

Minutes of Rudbaxton Community Council

held on

Monday 14th December 2020

Held via zoom

at 7.30p.m.

Present: **G. Bateman – Chairman**
 B. Gillinder – Vice Chairman
 R. Moffat
 S.V. Davies
 A. Lowe
 I. Banks
 M. Jones
 H. Thornton
 G.Elcock

County. Cllr. S. Yelland,

A. Bateman-Clerk to the Council

Apologies: None

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and following guidance from the government, this months meeting and meetings for the foreseeable future, will be carried out using the Zoom application.

01.20 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held Monday 14th December 2020

It was proposed by A.Lowe and seconded by B.Gillinder that the minutes be approved.

02.20 Councillor vacancy

Clerk notified the Council that Cllr Lloyd has written a letter, resigning from the council. Therefore, a vacancy has arisen, which the clerk will advertise on the village noticeboards and on social media. Naturally, the council will write a letter of gratitude and thanks to Cllr Lloyd for his time served on the Council both as chairman and councillor since 2008

03.20 Report of the clerk

A: Correspondence.

Most correspondence is via Email, unless specifically stated.

During lockdown, several correspondences of importance was emailed to councillors for comment or perusal. These were dealt with at the time. In addition to those were:

- *D. Lloyd – letter of resignation Action: letter of thanks and display notice of vacancy
- *Welsh government – website compliance – Clerk to get up to date with council website and look into specific email address's for clerk and councillors.
- *Wellbeing – access to community notice boards
- *Welsh Ambulance service/The Circuit – Defibrillator updates – website updated.
- *Speed signs – Circulars/advertising. Council are going to look into funding/grants to have speed signs placed in the village – H Thornton to look into.
- *PCC – Precept Notification
- *Local resident – The Council had received a very kind and generous cheque from a local resident, who's intention was to contribute towards a Christmas treat for the children in the parish. Normally, at this time of year, the Community association would be holding their annual Christmas party, but due to restrictions, this is unable to take place. Discussions were made and as a result, the Clerk is going to go back to the resident, explain the situation and discuss a way forward.
- *Grass maintenance- The Clerk passed on the apologies received from S McQuarrie regarding the lack of maintenance in the last few months. They had offered an explanation and also offered an alternative of strimming the area, even though, in Scotts opinion, it would not give the same professional finish as Scott is used to delivering. However, Cllr V. Davies stated the verges on the Clarboston Road side, still hadn't been done – Clerk to email Scott again.

B: Planning.

The Clerk reminded Councillors to keep up to date with the planning applications online. Several applications had been submitted since the last meeting (March), several had already been approved also. The Clerk gave a brief run down of the applications that had been sent through.

The only one to raise some concerns over the past few weeks, was a development at Crundale Hook Farm, (actually lies outside the parish boundary), but had been brought to Councils attention by some residents, as it lies closer to Crundale than it does to neighbouring Wiston. Several residents had raised some concerns about multiple caravans been sited and the possible increase in traffic that would inevitably come through the village.

Clerk had been in touch with County Cllr Yelland and also the planning department in PCC who had passed the concerns onto the enforcement officer. Clerk had also spoken to the Clerk of Wiston who had been keeping in touch.

C: Finance.

The Clerk presented the council with the 2019/20 end of year financial summary.

In addition, the income and expenditure for this financial year to date is as follows;

<u>Receipts</u>	Bank Int <i>Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep,</i>	2.99	
	Precept No.1	2334.00	
	Precept No.2	2333.00	
	Wayleave	24.42	
	Lease of field	100.00	<u>4794.41</u>

<u>Payments</u>	Grass Maintenance, feb-jun	1360.00	
	<i>Chq:608</i>		
	Insurance	199.93	
	<i>Chq:609</i>		
	Grass Maintenance, jul-aug	690.00	
	<i>Chq:610</i>		
	Remembrance day wreath	25.00	
	<i>Chq:612</i>		
	Clerk wages	1278.00	
	Clerk Expenses	238.00	3790.93
	<i>Chq:613</i>		

04.20 Precept.

The Clerk/RFO presented the budget papers for 2020/21 and the forecast for 2021/22

Contingency funds will remain for the year 2021/22 as follows:-

- Welsh language act contingency fund -£3212 (increasing at 10% pa)
- General contingency fund - £4800
- Community amenity fund - £3000
- Election fund - £2400

After consideration of all funding requirements for 2020/21 and potential expenditure for 2021/22, it was decided to keep the precept at the current rate of £7000.

This was proposed by G. Elcock and seconded by A. Lowe.

All members endorsed this decision.

The closing accounts for the financial year 19/20 were agreed.

This was proposed by B. Gillinder and seconded by A. Lowe.

05.20 Post office closure

The village post office and post mistress retired her services at the end of October. The village is currently being serviced with a mobile post office van, 2 days a week. Councillors have been receiving comments from parishioners that the van was very busy and working well. It would be helpful if the service was available more often or for longer periods of time.

Clerk will write to the post office requesting a better service by way of another day or longer hours on the present days.

06.20 Coronavirus and the effects on the wider Community

Councillors had communicated with The Clerk throughout the past few months, asking are we the council doing enough for our community/parish through this pandemic. The Clerk reported back to the council that there was a local volunteer group, working with and alongside county wide volunteer groups, in a bid to offer assistance and reaching out to those that require it. Thanks was made to Huw and Mary for their involvement with running a community run Facebook page, again in a bid to offer and share information and assistance to our community at this time. Groups have been connecting people in need with those who can assist, delivering food parcels to those in need and keeping in touch with the most vulnerable. All Councillors are keeping in touch with residents in their immediate vicinity.

07.20 Bus shelter improvements

It had been mentioned in passing about updating/improving the appearance of our bus shelters. The Clerk spoke with the Clerk of Spittal Community Council, as they had updated their bus shelters as part of a school project. The school had worked with a local artist, who had also carried out several 'murals' around the county during this period of lockdown/isolation, in a bid to brighten up the communities. Clerk relayed to the Councillors the cost incurred and explained the artist was happy to work with the community for it to be a community project also. Council will look into obtaining grants/funding and consider undertaking the project.

It was also suggested that another defibrillator in the village would be a positive and the bus shelter would be a good place to site them. Grants and funding will be looked into by the council.

08.20 Replacement of Hall Chairs

Previously a request for financial assistance had been made by the Rudbaxton Community Association in respect of the purchase of new chairs for the Community hall. It was noted that there was a conflict of interest with several members of the Council also sitting on the association committee. However, there were enough members to be quorate and a discussion was held, it was proposed by G. Bateman and seconded by B. Gillinder that a donation of £1500 be made to the association. This proposal received unanimous support from those Councillors able to vote upon the matter.

09.20 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT.

Councillor Yelland reported the following: -

- Crundale hook Farm – The enforcement officer had visited the site. The owners are due to submit a planning application in the near future. The siting of caravans is acceptable and permitted during renovation.
- Withybush – PCC will shortly receive a planning application from MPH hire for an extension to the present building. A complaint had been received about the increase in traffic and as a result, when the application is received, the roadways will be addressed at the same time.
- Elm Cottage – The storage container that had previously been complained about, was deemed permitted development.
- Withybush woods – the notice boards had been completed, however due to redeployment under present circumstances, they are unlikely to be erected yet.
- Dingle Close – The work on the site of Dingle Close has been completed by the County Council to the roadways and pavements. Building work to the remaining properties is still ongoing.
- Footpath Rosemary Lane to Boot and Shoe close – discussions are still ongoing with the current owners of the lane.

10.20 RUDBAXTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

Due to the current pandemic, the hall has been closed for public use since March, although it has been used by the health board. S.V. Davies reported that they had been successful in obtaining a grant for loss of earnings and a smaller grant from the county council. S.V. Davies also reported that during this time of closure, it was the perfect time to get the floor replaced.

The play area was open and still being used and the association were maintaining the gardens.

Next year, the association are hoping to upgrade some of the play equipment as it had been noted that some part were either damaged or broken.

S.V. Davies went on to thank the Council for the contribution towards the hall chairs.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank A. Lowe for the success of the 100 club, which has now reached 147 members. A. Lowe went on to say that because of the growth it has enabled them to increase the prize fund, now giving 4 monthly prizes.

11.20 OTHER BUSINESS.

- R. Moffat updated the Council with news of the sewer in Dingle lane. During the heavy rain recently some of the properties in Dingle lane had been flooded with the source coming from the sewer. Welsh Water had been contacted and visited the site, jet washed the sewer and the problem seemed to be resolved. NRW had also been contacted as sewerage had been seen to be pouring out of the drain, running down the main road and entering the river.
The Clerk will once again write to Welsh Water and NRW for an update.
- Village litter – There had been some evidence of fly-tipping on the outskirts of the village and it had been noticed that there was a slight increase of litter within the village. We will move the street clean board, as a visual reminder to villagers to keep the village clean. We will enforce this by sharing on social media.

The meeting closed at 9.21pm

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th January 2021 - 7:30pm via Zoom

Signed.....

Dated: 11th January 2021