

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 3rd May 2018

Members Present

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

Chair: Councillor J. Holmes

Clerk: Serena Baxter

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors M. Lightwood, M. Wilde,

215. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

216. ELECTION OF CHAIR: Councillor Holmes was nominated by Councillor Harriman and seconded by Councillor Bailey and it was **RESOLVED that Councillor Holmes** shall be the Chair of the Community Council during 2018-19.

217. DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND UNDERTAKING TO OBSERVE CODE OF CONDUCT: Members were reminded about the Councils Code of Conduct and their undertaking to observe it.

218. 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. Councillor Edwards advised that under item 14 on the agenda, depending on the discussion, he may be obliged to declare an interest and leave the room as Chair of friends of Alyn Family Doctors.

219. APPOINTMENT OF VICE -CHAIR: Councillor Atkinson nominated Councillor Atherton to serve as Vice-Chair and this was seconded by Councillor B. Blackmore. It was **RESOLVED that Councillor Atherton** shall serve as Vice -Chair.

220. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

221. POLICE REPORT: PCSO Susie Lawrence was welcomed to the meeting, and presented tables indicating crime figures for Gresford and Marford. PCSO Lawrence highlighted several instances in Gresford and Marford of anti-social behaviour, and also a theft of property from a garden. Councillor Holmes enquired about the issue of a drug offence near to the Trust building and PCSO Lawrence confirmed that enquiries had been ongoing with the use of CCTV. Councillor Harriman enquired about an incident near Colliers park. The Chair thanked PCSO Lawrence for her report. Councillor Bailey advised that the speed gun training had been completed and asked whether the sites identified could be approved. Councillor Harriman spoke about issues of concern at Pont Y Capel lane, and asked about the possibility of a physical barrier to prevent such persons going down there. PCSO Lawrence stated the Police were aware of instances and had been patrolling regularly. Vehicles seemed to be the main problem. A vehicle barrier might need to be padlocked. It was noted that the area is popular with dog walkers. Councillor Harriman proposed, and it was **RESOLVED** to take the matter up with WCBC at a site meeting. **Action : Clerk to arrange site meeting.**

222. THANKS TO CHAIR: Councillor Atkinson proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair, Councillor Beryl Blackmore, for her sterling work in acting as Chair for the previous 12 months, and this was **AGREED** by all. Councillor Holmes also formally welcomed Councillor Russell Smith to the meeting and congratulated him on his appointment as Councillor for Gresford West.

223. APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES: A discussion took place about membership of the Committees and it was **RESOLVED that the membership of the Committees would stay the same as the previous year.** **Action: Clerk to circulate list.** Councillor Hobbley outlined some personal circumstances which might cause him to have

difficulties attending Committees for this year. He was advised by colleagues to remain on the Committees for the time being and to attend as and when he is able.

224. NOMINATIONS TO EXTERNAL BODIES: A discussion took place and it was **RESOLVED** that the representation of the Community Council to relevant external bodies shall be as follows:

- i. Gresford Trust: Councillors S. Atherton, B. Blackmore and J. Blackmore.
- ii. Gresford United Charities: Councillors B. Blackmore and J. Dutton.
- iii. One Voice Wales: Councillors A. Bailey and M. Harriman.
- iv. Tarmac liaison Committee: Councillors J. Holmes and M. Lightwood.

225. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 5th April 2018 were agreed as a true record.

226. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Council held on the 23rd April 2018 were agreed as a true record.

227. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- i. **Parking at Rofft School-** The Clerk confirmed she had been in touch with Traffic Management of WCBC and they are to monitor the situation of parking near to Rofft School. He is also willing to attend a site meeting to discuss the parking situation at Claypit Lane. After discussion it was determined that there are other issues that could usefully be addressed at the site meeting including Pont Y Capel Lane and parking matters concerning High Street. **Action: Clerk to continue to set up a site meeting.**
- ii. **7 Chester Road:** Councillor Atkinson advised there had been no further development, but he is looking into the matter with Planning department.
- iii. **Clappers Lane:** Councillor Atkinson advised is doing what he can, and a discussion ensued. The Clerk reported on a response received from the MP, detailing the response he has received from WCBC. All agreed this was disappointing and Councillor Holmes stated she is advised people to complain directly to WCBC. It was also noted that the 'cushion' had not been replaced. Councillor Dutton stated that tarmacking needs to be done in this location. Councillor Edwards asked about whether speeding has increased in that area. Councillor Atkinson advised he will request data on it.
- iv. **High Street, Gresford:** Councillor Atkinson advised the request for this is with WCBC but the work is in a queue. This is along with other work requested at School hill and Clappers Lane. Councillor Atherton requested that this matter be included in the work of General Amenities Committee for monitoring.

228. MATTERS ARISING FOLLOWING EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE HEALTH CENTRE CLOSURE PROPOSAL: - Councillor Holmes advised of points she had made to be put in the letter to BCHB. Councillor Bailey asked that the letter be put in the noticeboard and on the website., and copies made available for the public meeting. Councillor Harriman raised the issue of the letter having been sent from the surgery but that not all patients appeared to have been contacted. Councillor Atkinson advised of his understanding that it is BCHB job to send out the letters. There is nothing on the Alyn Family Doctors website about the proposed closure. A discussion took place about the public meeting due to be held on the 10th May, and the meeting that had taken place with Alyn Family Doctors which Councillor Blackmore had also attended in her capacity as then Chair. A further meeting is to take place with Alyn Family Doctors and Councillor Atkinson and Gilmartin along with the AM and MP. In response to other points raised the Clerk confirmed that these had been raised at the previous Council meeting and so had been included in the letters sent to Alyn Family Doctors and BCHB. Councillor Dutton raised the issue of GP recruitment and the differences with England and Wales. Councillor B. Blackmore stated that the meeting that had taken place had unfortunately not been a productive one. Councillor Harriman and Bailey raised the issue of national GP recruitment and asked that it be raised at the meeting with the AM. Councillor Atkinson enquired whether any other Community Councillor would be available to attend the meeting with the AM and Alyn Family Doctors as he felt this would be useful. Councillor Atherton is to attend.

229. UPDATE ON GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REQUIREMENT: The Clerk gave a general update on this matter, in particular that it had now been determined by the Information

Commissioner Office and to be put into legislation, that Community Councils were to be exempt from the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer, due to recognition of their size and the comparative lack of data collected. However, the other responsibilities apply, and the regulations come into force on the 25th May.

- 230. LIGHTING COLUMNS TO BE REPLACED AT NEWTOWN:** The Clerk advised that the costs of replacement work to two columns had been received from the WCBC Lighting Manager together with a recommendation that this be acted upon. Two columns near to one another in Newtown require new columns at a cost of £2120.94 plus VAT. General agreement had been reached on this via email, and formal approval was **GRANTED** to instruct WCBC to go ahead with the column replacement at the price outlined.
- 231. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION:** Councillor Bailey advised he had attended to look at the plan. It is going to Full Council in September and to the Welsh Government for adoption in November. Councillor Edwards suggested that a response be sent to WCBC stating that the Community Council agrees with the comments that they make in the draft document. This would then include all the objections that are made because these should be agreed with, concerning sites in Gresford, Marford and Hoseley. Councillor Harriman outlined his concerns about the Hoseley Hall site. It was stated that the site is mentioned in the draft document for example GRE1). The concern is that it falls outside the historical area. Councillor Edwards stated that he recommended this continue to be opposed on the grounds stated. Councillor Bailey stated he was concerned that if not opposed, other sites could get through on the back of it, and this was the danger. The Chair asked if everyone was in agreement with the proposal to respond as Councillor Edwards outlined, including Hoseley Hall. This was **AGREED. ACTION: Clerk to write response to LDP consultation.**
- 232. CEMETERY COMMITTEE AND CEMETERY MATTERS:** The Clerk advised on revised quotations received by the Cemetery Assistant for work to benches and other areas of the Cemetery. It was **RESOLVED** that these be put back to the Cemetery Committee for consideration and their recommendation. The Clerk outlined a request that had been received to return a grave plot back to the Council as it was no longer required. This was **APPROVED. ACTION: Clerk to make the necessary arrangements, and to include a £30 administration fee.** The Clerk outlined the Commercial Waste Collection fees of £735.per annum received from WCBC and requested **APPROVAL** to continue with this arrangement. This was **GRANTED.**
- 233. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS:** The membership of each of the following groups, Allotments, Telephone kiosk, Youth Working group, were **AGREED** to continue as previously, and brief updates were given. In regard to the kiosk, the Clerk advised on the difficulties experienced in engaging the contractor to carry out the refurbishment. Councillor Blackmore had sourced another contractor and it was agreed that he be approached to do the work at the cost outlined. Action: Clerk to engage handyman and to put the detail on the next agenda for formal approval in retrospect.
- 234. MEETING OF THE GENERAL AMENITIES COMMITTEE:** The minutes of the meeting of the General Amenities Committee held on the 30th April were received by the Council **and NOTED.** The Chair highlighted the matter of the Lighting group and that the General Amenities Committee requested that this be removed from the remit of the General Amenities Committee and be formed as a Committee, reporting directly to Council. It was acknowledged that Lighting matters were currently complex, and this was **therefore AGREED.**
- 235. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)**
- i. **P/2018 / 0318:- Application for works to Tree subject to Tree Preservation Order WMBC No.82- T1 Semi Mature Ash- Fell. Gaysfield, Hoseley Lane, Marford.-** The advice of the Arboricultural officer is understood and no observations to make.
 - ii. **ii. P/2018/0313:- Erection of Double Garage. Tudor Villa, Marford Hill, Marford-** No observations to make
 - iii. It was **NOTED that a TREE PRESERVATION ORDER** had been made for the Caravan Park at Old Wrexham Road; **TPO WCBC 276/2018. Action: Clerk to put on next Agenda**

236. FINANCE:

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

Date	Payment To	Reason	Cheque Number	Amount £
3.5.18	M. Jones	NJC Salary	202540	
3.5.18	S. Baxter	NJC Salary	202541	
3.5.18	HMRC	Monthly amount due	202542	71.99
3.5.18	WCBC	Trade Refuse Charges Cemetery	202543	362.00
3.5.18	Steve Pugh	Grave digging service	202544	160.00
3.5.18	Scottish Power	Monthly lighting supply charges	202545	861.71
3.5.18	One Voice Wales	Training fee	202546	40.00

- ii) **COUNCIL'S ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY:** The Clerk presented the document and it was **APPROVED**.
- iii) **PROGRESS ON AUDIT:** The Clerk advised that the internal Audit had been carried out by JDH and a report received which would be discussed at the next Finance Committee.
- iv) **NEW NJC SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Clerk advised of the receipt of the recommendations of the NJC Salary award for One Voice Wales and SLCC. This was **APPROVED in respect of the Clerk and Cemetery Assistant**.
- v) **RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIPS:** The Clerk outlined the requests received to renew Council's membership to the following bodies: AVOW, ICCM and Wrexham Area Civic Society, and these were **APPROVED at the costs given**.
- vi) **RENEWAL OF COUNCIL'S INSURANCE:** The Clerk outlined the premium of £2056.24 to renew the Council's Insurance as quoted by Came and Company and reminded of the three-year agreement at discount agreed the previous year. Renewal at the price quoted was **Approved**.

237. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:- Councillor Holmes outlined the issue that the traffic lights in the village are not correctly programmed and there is a danger of people jumping the lights. It was suggested this needs to be put to the traffic manager at the site meeting. Councillor Blackmore outlined the appraisal process and it was agreed that this shall be carried out by the incoming and outgoing Chairs for continuity. The need for a Communications group was discussed , in response to social media.

238. 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**. The Clerk outlined the difficulty in regard to the Cemetery and was asked to find out more from the gravedigger.

239. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED: The next meeting of the Council will be the 7th June 2018 at 7.15p.m. at the Gresford Methodist Church Hall.

COUNCILLOR J. Holmes.

CHAIR **Date.....**