

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017

## Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, M. Harriman, J. Holmes, J. Dutton, B. Blackmore, J. Hughes, M. J. Edwards, A. Atkinson, I. Lewis, M. Wilde, J. Hobbley, R. Gilmartin, S. Atherton

**Chair:** Councillors M. J. Edwards (first part), B. Blackmore

**Clerk:** Serena Baxter

**Apologies given and accepted:** Councillor M. Lightwood

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## 01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

## 02. DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND UNDERTAKING TO OBSERVE GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT.

Members were reminded to ensure they had signed and passed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office to the Clerk as Proper Officer, and were advised of the Code of Conduct which has been issued to all members prior to the meeting, which all Councillors must adhere to.

## 03. ELECTION OF CHAIR.

Councillor Edwards chairing this part of the meeting, paid tribute to the outgoing Chair, Councillor Cleaver, who had done an excellent job in the role through the previous year, and this was echoed by Members of the Council. The process of electing a new Chair for the newly formed Council was undertaken. Councillor Harriman proposed Councillor Blackmore, and this was seconded by Councillor Bailey. It was **unanimously resolved that Councillor Beryl Blackmore be elected Chair of the Community Council for the ensuing year. In accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)**, Councillor Blackmore signed a Declaration of Office.

## 04. 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.

**05. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR.** Councillor Bailey nominated Councillor Holmes for the role of Vice-Chair. This was seconded by Councillor Lewis. It was **unanimously resolved that Councillor Janet Holmes be elected Vice-Chair of the Community Council for the ensuing year. In accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)**, Councillor Holmes signed a Declaration of Office.

**06. POLICE REPORT:** The Clerk circulated a report forwarded by PCSO Lisa Davies, detailing crimes reported during the month of April. Councillor Harriman requested that the position on Police attendance at meetings be clarified with North Wales Police. Councillor Edwards highlighted the problem of vehicles parking on the main road by the Co-op and asked that it be raised with the Police as previously it had been confirmed that this was prosecutable. Councillor Hobbley advised that he could enquire on this issue with the Co-op manager at Marford. Councillor Hobbley also declared an interest in this matter and took no further part in the discussion. Councillor Dutton raised and forwarded to the Clerk an email received from a resident who had been disturbed by early delivery lorries. **Action: Clerk to raise matter with PCSO Davies.**

## 07. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Crumplin spoke for five minutes in support of the retention of the telephone kiosk on Pant Lane as a community asset, which could be refurbished and which could house a defibrillator. The Chair advised Mr Crumplin his comments would be noted and that he was welcome to hear the discussion later the agenda.

## 08. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

The Clerk outlined to new members the purpose of each committee. Members were requested by the Chair to advise if they wished to join the respective committees. The following membership of each committee was agreed.

Finance Committee: Councillors Holmes, Harriman, Edwards, Hobbley, Wilde and Lewis. Councillor Blackmore would be an ex officio member.

General Amenities and Lighting Committee: Councillors J Blackmore, Dutton, Atherton, Atkinson and Bailey.

Cemetery: Councillors B Blackmore, Bailey, Hobbley, Edwards and Gilmartin

The Youth Group: Councillors B and J Blackmore. It was agreed that Mrs J Jones be asked to attend in an advisory capacity.

Allotments Task Group: Councillors Bailey, Harriman and Holmes.

## 09. DATES, VENUES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS.

The schedule of meetings through the year prepared by the Clerk for meetings of the Council and Committee meetings was considered **and agreed**.

## 10. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were agreed as a true record

## 11. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i. **Car Parking Rofft school-** The Clerk advised the Council on the background to the matter and the current position. **ACTION: Clerk to continue to liaise with WCBC and to ensure that a site meeting takes place to ensure that the Council's previously agreed position to have yellow lines be scaled back to that agreed on the plan previously submitted by WCBC at the November 2017 meeting, are to be put in place.**
- ii. **7 Chester Road:** The meeting was advised on the background to this issue and the Chair advised on her actions to date as a citizen making a formal complaint to WCBC. A discussion took place. Councillor Lewis raised an issue of health and safety in relation to the fencing. The meeting was advised that WCBC had been made aware of all issues and complaints. **Action Agreed: Clerk to write a letter to WCBC on behalf of the Council requesting enforcement be pursued.**
- iii. **Clappers Lane:** The Clerk advised on the latest response received from WCBC , who are waiting for a drier period forecast in order to conduct a below ground survey of the soakaways on Trust land. Councillor Harriman raised an issue of flooding near the bus stop at the top of Claypit Lane, and Councillor Atkinson raised the issue of flooding near to Pikey Cottage. **Action: Clerk to continue to liaise with WCBC Highways on this matter and advise that they need to keep the Trust informed also. To advise WCBC of the additional flooding matters.**
- iv. **Additional lighting requested Pont Y Capel Lane:** The Clerk advised on the background and that mr Rogers of WCBC is still awaiting a response from Scottish Power. **Action: Clerk to continue to liaise with WCBC.**
- v. **Dog waste bins at Marford:** The Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to North Wales Wildlife trust but no response as yet had been received. The matter of the additional provision of bins had been taken up with WCBC. **Action: Clerk to continue to pursue**
- vi. **High Street Gresford:** The Clerk advised of the background concerning this issue and that WCBC is awaiting confirmation of power supply to the poles and other associated costs. Clerk also confirmed that meeting of the General Amenities Committee is due to be arranged with the conservation officer following the election. **Action: Clerk will continue to pursue both matters with WCBC**

## 12. REPORTS

- i. **Wrexham County Borough Council:** The Chair welcomed Councillors Atkinson and Gilmartin to their new respective roles. A discussion took place.
- ii. **Gresford Trust:** Councillors Holmes and Dutton reported that the Trust AGM will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. Representatives from the Community Council to the Trust Board meetings will need to be determined. The Councillors outlined concerns that Gresford Trustees currently have for the viability of the Gresford Athletic Clubs application for a stand. It was agreed that Councillor Atherton will represent the Council at Trust meetings and other representatives to be determined at a later meeting.
- iii. **IMAGE:** Councillor Bailey advised that Tidy up Sundays take place on the first Sunday each month and the next meeting is on the 25<sup>th</sup> May. The AGM is on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. The Scarecrow trail continues to be organised. Councillor Dutton outlined an update on the position with the lectern. This was discussed and it was resolved to go ahead with the expenditure as outlined for the lectern, and the amount to be paid from the Legacy fund. **Agreed: Lectern to be ordered by Councillor Dutton at price previously agreed with the Council.**
- iv. **Maes Y Pant:** Councillor Edwards advised that additional equipment had been ordered for the outdoor gym area. It had been decided to allow dogs off the lead only at 100 metres in to the quarry to prevent dog fouling. Councillor Harriman suggested the appointment of a dog warden on a regular basis. Councillor Atkinson enquired about approached made to Kingdom leisure. Councillor Blackmore recapped on the proposal. **Agreed Action: Councillor Atkinson to make an approach to Kingdom leisure as Borough Councillor. Clerk to make an approach to Kingdom on behalf of the Community Council to see what could be done further.**
- v. **Website:** The Clerk advised that the website had received 1107 unique visitors through the previous month with the top sites visited being the Councillors, the diary and the minutes. A discussion took place about the future maintenance of the website. Action: To place on next month's agenda and in the meantime the Clerk to make enquiries.
- vi. **Library:** Councillor Bailey advised that the average footfall had increased from the previous month and compared with the same period the previous year. A Garden party is to be held at Lord Thomas's in July to fundraise. Improvements are planned to the kitchen and toilet area of the Library.

## 13. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS:

- i. Allotment Group. The Clerk advised of correspondence received from the Solicitor now acting for the University of Wales. It was agreed that a meeting of the group needs to be arranged as soon as possible. Councillor Harriman proposed and seconded by Councillor Holmes that the engagement of legal representation now needs to be looked at.
- ii. Telephone kiosk. The Council considered a report prepared by Councillor Jones (outgoing Councillor). A discussion took place about the position of the kiosk, which Mr Crumplin was asked for his view. A discussion took place about the possible use as a defibrillator station. Councillor Blackmore highlighted the main recommendation from the report which is to agree to adopt the box for a nominal fee to avoid the removal of the box by BT or WCBC. Councillor Dutton proposed that the Council agree to adopt the box for £1. This was seconded by Councillor Bailey and **unanimously agreed**. A further discussion took place about the location of the box. Mr Crumplin was thanked for his interest. **Action: The item is to be placed on the next agenda. The Clerk is to clarify the issue of power to the box. Councillor J Blackmore undertook to survey the locations of existing defibrillators in the community.**
- iii. **Youth Working Group.** Councillor Blackmore updated the meeting on recent events including the mapping meeting. Councillor Harriman outlined that in other areas they have a Youth Committee or

young people sitting on the Committee. Councillor Holmes suggested this could be approached via the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

#### 14. MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

- i. **Minutes of the Finance Committee.** These were noted.
- ii. **The Grant Application process and criteria.** The recommendation from the Finance Committee was that these be adopted and reviewed annually. **Resolved: The Committees recommendations were accepted and the Grant procedure and Criteria be adopted.**
- iii. **The Social Media Policy.** The recommendation from the Finance Committee was that these be adopted. **Resolved: The Committees recommendations were accepted, and the Policy be adopted.**

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

- i. *P/2017/2017/0288*: - Two Storey Extension (removal of Existing Garage) 1 Bramble Close, Marford , Wrexham. A discussion took place about whether this would impact on the visual amenity to the adjoining property. No observations to make.
- ii. *P/2017/ 0252*:- First Floor Extension over existing and internal alterations to create two storey dwelling, 71 Stancliffe Avenue, Marford, Wrexham. Observations made that there is a need to ensure that the alterations are made so that the property fits in visually with those properties surrounding it.
- iii. *TPO 269/2017*:- Tree Preservation Order ( Community of Gresford) Red Lion Public House, Marford Hill, Marford, Wrexham:- The Clerk advised Members of a Tree Preservation Order that had been decided upon by WCBC but which the Community Council was invited to make any formal objections or observations upon by 7<sup>th</sup> June. The Council considered the matter and observed that it is by recommendation of the Council's Arboricultural Officer so no objections to make.

#### 16. FINANCE

- i. The Following items were approved for Payment:

Date	Payment to	Cheque Number	Reason	Amount £
11.5.17	Steve Pugh	202384	Grave digging services	80.00
11.5.17	Wxm Civic Soc.	202385	Membership renewal	25.00
11.5.17	ICCM	202386	Membership renewal	90.00
11.5.17	JDH Ltd	202387	Audit service	403.20
11.5.17	WCBC	202388	Lighting repairs	3484.06
11.5.17	WCBC	202389	Lighting maintenance	2192.16
11.5.17	WCBC	202390	Lighting supply transfer	1244.64
11.5.17	WCBC	202391	School crossing patrol	622.00
11.5.17	Scottish Power	202392	Lighting supply	861.08
11.5.17	WCBC	202393	Repair to swing at Allington.	135.14
11.5.17	M.Jones	202394	NJC Salary	
11.5.17	S. Baxter	202395	NJC Salary	

11.5.17	HMRC	202396	Monthly due payment	
11.5.17	Dee Valley water	202397	Cemetery supply	21.20
11.5.17	Scottish Power	202398	Lighting supply April	833.96

It was **resolved** to continue with the membership of the ICCM, and the Wrexham Civic Society at the costs outlined.

- ii. **Approval for expenditure on trees in Allington Park.** This was deferred until the June meeting awaiting further details.
- iii. **Incremental increase to the Clerk.** This matter was considered under Part 11 at the end of the meeting and **approved** in view of satisfactory appraisal and performance.
- iv. **Insurance Renewal quotation.** The Clerk advised that the Insurance policy is due for renewal and advised on three quotations received from Came and Company, who recommended the quotation from INSPIRE at a cost of £2,122.02. A three-year agreement would also result in a reduction of 5% giving a premium cost of £2015.92. **AGREED: to adopt the policy quotation given by Came and Company for Inspire, with the three-year binding agreement and the 5% reduction in cost. Clerk to action.**

### 17. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE

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

**18. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED: The next meeting of the Council will be the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 at 7.15p.m. at the Gresford Methodist Church Hall.**

**COUNCILLOR B. Blackmore**

**CHAIR .....**

**Date.....**