

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

### **Members Present**

Councillors A. Bailey, M Harriman, J Holmes, J. Dutton, M. Lloyd-Roberts, J. Macdonald, J. Jones, B Watson, B Blackmore, G. Frank-Keyes, M. J. Edwards

**Chair:** Councillor S. Cleaver

**Clerk:** Serena Baxter

**Apologies given and accepted:** Councillors M. Lightwood, J. Hughes

---

### **616. 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 M.J. Edwards advised that he would declare an interest under the Planning item on the Agenda.

### **617. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Jerry O'Keefe and Mr David Spalding attended the meeting as invitees, no other Members of the Public were present at the meeting

### **618. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

An amendment was suggested under item 606, to clarify that the dispensation was for certain Gresford Trust members. The Clerk advised of a further amendment under item 609-the figure agreed for the precept was £85,200. The Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 were otherwise agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **619. POLICE REPORT:**

Sergeant Katie Davies and PCSO Lisa Davies presented a crime report for December 2016. This included, in Gresford, an incident of criminal damage at the Cemetery, a burglary to a shed and chainsaw stolen, a burglary at Yew Tree Court, an incident of shoplifting at the Spar, and an incident of Anti-Social behaviour at the Plough. In Marford, there had been an incident of Arson to a wheelie bin on Marford Hill, 8 counts of shoplifting at the Co-operative store, 4 incidents of burglary to a shed and garage where cycles were stolen, and two incidents of criminal damage where objects were thrown at windows causing damage. PCSO Davies advised in answer to a question that she was taking all steps to publicise the need for vigilance concerning security to sheds and outbuildings and has set up a 'Cuppa with a copper session'.

### **620. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION.**

Mr Jerry O'Keefe and Mr David Spalding of the Gresford Allotment Association attended, and presented a report to the Council that they have prepared to the University of Wales, currently the landowners of the land occupied by the Allotment Association. They advised of a valuation that has taken place of the land and the possibility of a land disposal taking place. The aim and wish of the Allotment Association is to preserve the allotments as a Community asset and put to the Council a request for support in doing so. Councillors addressed questions to Mr O'Keefe and Mr Spalding, concerning the legal status of the land, their position as lessees and whether they had as a group been able to apply for any grant funding. Councillor Cleaver advised that she had sent a letter of support for the Allotment Association to the University of Wales on behalf of the Community Council. Mr O'Keefe and Mr Spalding were thanked for their report and for attending the meeting.

## **621. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION – CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST MADE.**

A discussion took place about the circumstances outlined by the Allotment Association and the ways in which the Council might be able to provide support. It was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Finance Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 to consider the issue in more depth.

**ACTION:** Clerk to liaise with Mr O’Keefe and provide a further report to the Finance Committee.

## **622. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- i. Car Parking Rofft school- Clerk advised on the current position as advised previously by WCBC. **ACTION:** Clerk to liaise further with WCBC
- ii. 7 Chester Road: Councillor Cleaver advised of a meeting that had taken place with a Senior Planning Officer of WCBC, concerning ways in which the issue might be further progressed. A discussion took place about the way forward that had been suggested by the Planning Officer. Clerk advised that the option of making representation to the Ombudsman could not go ahead due to the legal status of both WCBC and the Community Council:  
**ACTION:** Clerk to continue to liaise with the Planning Department concerning progress.
- iii. Broken Bollard on parking area close to Allington Park: Clerk advised that she had received a quotation from Northalls to supply a replacement collapsible bollard. Other options to secure the site had been given which the Clerk intended to take to the General Amenities Committee for discussion.  
**AGREED:** To purchase the replacement bollard from Northalls at a price of £260.
- iv. Tree by Texaco Garage: Concern was raised that vehicles continue to park under the tree. **ACTION:** Clerk to chase the work that had been promised by WCBC to install a bollard.
- v. Overgrown vegetation near Gresford Sailing Club (The Flash): It was reported that vegetation had been cut back and the matter was now resolved. It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas.
- vi. High Street Gresford: Clerk advised of the arrangements of a site meeting due to take place with Graham Lloyd of WCBC Highways department.

## **623. COMMITTEES.**

### **Finance Committee**

- i. The Chair of the Committee Councillor Macdonald advised of the record of the meeting held on the 23rd November 2016 and the minutes were duly noted.
- ii. The Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee were discussed in view of suggestions made by One Voice Wales and it was moved by Councillor Dutton and seconded by Councillor Lloyd Roberts that the Terms of Reference be adopted.

**AGREED:** The Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee are adopted.

### **General Amenities Committee**

- i. The Chair of the Committee Councillor Macdonald advised of the record of the meeting held on the 16th November 2016 and the minutes were duly noted.
- ii. Lighting Column at Stancliffe Avenue- Clerk advised of communication from WCBC concerning the need to repair a light at the junction of Stancliffe Avenue and Wynnstay Lane. It had been recommended by the General Amenities Committee that the expenditure to install the new column be approved, however Councillor Macdonald had noticed recently that a

column had already been put in place. The Clerk had queried this with WCBC but was awaiting a response.

**AGREED:** As the current status of the column is not clear and a response to explain this is awaited from WCBC, Council resolved to ensure that a response from WCBC is received before proceeding, and once received that the repair is to be made at the best price possible and not exceeding the price quoted.

- iii. Lighting Column 122 Beech Avenue and Lime Avenue. Clerk advised of communication from WCBC recommending repair but also replacement of column with a raise and lower column as the position of the column currently raised Health and Safety issues with regard to current and future repairs.

**AGREED:** To approve the installation of the raise and lower column at the price quoted by WCBC.

- iv. Tarmacing areas identified under Play area inspection. Clerk advised on progress in obtaining quotations according to the relevant specification. Two quotations had been received. It was proposed by Councillor Watson that the cheaper quotation be accepted and a vote was taken on this and carried.

**AGREED:** To go ahead with ordering the work to tarmac the identified areas.

### **Cemetery Committee**

- i. The Chair of the Committee Councillor Bailey advised of the record of the meeting held on the 9th November 2016 and the minutes were duly noted. Council were advised of progress being made by the Cemetery Assistant in tracing families of owners of unused plots, to bring them back into use.

### **624. REPORTS**

- i) **Chair's Report:** The Chair reported that an invitation had been received for attendance at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, representing the Community Council. The invitation has gone out to all Chairs of Community Councils in Wales and there will be a limited number of those accepting being invited finally. Chair has accepted the invitation and is waiting to hear. The Chair also advised Members of purchases made from the Chairs Allowance, totalling £29.98, and these were for tokens of appreciation on behalf of the Council for voluntary assistance and time given by the Electrician and Lighting/ Highways company that assisted with the poppies and the Christmas tree.
- ii) **Wrexham County Borough Council:** Councillor Edwards advised on the outcome of a Planning Committee meeting that had taken place wherein the approval had been granted for the upgrade of the telephone mast at the end of Pant Lane. This had been discussed at a previous meeting. This has been moved back one metre but will go ahead. The point had been made about the Noticeboard being the property of the Community Council and should not have been moved. Councillor Bailey advised that he has reported the need for white lines at the junction of Clappers Lane and Chester Road. Public Order Notices served for dog control have been reviewed and can be applied to all land where the Public have access, so potentially including Maes Y Pant and other areas.
- iii) **Gresford Trust:** Councillor Dutton had circulated a report, and advised members of a Maintenance check to the Hall. A Blood Transfusion service had taken place at the Hall. At the December meeting of the Trust a vote took place on the proposal for erecting a new Stand by Gresford Athletic and Football club. This was agreed at the meeting by a majority. The Trust will monitor the ongoing project. Flooding on Clappers Lane remains a matter of concern. Advice has been received about a number of trees on Trust land.
- iv) **IMAGE:** Councillor Bailey advised on funds that had been raised as a result of the Christmas quiz, which had received more entries than the previous year.

- v) **Maes Y Pant:** Councillor Edwards had previously circulated a report, and highlighted that the Tesco Bags of Help had been successful and £12,000 will be received. Tree felling is due to take place as part of the 5-year woodland management plan. The Green Flag Community Award has again been applied for, and a bid is to be made for the Green Spaces Project Funding.
- vi) **Website:** The Chair advised that the website continues to prove popular with 744 visits made in December. The host of the website is Weebly, and a bill is due imminently for the annual costs.
- vii) **Library:** Councillor Jones advised that the Children's Library Project is now finished and thanked the Community Council for providing money towards the improvements. They are now looking to improve kitchen and bathroom facilities, with a view to opening up the Library for use by more groups. Footfall for the library remains steady. Raffle tickets are currently on sale to raise funds.
- viii) **Feedback from the Town and Community Council Forum:** The Clerk advised Members of matters that had been discussed at the Forum, including presentations by Virgin Media, who are active in upgrading broadband and rolling out services across the Borough, and by the Wrexham Public Service Board. It was agreed that the representative of Virgin Media be invited to a future meeting.
- ix) **Feedback from the Regional meeting of the SLCC:** The Clerk advised that she had attended a regional meeting of the SLCC which had been very useful.

## 625. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)

- i. *P/2016 /1101:-* Application to determine whether prior approval is required to upgrade to existing telecommunication installation-12.00 High monopole to be installed on root foundation together with associated cabinet- Pant Lane, Gresford. Members were advised this had already been to Planning Committee and had gone through so it was too late to give a comment. However it was noted that the moving of the Council's noticeboard had taken place without permission sought and Clerk was asked to relay this to the Planning department.
- ii. *P/2016/ 1093:-* 1 Copper Beech reduce height by approx..2-2.5 metres, selectively reduce side branches, crown lift over neighbouring property approx. 5 metres ground clearance. Remove all risings from the site. 2 Purple Plum fell to ground level and remove from site(Marford conservation area) Motte House, Marford Hill, Marford. Councillors requested that this work should proceed under the direction of Wrexham Council's Arboricultural officer.
- iii. *P/2016/1122:-* First Floor Extension Replacement of Flat Roof with pitched Roof and internal alterations-14 Stancliffe Avenue, Marford. Councillor M.J. Edwards expressed an interest in this matter and left the room. Remaining Councillors had no comments to make.
- iv. *P/2016/1175:-* Extension at Ground Floor Level and garage below-Hillside, Hoseley Lane, Marford. Councillors had no comments to make.
- v. *P/2016/1172:-* Single Storey Rear Extension to Upper Ground Floor to form Sun Lounge- Foxwood Cottage, Carthage Lane, Gresford. Councillors had no comments to make.

## 626. FINANCE

- i. The Following items were approved for Payment:

Date	Payment to	Cheque Number	Reason	Amount £
5.1.17	Steve Pugh	202322	Grave making	855.00
5.1.17	STC Ltd	202323	Work to boundary hedge	768.00
5.1.17	Scottish Power	202324	Lighting Supply	830.95

5.1.17	S Cleaver	202325	Chairs Allowance payments	29.98
5.1.17	WCBC	202326	Repairs to Play equipment	1176.00
5.1.17	N Route	202327	Invoices Grass cutting Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec.2016	2210.00
5.1.17	M Jones	202328	NJC Salary	
5.1.17	Claybrook Services Ltd	202329	Erection of Christmas tree	201.60
5.1.17	S Baxter	202330	NJC Salary	
5.1.17	HMRC	202331	Due amounts	46.20

- ii. The Clerk circulated the finalised budget that had been agreed at the Council meeting on 1.12.16 and this was noted.
- iii. The Clerk outlined a request for expenditure of £99. to enable her to access ILCA materials online and this was approved.
- iv. The Clerk outlined the circumstances concerning an approach made to the Cemetery Assistant by a grave plot owner who no longer wished to own the grave.

**AGREED:** To purchase back the grave plot for resale at a cost of £516.

**627. Member’s urgent announcements and requests for future meeting items.**

- i. Councillor Bailey outlined a proposal that had been received from Cadwyn Cymru concerning the BT telephone box (which is of the original iconic design) on Pant Lane, which is being taken out of circulation by BT. It is possible to purchase the Telephone box for a nominal amount and a discussion took place around the possible use of the Telephone box if this were to happen. **AGREED:** To invite representative to a future meeting to outline this in more detail.

**628. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Items of Correspondence were tabled in a report from the Clerk, as received by the Council for the month of December, and these were **noted**.

**629. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED:** The next meeting to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 at 7.15 pm at the Gresford Methodist Church Hall.

**COUNCILLOR S Cleaver**

**CHAIR** ..... **Date**.....