

BISHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE BISHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th February 2019 at Underwood Community Centre.

PRESENT

Councillors Gill Burton (Chair), John Davies, Mike Hillman, Georgina Jennick, Craig Johnson, Ben Rice, Graham Watts and Reg Southall (Clerk).

IN ATTENDANCE

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Keith Boot, Ian Long, Rob Hepworth and Anke Hillman.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Mike Hillman, declared his interest in Underwood Allotments.

POLICE MATTERS

Although the Clerk had requested a Community Support Officer (CSO) attend the meeting to discuss the increasing concern over drug-related activities within the Underwood are, there was no representation. It was agreed that the Clerk to write to the Llanwern Ward CSO to ensure attendance at the next Monthly Meeting.

AP1(6/2/19) – Clerk to write to Llanwern Ward CSO about attendance at next Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Meeting was informed of a note of thanks from Llanmartin Primary School for their £200.00 grant towards the development of a well-being garden.

MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Wednesday 2nd January 2018, having been previously circulated to all Councillors and published on the Council website, were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

With reference to AP6(05/12), the Meeting agreed that the revised allotments rules had to be agreed and finalised as a matter of urgency for implementation for 2019/20. The Clerk agreed to circulate the latest draft to Councillors with view for any comment and/or suggested amendment by cop Friday 15th February 2019.

AP2(6/2/19) – Clerk to circulate latest draft of revised allotments rules to Councillors.

A – PLANNING

No planning issues

B – FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

B001/6.2.19 Monthly Financial Statement

The monthly financial statement presented by the Clerk was agreed by the Meeting. The Clerk confirmed that all historic VAT had now been reclaimed.

B002/6.2.19 Precept for 2019/20

The Meeting discussed in detail the three precept setting options produced by the Finance Working Group Meeting of 22nd January 2019. The Clerk went through the estimated income and expenditure figures and explained how the estimates were derived. It was also confirmed that all options put forward were on the basis of the current level of services being maintained. The majority view of the Meeting was that Option 2 should be adopted, utilising £8,000.00 from financial reserves to reduce the precept rise needed following the removal of the concurrent grant.

AP3(6/2/19) – Clerk to submit precept requirement to Newport City Council by 8th February 2019 deadline.

B003/6.2.19 Removal of Concurrent Contribution Legal Update

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent from Solicitors Watkins and Gunn to Newport City Council (NCC) raising objections to how the decision had been made and implemented. The Meeting confirmed the £250.00 contribution to the costs of the action. It was also confirmed that as the leading Community Council in the action, the Clerk would pay the resulting invoice and claim back from the other Community Councils who had also agreed to contribute to the costs and the VAT.

The Clerk also indicated that an additional sum of £400.00 would be required to complete the action. This had been underwritten by a number of interested parties but the Clerk had requested all Community Councils to consider a small additional contribution to cover the cost. In light of this, the Meeting agreed on an additional payment of up to £80.00.

C – LEISURE AND AMENITIES

C001/6.2.19 Extension to Gymnasium – Project Update

Councillor Rice provided a brief update on the progress of the project to date. He informed the Meeting that it had not been possible to find a suitable website that could be used to advertise smaller projects. In light of this, a more personalised approach had been taken to approach local building companies directly. This has resulted in a number of companies showing potential interest and requesting additional information.

The Clerk informed the Meeting that the Big Lottery Fund had confirmed the transfer of the £30,000.00 agreed funding award to our account. The Meeting then authorised the transfer of the £10,000.00 agreed loan from Bishton Community Council (Bishton CC) financial reserves to supplement this funding in order to provide suitable initial working capital for the project. Councillor Rice confirmed that Active Underwood would be contributing £2,000.00 to the fund.

AP4(6/2/19) – Clerk to transfer £10,000.00 from Bishton CC financial reserves to the Project Community Bank Account.

C002/6.2.19 Allotments (car park resurfacing)

It was confirmed by the Meeting that funding for the project was still available. Councillor Jennick had obtained some preliminary costs and agreed to discuss the requirement with a local builder who had previously quoted for the project. The Meeting gave authority for Councillor Jennick to agree a contract up to £800.00 (ex-VAT). It was also agreed that if it was not viable to complete the contract until later in the year, the cost of the project would accrue to the new financial year.

AP5(6/2/19) – Councillor Jennick to liaise with local builder on the resurfacing work.

C003/6.2.19 Tree Liabilities

Held over to the March Monthly Meeting.

C004/6.2.19 Bishton Village Broadband

Councillor Davies informed the Meeting that he had investigated the Michaelston-y-Fedw approach to installing their broadband via a self-help model. He concluded it would not be a viable option in Bishton Village in light of the fact it would need around 500 broadband users in order for the scheme to work.

He also confirmed that the latest information from the Deputy Minister of Economy and Transport on the outcome of the Phase 2 tenders for high speed broadband to rural areas covering East Wales was not helpful. It merely reiterated that a grant agreement had been signed with BT and that first homes and business would be connected in late 2019 and due to finish in 2021. It did not however contain details of where the broadband would be introduced in East Wales. Councillor Davies confirmed he would write back to the Newport East AM's office asking for further clarity.

AP6(6/2/19) – Councillor Davies to contact Newport East AM's office for clarity on whether Bishton Village is included in the East Wales grant agreement.

C005/6.2.19 Proposed Railway Work Adjacent to Llanwern Steelworks

The Clerk informed the Meeting that he had been in dialogue with Transport for Wales about the proposed major developments adjacent to Llanwern Steelworks i.e. passenger and major event stabling railway lines, island railway station, pedestrian footbridge, car parking and associated infrastructure works. As they are at very early stages in the project and plans with timescales and plans not clearly known, it wasn't thought a public meeting would be helpful at this time. It was thought it would be better to have an initial meeting with Community Councillors to go through what is known pending a later public meeting.

AP7(6/2/19) – Clerk to write to Transport for Wales to arrange a meeting with Councillors at Bishton Village Hall during second week of March 2019.

AP8(6/2/19) – Clerk to contact Llanwern Community Council Clerk to keep them informed of progress.

C006/6.2.19 Engaging with the Community

Held over to the March Monthly Meeting.

C007/6.2.19 Storage Container at Underwood Community Centre

The Meeting discussed the request from Chance Meeting Wales (CMW) to re-site their container closer to the centre. It was agreed that the container could be moved to the side of the building facing the back of the shops. However, CMW would be responsible for any planning permission requirements and any immediate and/or ongoing costs.

AP9(6/2/19) – Chair to inform Chance Meeting Wales of the decision to allow their container to be re-sited next to Underwood Community Centre.

D – HIGHWAYS AND UTILITIES

E – AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT FINANCE MEETING

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on 6th March 2019 at Bishton Village Hall.

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