

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT
MARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 7th AUGUST 2014**

Members Present

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, M J Edwards, M L Roberts and Mrs B Watson.

Apologies

Councillor Mrs S Cleaver, Mrs J Dutton, M Harriman, Mrs J Holmes, G Frank- Keyes, Mrs P M Lightwood, Mrs J Macdonald, G Peake, and M Perry

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. Councillors Mrs B Blackmore and M J Edwards indicated their intentions to declare personal and/or prejudicial interest at the appropriate time.

304 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2014 were received, approved and signed by the Presiding Chairman.

305 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public was present.

306 ONGOING MATTERS

Youth Services

An email was received from Donna Dickenson suggesting that a meeting be arranged with officers of the Youth Service to discuss the Community Council's concerns with the Chairman and Clerk. Members pointed out that Donna Dickenson's email and the discussion at the Forum did not address the Community Council's concerns.

The Council agreed to accept the proposed meeting.

Marford Community Centre

It was noted that the present Management Committee would continue to run the Community Centre, i.e. take bookings and cleaning until the new Management Committee was in place. It was also noted that the windows, partly funded by the Community Council were installed.

Gresford & District Community Library

It was noted that numbers using the Library continued to rise during July.

Community Council Website

The website was meeting requirements.

7 Chester Road, Gresford

No lasting improvements had taken place at the site since the last meeting. The Chairman of the Community Council would speak to the lady who injured herself and Councillor Bailey would continue to press the Enforcement Officer regarding the position of the fence.

Cemetery Committee

The report of the meeting held on 9th July 2014 was adopted. It was also agreed that the suggestion of the use of the wall for Memorial Plaques should be discussed at the meeting in September.

Street Lighting Column at Pistyll Hill, Marford

The issues had been taken up with the owner's insurers and also more information was being obtained from Wrexham Council regarding the high costs involved.

Carved Oak on the Traffic Island, Clapper Lane

Planning permission had been obtained and members had met to discuss the location of the sculpture. The Clerk of the Council was asked to pursue the issues with the Tree Carver and others.

Draft Annual Return for the Year to 31st March 2014

A letter was received from the External Auditors and the Council noted the requirements set out in his letter and that the appropriate alterations had been made to the Annual Return.

The Chairman of the Council and the Responsible Financial Officer were authorised to sign the Draft and submit to the External Auditors.

Goal Posts at Marford

It was noted that the goal posts had been ordered and delivery was expected shortly.

Weight Restrictions Order on Springfield Lane/Bottom Road

It was reported that a reply had now been received from the Highways Department indicating that they would be erecting weight restriction notices at both ends of this road.

307 REPORTS

Councillor Mrs B Watson reported that volunteers from IMAGE intended to continue tidying up at the weekends into the autumn; that an application had been made to Keep Wales Tidy for grants to aid the purchase of self-pollinating trees; that steps were in hand to produce a 2015 calendar; a Christmas raffle would be held to raise funds and works on the Fountain had not yet started.

Councillor Bailey reported that the Williams Report was to be discussed by Wrexham Council in September: that work had started on dualling two miles of the Wrexham to Chester railway line, and that the arrangements were in hand for the Festival in August.

308 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/2014/0495 – Single-storey side extension 45 Narrow Lane, Gresford - **No observations**

P/2014/0500 – Single-storey side extension 4 Belgrave Court, Gresford - **That the Planning Officer was requested to consider having trees planted along the roadside in view of the large expanse of wall visible from the road.**

P/2014/0531 – Incorporation of land into residential curtilage, Erection of timber boundary fencing and lean-to structure (in retrospect) Walnut Tree Farm, Borrass Road, Borrass - ***The Planning Officer should be asked to ensure that approval of this application did not grant full development rights for the site.***

P/2014/0537 – Extension of Existing Hotel to provide Additional 22 Bedrooms and Associated Alterations to existing Car Park, Premier Inn, Chester Road, Gresford ***The Planning Officer should be asked to ensure trees on site would not be adversely affected by the development; that the bus stop should be re-located nearer the Nursing Home and that the visibility splays providing ingress and egress to the site should be improved including the removal of the large advertisement hoardings which impede drivers' visibility.***

P/2014/0547 – Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas – Remove One Conifer Tree (protected by Marford Conservation Area) Trevor Arms, Marford Hill, Marford
No Observations

P/2013/0660 – Appeal – Drilling of Exploration Borehole (requiring 24 hour operations) to remove a core of coal for sampling and site restoration following cessation of drilling operations, drilling operation to take approximately 60 days and a maximum of 75 days at part of field west of Commonwood Farm and south of Borrass Road, Commonwood, Holt - ***No further Observations***

P/2014/0549 – Rear extension and erection of detached double garage, Edgecroft, Pant Lane, Gresford - ***No Observations***

P/2014/0557 – Front extension to dwelling, 17 Yew Tree Court, Gresford (Councillor M J Edwards declared a personal and/or prejudicial interest in this application and left the meeting whilst it was discussed.) - ***No Observations***

P/2014/0559 – Garage conversion and alterations to form annex and garden room, Swn y Coed, Pant Lane, Marford – ***The Planning Officer should take account of the loss of parking for vehicles; should ensure that the proposed garden room cannot be occupied as a separate dwelling and that the right of way adjoining the site should be widened.***

309 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:

Mr S A Pugh, Gravemaking	£300.00
Wrexham CBC – Quarterly Maintenance – Street Lighting	£1,159.36
Mr C A Route, Grounds Maintenance and Cemetery work	£545.00
Scottishpower plc, Unmetered supplies	£832.18
One Voice Wales – Training Course	£30.00
Dee Valley Water Services – Water Charges	£13.60
Wrexham CBC – Half-Yearly Instalment – Inspection of Play Areas	£2,310.50
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC rates
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC rates
HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates
Gresford Festival Committee – Grant	£200.00

It was noted that the Clerk of the Council had obtained a refund from a subsidiary of Norton Internet Security in the sum of £239.98.

310 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Application for funding to keep Maesgwyn Community Centre open: The letter from NSLAS seeking funding to keep this centre open as they used it for club purposes because it was central with easy access and plenty of parking spaces. – ***The Council resolved to suggest that the group use Marford Community Centre as it also met the Club`s requirements.***

Application for financial assistance from Gresford Methodist Church (Councillor Mrs B Blackmore declared a personal and/or prejudicial interest in this application and left the meeting whilst it was discussed) - ***The Council resolved to obtain a copy of the Church`s accounts before giving sympathetic consideration to the application and also recommend that they should seek funding from other sources.***

311 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting would be the on Thursday, 4th September 2014 at 7.15 p.m. at Gresford Memorial Hall.

**COUNCILLOR MRS B BLACKMORE
CHAIRMAN**

Presiding Chairman.....Date.....