

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9 MAY 2022 AT 18.30 HRS

Present: Chairperson: H Hughes
C Bainbridge
R Dalton
M Griffiths
A Hughes
G B Jones
A J Morris
D Pryce Jones
N Salmon
A Thomas
H Williams
In Attendance: Clerk: M C Walker
4 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES

1. None.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF ELECTED COUNCILLORS

2. All the above named took their declaration of acceptance of office in turn and signed the document before the Clerk.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON

3. Cllr Pryce Jones proposed to elect Cllr Hughes for a third term as Chairperson for 2022/23. Cllr Bryn Jones seconded the proposal. Three nominations were received but following a vote Cllr Hughes was elected as Chair.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

4. Cllr Hughes made his declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

5. Cllr Pryce Jones nominated Cllr Dalton as Vice Chairperson for 2022/23. The nomination was seconded by Cllr Hughes. Two nominations were received but following a vote Cllr Dalton was elected as Vice Chair.

Cllr Bainbridge left the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

6. Copies of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10 May 2021 were sent by e-mail to all members. The minutes had been confirmed as being a true record at the 7th June 2021 meeting, minute 39.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR 2021/22

7. I reported last year that that year had been one we would not forget. Well, 2021/22 also proved challenging although we are seeing improvements regarding COVID, or at least learning to live with it. Issues in other regions of the world have led to increased fuel and food costs which is already having an impact on our community. The Council this year decided to draw upon reserves in order to reduce the precept for 2022/23. Although small, this was the least we could do to assist residents in Borth.

Although we had hoped to return to face to face meetings during the year, legislative changes meant we were under a duty to hold hybrid meetings. This was to facilitate people connecting remotely. The Council purchased equipment and hopefully this will be our first successful hybrid meeting. Zoom meetings can be a useful way to engage (indeed being able to chair a meeting of BCC from New South Wales was a first), however, it is nice to meet up face to face.

During the year one of our Councilors, Rhyddian DAVIES, reluctantly resigned. Rhyddian found that new work commitments and additional family members meant he could not commit the time he wished for Council business. I would like to thank Rhyddian for all his efforts whilst on Borth Community Council and the significant work he contributed to Borth 2030.

Following the recent elections, we see Councilors John JAMES and Dean TWEEDY step down. I thank them both for the contribution they made to the community of Borth. John in particular, had given many years as a valued voice of our local farming community. Both Councilors will be a loss to the Council. We are however, joined by three very able persons. Dr Andrea HUGHES, Dr Naomi SALMON, and Helen WILLIAMS. All three bring a wealth of experience in different fields to the Council, I am sure their contribution will be significant to the betterment of Borth.

It is not possible to include all the hard work each and every member of Borth Community has achieved during the past 12 months. However, here are a few examples and some of the work that has been done. During the year we have seen social distancing measures come and go. A bench audit and repairs have been carried out. The Council have supported Craig Yr Wylfa School financially to help in the development and enjoyment of young children. We have also provided funds to a number of local organisations to assist them in their endeavours, including St Mathews Church for the restoration and development of disabled toilets. Councillor DALTON assisted in facilitating repairs to the lobby at Borth Railway Station. We saw Beach Wheelchairs provided in Borth for the first time thanks to Ceredigion County Council. Councillor BAINBRIDGE was again successful in bidding for financial assistance to provide new and updated play equipment in the children's playground, Councillor JONES chairs a newly established Borth Health and Wellbeing group in partnership with Hywel Dda University Health Board and our local surgery. This group is also supported by the invaluable work being achieved by Borth Community Hub.

There are still many issues facing us. Speeding remains a constant issue and we will continue to engage with local agencies to address these issues. Storm BARA and the other storms that followed reminded us of our vulnerability to flooding. We engaged with Ceredigion County Council, we have seen the beach re-profiling and repairs carried out at Ynyslas. The Council is still concerned regarding regular maintenance of the shingle bank in Borth to ensure the sea defence works. Concerns have been raised regarding the interface between Phase 1 and 2 of the Sea Defence as well as the future of Phase 3. We await further re-assurance from Ceredigion County Council that these matters are being addressed. We will continue to lobby and monitor these issues. Work continues to establish the ownership of land opposite Premier Stores and thereby facilitate the repairs to the wall damaged during Storm Barra.

I am hopeful that the initial work carried out last year and this by Borth 2030 who conducted a small-scale SWOT analysis of Future Generations as it impacted BORTH can be expanded upon. I am hopeful, that the principles of Future Generations can be front and centre of Borth Community Councils work moving forward. Time will tell, but I am optimistic as I believe these principles benefit everyone.

It would be very remiss of me not to thank outgoing County Councillor Ray QUANT MBE for the many years he has spent serving the people of this ward. Also, for his support this year to Borth Community Council and regular briefings throughout the year on COVID related matters. He will be a hard act to follow, I personally wish him all the very best in the future.

I thank James (DAVIES) for contributing to and assisting in the selection of appropriate equipment to assist BCC to carry out Hybrid meetings.

Graham (TAYLOR), thank you for all the work you continue to do maintaining the community website.

I should also like to thank the various members of the community who regularly attend the meetings of BCC and just keep an eye on what we are doing.

Margaret (WALKER), thank you for keeping us in line and all you do for Borth Community Council.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the effort in continuing to support the Community in what has continued to be challenging times. I hope the Council can continue to enhance Borth, to the best of our ability, which is after all why we are here.

INVITED QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

8. Mr Rory Wilson thanked Borth Council for enabling meetings via Zoom.

Cllr Bryn Jones suggested a commemoration plaque to acknowledge the work Ray Quant MBE has carried out during his twenty years as County Councillor for the Borth Ward.

Cllr Morris asked the Clerk to send a letter to Ray expressing thanks for all the work he has done and collating the views of all Borth Community Councillors.

CHECK INVENTORY OF COUNCIL DEEDS

9. The deeds are available for inspection by appointment with the Clerk.

MEETING CLOSED

10. There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 19.05hrs.