

(1)

An Extra Ordinary meeting of the Aberporth Community Council was held on Tuesday 18th May 2024 at 6.30 pm at Aberporth Village Hall; the Chair Cllr Jackie Brown presided.

Hybrid link was provided

Present: Cllr Anne McCreary, Cllr Robin Young, Cllr Dave Addison, Cllr Carys Owens, Cllr Sue Lewis and Mrs Vanessa Owens (Clerk).

Via Zoom: Cllr Zoe Storer

1. Apologies/Personal matters
Ymddiheuriadau/Materion Personol

(2)

Apologies were received from Cllr Gary Morss and Cllr Gethin Davies

2. To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items of business listed below
Datgelu diddordeb personol ac ariannol dan eitemau busnes sydd wedi eu rhestru isod

3. Reports
Addroddiadau

(3)

The Clerk provided an update report on the purchase of Sports Field in Parclyn from MOD:

At May monthly meeting it was reported that the Clerk had contacted MOD to update them that the Community Council was experiencing issues obtaining the funding to purchase the sports field and that it currently had £30,000 towards the asking price of £52,000. It was suggested by Mr John Jones that it may be possible to make stage payments and that he would make the relevant enquiries within the MOD to find out if this would be possible.

A response has been received from Mr John Jones Estates at MOD regarding the proposal to make stage payments and the MOD have reservations about the proposal – they have requested detailed information on payment proposals and have requested a guarantor suggesting Ceredigion County Council.

The payment proposal was £30,000 from reserves; £10,000 from the application to Ceredigion County Council Community Fund and then the remaining £12,000 by end of 2nd year.

The community council has now been informed that there will be no future funding from Ceredigion County Council for town and community councils which leaves a £22,000 shortfall.

In order for the community council to progress any future grant applications with the FAW it is required to own the field and make a 20/80 contribution match funding. The community council will require funds in reserves to enable this to happen.

There has been a charitable organisation set up to support the future of the sports field. The MOD have advised that they are not able to sell to the charity; due to the legislation surrounding the crichel down rules it is only able to sell to the community council. This now discounts the option of the charity accessing funding for the actual purchase.

(4)

Everyone present at the meeting felt strongly that the purchase of the field was a priority for the community council

All Councillors agreed that Ceredigion County Council acting as a guarantor was not an option.

Signed _____ Date _____

Proposals made for consideration:

(5)

1. The community council borrows funds to purchase the field.

In order to do this the community council will have to first obtain Borrowing Approval from Welsh Government and once this approval is provided can then borrow the money. There are various funding sources but the community council will have to evidence best value.

Supporting Information:

If the council agrees to go ahead and obtain a loan to purchase the field this will ensure that there is sufficient reserves to access FAW funding as this will require a 20/80 match funding. The £30,000 in reserves for the field will support future development and improvements to the site.

(6)

2. The community council purchases the field using reserves.

Supporting information:

The community council has allocated reserves of £30,000.

There is £2500 in this years budget for match funding the county council grant for purchasing the field (no longer eligible to apply for this funding)

There is a reserves budget for playgrounds which currently totals £17,000 (Playground depreciation reserves & contingency budget) . Using this money removes any potential to access grants for playground improvements/repairs.

The council will have to approve a further £2500.

(7)

Cllr Sue Lewis advised the Council that if it was to consider the bigger picture and incorporate strategic play and the 4 play areas into the project at Parclyn it could include additional borrowing to support grant funding.

(8)

Cllr Dave Addison asked how much the loan repayments would be and if this would be added to the precept bearing in mind that it has been raised this year.

The Clerk noted that there was a lot of work to be done to satisfy the Welsh Government to grant the borrowing approval which included repayment proposals. A business plan will have to be put in place and potential lending sources identified.

(9)

Cllr Anne McCreary proposed that Aberporth Community Council make an in principle decision to support the proposal to take out a loan to purchase the field subject to the Clerk providing a detailed plan to include loan repayments and relevant financial information for further approval; this was seconded by Cllr Dave Addison and approved unanimously.

(10)

Cllr Robin Young was concerned that the time factor in obtaining the loan might cause an issue with the MOD and requested the Clerk clarify with Mr John Jones that this will not be a problem; he did not want to see the community council loose the opportunity.

(11)

With the issues to raise grant funding for the sports field the community council needs to consider its position with respect to leasing the play field from Aberporth Village Hall and in any future discussions regarding the public toilets.

Signed _____ Date _____

Minutes Ref:12

(12)

It was agreed that the community council contacts Elin Jones AM to highlight the issues surrounding town and community councils accessing Welsh Government funding streams; with the local authorities no longer funding non statutory services and an expectation for these to be devolved to town and community councils these restrictions prohibit a sustainable future for services in our communities. This matter should also be raised with One Voice Wales.

(13)

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7:15pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Minutes Ref:13

Draft