

# WICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022. At 7.00pm

<b>PRESENT:</b>	
Chairperson, Cllr D Ambrose, Cllrs C Hawkins, P Murphy, J Williams and R Goddin	
<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b>	
Cllr J Purcell	
<b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b>	
Appended at the rear of these minutes	
<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	
The Annual Return for year 2021/22 is complete, and has been checked by our internal auditor Mrs Linda Williams. The documents will be sent to councillors in a day or so. We can approve at the next meeting in June, and submit to Audit Wales. The main point that stands out in the Annual Return is very high reserves of about £20,000. I have provided explanations to Audit Wales and referred to the long delays obtaining a lease for the pavilion, and also explained that we have allocated and ringfenced approximately £15000 in our budget for improvements to the pavilion. Income from hire of the pavilion was £1219. But it will be important to increase income going forward to offset increased costs of managing the building. We have been successful in reclaiming £1128 of vat, and also obtaining a play grant of £1588 Regarding the budget set in Jan 2021, most objectives were met, but the refurb of benches did not; plus, other money allocated for general improvements in Wick did not take place.	
<b>ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL:</b>	
Chair - Councillor D Ambrose was elected Chair. Proposed Cllr P Murphy, Seconded Cllr C Hawkins Vice Chair - Councillor J Purcell. Proposed Cllr D Ambrose, Seconded Cllr C Hawkins	
<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>	
Councillors were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests up to date and were offered the opportunity to verify their entries in the Register.	
<b>ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL:</b>	
The following were duly proposed, seconded and elected to serve the Council until the next Annual General Meeting in the given posts: -	
Village Hall Committee	Cllr J Purcell
Footpath Warden	Cllr P Murphy
Joint Community Liaison Committee	Cllr C Hawkins, Reserve Cllr D Ambrose
One Voice Wales	Cllr C Hawkins, Cllr J. Williams
Fete Committee	Cllr R Goddin
Responsible Financial Officer	Cllr P Murphy
Clerk and Proper Officer	Cllr C Hawkins

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20pm

Date	Date
Clerk Signature	Chairperson Signature

### WCC CHAIR'S REPORT

Year May 2021 to April 2022.

The year has been by and large satisfactory for Wick Community Council, despite the continued restrictions on face-to-face meetings imposed by the Covid lockdown at the start of the year. This eased a little in June once suitably socially distanced meetings resumed, although some Councillors continued to attend via Zoom, and opportunities to meet face-to-face with Vale Council Officers remained limited.

Thanks to prudent management by the RFO of the Council's finances WCC has continued to maintain a healthy reserve, against the time when WCC is able to take on the lease of the Pavilion from The

Vale Council. In view of the comparatively large reserve, and despite having one of the lowest precepts in The Vale, in January Councillors voted not to increase the precept for the forthcoming financial year. At the same time, negotiations with the Vale over the terms of the lease continued to move slowly, in part due to Covid restrictions, and were temporarily suspended in the run-up to the May 2022 elections. The Council looks forward to being able to successfully conclude these negotiations and secure the use of both Pavilion and Sports Field for the Wick community in the forthcoming year.

Meanwhile, in May 2021 WCC achieved an important goal when the Multi-use Games Area commissioned by WCC with S106 Development money from the Vale was finally ready for use. The MUGA was subsequently officially opened in August by Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales, at a well-attended celebration involving members of Wick Youth Club among others. As well as opening the new MUGA, the Council was able to arrange for Vale Play Rangers to run regular Summer of Fun activities on The Sports Field for young people during the summer holidays. These sessions, run by Vale Play Rangers with Welsh Government funds, proved highly popular with over 100 children taking part, and WCC used some of this funding to provide further sessions later in the year.

S106 funds also paid for a new pavement to run along the northern side of the Village Green, improving pedestrian access to the Bus stop from Cwrt y Felin. WCC has asked the Vale to complete this work with the addition of a drop-kerb the Trepit Road end of the new path, and has also continued to press The Vale Council to repair the roof of the bus shelter on the Green. The Council also addressed a range of issues relating to other improvements around the village, including commissioning the Vale Council to repair and refurbish the benches around the village. In October Councillors and others met with the Vale's Biodiversity Officer to discuss possible improvements to the biodiversity on roadsides though the village. A subsequent funding Application to the Vale was successful, and a programme of planting of native spring flowers in the centre of the village is due to begin in Autumn 2022.

Over the year WCC has also been involved in discussions with The Duchy of Lancaster (owners of the Village Green and surrounding green spaces) about tree planting around the Green, plus replacement of the broken railings along the Trepit Road edge. It is hoped that this work can begin in Autumn 2022, with funds from both the Woodland Trust's Queen's Jubilee fund, and The Welsh Government.

Throughout the year WCC has continued to press the case with both the Police and The Vale Council for action regarding speeding vehicles on the main road through the village. A survey initiated by WCC among residents had 90 responses by September, all showing various degrees of concern. The Community Council remains committed to supporting residents in pursuing this issue. I should like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their invaluable and entirely voluntary work on behalf of the Wick community over the past year. In particular, I thank the two outgoing Community Councillors Kate Jauncey and Stewart Dearlove whose contributions and support throughout their tenure have been so much appreciated. I also thank our outgoing Vale Council representative Stewart Edwards, and look forward to working with all our Councillors in the forthcoming year.

David Ambrose Chair, WCC