

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

### **Members Present**

Councillors A. Bailey, Mrs B. Blackmore, Mrs J. Dutton, M. J. Edwards, G. Frank-Keyes, M Harriman, Mrs M. Lightwood, Mrs J. MacDonald, Mrs B. Watson

**Chair:** Councillor S. Cleaver

**Apologies:** Councillors M. Perry, Mrs J. Holmes, M. L. Roberts

**Clerks:** Maurice Paddock and Serena Baxter

**In Attendance :** North Wales Police PCSOs

### **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.**

### **511. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> March, and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 respectively were agreed and signed by the Chair.

### **512. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The manager of the new Co-Operative store currently under construction, Craig Emery, introduced himself to the Members of the Council. He advised that an opening date of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 was currently being aimed for. Recruitment to a number of posts was underway, and the hope was to recruit local people where possible.

### **513. POLICE REPORT**

Crime statistics for March 2016 were presented, concerning Gresford East and West, and Marford and Hoseley. Members raised concerns regarding the violence against person (VAP) statistic, and the location of the incidents of Anti -social Behaviour reported, and what these might be attributable to.

### **514. ONGOING MATTERS**

#### **Allotments**

Clerk advised of content of an e-mail which he had circulated via e-mail prior to the meeting concerning the land.

#### **Co-option of Members – Vacancy for the Marford/Hoseley Ward**

Councillor B. Blackmore declared a personal interest and left the meeting. Following discussion, Members were advised that only one co-option could take place at the present time and that any future vacancies would need to follow the same procedure.

Following the previous meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016) the process for filling the current vacancy by co-option had been undertaken as agreed and in accordance with the provisions of Section 116 – Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. Two expressions of interest had been received and these were considered by Members.

***The Council resolved to co-opt Mrs Julie Hughes to the Community Council***

**7 Chester Road, Gresford**

Councillor A. Bailey reported on developments on site, and concerns were raised about remaining debris. Members asked whether the Order being applied for could contain a request for restoration or improvement of the site. Councillor Bailey will pass this on. Proceedings are due on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**Gresford & District Community Library**

The footfall at the Library remains stable. Councillor Bailey reported that a long lease was being explored.

**Community Council's Website**

There had been 1086 unique visits during the past month. The most visited had been the Business Directory, the Village diary, and the Council minutes. A new report concerning the budget, precept comparators, and grants awarded had been posted.

**Village (Gresford) Car Parking**

A discussion took place about safeguarding the public, and possible ways forward to look at the issue from a Health and Safety perspective, in particular that the footpath is regularly being encroached by vehicles. In addition the point was raised that the surface of the parking area is uneven which is a potential risk.

**Resolved: Councillor A. Bailey will speak to Highways, (to involve Ms Heaton) to see what the Council's possible involvement could be in addressing the issue.**

**School Crossing Patrol at All Saints School**

This post remains unfilled and no further progress.

**515. Doctors Surgery- Reduction in Hours.**

***Councillor M. Edwards stated that he wished it to be known that he is a Chair of the Friends of Alyn Family Doctors( which has charitable status) and any comment made by him is not on behalf of that body.***

Members of the Council raised concerns about the proposed reduction in afternoon surgery times. Clarification was given by Councillors Bailey and Edwards following recent discussions they had had concerning the matter with Dr Happs.

**Resolved: a letter will be sent on behalf of the Community Council to Betsi Cadwallader Health Board, expressing concerns and asking for the issue to be addressed.**

**516. REPORTS**

**Wrexham County Borough Council**

Councillor A. Bailey advised that WCBC have taken on a private firm within the wider community to look at issues concerning dog fouling and other environmental matters. They will be identifiable with clothing etc. There is currently a consultation underway concerning dog control orders in public spaces and a question being considered at present is what constitutes a public space ( for example Maes y Pant).

Councillor a. Bailey also reported on the progress of the LDP consultation which had recently ended. A further round of consultation is to take place towards the end of

2016.Councillor M. Edwards reiterated that there will be only one further opportunity to comment on the plan. A discussion took place about the proposals contained in the draft plan and the process following consultation. Members raised concerns about specific areas mentioned in the plan, and about developments currently underway.

### **Maes-y-Pant**

A meeting for Friends of Maes- y-Pant will take place in Church House on the 11<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Gresford Trust**

Councillor J. Dutton reported that CCTV training to enable secure access by various Trust members in order to monitor security was scheduled. The caretaker/ cleaner has resigned so additional staff had been appointed. It was also stated that the Football Club had raised new requirements following their recent promotion, with a view to possibly siting undercover seating for 200 spectators. The Trust A.G.M. will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.

### **IMAGE**

Councillor S. Cleaver reported that the awaited tubs will be delivered shortly. The idea of a scarecrow trail to coincide with the Village Festival had been raised and was being considered. Ideas for the Lakeside information Board were still under consideration. The next Image meeting is the 21.4.16.

A discussion took place around funding for any lakeside developments, as the lake comes under the responsibility of the Council.

It was suggested that the name of the Play Area Committee could be altered to the General Amenities committee. Councillor M. Edwards asked that Image members involve all Play Area committee members in their discussion about taking forward ideas for improvement, and this was agreed.

### **517 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (as amended)**

Details of Planning Applications received from the Head of Community Wellbeing and Development were available and dealt with as follows:

P/2016/0238 : P/2016/0238 - Fell 3 NO. Elm Trees (Protected by Marford Conservation Area), Oak House, Marford Hill, Marford.

There were no comments, provided that the views of the Council's Arboricultural Officer are considered.

P/2016/0246: Former ATS tyre depot Marford Hill, Marford. Councillor M. Edwards stated that the appearance should be in keeping with the conservation area, using appropriate materials.

### **518 FINANCE**

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Scottish power – Quarterly Electricity Supply	£803.06
Mr C A Route – Cemetery Maintenance	£545.00
Mr S Pugh – Grave Making	£800. 00
Mrs M Jones - Salary	NJC rates
Maurice Paddock - Salary	NJC rates
Miss S Baxter- Salary	NJC rates

HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates
AVOW Membership Renewal	£10.00
Mossford Memorials	£552.00
Wrexham County Borough Council	£1530.90
ICCM Membership	£90.00
Area Civic Society A.G.M.	

**519 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence that had been received and available for members was noted or otherwise dealt with as follows:

Licensing in respect of Gresford Service Station – No objections raised

Audit Commission:- Clerk M Paddock circulated a letter containing details of a revised Audit regime from the Audit Commission, which states that the base of the auditor Grant Thornton is at Cardiff.- members requested communication be sent on behalf of the Council concerning the distance and why Wrexham is the only Council in North Wales to have Audit based at Cardiff.

**520 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next Meeting will be held at Gresford Methodist Church Hall/ Rooms on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.15 pm. This will be the Council Annual Meeting.

**For the next item, the Council resolved pursuant to Sub-section (4) of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) that the press and public be excluded on the grounds that if members of the public were present during the discussion there might be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.**

**521 Gratuity payment by Community Council**

Members considered the advice that had been sought on this matter and the two proposed figures that had been calculated based on this advice. It was agreed to pay the amount of £2402 as the lower amount.

**COUNCILLOR S CLEAVER  
CHAIR**

**Chair.....**

**Date.....**