

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, J Holmes, M. J. Edwards, J. Dutton, R. Smith, B. Blackmore, M. Harriman , , M. Wilde, J. Blackmore

**Chair:** Councillor J. Holmes

**Clerk:** Serena Baxter

**Apologies given and accepted:** Councillors M. Lightwood ,R. Gilmartin, S. Atherton, A. Atkinson

**Absent:** J. Hobbley

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### 339. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted. The Clerk and the Chair advised of the current circumstances of Councillor Lightwood and it was **AGREED** to grant a six-month dispensation from the attending of Council and Committee meetings. The Council expressed their best wishes to Councillor Lightwood.

**340. 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. The Clerk confirmed that the list of grant applications received is at this stage for information only.

**341. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** There were no members of the public present

**342. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 were agreed as a true record. The Chair expressed thanks to Councillors B. Blackmore, Smith, and Bailey for their help with putting up the Christmas tree in the village, and to Mr C. Grunwald for his assistance with putting up the lights.

**343. POLICE REPORT:** PCSO S. Lawrence attended and gave the Police Report for the month of November, highlighting instances of Anti-social Behaviour, theft and criminal damage in Marford and Gresford. It was noted that the list of crimes for November looked much healthier than in previous months. PCSO Lawrence thanked Councillors for their letter sent to her superior officer .Councillor Holmes mentioned an issue of speeding on the High Street. Councillor M Davies highlighted an issue that had been raised concerning vehicles in Marford parking on the pavement by the Co-op and that these were customers and not just delivery vans. PCSO Lawrence advised she would go and speak to the Co-op. Councillor Edwards stated that such issues need to be reported straight away to Traffic division. PCSO Lawrence was thanked for her report and left.

### 344. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

i. **Parking near junction of Claypit Lane and Chester Road.** - No further update

ii. **7 Chester Road** No further update. After discussion it was determined that these last two items should be put on the agenda only every quarter for monitoring. **Action: Clerk.**

iii. **Clappers Lane flooding :** Councillor Dutton declared an interest but noted the dispensation in place. She advised that no further progress had been made with WCBC. After discussion it was decided that a letter could go to Ian Lucas MP to see if he can again take the matter up with WCBC. Councillor Harriman suggested getting

a drainage person to give a view and an idea of price. Councillor Dutton stated that Clappers lane may need a total clearance of the tank and possibly a new one. Various areas of flooding were discussed, and Councillor Wilde highlighted a possible hazard being water run-off from the new pitch at Colliers Park. Councillor Edwards stated this needs to be looked at against the Planning conditions to see if it constituted a breach. It was agreed that it would be worth exploring with a drainage contractor as previously suggested, and Councillor Holmes highlighted Old Wrexham Road as a similar issue.

- iv. **High Street, Gresford:** A discussion took place about Councillor Atkinson's meeting with WCBC whereby an amount of £65 was required to carry out a survey which might then lead to a flashing speeding sign being erected on High street. It was noted that the expenditure had been approved.
- v. **Pont Y Capel Lane.** The Clerk advised that she had sent the letter requesting a stop-up of the road, to WCBC along with supporting evidence as requested. A response is still awaited and WCBC have apparently yet to deal with it. **AGREED: A letter be sent to WCBC asking them to take forward urgently. Action: Clerk.**

#### **345. FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were noted. Councillor Edwards drew members attention to the item concerning an agreement to be made with Gresford Athletic Junior Football Club, concerning the use and maintenance of part of Allington Park .
- ii. Councillor Edwards advised the meeting of the revised draft Policy on Reserves document and explained there is a need to make sure there is a sensible amount in Reserve for each planned item. Replacement street lighting and Play equipment are the two largest areas for planned expenditure. Unearmarked reserves are then only 21.6% of total expenditure which should satisfy the Audit recommendation. **RESOLVED: The revised Policy on Earmarked Reserves to be adopted forthwith.**
- iii. Councillor Edwards advised the meeting of the work carried out by the Finance Committee to establish a budget for the forthcoming year that is realistic but at the same time reflective of the current economic climate and the wish not to overburden residents. Councillor Edwards explained each budget head in detail. A query was raised about the amount set aside for grant purposes. Councillor Edwards explained that with a substantial contribution from balances towards the precept a budget of £98,500 was recommended for 2019-20, and with contributions from balances and anticipated receipts, a precept of £89,000 was recommended. This represents an increase of 1.1% on the previous year. Councillor Harriman moved the proposed recommendation and Councillor Bailey seconded it. **It was RESOLVED to ask WCBC for the amount of £89,000 to be raised as Precept for 2019-20.**

#### **346. OUTCOME OF MEETING HELD WITH WCBC CONCERNING MARFORD PLAY**

**AREA:** In the absence of Councillors Atherton and Gilmartin , the Clerk gave an overview of the meeting that had taken place with WCBC. Ms Parry had advised that the land forms part of the Rofft schools land area which is reported annually to Welsh Government, together with the number of attendees at the school. The reason why the maintenance of the area had been stopped could not be ascertained. Budgets are tight. Ms Parry gave an undertaking that WCBC had cut the grass and would do the same in the spring if the matter had still not been resolved. The prospect of an Asset transfer was discussed, and Ms Parry outlined the reasons why she thought this might be difficult to achieve. She agreed to discuss the possibility of a lease of the land with senior managers. She also stated the need to review and redraft the longstanding agreement with Gresford Community Council to site and be responsible for the Play Equipment on the land. Councillor Dutton advised of the Queen Elizabeth II Play Area scheme which can preserve an area for play. A discussion took place about whether a lease agreement

is what the Council wish to enter into. It was stated that the land is limited in its potential use. Councillor Harriman expressed the view that it would cost money to make it more attractive. It was **AGREED that Councillors Atherton and Gilmartin be asked to take forward the matter and report back to the next meeting, and a letter be sent by the Clerk confirming the details of the meeting and the agreement to maintain the land until resolved.**

- 347. REVIEW OF GRANTS PROCEDURE:** Councillor Wilde introduced this item stating that he feels the procedure is out of date. The requirement to wait for one year to apply and the length of time before the money is received is not beneficial to organisations which should be able to apply as their need arises. Councillor Wilde proposed that the matter of grant awards be considered at least quarterly. A discussion took place. Councillor Edwards stated that by considering requests annually, it ensures that the budget is not spent part way through the year and that all requests are treated in the same way. He proposed grants be considered twice a year. A number of Councillors were in agreement that that twelve months was too long, and suggested they could be looked at differently, depending on amounts required. The Clerk advised of current procedure where grants are required more urgently and suggested that the website could highlight this more prominently. Councillor Dutton proposed that grants could be considered quarterly by Finance Committee. Councillor Edwards proposed that the matter be referred back to Finance Committee to consider. Councillor Dutton's proposal was seconded by Councillor B. Blackmore and a vote was taken. Eight Councillors were in favour of Grants being considered on a quarterly basis. The second proposal was withdrawn by Councillor Edwards. The Clerk advised that a piece of work would now need to be undertaken to change procedures, timings etc and publicity. Councillor Harriman suggested that the Scheme of Delegation needs to be reviewed concerning the responsibility to award grants more quickly. It was **RESOLVED to undertake a review of the process of awarding grants, and this to be carried out by the Finance Committee, taking account of awarding grants on an Emergency basis, timescales and quotes/ tender valid dates. Action: Clerk to arrange for the procedures to be reviewed by Finance Committee.**
- 348. SPEEDING AND SPEED RESTRICTION MEASURES:** A discussion took place about various locations within the area that have an issue with speeding. Quotes had previously been obtained with regard to mobile speed signs but had been put on hold. The Clerk explained one company had given a demonstration, while two others would give prices only at this stage. Mobile signs require someone trained to deal with them when they need moving. Councillor Harriman suggested that as speeding is an issue in multiple locations, that traffic calming measures should be dealt with in the round and proposed a task and finish group to take this forward. This was **AGREED** and the task and finish group will comprise Councillors Atkinson, Gilmartin, B. Blackmore and Bailey.
- 349. REPORT FROM GRESFORD UNITED CHARITIES:** Councillors B. Blackmore and J. Dutton gave an overview of the purpose and function of the Gresford United Charities.
- 350. REPORT FROM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS GRESFORD AND MARFORD:**
- i. **County Borough Councillor for Gresford-** The Clerk passed on comments from Councillor Atkinson in his absence. These concerned the speeding issue which had already been covered, and the LDP. which has now passed on to the next stage of consultation. Councillor Edwards advised that potholes in Gresford are becoming more serious and would ask Councillor Atkinson to raise this issue. Councillor Dutton advised of 'fixmystreet' as an avenue for reporting such faults.
  - ii. **County Borough Councillor for Marford-** The Clerk passed on comments received from Councillor Gilmartin in his absence. The companies whose vehicles park outside the Co-op have been written to. He has passed his concerns on to the Planning department concerning the application for extended hours. He has approached

Highways concerning the repainting of the old 40mph signs to 30 and has not received a satisfactory response and would support speed indicator signs along the hill. Concerning the request for a grit bin along Sunnyridge Avenue, the Clerk advised of the response she had received from highways concerning issues around provision and the price. After discussion it was RESOLVED not to provide a salt bin at the present time, but that the information provided by Highways might be useful to the residents. It **was AGREED** that the Clerk should pass this on to Councillor Gilmartin so that he can respond to the residents.

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

- i. *P/2018/0975*: Erection of Fence( more than one metre high) Next to highway ( in retrospect): Edgcroft, Pant lane, Gresford, Wrexham. –The Council wish to object to this fence in its present height and appearance being out of keeping with the general area which is formed of trees and hedges and would also query access issues and visibility on to a bend in the road.
- ii. *P/2018/0959*: Outline Planning Application for 1 No. Dwelling on land associated with 33 Wynnstay Lane: Rose Cottage, 33 Wynnstay Lane, Marford, Wrexham. -The Council wish to object to this on the grounds of increased traffic in a difficult location and support the objections and matters raised by the Highways department in their letter.
- iii. *P/2018/0961*: Single storey rear extension: 24 Gorse Crescent, Marford, Wrexham.- There was no objection raised.
- iv. *P/2018/0909*: Erection of railings on existing low boundary wall ( max. 2metres overall height): The Orchard, Marford hill, Marford, Wrexham. -There was no objection raised.
- v. *P/2018/0988*: Ground Floor Extension to Utility room: Llwyn Eglwys, The Green, Gresford, Wrexham. -There was no objection raised
- vi. *P/2018/0989*: Application for variation of condition number 10 imposed under appeal Ref App/H6955/A/13/2209711(Planning Ref. P/2012/0830) To allow for deliveries and servicing to take place between 7.00 and 22.00 Monday to Saturdays( The proposal seeks to extend the delivery period by 30 minutes in the morning). Land adjacent to Red Lion Public House Marford Hill, Marford, Wrexham.- There was no objection raised.

### 352. FINANCE:

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

Date	Payment To	Reason	Cheque Number	Amount £
6.12.18	The Community Heartbeat Trust	Purchase of spare defibrillator pads	202633	39.00
6.12.18	WCBC	Supply and installation of 10 bins	202634	2200.00
6.12.18	C.B. Lightwood	Clearance and disposal of area and waste at Cemetery	202635	1320.00
6.12.18	Jo Burke	Purchase of mobile phone for Clerk	202636	40.00
6.12.18	The British Legion	Purchase of Wreath and poppies for Remembrance	202637	60.00
6.12.18	SLCC	Renewal of membership 2019-20	202638	136.00
6.12.18	Ray Parry	Installation of Inclusive Play Equipment at Allington Park	202639	20,095.20

6.12.18	Scottish Power	Monthly supply to end of October 2018	202640	862.73
6.12.18	One Voice Wales	Fee for attendance of delegates at Conference	202641	190.00
6.12.18	Steve Pugh	Gravedigging service	202642	410.00
6.12.18	Ron Roden	Painting of Cemetery Shelter	202643	835.00
6.12.18	WCBC	School Crossing Patrol	202644	1097.00
6.12.18	S Baxter	NJC Salary and reimbursements	202645	
6.12.18	HMRC	Monthly amount Due	202646	
6.12.18	M.Jones	NJC Salary and reimbursements	202647	

In relation to the above, Councillor Harriman suggested a letter of thanks be sent to Mr B. Lightwood for his work in clearing the Cemetery area of Spoil.

- ii. **NOTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE SUM UNDERSECTION 137 (4) (A) of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.:** The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from Welsh Government detailing the appropriate sum calculation.

**353. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- i. **Councillor Blackmore – Nomination of Cemetery to Awards scheme:** Councillor Blackmore asked if Council would agree to her nominating Gresford Cemetery to an Awards scheme in view of the work that had been undertaken recently. This was **AGREED**.
- ii. **Councillor Bailey – Community Agent:** Councillor Bailey raised the issue of reviewing the need for a Community Agent , which Council had previously discussed and agreed to review periodically, in the light of comments made by PCSO Lawrence about people being lonely in the Community. This was echoed by Councillor Edwards. It was **AGREED** that this could be raised at the next General Amenities Committee meeting.

**354. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Items of Correspondence were tabled in a report from the Clerk, as received by the Council for the month of November and these were **noted**. The Clerk advised that since the report had been prepared and sent out, two further grant applications had been received , from Gresford Trust and from Gresford Play group.

**355. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED:** The next meeting of the Council will be the 3rd January 2019 at 7.15p.m. at the Gresford Trust Memorial Hall.

**COUNCILLOR J. Holmes.**

**CHAIR .....**

**Date.....**