

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT MARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 2nd APRIL 2015

Members Present

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs S Cleaver, M J Edwards, G Frank-Keyes, Mrs J Holmes, M Perry and Mrs B Watson.

Apologies

Mrs J Dutton, M Harriman, Mrs M Lightwood, Mrs J Macdonald, G Peake and M L Roberts

Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of any personal and or prejudicial interest on the form provided for this purpose. Councillor G Frank-Keyes indicated his intention to declare an interest in Planning Application P/2015/0189.

385 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd and 9th March 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

386 VISIT BY LESLEY GRIFFITHS, AM

The Chairman thanked Lesley Griffiths for attending and a number of matters of were discussed, including Marford Community Centre, Youth Services, Childcare, Future of Community Councils and planning guidance in relation to Fracking.

Lesley Griffiths promised to look into the issues, including a review of speed limits outside the Beeches Pub.

387 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public who addressed the Council on the issue of planning permission for the erection of three two-bedroom dwellings and provision of associated parking, former play area off Parsonage Close, Gresford.

388 ONGOING MATTERS

Marford Community Centre

The Management Committee had been advised to expect the draft Lease soon. Cleaning costs was still an issue as the financial assistance granted by the Community Council had been spent.

Youth Services

This was an ongoing issue and further discussions were taking place within the Youth Service.

Gresford & District Community Library

There were approximately 3,000 visits per month. The local AM`s were visiting the facility.

Community Council`s Website

There were 832 unique visits to the website.

7 Chester Road, Gresford

Enforcement action had been started against the developer and he had until 6th May 2015 to comply or lodge an objection to the Notice.

Road Traffic Sign, Old Wrexham Road

Negotiations were ongoing regarding repairs to the sign to ascertain whether it was worth preserving.

Carved Bell

The Tree Carver had made available a quantity of suitable oil to preserve the carved bell.

Village (Gresford) Car Parking

It was reported that there was an underused car parking facility on Gresford Trust land near the Scout Hut. The Chairman also intended to speak to the Landlord of the Plough Inn to see if any arrangements could be made for short-term parking on the pub car parking during the daytime.

389 WREXHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The letter from the Head of Community Wellbeing and Development regarding Vision, Objectives, Strategic Growth and Spatial Options had been deferred at the last meeting.

Members were of the opinion that the Community Council should not support an extension to the Settlement Areas which might join Gresford to nearby communities of Llay, Rossett and Acton, as too much development would affect local services, including schools, sewers and the local doctors' surgery. The Community Council would support infilling on appropriate sites. ***It was agreed to forward these views to Wrexham Council by the response deadline of 10th April 2015.***

390 SAFETY HAZARD IN CHESTER ROAD, GRESFORD

Councillor Mrs S Cleaver had requested that this matter should be considered as an obstacle protruding out of the ground near Gerrards Bakers Shop was a potential hazard to pedestrians.

The Community Council instructed the Clerk of the Council to make enquiries with Gerrards Bakers as to who owned the land in order that the Community Council could point out this potential safety hazard before a very serious accident occurred.

391 REPORT OF THE TENDERING SUB-COMMITTEE

The report recommending that the Community Council remain with the existing contract for 2015-2016 with Wrexham County Borough Council for maintenance of the Community Council's Street Lighting was adopted.

392 REPORT OF THE LIGHTING SUB-COMMITTEE

The report of the meeting held on 31st March 2015 was received and adopted. Accordingly, Councillors were asked to let the Clerk of the Council know of their requirements in order that a list could be compiled for the sub-committee to visit in the autumn of 2015.

It was also resolved that the Community Council make representations to Wrexham County Borough Council regarding the quality of the service they currently provide in maintaining the Community Council's street lights.

393 REPORTS

Councillor A Bailey and M J Edwards reported on the work of Wrexham County Borough Council

Councillor Mrs J Holmes reported that the AGM of Gresford Trust would be held on 21st May 2015 and urged all interested people to attend.

Councillor Mrs S Cleaver reported that the AGM of IMAGE would be held during April and that cards would be on sale shortly regarding the Water Fountain to raise funds for IMAGE.

In the absence of **Councillor Mrs J Dutton** the Clerk of the Council reported her concerns about the condition of the seat at the junction of Cemetery Lane and Clapper Lane; also that she was pursuing repairs to the road traffic sign on Old Wrexham Road, Gresford.

394 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received from the Head of Community Well-being and Development were available for Members and dealt with as follows:

P/2015/0148 – Erection of building (to store Hay, Straw and Farm Machinery) to measure 6m long 4.5m wide and 2.9m high (maximum) the Oaks, Park Lane, Rossett - **Conditions should be attached to any grant of planning permission to ensure that the building is only used for the storage specified in the application.**

P/2015/0144 - Erection of Three two-bedroom dwellings and provision of associated parking, former Play Area off Parsonage Close, Gresford – **It was resolved the Chief Officer be informed that the Community Council shared all the concerns of the residents regarding this proposal, namely the roads were inadequate to cater for the additional traffic and there was inadequate parking; that the drainage and sewerage arrangements for this area were insufficient to cater for this development. The Community Council had been informed that the sewers in the area were continually backed up and engineers were often called out to rod the sewers to release the blockages.**

The height of the proposed wall would be too near to rear of the existing flats and would reduce the residents enjoyment of their properties. The proposed car parking was not sufficient for the development.

P/2015/0151 – Parking and Operation of two Private Hire Vehicles, Fairfield Farm, Barkers Lane, Borras – **No Comments**

P/2015/0189 – Fell one Beech Tree (T1) – Tree protected by TPO WCBC 337, 2015, 22 Springfield Court, Gresford – (Councillor G Frank Keyes declared a personal non pecuniary interest in this application and left the meeting whilst it was discussed) – **The views of the Council's Arboricultural Officer should be considered but no unnecessary felling of this mature tree should be permitted.**

P/2015/0195 – Rear Living Room Extension and Internal Alterations, Randles Rise, Marford Hill, Marford – **No comments.**

395 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:

Scottish Power – Electricity charges	£776.65
Mr C A Route – Grounds Maintenance	£170.00
Cemetery Maintenance	£375.00
Wrexham County Borough Council – NND Rates for Gresford Cemetery	£1,518.30
AVOW – Membership Fee 2015-2016	£10.00
ICCM – Corporate Membership	£90.00
Wrexham Area Civic Society – Membership Fee replacement cheque	£25.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC rates
Maurice Paddock - Salary	NJC rates
Sundry Expenditure	£18.79
Postages	£107.97
HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates

396 CORRESPONDENCE

Wrexham County Borough Council – Repairs to Street Lighting Unit 176, Stancliffe Avenue, Marford £1,088.00 plus VAT – ***The Council authorised this work.***

Invitation to the Annual Meeting of Wrexham County Borough Council

Application for Financial Assistance – A letter was received from Sam Wilde of Pandy seeking financial assistance for his attendance at the World Scout Jamboree – the Clerk of the Council would explain to Sam that the Community Council does not have any statutory powers to make donations or financial assistance to private individuals.

Congratulations were extended to Councillor M J Edwards on the very recent birth of his Grandson.

397 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the Annual Meeting would be held on Thursday, 14th May 2015 at 7.15 p.m. at Gresford Memorial Hall.

**COUNCILLOR MRS BERYL BLACKMORE
PRESIDING CHAIRMAN**

Chairman.....

Date.....