

St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council

Minutes of an EGM of the St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council held at Trehill Church, St. Nicholas, on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 19:30.

PRESENT

Cllr E del Torto (Vice Chair)	Cllr I Perry
Cllr S Crockford	Cllr K Ward
Cllr G Rawson	Cllr C Jones
Cllr A Brown	Cllr S Cockrell

ALSO PRESENT

N. McGarrigle (Clerk)

[1] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Griffiths

[2] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

[3] TO ELECT A NEW CHAIR

Councillor del Torto asked the Council for nominations. Councillors Perry and Cockrell expressed an interest. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the position of a meeting Chair would be rotated between those who have expressed an interest before a permanent Chair is elected at the AGM.

RESOLVED that: Councillor del Torto would Chair the meeting tonight, Councillor Perry would Chair the February meeting and Councillor Cockrell would Chair the March meeting.

[4] PUBLIC SESSION

No residents were in attendance.

[5] MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC SESSION

None.

[6] 2019/20 Q3 BUDGET ANALYSIS & BANK RECONCILIATION

The Council had previously been circulated with a copy of the 2019/20 Q3 budget analysis and bank reconciliation. The quarter ending 31/12/19 had been completed by the Clerk, Cllr del Torto confirmed she had reviewed these documents prior to circulation. No further comments were received from the Council.

The Clerk confirmed there is currently an overspend of £327.00 in 'VAT' due to the purchase of the defibrillator and associated training. The Clerk suggested that money is moved from 'Clerk's Salary', as there is an underspend in this section of the budget, to 'VAT' which will balance the difference. The Council agreed they were happy with this suggestion.

RESOLVED that: The Clerk to move £327.00 from 'Clerk's Salary' to 'VAT'. **Prop CJ Sec EdT**

[7] PAYMENTS TO APPROVE

The Clerk confirmed that 2 bollards were damaged on the village green, so with consent from Cllr del Torto Damian McKenna was instructed to replace the damaged bollards:

- Damian McKenna 808 £156.00

Pediatric pads are required for the defibrillator:

- Ajuda Ltd 809 £89.30 (cost to be taken from St. Nicholas Projects)

Following the success of the defibrillator training held on 18.01.20, residents suggested that they would like to attend a first aid course in addition to the defibrillator training. Ajuda have quoted £595 plus VAT which can accommodate 12 people per training session. The Clerk suggested that a session could be held in March and another later in the year. The Council agreed that a one-day training course would be beneficial for residents from both communities.

RESOLVED that: The Clerk to upload information on the Council website and post a notification via social media, and to enquire with Ajuda on availability in March. Cost of training held during the 2019/20 financial year to be split between Bonvilston Projects and St. Nicholas Projects.

Prop CJ Sec GR

[8] AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3 OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CRITERIA

Councillors had previously been circulated with an amended copy of the Financial Assistance criteria which proposed to remove the following line under section 3:

'Applicants can only apply if they have less than £5,000 of their own funds available to them'.

Due to lack of clarity, a proposal was made by Councillor del Torto to remove this line.

Following a short discussion, the Council held a vote:

For: 7

Against: 1

It was agreed that the updated policy would be published on the Council website to allow for new applications. All applications to be given full consideration at the February meeting.

RESOLVED that: Clerk to publish the updated policy on the Council website and add discussion of applications to the February agenda.

[9] APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

To be added to the February agenda for final discussion.

[10] 2020/21 BUDGET (COMMITTED EXPENDITURE)

Councillors had previously been circulated with a copy of the draft budget (committed expenditure) for 2020/21. Following a short discussion, the Council agreed to the draft budget.

[11] 2020/21 RESERVES:

Councillors had previously been circulated with a detailed report, as written by Councillor Perry, of suggestions for community projects in 2020/21. Councillor del Torto explained that each suggestion would be given full consideration and would need to be identified as a link to the Action Plan. Item (a) was added by the Clerk:

Financial Assistance

The Council agreed to reserve £2,000 for Financial Assistance, to reflect amount reserved in 2019/20.

- a) Community Orchard (Bonvilston): Land has been identified in Bonvilston for a community orchard, to reflect the Council's biodiversity report. The Council agreed to reserve £300 for the purchase of 8 trees and a sign. The land owner would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance costs such as grass cutting. Volunteers to plant the trees.
- b) Pub Path (Bonvilston): The Council agreed that a group of volunteers could be formed to clear the footpath leading from Village Farm, Bonvilston, to the Red Lion pub which is currently in poor condition. The Council agreed to reserve £500 cover the cost of hiring a skip to remove the debris.
- c) Christmas Lights: Requests have been made by members of the community for Christmas lights. The Council agreed to reserve £2,000 to cover the cost of purchasing a tree, a base and battery-operated lights. Most suitable location is the village green in St. Nicholas.
- d) Adult & Teen Fitness: It was suggested that adult and teen fitness equipment is installed, possibly at the end of Button Ride, Duffryn Lane, St. Nicholas. The Council agreed to reserve £300 to carry out a feasibility report before proceeding any further and to also liaise with the Vale on the progress of the knotweed treatment.
- e) Duffryn Lane Bench (St. Nicholas): To install a bench near the suggested adult and teen fitness area. The Council agreed they were against this proposal.
- f) Milestone Replacement: There are 3 milestones in the community which are in poor condition and need to be placed in the correct locations. The Council agreed to reserve £500 to hire a stonemason to carry out a feasibility report before proceeding any further.

- g) Drop Kerbs, Duffryn Lane: The Council agreed that this would need to be discussed with the County Councillor, with a view to the Council applying to the Vale to complete the work. Councillor Perry confirmed he would be happy to draft a letter to the Vale.
- h) Decorative Water Pump Repair (St. Nicholas): To be combined with repair of the milestones.
- i) Bus Shelter Enhancements: The Council agreed this is not within their remit. The poor condition of the bus shelters needs to be brought to the attention of the Vale.
- j) Finger Post Signage: Public footpaths should be marked by finger posts from main roads. The Council agreed to reserve £200 to trial the installation of 1 post, with the assistance of Valeways.
- k) Street Name Signs: To find an alternative to the current street signs which have metal frames. The Council agreed they were against this proposal.
- l) Duffryn Close Biodiversity Planting: To plant a flowering/wild cherry tree on each triangular area at the entrance to Duffryn Close, along with low shrubs or Japanese Holly, where the garages once were to plant native shrubs and small trees, and to offer each property on Duffryn Close a flowering cherry tree. The Council agreed this would need more thought. Councillor Crockford agreed he was happy to look into this in further detail.
- m) Wild Bulb Planting: This has previously been brought to the attention of the Council and it was agreed this is a good idea. The Council agreed to reserve £500 to assist with planting of wild bulbs in the community.
- n) St. Nicholas Village Green Bollards & Enhancements: To plant topiary yew balls as a sustainable and attractive alternative to the current wooden bollards. The Council agreed they were against this proposal.
- o) St. Nicholas Church Roadway: To widen the road between the church and village green. The Council agreed to review this suggestion in January 2021.
- p) Ger-y-Lan Bollards/Planting: To install bollards in Ger-y-Lan, to prevent parking on the grass verges. The Council agreed to reserving £125 to assist with the purchase of the bollards.
- q) School Lane Planting: To be considered under wild bulb planting.

- r) Website Development & Hosting: Using the cost matrix recently produced by Councillor Crockford, the Clerk and Councillor del Torto previously discussed earmarking £1,500 to for the development of a new website for the Council that complies with accessibility regulations, to include on-going webhosting and purchase of emails.

In line with the guidance provided in the Practitioners Guide, The Council is required to reserve between 3-12 months' gross expenditure. The total amount reserved for earmarked projects, as agreed by the Council, is £7,925.00 which is approximately 8 months gross expenditure (1 month being £998).

Project leads will be allocated to Councillors at the February meeting.

RESOLVED that: Clerk to amend budget to reflect reserves earmarked for projects and to add 'to agree who will lead individual community projects' to the February meeting agenda.

[13] 2020/21 PRECEPT

Following the agreement of the budget and reserves, the Council agreed to set the 2020/21 precept at £11,482.72.

RESOLVED that: Clerk to update budget to reflect this decision and to inform PR at the Vale of Councils precept requirements.

Prop CJ Sec EdT

This meeting closed at 21:30pm.

NAOMI McGARRIGLE.

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Chairman

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Date