

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT MARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 5th APRIL 2012

Members Present

Councillors A C Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs J Dutton, A B Edginton, M J Edwards, M Harriman, M Hughes, J L Jones, Mrs M Lightwood, Mrs J MacDonald, M Pritchard and Mrs B Watson.

Declarations of Interest

The Councillor M J Edwards gave notice of his intention to declare a personal and/or prejudicial interest at the appropriate time during the meeting.

In Attendance

PCSO 2828 Kelly Ellis

373 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Presiding Chairman. ***It was noted that Councillor Mrs Dutton had given her apologies for that meeting.***

374 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

375 POLICE REPORT

The Crime Report for March 2012 was circulated and discussed at length. The main issues of concern were theft of silver from the Church, smoking of illegal substances and underage smoking on the skatepark/youth shelter, loud music from the local public houses over the Easter week-end and recent problems getting through to the police on the 101 Service.

The Clerk of the Council was instructed me to write to the Chief Constable seeking an improvement in the situation with the 101 service as quickly as possible.

376 ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Heating System, All Saints Church

(Councillor M J Edwards declared a personal and/or prejudicial interest in this application and left the room whilst it was discussed). The application for financial assistance remained outstanding as the Clerk of the Council had not received the information from the Church. The Clerk was instructed to press for a reply.

The application from Gresford Trust in respect of the proposed purchase of a projector and screen in the region of £650.00

(Councillor A C Bailey, Mrs J Dutton and Mrs J MacDonald declared personal and/or prejudicial interests in this application but remained in the meeting whilst it was discussed, in accordance with the dispensation granted by the Standards Committee).

After some deliberation the Community Council resolved to recommend that the Trust should fix a charge and hire of the projector to users as required or as an additional charge to individual hirers. This small charge could be regarded as a donation from the users to the Trust to cover the cost of purchase, installation and maintenance of the equipment.

CCTV Camera and Laptop

In view of the lack of information regarding the location of the laptop and the training in its use by Police Community Support Officers ***it was resolved to ask Police Inspector N Evans at Coedpoeth to arrange for the ongoing training in order all replacement PCSOs can use the equipment as and when it becomes necessary.***

It would also be useful to know whether the camera is suitably located to give the police clear views of any misbehaviour in the skatepark and adjoining youth shelter.

Members expressed concern regarding noise from the use of the skatepark and the Clerk was asked to raise the issue with Wrexham Council's Parks Department.

Village Improvements

It was noted that enquiries were continuing into the ownership of the various business premises involved.

Oak Tree at the Junction of Chester Road and Clapper Lane

It was noted that Mr O'Rourke would investigate other designs with the students

Lighting

The Clerk of the Council reported that following the meeting of the Lighting Sub-Committee on 12th December 2011, various issues had been attended to. The lighting at the junction of Clapper Lane and the footpath leading along the adjoining playfields up to the Memorial Hall remained outstanding and had now been inspected by the Street Lighting Department and its Contractors who had given two options:

Option 1 - Fit new son lantern complete on existing bracket £169.12 ex. VAT

Option 2 - Fit new bracket and lantern on opposite side of pole £214.37 ex. VAT.

The Council resolved to accepted Option 1

A complaint from a resident in Whiteway Drive that a light outside his home had been unlit since January 2012 had been reported to Street Scene but no action had been taken. Streetscene had now inspected the column and report that there were signs of spalling in the column and that the door was defective. The cost of remedial work was estimated as Install 1 x 5m column complete with lantern - £442.78 + VAT plus costs by Schneider Electric to transfer supply to new lighting column at a total cost of £1,006.98 + VAT.

The Council resolved to accepted estimate.

Swings for children with Special Needs Item included at the request of Councillor Mrs Blackmore

The Council was reminded that this matter had first been raised with them in July 2011 and assurances had been given at that time that the new play areas satisfied the requirements to enable use by children with all ages, abilities and disabilities. However the parents of one severely disabled child were pressing for an alternative swing to meet the needs of their child especially as a suitable swing was provided by Rossett Community Council.

The Council asked the Play Areas Sub-Committee to meet with the contractor, Mr Ray Parry to discuss the situation

Report of the Play Areas Sub-Committee – Meeting held on 29th March 2012

The Clerk reported that a hastily convened special meeting of the sub-committee had been called as Welsh Water was now in a position to proceed with their proposal to up-grade the sewers in part of Marford and required a materials compound for the duration of the works. A suitable area was on part of Marford Play Area. This proposal had been discussed with the Community Council some two or three years ago.

The Sub-Committee discussed the position for the compound and agreed a site 2 metres away from the football goalposts and reaching back to Claypit Lane. Further details will be provided as soon as Costain had agreed them with Wrexham Council's Environment Department. Also their public relations staff would be visiting the school and nearby residential property to inform the occupiers of the proposals.

In consideration Costain were prepared to re-site and re-erect both pairs of goalposts, fully reinstate the land to its present condition and would examine the cost of providing a 2 meter high fence along Claypit Lane.

The report was adopted.

Report of the Cemetery Sub-Committee held on 2nd April 2012

The sub-committee had inspected the cemetery and been informed of the state of benches, the need to open a new Cremated Remains Section on the north east boundary, the topping and lopping of certain trees damaged in the recent gales and repairs to the tarmac path near the shelter.

The report was adopted.

377 REPORTS

Councillor M J Edwards reported road works on Marford Hill and Pant Lane, new Bus Service and the Blue badge Scheme.

Councillor Mrs Beryl Blackmore reported on the condition of Winchester Way, pupil numbers at Darland High School and repairs to Marford Community centre.

Councillor Mrs J Dutton reported that no action had been taken on her request for a pavement but the Clerk had received an acknowledgment from Contact Wrexham.

Councillor A C Bailey reported on the activities of IMAGE and on Gresford Trust including the Olympic Torch and a meeting on 14th March 2012 to consider arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee.

Councillor M Pritchard reported his concerns that planning permission had been granted for the Change of Use of Former Closed Quarry and Woodland to Public Amenity Area at Former Quarry and Woodland off Pant Lane, Gresford (Code No P/2011/0889) despite objections from local residents and asked for them to be recorded in the Minutes.

378 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/2012/0155 - Single BT Telecommunication DSLAM Cabinet painted Green (Dimensions 750m,m X 140mm X high 400mm) 1 Glan Llyn Gardens, High Street, Gresford – **No representations**

P/2012/0161 - Two storey extension to side and rear Sun Lounge including Renewing Roof Coverings and Windows to existing dwelling, 30 Stancliffe Avenue, Marford – **No representations**

P/2012/0174 - Erection of Car Port and Porch, 7 Cedar Close, Marford – **No representations**

P/2012/0194 – Two storey rear extension, 1 Thornleigh Drive, Gresford – **No representations**

P/2012/0199 – Erection of 2 No dwellings, Plot 12 Quarry Brow, Marford – **The Community Council decided to ask the Planning Authority to include a note that the approach road should be brought up to adoptable standards.**

Section 78 Appeal against the planning authority's determination of this application - P/2011/0499 - Change of use to form residential garden areas (partly in retrospect) land west of properties on Quarry Brow, Marford - **Noted**

P/2012/0215 – Erection of Two storey rear extension to provide additional living and bedroom accommodation, Pant Cottage, Quarry Brow, Pant Lane, Gresford – **The Community Council decided to ask the Planning Authority to include a note that the approach road should be brought up to adoptable standards.**

P/2012/0237 – Erection of Single Storey kitchen extension to rear of property Tura 44 Wynnstay Lane, Marford – **No representations**

379 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment

Ellison Marketing, Maintenance for web	£720.00
Scottishpower plc., Unmetered Supplies	£626.53
Wrexham County Borough Council,	
Play Scheme, Easter & Summer holidays	£1,275.26
NNDR – Gresford Cemetery	£1,423.80
Young People Provision 2011 -2012 (2 nd instalment)	£2,216.50
One Voice Wales, Member Training	£60.00
AVOW, Membership 2012 – 2013	£10.00
Darland High School, Financial Assistance (Replacement cheque)	£100.00
Mr Steve Pugh, Grave Making	£525.00
Gresford Youth Club, Financial Assistance, Awards Evening	£30.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC Rates
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC Rates
HM Revenue and Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE Rates

Insurance Matters

The Clerk of the Council reported his concerns regarding various insurance issues affecting the renewal of the policies in June 2012. The Clerk had raised the points with One Voice Wales and they had advised a course of action but it was ultimately the responsibility of the Community Council.

It was resolved that the Clerk of the Council be instructed to seek the guidance of the Insurance Brokers, Came and Company who had considerable experience of dealing with Parish Councils in England and were now helping a number of Welsh Community Councils.

380 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Notice and Advertisement of the Annual Audit, year ended 31st March 2012 – The Auditor has appointed 31st May 2012 as the date for submission of the Annual Return
- Olympic Torch Relay – 30th May 2012
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to the Locality Stakeholder Group meeting on 13th April
- Wrexham in Bloom Best Kept Village Award 2012 - 2013
- Owain Glyndwr Scheme – and to ask the Chief Legal officer of Wrexham to clarify whether that authority owned the area of land of Whiteway Drive and the railway embankment
- Her Majesty The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee - 2 – 5 June 2012
- The Voice – Newsletter from One Voice Wales
- Airbus Community Review for 2011
- A Service in St. Asaph Cathedral to celebrate H.M. The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee on Sunday, 27th May 2012 at 3.00 p.m.

381 THANKS

The Chairman informed the Council that he would not be seeking re-election at the forthcoming Elections and therefore expressed his thanks this evening for the assistance given to him during his year of office.

382 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting would be the Annual Meeting and held at Gresford Memorial Hall on Thursday 10th May 2012 at 7.15 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR M HUGHES,
CHAIRMAN**

Presiding Chairman.....

Date.....