

**OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
MEMBERS**

Councillor Alex Jones (Chairman)

- “ Caroline Dawson\*
- “ Christine Griffiths
- “ Kevin Hughes\*
- “ R Alun Jenkins
- “ David Jones\*
- “ Barbara Lloyd\*
- “ Elane Roberts
- “ Sarah Roberts
- “ Graham Rogers
- “ Jim Steele
- “ Linda Subacchi
- “ Steven Vale
- “ John Williams
- “ Keith Williams
- “ Graham Wynn\*
- “ Phillip Wynn

\*Absent

The meeting was also attended by WCBC Paul Roberts and Susan Jones.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first ever remote meeting of Offa Community Council and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded.

Susan Jones was welcomed to the meeting and addressed members at the start of the meeting on her request to fill the current vacancy for Erddig Ward.

**343 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barbara Lloyd, David Jones, Kevin Hughes, Graham Wynn and Caroline Dawson.

**344 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**345 POLICE MATTERS**

The monthly crime report for March/April was received:

**Anti-Social Behaviour Issues/Trends:**

**Brynyffynon** - Dol Isaf park, issues with youths throwing stones/using the park against Covid regulations. Patrols are being undertaken and further enquiries are on going. Concerns were raised at the number of youngsters and drinkers in Bellevue Park breaking the current lock down restrictions.

**Offa** - The Brickie complaints about youths gathering – patrols are being done

**Erddig** - Erddig estate is causing some tension with regards to Covid-19 legislation. Patrols are being done.

**Hermitage** - A homeless couple set up camp within the park. PCSO Magness liaised with Cllr Rogers about the situation. The couple did move on, the female was housed elsewhere and the situation is being monitored.

**Crime Issues / Trends:**

**Brynyffynon** - No current trends however shopliftings are quite high, 34 in total. 10 of those at Morrisons, one at Aldi and rest in town centre.

Theft of benches in Little Vawnog at the bottom of Foxwood Drive – enquiries still on going. The Clerk has made a statement of complaint.

Criminal damages 9 in total – 5 being reported from the hospital, 1 from Homestead lane where a vehicle was damaged by someone throwing a rock and a window damaged on Dol Isaf from stones being thrown.

A robbery reported to Police that occurred on the pathway near to Morrisons. No complaint from the victim.

**Offa**

1 attempted burglary at a business on Pen Y Bryn

1 attempted burglary at Lock, Stock storage – one male arrested from forensic evidence

1 break in at a garage on Bron Y Dre.

1 theft from motor vehicle and one smashed window of a vehicle a few days apart on Ruabon Road.

**Erddig**

Burglary on Ffordd Mailyn – one male arrested and charged. Convicted at Court and received a custodial sentence.

Well known female arrested for breaching her CPN on Percy Road – charged and due in court shortly.

Theft of dairy products from properties in Coed Y Glyn area. Enquiries on going to identify offender.

Robbery on Fairfield Street, elderly man targeted at his home address by 3 offenders. Money stolen from him. 2 males and 1 female arrested. 2 males charged and remanded in custody currently, female on bail conditions.

Theft/public order at Lidl supermarket. Male threatened staff after trying to steal items. Male identified, arrested and charged.

**Hermitage** - No current trends

**Other News/PCSO activities:**

Covid-19 patrols are on going – any concerns/locations please let us know.

The Gales have been causing issues all over Wrexham recently. Tensions are high in communities currently regarding the couple. They both have conditions and we would advise anyone to report incidents and provide a statement so that we can progress further.

PCSO Shannon Smith has now left to start her Police Officer training and members wished her well for the future.

**346 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were confirmed as a true and accurate record. **It was RESOLVED for the minutes to be signed at the next Council meeting that meets in person.**

**347 MATTERS ARISING**

1. Request for security lights for the alleys on Poyser Street/Edward St – no reply has been received from PC Sofia Valentine.
2. Request for a new playarea on High Ridge Drive – at the previous meeting members had requested further information on the number of children living on the estate and whether residents living near the proposed site had been consulted on the proposals. They also asked if residents would be prepared to contribute towards the overall cost of a new play area. The Clerk reported no further information had been received to date.
3. Friends of Wrexham Museum – following a request for a grant of £400 each from the 4 Town community councils it had been agreed to give a grant up to £400 towards the project. The Clerk had notified the other 3 Town Community Councils of the award.

**348 COMMITTEE REPORTS****The Planning Committee-5<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

The report of the Planning Committee was received and accepted by the Council. The Clerk confirmed additional comments had been submitted as follows:

P/2020/0144 – 60 Alexandra Rd, extensions to dwelling

**RESOLVED** – Members welcome the proposals to convert into a family unit rather than a HMO subject to the plans complying with overdominance, overlooking/privacy and loss of light regulations and they note that the proposal is similar to other existing extensions in Alexandra Road.

The Chairman of the Planning Committee Cllr Keith Williams had circulated the following report to all members prior to the meeting:

**REPORT TO OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON PLANNING MATTERS SINCE THE LAST PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5th March 2020****1 Closure of WCBC Planning Office**

We were getting a bit concerned that no new planning applications were being posted to the WCBC Planning Search facility. It had disappeared from view on the 18th March, although after we complained it was restored a few days later, 18th was the last date of any postings. After some enquiries it was confirmed that the planning office is currently closed and business support staff have been redeployed to other job roles within the council. They have been unable to book in any new applications since the 22 March. When the office reopens all the applications will be booked in and we will then be notified in the usual way.

Thus the only planning issues we have had to consider are those few which arose between the last meeting and the closure of the Planning Office.

**2 Planning Applications**

P/2020/0146 19 Drws-y-Coed This is an application “for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Single Story Extension”. There are no documents (not even an application) uploaded, but it is shown as “Granted”, presumably under delegated powers. With nothing to consider, we have made no comments.

P/2020/0150 – Oak Tree 45 to 47 Ruabon Rd, application For Approval Of Details Reserved By Conditions Imposed Under Planning Permission P/2019/0348: Condition 9 - Submission Of Samples Of All External Facing And Roofing Materials Condition 10 - Submission Of Drawings Fully Detailing All New.

This is an enforcement matter, as the developers have not been complying with the conditions of the planning consent, by using plastic windows. This has, unsurprisingly, upset the residents of the Conservation Area, especially those forced to remove their plastic windows in the past. The Clerk has submitted the following comments which are self-explanatory:

*RESOLVED – Offa Community Council objects to this application for replacement windows and wishes to raise the following concerns regarding this application:*

*This is an important building situated within the Fairy Rd Conservation Area. It is very concerning to see that the developer has already installed UPVC replacement windows which do not comply with the conditions applicable to all properties within the Conservation Area.*

*Indeed several properties on Ruabon Rd that had installed UPVC windows and doors breaching the conditions have following appeals to the Planning Inspectorate been made to replace them back to the original materials. Enforcement action needs to be taken as a matter of urgency to ensure the UPVC windows and doors are removed and replaced with those of a material that comply with the Conservation area status. It is important that the Borough Council is seen to be consistent in this matter.*

P/2020/0163 3 & 4 The Nurseries, Erddig Road. This is an Application For A Non-Material Amendment To Planning Permission P/2012/0638 To Remove The False Chimney Stack Over Nos. 3 And 4. The Nurseries are the houses built on the site of the former Erddig nursery in Erddig Road. They have imitation chimneys, which I had assumed were concealing boiler flues and/or providing ventilation. It appears they are purely for ornament, and I have to say that they don't look particularly picturesque. They are in the conservation area, but I can't see that their disappearance will change the character of the area in the slightest. It looks as though the planning officer agrees, because this, too, has been marked "Granted", presumably under delegated powers.

P/2020/0197 58 Ffordd Glyn Off-Street Car parking. This is a condition placed on the consent to convert this house to four supported flats, namely that work should not commence until a revised layout for off-street parking, meeting the need for both residents and carers, has been submitted and agreed by the Planning Department.

There are no documents uploaded to this application (all the original plans, etc are attached to the original Application P/2019/0837 – you may recall the neighbours addressed the Council about their concerns on this application). The condition was very specific, and we have left this to the experts.

### **3 Future Meetings**

Future meetings are to be discussed under Item 11 of the Council meeting on Thursday, but my recommendation to the Clerk (whose decision it is, under the new regulations) with regard to the Planning Committee is that all future meetings are suspended unless and until WCBC Planning Department resumes something like normal business.

*Keith Williams, Chair, Planning Committee*

Cllr Keith Williams was thanked for his excellent report and his recommendation that any future meetings of the Planning Committee should be suspended until the Planning Department at WCBC starts to process new applications again was agreed.

### 349 VACANCY ERDDIG WARD

**It was RESOLVED to co-opt Ms Susan Jones to the Community Council as Member for Erddig Ward.**

### 350 ANNUAL RETURN

Prior to the meeting copies of year end financial statements and the Annual Return had been circulated to all members. **The income and expenditure statement for 2019/2020 was approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign the Annual Return on behalf of the Community Council at the next available opportunity.**

### 351 COVID 19 EMERGENCY

A report was given by the Chairman Cllr Alex Jones and the Clerk on the emergency measures implemented during the current pandemic crisis. Newsletters had been hand delivered to all residents advising them of the help available. A band of volunteers in each ward was now available to help those vulnerable residents that are self-isolating for reasons of health or age with essential food and medicine deliveries.

An emergency fund of £1,000 had been set up by the Community Council for the purchase of essential PPE for all volunteers to include disposable gloves, masks and hand sanitizer gel. A card reader had also been obtained to assist those wanting to pay for food deliveries by card.

A grant of £1,000 had been presented to the Wrexham Food bank and a £1,000 grant had also been given to AVOW towards the purchase of 3D printers and materials for producing the essential face visors being used in the intensive care wards.

Cllr Phil Wynn was congratulated on his work with the project to produce the visors at Ysgol Clywedog and he paid particular thanks to the Community Council for the £1,000 grant to the project and to Helen McCarthy for her help in the school.

Cllr Graham Rogers thanked all his volunteers in the Hermitage Ward and in particular to the Offa Community Agent Kelly Hewitt for all the help she had given to him and his residents.

Cllr Alun Jenkins also paid tribute to his many volunteers and especially to Helen McCarthy the Admin Officer for all her help in the community delivering the newsletters and shopping for vulnerable residents.

Cllr Paul Roberts thanked his team of volunteers for all the work they were undertaking for residents of Erddig Ward.

Discussion also took place on preparations for the eventual re-opening of the Community Centres and the need for sufficient hand sanitizer and washing facilities. It will also be necessary for each centre to be deep cleaned prior to any re-opening.

### 352 CARNIVAL

**It was RESOLVED that the carnival would be cancelled for this year and the Clerk was asked to confirm this with those attractions that had been booked at the start of the year.**

It was also noted that the 'Xmas Lights Switch On' event planned for December would also need to be postponed until next year.

### 353 DATES OF MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** for the Community Council to continue to meet remotely on the first Thursday of the month and for the Management, Finance and General Purposes Committee to be suspended until future notice. The Planning Committee to also be suspended until new planning applications start to be processed again by WCBC.

### 354 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts were then authorized for payment as follows:

		Chq Nos
Firemaster (service LOCH)	£59.16	3747
Kelly Hewitt (com agent expenses)	£46.98	3748
K Benfield (expenses March)	£202.42	3749
AJ Domestics (Com ctr cleaners)	£480.00	3750
Mossfords Memorials (stone Bron y Dre)	£150.00	3751
Cambria Maintenance (repairs LOCH)	£215.59	3753
Covid Emergency Fund	£500.00	3754
Vision ICT (final payment website)	£840.00	3755
Terrier Tools (PPE gloves)	£59.47	3756
Erddig Grow project (grant)	£200.00	3757
Brickfield Youth Club (grant)	£450.00	3758
WXM Allotment Assoc (grant)	£50.00	3759
Wales Air Ambulance (grant)	£100.00	3760
Urdd Eisteddfod (grant)	£50.00	3761
Wrexham foodbank (grant)	£1,000.00	3762
Eastwick Plant Centre (works at Bron y Dre)	£375.00	3763
Cllr P Wynn (volunteer hand-gel)	£205.20	3764
AVOW (grant 3D printers/materials)	£1,000.00	3765
H McCarthy (party refund)	£38.00	3766
AVOW (membership renewal)	£10.00	3767
Caia Park Partnership (Yth SLA qtr1)	£6761.75	3768
K Benfield (expenses April)	£108.58	3769
Brit Telecom (business 1 plan account)	£373.54	DD
EDF (electric Maesgwyn)	£105.28	DD
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£13,380.97</b>	

### 355 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

The Chairman Cllr Alex Jones was thanked for the excellent way he had hosted the first ever virtual meeting of the Community Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

