**ERBISTOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting held Monday 26th June 2023 at 7pm**

**At The Boat, Erbistock**

**Present; - Councillors John Evans (Chairman), Glenys Matthews, Sarah Cooke, Charles Barnett, Gareth Bailey-Rogers, Vicky Cooper and also the Clerk Liz Lewis and County Councillor John Pritchard.**

**Election of Chair for 2023/2024**

**Councillor John Evans was re-elected as Chairman in the absence of any other candidates. Proposed by Councillor Matthews and seconded by Councillor Cooke.**

**AGENDA**

1. **Apologies for Absence - None**
2. **A Declaration of Interests – None**
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th March 2023 - These were agreed as a true and correct record. Proposed by Charles Barnett and seconded by Glenys Matthews and were duly signed by the Chairman.**
4. **Matters Arising – The car rally which was expected to take place in Eyton was cancelled due to bad weather.**
5. **Police Matters – PCSO Dean Sawyer was unable to attend but continues to email his monthly report which is forwarded to all Councillors.**
6. **Review of Annual Accounts and Annual Audit Return. -**

 **The End of Year Accounts (March 31st 2023) were inspected and approved – no issues raised and The Accounts book signed by the Chairman.**

**The Annual Audit for Year ending 31st March 2023 - the accounting statements for 2022-2023 were inspected and approved as correct as was The Annual Governance Statement.**

**The Internal auditor had raised no issues and it was agreed that the Clerk/PFO and The Chairman sign the audit forms. The Clerk would now be able to continue the audit process and complete the external audit for Wales Audit Office ensuring the deadline was met.**

**All Statutory Notices relating to the audit would be displayed on the 2 notice boards and on the website as appropriate.**

**PAYMENTS TO COUNCILLORS**

**All Councillors declined to accept the allowances they are entitled to receive and provided written proof of this declaration.**

**A NIL RETURN will be shown on The Statement of Payments submitted to the IRPW (Independent Review Panel of Wales) which will also be displayed on the 2 noticeboards and website.**

 **Audit Report 2021/2022 – Not yet returned from Wales Audit Office due to backlog.**

1. **Review of Income and Expenditure**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bank balances as at 18/06/2023** | **£** |
| **Charitable Bank Account****(formerly called Community Account)** | **1695.42**  |
| **Business Money Manager Account** | **219.04** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **PAYMENTS made since last meeting** |  |
| **Wales Audit Office (for 20/21)** | **303.00** |
| **Zurich Municipal Insurance** | **168.36** |
|  |  |
| **PAYMENTS TO BE AGREED** | **£** |
| **Clerk’s wages (April to June 2023)** | **152.88** |
|  |  |

**It was noted that Eyton School had not presented the cheque for room hire from 22/23**

**It was also noted that The Internal Auditor (Julia Lewis) had declined the offer of payment for her services.**

1. **Planning Applications – previously circulated:**
* **Erbistock Mill Cladding/walkway – WITHDRAWN**
* **Talfryn Cottage, farmworkers dwelling- WITHDRAWN**
* **Outline application for 6 dwellings in Eyton – REFUSED**
* **Old Rectory, Erbistock, work to protected trees – GRANTED**
* **Fourteen Acres, Erbistock. Removal of Agricultural Occupancy – PENDING**
1. **Speeding and 20mph Zones – Councillors Cooke and Cooper expressed a deep concern regarding the narrow lanes in Erbistock which were experiencing a much greater volume in car traffic (travelling too fast) and more people walking/cycling or with prams and children, partly due to the increasing popularity of The Boat Inn. It was suggested that increased/improved signage may help, warning of blind corners, bad bends and single track roads etc. especially where there is little or no room on the verges to escape to. The introduction of 20mph zones into Wales although sadly not applicable to rural roads would be a more suitable speed for the area.**

**It was noted that the verges had been cut recently, improving visibility which had eased the situation slightly.**

**County Councillor John Pritchard agreed to look into the possibility of WCBC ;**

* **Providing extra signage warning of hazards**
* **Repainting of faded white lines**
* **Review of available passing places**

**Regarding the introduction of 20mph zones in Wales from 17th September 2023 C.C. John Pritchard confirmed that the roll out will only be in those areas where a low speed limit is already in place (most rural roads only being subject to the National Speed Limit) and also based on the density of street lights and regular footfall. WCBC will be emailing out a mapping plan of areas that will be changed, and then this map can be displayed on the noticeboards and website.**

**Speeding in general continues to a problem throughout the area. Earlier in June Police Officers had caught and fined drivers speeding in and out of Eyton by The Crabtree Green crossroads. PCSO Sawyer has also been monitoring speed at the other end of Eyton by the big green box and recorded 5 vehicles breaking the speed limit. He has requested the Go Safe van to monitor the area. The A528 is also experiencing very high speed notably in the 40mph zones.**

 **Councillor Matthews also highlighted the problem of lorries speeding all along the Eyton road. C.C. Pritchard suggested obtaining their registration numbers and contacting the company directly with details of the complaint and that the information should also be shared with PCSO Dean Sawyer.**

1. **Defibrillators - John Brookshaw from The Plassey Leisure Park at Eyton has kindly agreed that the two defibrillators located at The Plassey can be added to a list of local defibrillators being compiled by the Clerk which can then be displayed on the noticeboards and website. The Plassey defibs - one is located by the Golf Course and the other next to the shop in a red telephone box close to the main entrance. The Clerk also passed round a quote from Calon Hearts for the purchase of a defibrillator for £1634.00 . A central suitable location with a mains power supply is still an issue if The Council was to purchase one.**
2. **Correspondence - An invitation for 2 Councillors to attend The Mayor’s Civic visit to St. Giles Parish Church on Sunday, 23rd July 2023 was declined. Clerk to respond accordingly.**
3. **Any Other Business – The Chairman expressed concern over a very large hedge in Eyton (on right by big green box) which was affecting visibility. Clerk to contact relevant utility company with a view to having it cut back. Also the council hedge opposite was obscuring the speed signs, some trimming had been done but because of wildlife protection issues could not be properly cut until after September 1st. C.C. Pritchard also confirmed he was looking into WCBC replacing the faulty speed signs outside the school.**
4. **Date and time of next meeting – This was agreed to be Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.00pm at The Boat Inn.**

**Signed as a true and correct record………………………………………………………………………..**

**Chairman**

**Date…………………………………………………..**