

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD METHODIST CHURCH HALL ON 4th January 2018

Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, M. Harriman, B. Blackmore, J. Holmes, S. Atherton, M. J. Edwards, M. Wilde, J. Hobbly, J. Blackmore, A. Atkinson

Chair: Councillor B Blackmore

Clerk: Serena Baxter

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors M. Lightwood, J. Dutton, R. Gilmartin

136. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

137. 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.

138. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

139. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Councillor Atkinson requested an amendment to item 133 ii) concerning the memorial bench. The Clerk requested a copy of the notes taken for item 127 iii) since she was not present for this item. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2017 were otherwise agreed and approved as a true record.

140. POLICE REPORT:

No member of the local policing unit was present and no report was sent to the meeting.

141. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CLERK'S REPORT

- i. **Car Parking Rofft school-** The Clerk reported that she understood that Councillor Gilmartin had met with WCBC and raised the issue. However, the signage is still not in place. **Action: Clerk to continue to chase with WCBC.**
- ii. **7 Chester Road:** Councillor Atkinson advised that he is continuing to chase this matter. A question was raised about the Planning Permission process regarding the land. Councillor Atkinson asked that this be revisited in February.
- iii. **Clappers Lane:** Councillor Holmes advised that the flooding was bad over Christmas and had been over the footpath. Councillor Atkinson advised that he was aware that WCBC had been under pressure during December but that he would continue to chase the matter with them.
- iv. **High Street, Gresford:** The Clerk advised that she had written to remind WCBC about putting lines at the junction of High Street and the road to the Trust. Councillor Holmes reminded that the issue had been discussed twelve months previously at the site meeting. Councillor Atkinson advised that he had also been chasing the matter. **Action: Both Clerk and Councillor Atkinson to continue to follow up on this matter.**
- v. **Community Speed Watch Scheme:** Councillor Atkinson advised that he had bought an additional speed gun and answered some questions on its operation, and explained how it could be utilised. Councillor Edwards requested that Councillor Atkinson e-mail to each member of the Council details of the speed gun and how it is to work. A process and a protocol on its use is needed. **Action: Clerk to put on the agenda for the General Amenities Committee.**

142. CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk presented a report updating Members on a number of issues and highlighted the following. Options had been received for a replacement camera from Connected security, one of which might involve attaching the Camera to the system in place at the Trust. This would need to be explored with and agreed by the Trust. In the meantime, the Clerk wishes to pursue additional contractors for prices and had also been in contact with WCBC who may be able to assist. She will continue to follow up on this matter and report in due course. Information had been obtained from Rhos Community Council concerning their mobile speed camera and Councillor Wilde commented that it is Gwersyllt Community Council's experience that the mobile ones are not as robust. The Clerk reported that she hopes to set up a meeting shortly to discuss the future arrangements for lighting maintenance. A notification had been received from the Lighting manager of WCBC concerning the future replacements of SOX lights with LED's, as SOX lights will shortly go out of production. Notification had been received of the new limit for the appropriate sum under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, by Welsh Government, and that is £7.86 per elector. An update was given by the Clerk and Councillor Bailey of the recent Town and Community Council Forum, in particular the item concerning electronic notification of Planning Applications. It was reported that there is to be a special meeting held of the forum to consider this matter on the 1st February 2018. The Clerk also advised Members on the process advised by WCBC Electoral section concerning the advertisement of the current casual vacancy. It would need to be advertised first, in the usual despite the election having only been held six months prior, to see if any interest, if no interest then it would need to be notified again asking for co-option. A discussion took place on this process and the Clerk advised she would seek advice of the Electoral section throughout the process.

143. THE FUTURE INSTALLATION OF POPPIES AND OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS/ DECORATIONS AND FEEDBACK ON THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS. A discussion took place concerning the poppies and whether they should be continued with. Councillor Hobbley stated that he had had a discussion at the British Legion who were keen to have a monument put in place perhaps near the lake. Councillor Bailey suggested there may be grants available via WCBC. Concerns were raised about the quality of the poppies and where the money goes in terms of donation versus purchase of poppies. complaints had been received as to where they were placed and the spacing. the Clerk mentioned the difficulty in getting a contractor to put them up and that they might require payment. It was agreed to continue with the poppies but to decide on the location and spacing for the future years. A discussion took place about the possibility of a monument being erected and it was agreed to invite a representative from the British Legion to come to a future meeting to discuss further. Councillor B. Blackmore, Chair, suggested having a group form to take this forward. A discussion took place about the Christmas tree and the need to look at some different decorations for the following year. Councillor Harriman suggested a number of towns and villages have different lights up. **Action: Clerk will contact other Clerks to find our possible options for Lighting and costs. To invite a representative of the British Legion to attend a future Council meeting.** Councillors Atherton and Atkinson gave feedback on the Christmas event that they had organised independently to raise money for playgroup funds. They advised the event had been successful in raising money and they hoped to organise similar for next year. The Chair advised that many people had enjoyed the event.

144. INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL ON FUTURE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS. Councillors Harriman and Bailey had attended on behalf of the Council. a recent consultation event in Chirk organised by One Voice Wales. Councillor Harriman advised that it is very much a ground up approach and the event was to gather views. The outcomes of the Consultation are to be published in a report and suggested that it be an agenda item for the February meeting. **Action: Clerk to put on the next agenda.**

145. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)

- i) P/2017/1029:* -. Swallowdale High Street Gresford Wrexham: Notification Of Proposed Works To Tree Within Gresford Conservation Area:- 1 No. Ash Tree - Fell To

Ground Level *No observations to make- the advice of the Council's Tree Officer is considered to be followed in this matter.*

- ii) **P/2017/1006:** - Edge Hill Hoseley Lane Marford Wrexham: Application for Approval Of Details Reserved By Condition Imposed Under Planning Permission P/2014/0831: Condition 17 - Submission Of Further Details Of The Foul Drainage System. No Observations to make on this matter.
- iii) **P/2017/0994:** - Bryn Y Groes Chester Road Gresford Wrexham: Application for Approval of Details Reserved By Condition Imposed Under Planning Permission P/2005/0613: Condition 20 - Submission Of Appropriate Bat Mitigation Measures. Councillor Edwards explained the background to this matter. No Observations to make on this matter.
- iv) **P/2017/1043:** -Disused Shippon off Village Walks Marford Wrexham: Erection of double garage. No Observations to make on this matter.
- v) **P/2017/1054:** - Land At Home Farm Gresford Road Llay Wrexham Application For Approval Of Reserved Matters Pursuant To Outline Planning Permission P/2014/0905 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout And Scale For The Erection Of 362 Dwellings On All Phases, Including 25% Affordable Housing, Public Open Space,. Concerns raised were about the increase in traffic to be generated through Gresford Village by the development in particular down the Griffin Hill. There would need to be signage along Clapper's Lane and down the Griffin Hill for no large vehicles. Concern was also raised about the proposed retail park on the site and the lack of detail and information concerning this. Access on to the road was also lacking in detail and this gives rise to concerns. Detail is needed about road improvements and safe access on to roads.

146. FINANCE:

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

Date	Payment To	Cheque Number	Reason	Amount £
4.1.18	M.Jones	202484	NJC Salary	
4.1.18	S. Baxter	202486	NJC Salary	
4.1.18	HMRC	202488	Monthly PAYE payment	
4.1.18	Scottish power	202489	Lighting Supply to end Nov. 17	833.96
4.1.18	G.O.& LML. Jones	202490	Supply of Christmas Tree	200.00
4.1.18	STC	202491	Tree work at Cemetery (Minute Nov. 17)	576.00
4.1.18	SLCC	202492	Renewal of Membership (Minute Dec.17)	121.00
4.1.18	N.Route	202493	Grass Cutting for November and December	1090.00
4.1.18	S.Pugh	202494	Gravedigging service	500.00

- ii) The Clerk circulated a copy of the Finalised budget. It was noted that the draft budget for 2020-21 needs to be determined to continue with a three-year budget projection. The Clerk will put this on the agenda for the next Finance Committee.

147. REPORTS: -

- i) **Chair's Report-** The Chair had nothing to report on this occasion.
- ii) **Wrexham County Borough Council-** Councillor Atkinson reported that Central Government has allowed the Council some extra cash and so Scrutiny meetings have been

taking place to look at the budgets for the forthcoming year. Councillor Atkinson is currently receiving many calls and aiming to resolve instances of potholes and speeding cars. In answer to a question he advised that the contract with Kingdom is in place and he is trying to pass as much intelligence to them from the area concerning dog fouling and litter. He confirmed that the Council Tax increase will be 3.9% In terms of service cutbacks. Councillor Atkinson advised that no specific service is being cutback just a reduction overall in services and the time taken to get things done. Councillor Harriman raised the issue of the lengthsman and how this could be taken forward looking at areas in England where they have employed such a role. A discussion took place.

- iii) Gresford Trust- A report was received from the Gresford Trust, given by Councillor Holmes, highlighting achievements, and planned improvements ahead. It was noted that Marford Co-op had made a donation which had achieved the purchase of a defibrillator for public use which is sited by the main entrance.
- iv) IMAGE- A report was given by Councillor Bailey on behalf of IMAGE
- v) Maes Y Pant- Councillor Edwards reported for Maes Y Pant that 160 saplings have now been planted and that names of children can be put forward to be put to each sapling. In addition, the Co-op members can donate their rewards to Maes y Pant as a charity donation.
- vi) Gresford Community Council Website: There was nothing to report regarding the website.
- vii) Gresford Library- A report was given by Councillor Bailey on behalf of Gresford Library, highlighting footfall and recent fundraising events.

148. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no urgent matters raised.

149. 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**.

150. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED: The next meeting of the Council will be the 1st February 2018 at 7.15p.m. at the Gresford Methodist Church Hall.

COUNCILLOR B. Blackmore

CHAIR **Date**.....