrades and WCBC officers will be there and it is hoped to have members of the drums corp there too. Nick Elphick the sculptor (from the discovery channel) will also be in attendance and the press have been invited. Light refreshments will be provided inside the Barracks afterwards.

It was AGREED for the quote from JAR Architecture of £2,030 plus vat to be accepted for the provision of a 3D model and construction drawings in order for the project to go out to tender for groundworks.

The raffle was drawn on Friday 17th Dec at The Bank in Wrexham and £2,860 was raised in total.

290 **OFFA CARNIVAL 2022**

Initial discussions took place on hosting the Offa Carnival again in the summer – covid restrictions allowing. The date was agreed for Saturday 16th July.

Cllr Alex Jones suggested making enquiries into incorporating a hot air balloon festival for the event and performance cars. He will make further enquiries.

The Clerk will arrange a Zoom committee meeting to further discuss attractions.

291 **GARDEN OF REST AREA**

Deferred to the following meeting in February.

292 **EXPENSE CLAIMS**

Expense claims for January were reported as follows:

The Clerk	£69.27
The Community Agent	£41.02

293 **SALARY DETAILS**

Standard salary details totalling £5,290.11 were reported to the Committee for January to include the monthly payment to the Clwyd Pension Fund.

294 **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

In view of the confidential nature of this item it was AGREED for members of the press and public to be excluded.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm

