

**OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 5th November 2020
MEMBERS**

Councillor Alex Jones (Chairman)
 “ Kevin Hughes (Vice Chair)*

 “ Caroline Dawson
 “ Christine Griffiths
 “ R Alun Jenkins
 “ David Jones
 “ Susan 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.

49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kevin Hughes, Graham Wynn, Phil Wynn, Steven Vale and Elane Roberts.

It was noted that Cllr Graham Wynn has a dispensation from attendance due to caring responsibilities at home.

50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made in relation to Agenda item 11 Grants budget as follows:

Cllr Alun Jenkins – Parciau Community Centre, Victoria Park Res Assoc,
 Cllr Linda Subacchi – Cylch Meithrin Bodhyfryd and Brynycabanau

51 POLICE MATTERS

The monthly crime report for October was received from the police as follows:

Crime Issues / Trends:

11/10/2020 – Theft pedal cycle – Poplar road

14/10/2020 – Commercial Burglary – Ruabon Road – Access gained via window at premises and cash taken

18/10/2020 – Criminal Damage – Ruthin Road – unknown youths thrown stones at vehicles

20/10/2020 – Theft from vehicle – Colemere Street

21/10/2020 - Theft from vehicle – Erddig Road

Other News/PCSO activities:

During the month of October we launched Offa October to run alongside Operation Blue Instinct. The aim of the initiative was to deter & disrupt criminality in the area with high visibility patrols, social media and press coverage to raise awareness and vigilance, to encourage and promote Neighbourhood Watch Schemes (NHW) and positive action against those that cause our community most harm.

Some examples of this are:

- Warrant Ruabon Road – Quantity of Class A drugs and cash located – x2 persons arrested
- Closure Notice Ruabon Road
- Closure Notice Alexandra Road
- Drugs Dog operation
- High Visibility patrols in area of Pen Y Bryn, Ruabon Road with assistance of Special Constabulary and Police interceptors.
- Roads Policing patrolled area of Bersham Road
- Items funded by community council donated to NHW scheme in Llys Y Groes
- Visits to the ward by Chief Constable Carl Foulkes, Police and Crime Commissioner Arfon Jones, The High Sheriff of Clwyd and MP Sarah Atherton to support Op Blue Instinct and Offa October.
- Ward walk held by PCSO Sara Williams
- Leaflet drops in areas that have previously been targeted by burglars and information provided to residents where properties appear unoccupied

The Clerk reported that the CCTV camera had now been in situ on Sontley Rd for 3 weeks but there were problems getting the power supply connected due to work commitments by WCBC electrical engineers who needed to carry out the work. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Darren Williams and Steve Bayley Heads of Dept at WCBC to request that the work is carried out as soon as possible as there have been further incidents of attempted break-ins in the area and the police were requesting the CCTV footage.

The Chairman also reported that on a recent walk about with the police in the area a further request was made for the Community Council to purchase 2 further CCTV cameras. These were requested for lamppost 25 on Sontley Rd and on either lamp post 21 or 24 on Penybryn. The Clerk was asked to obtain costings and to place this on the December Council meeting agenda for further discussion. Cllr Jim Steele offered assistance in providing a draft Privacy Impact Statement for use.

Cllr Graham Rogers again raised the problem in certain areas of the community where the quality and level of the LED street lighting is not as good as it should be resulting in poor levels of light in some residential areas. It would appear that it is the older LED units causing the problems as it seems the most recently installed ones are performing better. The Clerk was asked to contact the Lighting dept at WCBC to ask if this is something they are already aware of and could a partnership approach with the community council be adopted to remedy the problem as with the darker nights it is leaving some residents feeling vulnerable.

52 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Remote Council meeting held on 1st October 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.

53 MATTERS ARISING

1. Maesgwyn Community Centre – the Clerk reported that the instalment of the new kitchen was expected to be completed within the next week
2. Youth SLA report – the report for the second qtr was received and accepted.
3. Little Vawnog Tree Survey – The Clerk reported that it was expected this would be completed within the next 2 weeks.

54 COMMITTEE REPORTS

54.1 The Planning Committee – 31st October 2020

The report of the Planning Committee was received and accepted by the Council.

It was noted that all Management and Finance Committee Meetings remain suspended until further notice.

55 AUDIT REPORT 2019-20

The report of the External Auditor was presented to the Council and it was noted that this was a clean report with no matters raised.

56 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The draft Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report 2021/22 had previously been circulated and was discussed. It was noted that the final report would be available in Feb 2021 and RESOLVED for the various determinations to remain the same as in the previous year.

57 SPEED SIGNS FOR BERSHAM RD

A request had been received from Esclusham Community Council for members to consider contributing towards the cost of flashing speed signs to be erected on Bersham Rd between the junction of Homestead Lane and Bersham Village. A small group of members for Brynyffynnon Ward, Cllrs Phil Wynn, Elane Roberts, Sarah Roberts and Barbara Lloyd had met remotely to discuss this in more detail and report back to the Community Council. It was suggested the speed survey already requested should be carried out and a decision taken on those results before deciding on the need for a flashing speed sign.

58 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2020/21

The half yearly financial statement was presented to the council and accepted.

59 GRANTS BUDGET 2020/21

It was RESOLVED to approve the following grants paid under the power of section 137 of the LGA 1972:

Cylch Meithrin Bodhyfryd	£75
Cylch Meithrin Brynycabanau	£75
Bellevue Playgroup	£75

Clwb Gwyliau Maelor	£75
Hermitage Evergreen Club	£120
Brickfield Rangers FC	£450
Victoria Park Residents Assoc	£75
Parciau Indoor Bowling Club	£125
Illusion Morris Dancers	£125
Advance Brighter Futures	£100
Nightingale House	£200
Wales Air Ambulance	£200
Hope House	£200

It was RESOLVED to approve the following grants paid under the power of section 19 (misc provisions) LGA 1976:

Friends of Hightown Community Resource Centre	£250
Parciau Community Centre	£250
Maesgwyn Community Centre	£250

It was noted and accepted that many groups had not applied for grants so far due to the Covid 19 restrictions which required their groups to temporarily stop meeting. Should they decide to apply before the end of March 2021 then their applications will still be considered.

60 BUDGET 2021-22

Members had been provided with the Income and expenditure statement for the second quarter of 2020/21 which was approved and accepted.

The draft budget for 2021-22 had been distributed prior to the meeting. The following matters were raised and discussed:

- Community Agent Post – the Clerk reported that she had not yet received confirmation that the funding for the post via WCBC would continue. It was AGREED that provision for the post to continue be made available within the budget.
- Community Centres – the Clerk reported that the situation regarding the likely level of income was still uncertain due to the Covid pandemic restrictions and reduced bookings.
- Barracks Memorial – it was agreed to keep the £16,000 budget for this project and noted that a further meeting of the committee would be meeting soon to discuss further funding options.
- Pensioners Xmas Party – it was noted that the event was unable to go ahead this year due to the Covid restrictions and it was agreed instead to purchase large luxury Xmas hampers for each of the residential and nursing homes in Offa .

This item was then deferred to the next Council meeting in December.

61 LITTER BINS

A request was received from Cllr Phil Wynn for 2 litter bins to be purchased. A double bin and a single bin for the Bryn Offa and Llys y Groes estates and this was AGREED subject to confirmation that WCBC operatives will install and take responsibility for emptying them.

62 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts were then authorized for payment as follows:

Chq Nos

Derwen Computers (loch office computer)	£480.00	3798
R Furnstone (window cleaning x3)	£80.00	3799
Caia Park Partnership (yth SLA qtr3)	£6761.75	3800
Caia Park Community Council (advice SLA qtr2)	£1607.25	3801
Barlows UK Ltd (alarm maintenance)	£360.00	3802
JNE Security (NHW items for police)	£982.20	3803
AJ Domestic (centre cleaning)	£150.00	3804
K Benfield (expenses incl RBL donation £100)	£252.61	3805
Wrexham Carpets (Maesgwyn kitchen flooring)	£485.00	3806
Derwen Computers (webcam LOCH)	£32.00	3807
Kelly Hewitt (Offa Com Agent expenses)	£80.00	3808
Corona Energy (gas Maesgwyn Oct)	£61.30	DD
Brit Tel (business 1 plan account Oct)	£438.99	DD
EDF Energy (electric Maesgwyn Sept)	£122.47	DD
Total:	£11,893.57	

Salary Reports:

October salaries totalling £4,677.03 to include monthly pension contributions for all 4 staff members to the Clwyd Pension Fund

63 CORRESPONDENCE

WCBC – annual remembrance Service Sunday 8th Nov

The Clerk reported that repairs had been authorized to the main entrance door at the Parciau Community Centre in the sum of £460 plus vat.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

