

OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Report of the Management, Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20th October 2022

MEMBERS

Councillor Sarah Roberts (Chairman)*

“ John Williams (Vice-Chairman)*

“ Christine Griffiths*

“ R Alun Jenkins

“ Alex Jones

“ Angela Jones

“ David Jones*

“ Barbara Lloyd

“ Kenneth Palmer

“ John Ramm*

“ Andrew Ranger

“ Graham Rogers

“ Jim Steele

“ Linda Subacchi

“ Steven Vale*

“ Keith Williams

“ Graham Wynn

“ Phillip Wynn

* Absent

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-chair the meeting was chaired by Cllr Linda Subacchi.

166 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sarah Roberts, John Williams, Steven Vale and Christine Griffiths.

167 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

168 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Management, Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 19th July 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record.

169 MATTERS ARISING

1. Lease on Parciau Community Centre – the amended Heads of Terms has still not been received despite several reminders to WCBC.
2. Little Vawnog Bridge – the Clerk confirmed that repairs had now been completed to the bridge and the disclaimer signs put up. Cllr Kenn Palmer suggested that the new metal steps should be painted with rust proof paint to protect them. The Clerk will contact the Probation Team to see if they could assist with this.

170 WOODSWORK CIC – The meeting was attended by representatives from Woods work who gave an update to members on the recent programme of works at Little Vawnog. The grant received from HLF through ‘Transport for Wales’ to improve the footpaths through the area– work is planned to start on 14th November. It will require the footpaths to be closed during the duration of the works. Notices have been put up advising of the footpath closure.

A further application has been submitted to the Postcode Lottery to hold bio-diversity events with local schools. The group would like to develop links with Victoria School and Cllr Barbara Jones will assist with this. AnnMarie will contact St Christophers. All schools will be invited to visit and use the area.

In partnership with the ‘Well-being Hub’ in Wrexham it is proposed to hold mindfulness walks.

Cllr Alex Jones suggested arranging ‘foraging opportunities’ in the area and this will be further investigated.

It was suggested developing a meadow/wildflower area in the centre of the site with part of the area grassed for picnics.

The Chairman thanked Rona, Christine and Alison for joining the meeting.

171 OFFA COMMUNITY AGENT

The meeting was attended by the Offa Community Agent Annmarie Ruscoe to give the quarterly report.

The role typically involves telephone calls from residents who require on-going support, issuing food bank vouchers and assisting with arranging doctors appointments. Referrals are regularly received from social services and other support agencies. The 2 Well-being clubs are running well with over 35 residents registered. Thanks to Helen, Sarah and Christine for their support with the clubs. A Christmas party has been arranged at the Maesgwyn Hall on 24th Nov for all who attend the 2 Well-being clubs.

Several ‘cost of living’ talks have been given to the groups and hot meals supplied.

A discussion took place on the foodbanks and Annmarie reported that 5 vouchers had been issued this month. She was experiencing difficulties in getting repeat food vouchers for some of her clients. It was agreed to invite Sally from the Wrexham Foodbanks to a future meeting.

Discussion also took place on the ‘warm places’ initiative. A suggestion was made to trial a drop-in centre at one of the Community Centres providing a hot meal. A meeting will be arranged to further discuss this with all members invited.

Thanks were expressed to Annmarie for her work in assisting some of the more vulnerable in the community.

172 COMMUNITY CENTRES

The meeting was attended by Helen McCarthy the Community Centre and Admin Officer to give the quarterly admin report for the Community Centres.

The new roller shutter has been fitted at Maesgwyn. New energy efficient dryers are to be installed at LOCH and a £600 refund is to be issued on the annual bill.

Helen had written to all groups advising that the Community Council is considering an increase in hire charges effective from April 2023 which would be the first increase in 4 years. All groups have been given copies of the new revised conditions of hire and booking forms. The revised constitution will be circulated for approval by the Council at the next meeting. Thanks were given to Cllrs Alun Jenkins and Christine Griffiths together with Helen for re-working the hire forms and constitution.

The Clerk was asked to defer this item until the next meeting for a breakdown in expenditure for each centre and a list of all groups and how much they are charged to be circulated. The decision will then be taken on whether to implement an increase in hire charges.

173 **FOODBANKS**

This item was dealt with under the Community Agents Report.

174 **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT**

The first quarter financial report was received and accepted.

175 **XMAS LIGHTS EVENT**

Cllr Alex Jones gave a report from a recent meeting of the events committee where discussion took place on this years Xmas Lights Switch on event on Friday 25th November.

The Xmas Lights in the trees had unfortunately suffered a lot of damage from the squirrels. It would be very costly to replace the lights from last year. An alternative cheaper solution had been sourced to place coloured floodlighting in the crown of each tree with coloured up-lights. Cost of lights £869 plus cost of electricians time to put in place for 31 trees. They work off Bluetooth and are programmable. To be removed in Jan and stored. **It was AGREED to place the order for the lights.**

- The lighting around the bandstand also needs replacing as it has been vandalised. There are some spare sets from last year for this.
- Catering: fish/chips, magic dragon, Penylan Pork, Brickfield burgers, Mulled wine and mince pies, tea/coffee in Community Centre, Hot donuts. **It was AGREED more caterers required as it could be a very big event.**
- Santa – Paul Smith 350 selection boxes – ticket only. Karen to purchase now
- More mulled wine needed than last year
- Security, Ten licence and first aid in place
- Police have confirmed attendance
- Additional toilets by bowling pavilion needed
- More portable lighting needed.
- Volunteers needed - Hi-viz vests are stored in community centre.
- Walkie Talkies for security.
- Mayor has confirmed attendance.

176 **EXPENSE CLAIMS**

Expense claims were reported as follows:

	August	September
The Clerk	£175.54	£139.47
The Community Agent	£21.69	£66.11
Admin Officer	£79.98	£46.75

177 **SALARY DETAILS**

Salary details totalling £5,875.27 for August, £5,875.27 for September and £5,875.27 for October were reported to the Committee to include the monthly payment to the Clwyd Pension Fund.

The first quarterly report of the Youth SLA from Caia Park Partnership was circulated. The second quarterly report is expected at the next meeting in November.

The propose Traffic Regulation Order for Sontley Rd was accepted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm

