

ESCLUSHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes: Council Meeting Monday 14th April 2025

Present: Cllrs Gemma Richards, Mabyn Pickering, Nat Cargius, Nicci Davies-Williams, Jean Kelly, John Perkins, Graham Blackmore, Mark Andrew, Val Morgan & Sarah Love

Apologies: Cllrs Claire Luckcock, Mark Pritchard, Darcy Davies-Williams & Glen Bellamy

PRELIMINARIES

1. Jonathan Stumpp - Senior Manager (Children, Young People & Families), Caia Park Partnership > Re: Esclusham Youth Club - currently held weekly on a Monday at the Parish Hall

Jon introduced himself to the members and gave some detail as to how the Youth Club at the Parish Hall had been run over recent years. The club is now held on a Monday evening, and numbers attending are, as the Clerk confirmed, higher than ever > over 40 young people attending most weeks. All-in-all, it's a very well run club.

However, Jon wished to attend this evening's meeting to advise that it is possible, but not yet confirmed for certain, that funds, at the current level, may not be available come September - although he does not foresee any change until June/July at the earliest. Further discussions are to take place with the WCBC Youth Services and the position should become clearer in a few months time. Jon wished to make the Community Council aware of possible issues, in ample time.

Discussion ensued, with Jon asked a number of questions regarding possible alternative options for being able to continue the Youth Club service at Rhostyllen. However, with it being early days and nothing formally agreed as yet, it was decided that Jon, on behalf of the Caia Park Partnership, return to the Community Council, via new Clerk Mark Andrew, to give an update when more known.

Action: Clerk to be on diary for (say) early July, to look at re-establishing contact with Jon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair : Cllr Gemma Richards

Vice Chair, Cllr Claire Luckock has given apologies. A new Chair of Finance is to be sought at the May AGM. Of the four 'Chair/VC' positions, only Cllr Richards in attendance and she was unanimously asked to Chair all sections of the meeting.

Agenda Items

1. Apologies - Cllrs Claire Luckock, Mark Pritchard, Darcy Davies-Williams & Glen Bellamy

2. Chair's announcements - none

3. Declaration of interest - none

4. Ratification of minutes from the meeting of Monday 10th March 2025 - unanimously ratified

5. Members' Items

i) Unanimous authority given for the 'new Clerk' of ECC to purchase a new, updated computer for the Parish Hall, plus, if required, any 'add-ons'. Look at a cost of some £500, with £1,000 being the maximum spend authorised. **Action:** Clerk in May 2025.

ii) "Youth monies" - update re funds held in the ECC balances. The Clerk furnished up-to-date figures together with a copy of the minutes from the ECC meeting of December 2023. **Action:** Clerk to place in the Correspondence file.

iii) AVOW - ECC annual membership for 2025/26 is due for renewal:- £15 as Associate Member. **Action:** Clerk instructed to complete the renewal form and to send a £15 cheque for the current year's membership.

6. Bank Transactions - See section 9

7. Cash Transactions

Petty Cash Account (05/03/2025 > 31/03/2025)

<u>Petty Cash A/C</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rec No</u>	<u>Exp</u>	<u>Inc</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Bank</u>
Bouquet of flowers - Mrs Irene Elias (via JK)	14-Feb-25		9.00		54.43	

8. Invoices/Quotations - none

9. Statement of Accounts

The most recent reconciled bank statements are recorded below. However as the cash book is always more up to date than the bank statements the latest position (un-reconciled) is shown in the accounts above with the totals shown at 'Current Balance - Cash Book' below.

	<u>Date of Statement</u>	<u>Current Balance Cash Book</u>
		<u>£</u>
Business Instant Access Account	31/03/2025	112.25 (see note)
Current Account	01/04/2025	1,366.38
Imprest Account	01/04/2025	1,764.65
Petty Cash Account	31/03/2025	54.43
		<u>£3,297.71 (Y/E balance)</u>

FYI: Balance as at the 9th of April 2025 = **£48,415.08** following receipt of £43,129.66 (Precept installment) on the 4th of April and £13,641.79 (VAT monies due to end 2024/25 FY) on the 1st of April. **However:**

To all Councillors: The Clerk furnished a 'fiscal report' regarding the financial position of the Community Council as at the end of the 2024/2025 Financial Year. Please note - ongoing monitoring required. **Action:** Clerk to place the aforementioned note in the Correspondence file.

The situation regarding the **Trust fund** is recorded below for information.

RPHT Current A/C	Date	Chq	Exp	Inc	Balance
Jonathan Williams (replacement cq - 23/1)	18-Feb-25	0221	375.00		11,922.22
JW - cq 'unpaid' (technical issue) > destroyed	5-Mar-25	[0221]	-375.00		12,297.22
J Wms (further replacement cq - see above)	5-Mar-25	0222	375.00		11,922.22
BCU Cardiac Rehab Group (December)	3-Feb-25			72.00	11,994.22
Paige Street Dance (January)	3-Feb-25			48.00	12,042.22
WCBC Strength & Balance Exercise Gp	11-Feb-25			396.00	12,438.22
Caia Park Partnership (January)	20-Feb-25			84.00	12,522.22
Playgroup	25-May-25			55.00	12,577.22
Aikido Class (February)	28-Feb-25			72.00	12,649.22
Transfer from Petty Cash	10-Mar-25			590.00	13,239.22
Esclusham CC (as minutes 10/3) >copy mins	10-Mar-25	0223	2,500.00		10,739.22
Paige Street Dance (February)	3-Mar-25			36.00	10,775.22
BCU Cardiac Rehab Group (January)	10-Mar-25			120.00	10,895.22
Caia Park Partnership (February)	13-Mar-25			84.00	10,979.22
Playgroup	25-Mar-25			55.00	11,034.22
Aikido Class (March)	27-Mar-25			72.00	11,106.22
BCU Cardiac Rehab Group (February)	28-Mar-25			96.00	11,202.22
Esclusham CC (Q Man fee for 31/3)	31-Mar-25		1,000.00		10,202.22

RPHT Petty Cash A/C	Date	Rec No	Exp	Inc	Balance	Bank
John Lord Tai Chi class (Wed & Fri)	28-Feb-25	3718		30.00	447.74	
Rhian Cox (deposit kids party 22/3)	4-Mar-25	3719		20.00	467.74	
Tuesday Club	4-Mar-25	3720		18.00	485.74	
D Sides Dance Class	4-Mar-25	3721		12.00	497.74	
Indoor Bowls	5-Mar-25	3722		18.00	515.74	
John Lord Tai Chi class (Wed & Fri)	7-Mar-25	3723		24.00	539.74	
Rebecca Beatrice (kids party)	9-Mar-25	3724		80.00	619.74	
Transfer to current	10-Mar-25				29.74	590.00
Tuesday Club	11-Mar-25	3725		18.00	47.74	
D Sides Dance Class	11-Mar-25	3726		12.00	59.74	
Indoor Bowls	12-Mar-25	3727		18.00	77.74	
Beth Jones (deposit kids party 7/2/2026)	12-Mar-25	3728		20.00	97.74	
John Lord Tai Chi class (Wed & Fri)	14-Mar-25	3729		24.00	121.74	
Glesni Pritchard (kids party 22/6)	18-Mar-25	3730		100.00	221.74	
Tuesday Club	18-Mar-25	3731		18.00	239.74	
Snooker Group	18-Mar-25	3732		10.00	249.74	
Trudi Lench (deposit kids party 3/5)	19-Mar-25	3733		20.00	269.74	
Indoor Bowls	19-Mar-25	3734		18.00	287.74	
John Lord Tai Chi class (Wed & Fri)	21-Mar-25	3735		24.00	311.74	
Emma Godyear (deposit kids party 30/8)	22-Mar-25	3736		20.00	331.74	
Rhian Cox (kids party)	22-Mar-25	3737		55.00	386.74	
Chloe Blackwell (kids party)	23-Mar-25	3738		80.00	466.74	
Tuesday Club	25-Mar-25	3739		18.00	484.74	
Snooker Group	25-Mar-25	3740		10.00	494.74	
Indoor Bowls	26-Mar-25	3741		18.00	512.74	
Anna Olejniczak (deposit kids party 26/4)	27-Mar-25	3742		20.00	532.74	
Income > 'Tea Room' at the Parish Hall	27-Mar-25			102.43	635.17	
John Lord Tai Chi class (Wed & Fri)	28-Mar-25	3743		24.00	659.17	
Kirsty Halliday (deposit kids party 9/8)	28-Mar-25	3744		20.00	679.17	
Biscuits > Parish Hall 'drop-in cafe' (via DJ)	31-Mar-25		27.90		651.27	

	Date of Statement	Current Balance Cash Book
RPHT		£
Current Account	01/04/2025	10,202.22
Petty Cash Account	31/03/2025	651.27
		<u>£10,853.49</u>

10. Budget Position - ECC situation noted.

CHAIR C. Luckock

DATED 12/05/2025

FULL COUNCIL

CHAIR : Cllr Gemma Richards

Agenda Items

1. **Apologies** - Cllrs Claire Luckock, Mark Pritchard, Darcy Davies-Williams & Glen Bellamy
2. **Chair's announcements** - none
3. **County Councillors' Reports** - Cllr Mark Pritchard has given his apologies
4. **Declaration of interest** - Cllr Mark Andrew - Items for Clerk > left the meeting at the appropriate time
5. **Ratification of minutes from the meeting of Monday 10th March 2025** - unanimously ratified
6. **Ratification of minutes from the RPHT meeting of Monday 10th March 2025** - unanimously ratified
7. **Ratification of the minutes from the 'special' meeting of Monday 24th March 2025 (panel)** - unanimously ratified
8. **Ratification of minutes from the Section 137 meeting of Monday 31st March 2025** - unanimously ratified
9. **Members' Items/Action List**

a) Police Liaison Meeting NWP/ECC held on the 9th April 2025 > Cllr John Perkins

Present:- PCSO Sara Williams, PCSO Laura Cooper, Cllr John Perkins, Cllr Graham Blackmore and the Clerk, Bryn Jones. Apologies from Cllr Mark Pritchard

1) Bersham >'speed bands': once again, it is disappointing to note that these have still not been installed, although there are a number situated in various locations throughout Wrexham, including on speed bumps into Bryn Offa, beyond the turning for Homestead Lane and certainly no good for our purposes.

Both officers believe that their Sgt has contacted WCBC officers on a number of occasions and been told that the bands are in place along Bersham Road > although this is does not appear to be the case. Both Councillors present, are of the opinion that, perhaps, the Local Elected Member, Cllr Mark Pritchard, can push things along with WCBC and are to ask at Monday's meeting. Monday: Cllr Pritchard given apologies > look to re-visit by next Police Liaison meeting in early May.

Without the data that the 'speed bands' will furnish, there is little hope that Go-Safe will attend and Offa CC have previously stated, via WCBC Cllr Phil Wynn, that they cannot consider making a financial contribution towards any form of camera without firm confirmation of requirement - information supplied by 'speed bands'.

The Community Council must stay close to this particular matter until the 'speed bands' are in place.

Monday: a number of Councillors mentioned that 'speed bands' have, in the past day or two, been placed on the upper B5098 leading from Rhostyllen to Bersham. Whilst the information gleaned from these would be good to know, the Council are of the unanimous opinion that the 'must fit' location for the 'speed bands' is a little outside Bersham village heading in the Wrexham direction > i.e. along the straight and towards the corners where a number of accidents have occurred in recent years.

2) The officers mentioned that NWP had been called out to the park (by the football ground) as someone had dug a hole in the ground, although due to a delay in being made aware, it had already been filled-in, presumably by WCBC, when they finally attended. No more is known of what occurred.

3) There have been reports of stones being thrown at windows of properties along Wrexham Road - one window was actually broken. NWP investigations are ongoing.

4) The officers mentioned recent reports of a 'dangerous' dog, which has, so it is believed, been guilty of dog-on-dog attacks. Again, NWP investigations are ongoing.

b) Esclusham Fete:

i) 2024 Fete > year end position. The Clerk shared the usual annual report and financial position up to the end of the 2024 Fete - all Councillors received a copy.

ii) 2025 Fete > 21st June: Cllr Sarah Love gave an up-to date summary of how matters are progressing with regard to this year's Fete and promised a further update at the June meeting, when the event will be imminent. See also: 'Correspondence item (h)' below.

c) Holy Trinity Church - grass cutting. Cllr Graham Blackmore wished to place on record a number of positive comments regarding the grass cutting at the HTC graveyard. Very pleasing feedback.

Action: Clerk instructed to send a letter to the Garden Gaffer advising as such.

On another, but linked, matter, a couple of Councillors mentioned that items had gone missing from gravestones. Unfortunate, but beyond the scope of the Community Council > Father Dylan perhaps.

d) Memorial Gardens/sculptures

i) Update and plans for 2025 > Cllr John Perkins advised that he and Cllr Blackmore are due to meet a contact of the late Cllr Richard Elias, to discuss possible assistance in 'sprucing-up' the Memorial Gardens sculptures. Matter to be re-visited by all concerned.

ii) In addition Cllrs Perkins and Blackmore asked for additional volunteers to join the M G sub- committee. The Clerk was instructed to place this request on the AGM agenda for further discussion on the 12th of May.

Action Plan - a detailed, up-to-date, report on all outstanding Action Plan items shared with the Council and a further, updated, version will be shared with the Council in May,

10. **Planning Items & Reports**

Applications

P/2025/0244 - "Erection of 4 dwellings" on land to the south west of the Old Black Horse Public House, High Street, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4AG. *Already circulated. Extension for comments from ECC granted until the 16th of April.* Following discussion, the Council instructed the Clerk to advise WCBC that ECC have concerns regarding this application. In the main:

- i) the proposed access and exit onto/from the site from High Street. Splays appear insufficient
- ii) overlooking aspect re children at Ysgol Rhostyllen - notwithstanding that the application includes one bungalow.
- iii) traffic numbers and noise emanating from the nearby public house is also a concern.

Action: Clerk advise WCBC by the 16/4 that ECC does have concerns regarding the application.

P/2025/0263 - "Single storey rear extension" at Barn Hey, Pentrebychan Road, Pentrebychan, Wrexham LL14 4EP. *Already circulated and as comments asked for by the 9/4, Councillors asked for responses, or to request an extension, by the 7th of April. Action taken: WCBC advised on the 8/4 that ECC have no objections to the application. Noted*

P/2024/1695 - "Construction of footpath/cycleway and bridge" on land at National Trust and south of Wrexham Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4DH. *Already circulated. Comments required by the 29th of April.* Following discussion, the Clerk instructed to advise WCBC that ECC do not have any objections to the application > this is strongly supported. **Action:** Clerk

Withdrawals

None

Reports/Appeals/Other

None

Determinations

P/2025/0083 - "Removal of Condition 4 (drainage) of planning permission P/2023/0699" at the Bungalow, Henblas Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4AD. *Granted with conditions - Noted*

P/2024/1594 "Advertisement consent for 1 sign (illuminated)" at Car Dealers, Wrexham Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EJ. *Granted with conditions - Noted*

11. **Correspondence - for the attention of the Council**

a) One Voice Wales - correspondence and attached paperwork detailing the benefits of membership of OVW and offering a 50% discounted membership rate for the first year > a full price membership fee would be £619 and with a 50% reduction for year 1 = £309.50. Action required: Council to make a decision whether or not to join OVW. *Copy of OVW letter shared with Councillors.* Following discussion, the Clerk instructed to note that Esclusham Community Council is not, at present, looking to join OVW for 2025/26. *Noted*

b) Lightsourcebp - update from Katy McGuinness, Head of Environmental Planning, Northern Europe confirming that the application for the Plas Power Solar & Energy Project, being a 'Development of National Significance', was forwarded to PEDW (Planning and Environment Decisions Wales) in the summer of 2024. The application has now been validated by PEDW and will be considered by a Planning Inspector, before the final decision is made by Welsh Ministers. PEDW ref: DNS/3253253 - Plas Power Estate Solar Farm. PEDW will hold a further consultation as part of its assessment of the planning application - feedback welcomed. *Copy e-mail forwarded to Councillors on the 11/3. Noted*

c) Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru - 'Final Determinations' for the 2026 Review of Senedd constituencies has been published. *E-mail, containing a link to the final reports, forwarded to Councillors on the 12/3.* The new constituencies will take effect automatically at the 2026 election. Esclusham community will form part of the 'Gwynedd Maldwyn' constituency. Noted

d) Wrexham Area Civic Society - as Esclusham CC is a member, a representative is invited to attend the AGM of the Society being held on the 20th of March, 7:00pm at the St Giles' Parish Church. *Due to timescales, invitation forwarded to Councillors on the 13/3.* Following the formal AGM, a talk is to be given entitled "Wrexham's City Centre Developments". Update received; Initial speaker unable to attend > now to be Alister Williams, President of the Civic Society: 'Acton Park: the rise and fall of an urban estate'. *E-mail forwarded on the 18/3. Noted* > no one able to attend on behalf of ECC.

e) RWE: Butterfly Solar Farm - further to two representatives from RWE attending the March Council meeting (see minutes), a brief note of thanks from Katie Powis of Powis Communications, thanking the Council for arranging the said slot. In addition, confirmation is given that they "reconfirm our commitment to host an event in your area at formal consultation". *Copy of the e-mail shared with Councillors.* RWE confirm that they are happy to attend any future Community Council meeting, should Councillors so wish - "keep the dialogue open". Noted - although the Community Council are to stay close with regard to any possible developments over forthcoming months.

f) WCBC Playscheme 2025/26 - see minutes below January 2025 (correspondence:c) where a decision was taken to renew 'option 1' at a slightly higher figure than in 2024/25.

WCBC Playscheme 2025/26 - further to the minutes (correspondence - b) of the 9th of December, where the Clerk was, once again, instructed to obtain costings for a bespoke Playscheme service, the following comparison figures received:

i) 3 hours per day x 4 days per week x over the 6w summer holiday (as 24/25) = £5,852.16

ii) 3 hours per day x 3 days per week x over the 6w summer holiday = £4,389.12

iii) 2 hours per day x 4 days per week x over the 6w summer holiday = £4,887.12

Info: for 2024/25 the cost of play provision at (i) above is £5,621.82 (£5.7k on attached budget sheet)

Following discussion, it was unanimously decided to select 'option 1' above, which would give similar Playscheme service to the current year. Action: Clerk to advise WCBC.

WCBC 'Extension of Contract' paperwork received with the 12 month cost being £5,852.16. Action required: the Clerk is asked to sign the agreement form on behalf of ECC. Look to return the signed paperwork to WCBC by mid-April. **Action**: Clerk to sign the contract extension and send to WCBC by the end of the week.

g) Cllr Beverley Parry-Jones, Armed Forces Champion, WCBC - letter of invitation for a representative of ECC to join Cllr Parry-Jones for a Church Service to be held at St Giles Church, Wrexham at 12:30pm on the 8th of May > along with the Mayor, Councillors and members of the Armed Forces Community. Following the Service, at 1:15pm there will be a parade from St Giles Church to the RWF Memorial, Bodhyfryd for a short service to lay wreaths, followed by refreshments at the War Memorial Club on Farndon Street. *Copy shared with Councillors. Noted - Chair attending*

h) Esclusham Fete - formal request to have exclusive use of the Rhostyllen Parish Hall, surrounding car park and the adjacent recreation ground, from Friday afternoon, the 20th of June, up to Saturday evening on the 21st of June. *Copy letter shared with Councillors.* In addition, it is asked if the Council Clerk could advise WCBC accordingly > as in previous years. **Action:** Clerk - also include a mention of the R.A., Insurance policy and proposed T.E.N.

i) Peter Searle - e-mail regarding the possibility of the Community Council supporting the installation of traffic lights at the junction of Esless and the A5152 (Wrexham Road). *Missive shared with Councillors.* Following discussion, whilst members certainly appear positive in their support for the proposal, the Clerk instructed to advise Mr Searle that, before giving a firm decision, the Community Council would wish to re-visit once the roundabout (Co-op/Eldon Grove) is in place. **Action;** Clerk.

j) WCBC - non-domestic Demand Notice for the financial year 2024/25 re the Parish Hall.

RHOSTYLLEN PARISH HALL TRUST

Charge for Period - £6,958.00

Charity Relief - £5,566.40 Cr

Discretionary Charity Relief - £1,391.60 Cr

AMOUNT PAYABLE - £0.00 (for information only)

k) AVOW - e-mail from Katherine Prince, Development Manager for Volunteering, Community & Finance, AVOW: advising that Liz Stokes has left her role at AVOW and is no longer the Community Agent for Esclusham. *Copy, along with the Clerk's holding reply, shared with Councillors.* No ECC Councillor wishes to attend the planned interviews. Noted

l) Llangollen International Eisteddfod - letter containing information on the 2025 event, due to be held from the 8th to the 13th of July, and asking if the Community Council could consider financial support. With the S137 meeting having been held last month, the request is: Noted

m) WCBC: Sean Hanratty - update regarding the Community Council's request for a direction re the application for adding a footpath in the County Borough of Wrexham. Investigation Report dated the 4th of April and a plan of the said proposed footpath received. *Copies shared with the Council and any comments are requested by the 30th of May.* A 'decision meeting' will be held after this date, whereby a decision will be made as to whether the order should be made as requested in the Community Council's application. Noted

n) J & C Valentine - request for financial assistance towards funds being raised towards purchasing a pool chair for "all disabled people to have access to Plas Madoc leisure centre's pool". With the S137 meeting having been held last month, the request is: Noted

o) Antonio Munoz Bailey (Ki Aikido Sensei) - letter addressed to the RPHT Trustees following the decision at the March meeting to increase the rental charges for weekday use of the Parish Hall. *In view of timescales, and the fact that all Councillors are Trustees of RPHT, the missive has been placed on the April agenda. Copy shared with Councillors along with a copy of the RPHT minutes of the 14th of March - for information.* All Councillors present are Trustees of the RPHT and following discussion, the Clerk instructed to reply and advise that the proposed increase will be implemented as from the 1st of May. **Action:** Clerk - to expand on the reasons given for the increase.

p) PEDW (Planning & Environment Decisions Wales) - "Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Wrexham County Borough Council (Esclusham Above 43 in the Community of Esclusham) Definitive Map Modification Order 2023". INFORMATION ONLY. *A copy of the Notice of Order, along with a letter from PEDW, shared with Councillors. In addition, a copy of the relevant section of the October 2022 minutes also attached - when the Order was considered by the Community Council.* Noted

q) **Eisteddfod Wreccsam** - letter giving an update of the forthcoming plans and projects ahead of the Eisteddfod at Wreccsam. The Community Council are also asked to consider making a financial contribution towards the cost. With the S137 meeting having been held last month, the request is: Noted > the Council are not, at present, able to commit to a financial contribution.

r) **Cllr Mark Andrew** - letter of resignation from ECC and RPHT > commencing the role of Clerk on the 1st of May. This will leave a vacancy for the Aberoer ward. *Once Cllr Andrew's resignation has been accepted by the Council, he will be attending the final section of the meeting as a member of the public - declaration of interest notwithstanding.* The Council instructed the Clerk to proceed with formalities regarding a Vacancy Notice > followed by Co-Option procedures. Applications to be considered at the June or, possibly July, meeting. **Action:** Clerk.

s) **WCBC** - an application for a new premises licence has been received > Wrexham Cider (Seidr Wreccsam) Ltd, Unit B5, Bersham Enterprise Centre, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG. *Correspondence shared with the Council.* End date 8th of May. As this item was only received on Friday, after the agenda went to print, the Chair agreed that, in view of the timescales, it could be discussed at the April meeting. Following discussion, the Clerk instructed to advise WCBC that ECC have no objections to the request, **Action:** Clerk,

12. Items for the Clerk

a) **Dog fouling** - see AP (shared with all): WCBC have given a public reminder once again. For the present: Noted

b) **Chain of Office** - look to bring this up-to-date with completion of details of the 'Chain of the Council' since 2013. *The then-Chair, Cllr Nat Cargius, invaluablely assisted the Clerk in arranging for the names on the Chain to be updated at the time and, if the Council is agreeable, the Clerk and Cllr Cargius to arrange updating once again.* An exercise to do so now will use the eight empty 'shields' on the Chain of Office:

2014+15+16 J Droog
2017 M Pritchard
2018 N Cargius
2019 G Blackmore
2020+21 J Perkins
2022 P Penk
2023 J Kelly
2024 G Richards

Once updated, the Council will need to consider appropriate action re blank 'shields' for future years. **Action:** Clerk.

c) **Contract - new Clerk** - The Clerk advised that the document will be shared with Councillors by month-end, with any comments requested ahead of the May meeting, when the contract will be signed. **Action:** Clerk.

d) **ECC vacancy > Aberoer ward:** - following the Vacancy Notice and subsequent Vacancy to Co-Opt Notice, there have been no further applicants (closing date 7/4). However, as the Council is aware, the three unsuccessful applicants from Q1 2025 all expressed a keenness to be considered for any future position and all have met the Council previously > see below. Action required: vacancy to be filled. The Clerk advised the Council that, whilst other Councillors present can remain and observe should they so wish, only those members who attended the 'interviews' on the 3rd of February can take part in the process and make a decision as to Co-Opting: **Cllrs John Perkins, Mabyn Pickering, Gemma Richards, Mark Pritchard, Darcy Davies-Williams, Jean Kelly, Glen Bellamy, Nat Cargius and Val Morgan.** The Clerk reminded members that the three individuals are: Peter Searle, Christine Badwick and Julie Meredith and also advised that any vote must result in an absolute majority. The following Councillors present took part in the vote: Cllrs Gemma Richards (Chair), Mabyn Pickering, Nat Cargius, Jean Kelly, Val Morgan and John Perkins - all of whom confirmed that they wished to proceed to a vote. At 4-1-1, the Chair declared that, with an absolute majority, Christine Badwick be co-opted onto the Council. **Action:** Clerk to advise all accordingly and look to meet up with the successful candidate later in the month.

CHAIR **G. Richards**

DATED **12/05/2025**
