**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Location**: Llay Church Hall

**Date & Time**: 15th December 2021 @ 1830

**In Attendance:**  Councillors B Apsley (Chair), S Roberts (Vice Chair) S Apsley, R Walsh, J O’Keefe, C Archer, P Taylor, K Cupit, Steve Watson M Jones & Clerk.

Before the commencement of Agenda matters, the Chair welcomed Cllr Mervyn Jones to his first meeting since being co-opted onto Council last month.

1. **Apologies for Absence**: Cllrs W Austin, D Owen, K Powell and S Watson

**Declarations of Interest**: Nil Declared

1. The **November Minutes** were discussed by all. The Chair asked for approval for the **November Minutes** as published. Proposed by RW and seconded by KC and carried unanimously.

1. **Matters Arising:** The Chair raised the listed item regarding a **Memorial Tree** within the Rockery Gardens. CA suggested that a tree owned by WA could be planted in the cemetery to replace the recently felled silver birch. This was proposed by CA, seconded by SA and fully supported and will be progressed. The exact location will be decided once WA has been consulted. The **phone box** issue is awaiting costs for moving to a place to be refurbished. The **village signs** are in production and will be fitted on 19th January. There are some issues with the **xmas lights** which the Chair will chase up. There is some disquiet about the quality of after-care being offered at present. The **xmas tree** has been installed and will be appreciated by all. PT will ensure the lights have new batteries. The Chair and Council wishes to thank WA for all his efforts in making this possible. The Chair gave an update regarding the incorrect boundaries on the Alyn Waters map, which will be addressed in the future and other groups are also involved in this matter.
2. **Public Questions:** On this occasion, no questions had been received from the Public.
3. **Police Matters:** The Chair introduced the latest **Police Figures**, as sent to all Councillors ahead of the meeting. PT mentioned the tremendous efforts of our PCSO in going around delivering boxes of treats after the Llay RBL event planned for this was cancelled due to COVID. Councillors all commented on the excellent efforts of PCSO Griffiths-Hughes since taking up her post. The Clerk will send a thank you letter to the PCSO for her recent excellent work.
4. **New Matters:** The Chair stated that as there was only one candidate for the vacancy, unless anyone objected, the applicant, Ms Christina Ankers, was proposed by PT, seconded by CA and **co-opted onto council unanimously.** The Clerk will inform Ms Ankers and WCBC Electoral Services.
5. **Finance:** The Chair asked all present to consider the **November Income & Expenditure** aspresented, (£17,428.18p) and sent to all Councillors. It was proposed by RW and seconded by JO’K that these be approved and this was carried unanimously. The Chair also asked the Clerk to explain the different bank accounts to new councillors. Regarding the **Precept**, the Chair gave some background and a number of Councillors aired their views on spending forecasts for the future. RW proposed a 2% increase which CA seconded. There were no other proposals and this was carried unanimously. The Clerk will inform WCBC. The Chair asked for comments regarding the **grant appeal by the Llay Community Church** for their forthcoming major event open to everyone. The Chair asked for a proposer and SR proposed with SW seconding the award of the £450 they have requested. This was carried unanimously and the Clerk will ensure it is paid. The Chair then raised the second appeal from **Advanced Brighter Futures** for building repairs. After a constructive discussion it was proposed by PT, seconded by JO’K that on this occasion no monies were awarded. The Chair commented on the 2020-2021 Annual Return that had been sent to all Councillors recently, and thanked the Clerk for his efforts in achieving an **external audit report from Audit Wales** with no issues requiring further action.
6. **Street Lighting:** RW gave a brief report on current lighting issues in Llay. RW expressed frustration that those responsible for carrying out repairs appear to be extremely poor in communicating with the local population on when defects might be fixed.
7. **Planning:** The Chair raised the Planning Matter listed on the Agenda, involving **Ballswood Quarry** and gave all councillors a detailed background report on the issues there, going back many years. Improvements in the immediate area, claimed to have been carried out by the companies involved are questionable. There are a number of grey areas regarding planning matters relating to Ballswood Quarry, going back many years. RW/The Chair will continue to deal with this matter in person and via correspondence. The other matter listed (Garage at private residence) was passed without comment at this stage.
8. **Burial Matters:** The Chair passed on **thanks to the Cemetery Groundsman** for his efforts in dealing with the recent tree that came down during the Storm Arwen. The recent attempted break in is still being dealt with by the insurer, although this should be completed in the next couple of days.
9. **Reports:** RW reported that the **speed signs** matter is nearing completion and these should be installed in the very near future. **Potholes** continue to cause much consternation in numerous locations within Llay. RW has regularly chased up the relevant department at WCBC for action to be taken in dealing with the worst (and long standing) areas in Llay, particularly those that were specifically mentioned in the recent letter on behalf of Llay CC that was sent by the Clerk. RW mentioned that an elderly resident had a recent fall on the paths within Nant Y Gaer woods – another area that has required urgent improvements, especially suitable lighting. This has been reported. A number of Councillors expressed their strong views regarding this long standing problem that has continued to fester for a number of years, with little or no action being taken by WCBC to resolve matters. The Chair mentioned that budget workshops have taken place. A number of issues remain within Planning. The Chair mentioned that with the large number of new housing projects in development, the local Health Board (B Cad) are providing very little support in fighting the reduction in healthcare services that will be provided when there is a sudden large number of new residents.
10. **News/Website:** Nothing to report.
11. **Correspondence**: There were no further correspondence matters to discuss.

The Chair wished all Councillors and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

There being no further business, **Standing Orders** were moved by KC seconded by JO’K and the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 2005.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 1830 in**

**The Church Hall**

Signed: …………………………………………………………………..

Mr B Apsley, Chair

19th January 2022