

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018

### Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, M. Harriman, J Holmes, S. Atherton, M. J. Edwards, J. Hobbley, J. Dutton, R. Smith

**Chair:** Councillor J. Holmes

**Clerk:** Serena Baxter

**Apologies given and accepted:** Councillors R. Gilmartin, J. Blackmore, B. Blackmore, M. Wilde, M. Lightwood A. Atkinson

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### 256. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

**257. 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 for any item under discussion. Councillors Atherton and Dutton both expressed interests concerning Planning matters (to follow).

### 258. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

**259. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** Councillor Bailey reminded of the need to remove the word 'Annual' from the heading. The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were agreed as a true record.

**260. POLICE REPORT:** PCSO Susie Lawrence had sent her apologies for the meeting and had forwarded details of crime statistics for Gresford and Marford. These were considered and discussed.

### 261. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **Parking signs and road markings Wynnstay Lane** - The Clerk advised of a response received from Mr Green of WCBC that he is pushing the contractors to complete this work.
- ii. **Parking near junction of Claypit Lane and Chester Road.** - The Clerk advised of a response received from Mr Green of WCBC that he is presently taking this forward in consultation with Councillor Gilmartin as the Borough Councillor.
- iii. **7 Chester Road:** The Clerk advised of a response she had received from WCBC Planning Officer in response to the letter sent on behalf of the Community Council. A discussion took place on this matter. Councillor Harriman expressed concern at the apparent lack of willingness by WCBC to act on this matter. Various issues were noted, including Health and Safety concerns related to the footpath, which have previously been relayed to WCBC. Councillor Smith expressed the view that contact should be made with the site owner and options discussed. It was noted that the health and safety issue concerning the footpath is a Highways matter. Councillor Atherton suggested writing a letter. It was noted that a meeting had previously taken place with the landowner. Councillor Harriman referred to the Planning Guidance referred to in the letter received from WCBC as being contradictory. **Action: Clerk to contact the Planning department to clarify the Planning Guidance regarding Amenity. To contact Highways to suggest a site meeting to look at the Health and safety**

**aspect. To write to the landowner about the concerns and the wishes of the Community Council to resolve the matter.**

- iv. **Clappers Lane:** Councillor Dutton advised there had been no further action by WCBC, despite the prolonged spell of dry weather. In addition, the verge on Clappers Lane needs trimming as it is blocking visibility to the Cemetery path. The Cushion also remains outstanding. **Action: Clerk to contact WCBC.**
  - v. **High Street, Gresford:** The Clerk advised of a response received from Mr Green of WCBC that he has recommended that the proposed layout of yellow lines be approved and is awaiting that approval.
  - vi. **Pont Y Capel Lane.** The Clerk advised that she was awaiting the required information from North Wales Police. A discussion took place about the process involved, as suggested by Mr Green. Councillor Dutton advised on the process concerning a stopping order. There might be some expense involved. A discussion also took place about the confusion arising concerning Pont Y Capel Lane being on both Gresford and Llay sides of the A483. **Action: Clerk to clarify process with Planning and Legal departments and write to Highways department.**
- 262. Draft Communications Policy:** The Clerk presented a draft document and outlined some reasons why such a document might be required. It was confirmed that the Council had adopted a Social Media Policy, but this document concerned other notifications including to the press. A discussion took place about the process referred to in the document including delegations for approvals to Vice Chair and delegated Councillor. Reference was made to NextDoor, Facebook and WhatsApp. Councillor Harriman referred to Good Practice that had been flagged at the Innovative Practices conference recently, and a database of communication going from Councillors to the Clerk. **It was determined that further work is required on the policy and it is to be brought back to Council at a later date.**
- 263. Report from County Borough Councillors Gresford and Marford:** A report submitted by Councillor Atkinson who was not present, was circulated. It was noted that Councillor Gilmartin is on holiday. It was noted that the purpose of the reports is to provide a link for the Community Council with any policies or changes occurring in the Unitary Authority which might impact in the future on the Community Council or its areas.
- 264. Cemetery Committee:**
- i. The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June were noted, with a few amendments suggested: **Action: Clerk to make amendments.**
  - ii. Approval was sought for a quotation of £200 to tidy the edges of paths within the Cemetery. This was moved by Councillor Bailey and seconded by Councillor Holmes and was **Approved.**
  - iii. Approval was sought to clear the surface area of the proposed spoil area at a cost of £450. Councillor Harriman explained the background to the request and costing. This was moved and **Approved, subject to clarification as to whether the contractor has the correct means to collect and dispose of the waste collected.**
  - iv. Approval was sought for a quotation received of £501 plus VAT to repair the roof of the Cemetery building. The Clerk explained that due to the length of time that had elapsed since the original quotation was given the contractor had increased his price slightly however this had been considered by Cemetery Committee alongside other quotations. The recommendation was accepted, and the amount of expenditure **Approved.**

- v. Approval was sought to decorate the Cemetery building at a cost of £740 and this was **Approved**.
- vi. Approval was sought for a quotation of £95 to varnish the benches in the Cemetery, and this was **Approved**.
- vii. The Clerk circulated a report received from North Wales Wildlife Trust concerning the ecology of the Cemetery and what might happen next. Councillors Bailey and Harriman outlined the meeting that had taken place with the representative of the North Wales Wildlife Trust. It was also noted that the outcome of any further report will need to be accounted for within any future grass cutting contract. Councillor Harriman proposed that approval be granted for the Cemetery Committee to be able to act to commission a more detailed survey up to a cost of £500 to facilitate this quickly and so as not to hold up the progress with the grass cutting contract. This was seconded by Councillor Hobbly and **Approval was granted**. Councillor Edwards suggested it be left to the Cemetery Committee to decide what was acceptable but that such a survey should have a lifespan of years rather than months. Councillor Dutton highlighted the background to the metal boundary and hedge. A discussion took place about the Cemetery lease. Councillor Bailey also raised the idea of a Memorial tree.

**265. Lighting Committee:**

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 were noted.
- ii. Councillor Harriman advised on current progress with regard to replacement LED. It is the intention of the Committee to approach seven contractors for quotation information which will enable progress to be made on the application for Salix funding. Information can be gleaned from contractors about lanterns and lights generally which in turn will help inform the draft tender document, and also trimming and dimming.
- iii. Quotes will also be sought to replace the seven columns identified in the structural survey as being in need of replacement.

**266. General Amenities Committee:**

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were noted.
- ii. Councillor Atherton updated on progress with the Inclusive Play Equipment.
- iii. A discussion took place about the matter of grass cutting at Marford Play Area. Councillor Harriman gave his understanding of the background to the management of the Play Area and the grass cutting, which had now ceased. The Clerk advised on the position as advised by the Council's Insurance company, should the Community Council wish to employ a contractor. Councillor Edwards pointed out that WCBC are not doing the basic requirement. Councillor Atherton asked for a vote concerning the Play Area, and whether an approach should be made to WCBC to ask for a Community Asset Transfer. The vote was taken, and the majority **agreed** for this course of action to be pursued. Councillor Atherton then asked about the approach to be taken. Councillor Harriman suggested a letter requesting a temporary lease whereby the Community Council can undertake grass cutting of this area for health and safety reasons, and to enter into discussion to resolve the issues. **Action: Clerk to write letter.**
- iv. Councillor Atherton updated the council concerning the Telephone kiosk. The defibrillator had been stolen and discussions were underway regarding a possible replacement with Community Heartbeat Trust. A discussion took place about future security of the defibrillator. Councillor Dutton advised on the security measures for the defibrillator at the Trust, and Councillor Bailey concerning CCTV. Other matters

highlighted concerned arrangements for the lake clear up, the lake risk assessment, Community Awards and the installation of bins and bike rack. Councillor Atherton advised of a meeting that had taken place with a designer of a War Memorial and the drafted design was circulated. Councillor Hobbley expressed concern at the cost and felt that more quotes and designs should be sought. Councillor Harriman said he liked the style of that at Marchwiell, and suggested the need for three or four examples to be obtained for consideration. Councillor Atherton said that those present at the meeting liked the design. Councillor Edwards said it would be unwise to discount the opinion of the public. The Clerk advised that at present it is being discussed by two committees and it needs to be determined how to take it forward. Councillor Edwards enquired about ongoing maintenance for this particular design.

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

- i. *P/2018/0490*: Installation of 2 No. Rapid Electric Charging Stations/ Bays together with associated equipment. Gresford service Station Gresford, Wrexham. - No comments or objections made
- ii. *P/2018/0476*: Single storey extension with balcony over Laurel House 68 Wynnstay Lane Marford, Wrexham - No comments or objections made.
- iii. *P/2018/0497*: Proposed retaining wall and earthworks. Pantwood, Pant lane, Gresford, Wrexham: Councillor Atherton declared an interest and left the room. There were no objections made but the Council requested that the development works to take place, or the development thereafter, should not make any impact on the footpath around the property. Councillor Atherton re-joined the meeting.
- iv. *P/2018/0496*: Application for works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order No. WCBC TPO No. 20- 4 No. Lime Trees- Thin trees adjacent to property... Balance crowns of trees by thinning where required by 10-15%. The Pikey, Pikey Lane, Gresford, Wrexham: Councillor J. Dutton declared an interest and left the room. There were no objections made as long as the work is carried out under the advice of the Arboricultural Officer. Councillor Dutton re-joined the meeting.
- v. *P/2018/0527*: Listed Building Consent for extensions including external and internal alterations: - Allington Farm, Cox lane, Rossett, Wrexham :- No comments or objections made.
- vi. *P/2018/0530*: Variation of Condition No.2 Imposed under Planning Permission P/2017/0677 to allow for the parking and operation of 9 private hire vehicles (4 cars and 5 minibuses):- Fairfield Farm Barkers Lane, Borrass, Wrexham.:- The Council raised concerns about this application. It felt that the number of vehicles mentioned (9 in total) is too extensive, and akin to a commercial operation such as operates from town centre or the industrial estate and was not suitable for a residential area such as this. There are concerns that this would cause noise nuisance, particularly at anti-social hours, as the operation would potentially include airport runs. Vehicle pollution is also a concern. There is also concern about the lanes nearby and that this would be operating near a significant bend in the road on the junction, which with such vehicles could be hazardous. The Community Council would request that this application be refused on these grounds.
- vii. *P/2018/0519*: - Two storey rear extension to dwelling, front and rear extensions to existing detached garage and extension to existing outhouse together with conservatory; 2 Lake Villas High Street Gresford Wrexham: - The Council had no objections to make, but were concerned that construction traffic would be going up the lane which is used extensively by schoolchildren at school times 9am/3,30pm. Account needs to be taken of this for health and safety. The public footpath should not be subject to any degradation because of the works to go ahead, and if there should be any damage to the footpath it should be put right by the contractor.

## **268. FINANCE:**

- i) The following items of expenditure were presented and **Approved**.

Date	Payment To	Reason	Cheque Number	Amount £
19.6.18	Barriers Direct	Order for Bike stands	202565	429.69
5.7.18	WCBC	Street Lighting Maintenance	202566	2200.52
5.7.18	Scottish Power	Lighting Supply	202567	862.73
5.7.18	Northalls Ltd	Repair to gate	202568	132.00
5.7.18	Gresford Trust	Hire of rooms	202569	345.25
5.7.18	Steve Pugh	Gravedigging services	202570	630.00
5.7.18	Serena Baxter	NJC Salary and reimbursement	202571	
5.7.18	Michelle Jones	NJC Salary	202572	
5.7.18	HMRC	Monthly amount due	202573	
5.7.18	N.Route	Invoice grass cutting	202574	565.00

**269. New Data Protection Regulations:** The Clerk advised there was nothing further to report but a training module is imminent.

**270. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no urgent announcements. Councillor Harriman suggested that it was important to explore big lottery funding for projects as he had been aware of an award made at Chirk. Councillor Holmes enquired about surveying of trees at Old Wrexham road.

**271. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**272. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED:** The next meeting of the Council will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 at 7.15p.m. at the Gresford Methodist Church Hall.

**COUNCILLOR J. Holmes.**

**CHAIR .....**

**Date.....**