

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

Members Present

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

Chair: Councillor J. Holmes

Clerk: Serena Baxter

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

Absent: Councillor J. Hobbley

304. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

305. 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.

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

307. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 30th August 2018 were agreed as a true record.

308. POLICE REPORT: The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from PCSO Susie Lawrence , who had forwarded the monthly report on crime figures and causes. The report was noted .Members commented on the lack of background information when an officer is not available to present the report. Councillor Smith advised of a recent incident in the village that did not seem to have been included in the report. Councillor Dutton advised that she had been made aware of break-ins to cars at the hotel. Councillor Edwards raised concern about an incident of vans being targeted as they have tools inside. Concerns were raised that possibly not all incidents were being logged correctly for inclusion in the report. Councillor Holmes stated that once again the length of time taken to answer 101 calls could be a factor. Councillor Atkinson advised that PCSO Davies may shortly be returning to the Gresford area. It was **AGREED** that a letter of appreciation be sent in respect of PCSO Lawrence who has covered the duties and attended the meetings for the past twelve months. **Action: Clerk to draft and send letter.** Councillor Smith stated that Police presence in the village was to be welcomed. Councillors Harriman and Atherton expressed concern that neighbourhood policing generally had been diluted and the full response required to incidents may not be being achieved.

309. FUTURE COUNCILLOR PROJECT LEAD POLICY REPORT : The Chair presented a draft report prepared by the Clerk on this matter as requested. Councillor Dutton advised it would be useful to see something about the role of the Clerk in the report. Councillor Harriman spoke about the time pressures that might be faced by some Councillors, which could result in a reluctance to put forward ideas. He reminded that the Council is a body which decides on work to be progressed and receives reports on it. Councillor Edwards asked that the report be resubmitted with more detail. **Action: Chair and Councillor Atherton will redraft report. Clerk to put it on the next Council meeting Agenda.**

310. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **Parking near junction of Claypit Lane and Chester Road.** - Councillor Gilmartin confirmed the recommendation of yellow lines has been drafted and is out to

consultation, as is the same recommendation for the end of Turnpike Lane and explained the difficulties in this location.

- ii. **7 Chester Road:** It was again noted by Members that the land is currently for sale, but that this did not seem to have progressed.
- iii. **Clappers Lane:** Councillor Dutton reported that the grids are still silted, and that Mr Williams (resident) had emptied the related chambers located in the field. Councillor Atkinson advised of a change of personnel at Wrexham Council Highways and that he was meeting with them over the next week, and this would include discussion on a similar flooding issue at Old Wrexham Road. Councillor Holmes advised that a similar issue exists at Chester road opposite the garage, which seems to be caused by blocked gullies. Councillor Atkinson will ensure that this is also raised. A discussion took place generally about blocked gullies and drains and concerns that Wrexham Council needed to do more to alleviate the problems this causes. Councillor Atkinson will liaise with the Council department concerned and with residents. Councillor Edwards raised a similar issue with the bottom of Marford Hill. Councillor Gilmartin agreed to investigate it.
- iv. **High Street, Gresford:** Councillor Atkinson advised that the lines agreed previously for High Street by the Memorial Hall have been slightly amended to take account of concerns and are on a current list to be implemented. This includes those proposed by The Conifers on the Quarry side, and by the School. These will be raised in the discussions to take place shortly with Highways department. Proposals for parking enforcement restrictions at Clappers Lane and Maxwell Close will be on a later list. Councillor Holmes raised a concern that this might lead to parking difficulties for residents of Old Wrexham Road. Councillor Edwards reminded County Borough Councillors of his concerns raised previously about the faded cross hatch and crossing markings by the pedestrian crossing in Gresford near the Chemist. Both Councillors agreed to raise it as a concern.
- v. **Pont Y Capel Lane.** The Clerk advised that she had prepared the letter of request along with supporting information received from North Wales Police. The letter had been viewed by Councillors Dutton and Bailey. It was **AGREED** that the letter requesting a Stopping Up of Pont Y Capel Lane, be sent to Wrexham Council as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk will send letter to WCBC.**

311. REPORT FROM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS GRESFORD AND MARFORD:

- i. **County Borough Councillor for Gresford-** Councillor Atkinson updated the Members on a personnel change at Wrexham Council Highways. Regarding a question raised previously about Council house voids, Councillor Atkinson reported that he had been in contact with the Housing department. The length of time taken was longer than the 85 days prescribed but due to the extensive works carried out he is confident that people are moving into a better home situation, than previously when substantial works were completed after a person had moved in. Of the 66 Council properties only 4 have been unoccupied for any length of time recently. A scheme is being looked at to buy back ex-Council properties, but this will only apply if it is the same person residing in the property. Councillor Atkinson explained that the Housing Revenue Account is ring-fenced. Regarding Planning Matters, Councillor Atkinson firstly confirmed that he no longer sits on the Planning Committee. He expressed his concern and opposition to the proposed development at Vicarage Lane and has assured residents of his stance. The location is problematic, and the Highway issue cannot in his view be mitigated against. He expressed his concern at the status of the LDP, which might leave the area exposed to developers exploiting the loopholes caused by the current situation. This was echoed by

Councillor Bailey and Edwards. Councillor Atkinson explained that he is active on the resident's group that has been set up and they have commissioned their own traffic survey. A Full Council meeting to be held in November will focus on the LDP and its progress. It is hoped that it will be adopted. Councillor Blackmore queried about the sign concerning private parking that has been erected behind the business on Chester Road and Newtown. Councillor Atkinson advised he is looking into this and is hopeful of a resolution but that the Business owner may be within his rights, even though it is leading to parking difficulties for some. Councillor Holmes raised a concern about vehicles parking on the paved area near the noticeboard.

- ii. **County Borough Councillor for Marford-** Councillor Gilmartin advised that the footpath on the top of Marford Hill will be cleared by the end of the month. He has requested vegetation be cut back which is obscuring the 30mph sign. Councillor Bailey stated this was a concern. Councillor Blackmore raised a concern about traffic speeding in the vicinity of the Rofft school. Councillor Gilmartin agreed to look into this. Councillor Atkinson stated the speed gun could be utilised. In answer to a question he confirmed that it had previously been agreed that there was no requirement for a specific policy for the data collected by the speed gun, because the data is sent to the North Wales Police.

312. FEEDBACK FROM ONE VOICE WALES CONFERENCE: Councillor Bailey had prepared a report following his attendance which was circulated. In an amendment to the decision taken at the previous meeting, Councillor Holmes advised that the Clerk had not attended due to the Chair's wish not to add to her workload. Councillor Harriman added that he had been disappointed that the report from the Independent Review Panel had not been as expected. There had been no opportunity for questions on the implications for Community Councils. The issue of Charters to promote closer working between Principal and Community Councils had been raised. In a presentation by the Insurers, caution had been expressed about activities occurring under clustering and where liabilities might lie. Councillor Holmes advised on the issue of annual inspection of trees and the background, and likely costs, and that she was awaiting a response from Wrexham Council's Tree Officer, in her role as secretary to the Gresford Trust. Councillor Atkinson advised of his view of the report, concerning the dual-hatted issue of Borough and Community Councils. Councillor Harriman stated that the expectation would be that Borough Councillors would continue taking a full and active role in the work of the Community Council. He concluded by stating that the report is currently out to consultation by Welsh Government, the outcome of which is awaited.

313. REMUNERATION PANEL: The Clerk advised of the latest report sent out by the Remuneration panel (Wales) and gave an overview of the relevant points regarding Community Councils. She advised Members that in the event of a Member claiming any expenses, they would need to forward tax code and National Insurance details to her for inclusion on the PAYE system. Any claims would also be included on the Annual record of Members expenses, published on the Website. Councillor Atkinson asked if a suitably worded item could be included in the next Essentials article, to try to encourage participation. Councillor Atherton commented that One Voice Wales were keen that this approach was adopted. It was confirmed that Gresford Community Council are in Band B of the report. Councillor Edwards suggested putting it on the website. (Councillor Gilmartin left the meeting.) Councillor Harriman advised that the Conference had reiterated that that a Community Council is a properly constituted legal body and its participants are public servants. The item was noted.

314. LIGHTING COMMITTEE :

- i. The minutes of the meeting of the Lighting Committee held on the 1st October were noted. The Chair advised that several Lighting Specialist Contractors had been met with and had presented to the Committee. All present had found the meetings useful and

informative. The Chair thanked the Clerk and Councillor Harriman for their work in organising these meetings and taking the process forward.

- ii. In answer to a query, Councillor Edwards confirmed that the Maintenance contract for Lighting is still in place with WCBC but would need to be reviewed once all the lighting stock had been replaced.
- iii. Councillor Harriman, as Chair, presented a summary document of the discussions held recently with each Contractor, by members of the Lighting Committee. He advised that this was a confidential document under Part 2. Councillor Harriman identified the three contractors that had been chosen by the Committee as particularly wishing to invite to tender. Councillor Edwards advised this recommendation had been reached unanimously, and that in future maintenance of lighting will be cheaper, and during the first year the items are under guarantee. Councillor Harriman advised that dimming had been discussed with each contractor, and this had informed the view of the Committee on this issue. Having taken account of the relatively small additional amount of energy saving that would be realised from dimming, alongside the large amount of energy already to be saved by replacing existing lighting with LED, the additional costs of including dimming elements in each light fitting to facilitate it, together with the Lighting safety standards which have to legally be maintained, the Committee had formed the view that dimming should not be recommended. It could be done in the future but there would be a cost. Councillor Harriman proposed that the Lighting Replacement should go out to tender, but without dimming. This was seconded by Councillor Bailey and all were in agreement. **Action: Lighting Committee and Clerk to take forward the formal process of tendering for Footway Lighting replacement.**

315. GENERAL AMENITIES COMMITTEE

- i. The Minutes of the meeting of the General Amenities Committee held on the 24th September 2018 were noted. Amendments to the Minutes were highlighted. The item regarding inspection of trees was noted, and Councillor Atherton asked for it to be included as a discussion item on the next Full Council agenda. **Action: Clerk to put on agenda.**
- ii. **Inclusive Play Equipment:** Councillor Atherton advised the Council of the consideration by Committee of quotations obtained for an Inclusive roundabout, for Allington Park. Committee recommended the Council to approve the installation of an inclusive roundabout at Allington Park at a cost of £16,746. plus VAT. The Clerk confirmed the VAT element could be reclaimed and advised that a grant had also been received from WCBC of £500 towards costs. A discussion took place on the possibility of Planning gain costs coming to the Council in the future, specifically ring-fenced for Allington Park, which would offset the costs if received, however Councillor Atkinson cautioned that this could not be guaranteed, at this stage, in case the development did not go ahead as planned. Councillor Atherton proposed the expenditure, and this was seconded by Councillor Atkinson. **RESOLVED: to purchase the piece of Inclusive Play equipment for Allington Park at a cost of £16, 746. Action : Clerk to place order.**
- iii. **Marford Play Area:** The Clerk confirmed that she had received notification from WCBC that a meeting is to be set up by the Education department, to discuss the future maintenance of the land. In the meantime, WCBC had agreed to cut back the grass and hedge in preparation for the winter months, at their expense. **Action: Clerk will notify members when date of meeting is received.**

- iv. **Local Agreement for users of Allington Park:** Councillor Atherton gave the background to the current use of part of Allington Park by the Gresford Athletic Juniors Football club for matches and training the Junior team, and advised that the General Amenities Committee were taking forward a draft User agreement with the Club, for reasons of probity and Insurance, and had discussed a suitable charge to be levied for maintenance .Previously the club had undertaken maintenance themselves, but complaints had been received. A draft agreement had been drawn up and, on this basis, Councillors Atherton and Holmes have arranged to meet with representatives of the Football Club.
- v. **Grass Cutting Contract:** Councillor Atherton advised that the sections of the contract specification relevant to Allington Park had been agreed, with some minor amendments now incorporated, including hedge cutting, and the Committee recommended the contract to proceed to tender stage. Council approval was sought. Councillor Holmes proposed that the Contract now proceed to tender, and this was seconded by Councillor Bailey. **RESOLVED: The Grass Cutting contract specification to proceed to tender. Action: Councillor Atherton and the Clerk to meet to take forward.**
- vi. **Approval of expenditure of £90 for purchase of security measure for telephone kiosk:** Councillor Atherton gave an overview of the up to date position with the kiosk. The Clerk advised of the up to date information received from Community Heartbeat Trust in relation to the availability of the tracker. The item was deferred.
- vii. **Approval of expenditure of £85 for poppy wreath and additional poppies for Remembrance day:** The expenditure was **Approved**.

316. REPORTS:

- i. **Chair's Report:** The Chair reported on damage that had occurred recently at Allington Park , concerning a small fire started, and a stolen motorised scooter that had been vandalised. The issue of renewing the CCTV provision was discussed and Councillor Atherton confirmed that she is now taking this forward.
- ii. **Gresford Trust:** Councillor Dutton reported that it had been a quiet summer. The Hall is now busy with classes starting up. Councillor Holmes advised that there had been trouble with youths congregating around the hall which the police were aware of and these activities had been captured on CCTV. Work has been done to the trees that were overhanging Clappers Lane.
- iii. **IMAGE Report:** Councillor Bailey had circulated a report which was considered and commented upon. The watering of the planters had been a particular issue through the summer months.
- iv. **Maes Y Pant Action Group:** Councillor Edwards referred to his report which had previously been circulated.
- v. **Gresford Community Library:** Councillor Bailey referred Members to his report .

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

- i. *P/2018/0796:* Conversion of an outbuilding to provide Ancillary Accommodation to Existing dwelling and provision of a separate bat roost- Hoseley House, Hoseley Lane, Marford, Wrexham. **No objection raised**
- ii. *P/2018/0774:* Single-Storey rear extension and porch to front- Bryn Onnen, 50 Hillock Lane Gresford, Wrexham. **No objection raised**

iii. P/2018/0599: Outline Application for demolition of existing dwellings and erection of 2 No. New dwellings with all detailed matters reserved- Tintern, Pistyll Hill, Marford, Wrexham. **A concern was raised that the garage would sit above Wood Vine and may be intrusive to the house below. There may be additional traffic. Otherwise no objection raised.**

iv. P/2018/0826 : Single- storey rear extension to bungalow and front extension to garage- 9 Hollyfield, Gresford., Wrexham. **No objection raised.**

318. FINANCE:

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

Date	Payment To	Reason	Cheque Number	Amount £
4.10.18	Michelle Jones	NJC Salary	202597	
4.10.18	Serena Baxter	NJC Salary Allowance and reimbursement	202598	
4.10.18	HMRC	Monthly Payment due	202599	
4.10.18	Clyde and Co	Insurance VAT	202600	1.84
4.10.18	M. Harriman	Travel allowance to conference	202611	80.90
4.10.18	Treehogs Ltd	Payment for tree works at Allington Park	202612	438.00
4.10.18	Steve Pugh	Gravedigging services	202613	80.00
4.10.18	Alans Skip Hire	Provision of skips at Lake clear up	202614	390.00
4.10.18	WCBC	Printing	202615	10.69
4.10.18	Scottish Power	Payment for monthly supply for lighting	202616	862.73
4.10.18	Janet Holmes	Reimbursement for various environmental expenses.	202617	116.64
4.10.18	Northalls Ltd	Payment for supply of gates at Allington park	202618	756.00
4.10.18	Gresford Trust	Payment for room hire	202619	39.00
4.10.18	N. Route	Payment for Grass cutting services Cemetery and Allington Park	202620	1110.00
4.10.18	J. Dutton	Reimbursement for materials to treat benches.	202621	12.24

ii. **External Audit:** The Clerk advised members that the Final Audit report had been received from external Auditors Grant Thornton in respect of the Financial year 2017-18, and that the outcome was a qualified Audit. It was agreed that Finance Committee shall look at the report in more detail.

319. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

i. **Councillor Blackmore- Grant for Silhouette Soldiers.** Councillor Blackmore advised that the Council had been successful in its application for an award for Silhouette soldiers, as part of this year's Remembrance Commemorations. As part of the grant criteria , they must be photographed in situ, and launched. Councillor Blackmore will liaise with the British legion.

