

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD METHODIST CHURCH HALL ON 7th December 2017

Members Present

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

Chair: Councillor B Blackmore

Clerk: Serena Baxter

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors, M. Lightwood

120. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

121. 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.

122. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council was addressed by Mrs Tania Wheeler who gave a background on the difficulties experienced when taking her young sons to the Play area at Allington Park, and outlined the lack of a suitably sited piece of play equipment inclusive for the use of all children regardless of ability. Mrs Wheeler was thanked for her address to the meeting and was asked to inform Councillors of any other facility or area where access proves difficult. There were no other Members of the Public in attendance throughout the rest of the meeting.

123. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd November were agreed and approved as a true record.

124. POLICE REPORT:

No member of the local policing unit was present but a report sent from North Wales Police on Crime statistics was circulated. Members expressed concerns at the new format, and requested the Clerk to respond back to North Wales Police that no Councillor could understand the statistics presented. **Action – Clerk.** Councillor Atkinson advised the meeting that he had been advised by North Wales Police that there would not be a dedicated PCSO to cover the maternity leave of the PCSO Lisa Davies for a month, after which time there should be someone in place. This is due to the resources available. This was echoed by Councillor Atherton who had attended a meeting of Community Council representatives at the Police station recently.

125. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CLERK'S REPORT

- i. **Car Parking Rofft school-** The Clerk advised that it appears that the lines are all now in place. Councillor Edwards advised that the signs are still in one language only which might provide a 'get out' for some drivers, also that there is no 20mph limit on the spur from Chester Road, despite WCBC being requested to provide this for some considerable time. **Action: Clerk to advise WCBC.**
- ii. **7 Chester Road:** Councillor Atkinson advised that he is continuing to chase and highlight the matter with Planning Enforcement. Currently, the Planning Permission originally granted is in the process of being reapplied for. If there is no improvement in the situation he will push for compulsory purchase.
- iii. **Clappers Lane:** Councillor Atherton clarified the Clerk's report stating that she had met with WCBC on site but it was on behalf of the Trust that she had met them to raise concerns about flooding issues. Councillor Atkinson advised that he has been in touch with Highways

department and they have advised him of their prioritising arrangements. **Action: Councillor Atkinson to continue to pursue with WCBC.** Councillor Dutton advised that of the three new lighting columns installed, only two are working. **Action: Clerk to advise WCBC lighting Manager**

- iv. **Community Speed Watch Scheme:** Councillor Atkinson advised that equipment had been purchased and was being organised to be used.
- v. The Clerk updated the Council from her report on a number of items she was currently acting on:
 - a. Regarding the Camera at Allington Park, it unfortunately now appears that the camera is obsolete as data can no longer be retrieved from it. A discussion took place and it was **AGREED** that it needed to be replaced. **Action: Clerk to continue to explore options.**
 - b. Allotments: The Clerk advised that University of Wales are awaiting the report from their valuer and they will chase this. Councillor Atkinson advised that he has been approached by someone who would like to do something on a commercial basis with the site. He would like it minuted that he has directed them through the appropriate channels.
 - c. The Clerk advised on the outcome of an insurance claim, and that WCBC Housing department and lighting department had been advised of their areas of responsibility, including a raised tree root.
 - d. The Clerk relayed the response received from the Planning department regarding concerns raised by Members about the move away from hard copy consultation on Planning Applications. The advice of Paul Egan of One Voice Wales had also been sought.
 - e. The Clerk advised that a meeting of the Standards Committee had taken place earlier and dispensation had been granted to members of Gresford Trust who were also Community Councillors regarding any matters arising at future meetings that concerned the Trust. Declarations of Interest would still need to be made, but those members could take part in discussions, and advise.
 - f. The Clerk advised she had met Ray Parry on site to look at the issues identified in the Play Area inspection reports which had been identified as low risk.

126. SETTING OF THE BUDGET FOR 2018-19 - Councillor Hobbley as Chair of the Finance Committee introduced this item and the recommendations of the Finance Committee concerning the precept to be set for 2018-19. Councillor Edwards took the Council Members through the specific budget heads and explained how they had been arrived at. The tax base had also increased to 2632 . It was noted that the budget previously set for 2019-20 should also now be revised. Councillor Hobbley reminded the meeting of the need for the money set aside as a separate item for the Cemetery concerning future development and the need for this to commence in the forthcoming year. The precept was recommended to be **£ 87,750, at £33.34, an increase on the previous year of 3%.** The budget and the precept recommended by Finance Committee was moved by Councillor Bailey and seconded by Councillor J. Blackmore and was therefore **Agreed.**

127. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i. **Finance Committee:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th November 2017 were noted.
- ii. The Clerk outlined that the issue of the absence of a clear and up to date Grass Cutting contract had been identified by both the Finance and the General Amenities Committees, and gave background details. The issues also face by Gresford Trust in relation to their revision of a Grass Cutting contract and difficulties they had faced were relayed to the meeting. Councillors Holmes and Dutton declared an interest in this matter as Members of Gresford Trust. The Clerk advised that it had been suggested that it might be advantageous to undertake a joint Contract tendering process. Council's approval was needed to pursue this. After discussion, it was **AGREED that a joint contract with Gresford Trust could be**

explored and Approval was given for the Clerk to continue with this, and to report to the Finance Committee.

- iii. An update on a matter concerning staffing was relayed to the Council and discussed in exclusion of members of the press and public. The Clerk was not present during this discussion.

128. APPROVAL REQUESTED TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP OF THE SLCC AT A COST OF £121.
The Clerk outlined the annual renewal request, and this was **Approved. Action – Clerk.**

129. CASUAL VACANCY ARISING (Gresford West): The Chair advised the Council that Councillor Irene Lewis wished to tender her resignation from the Council forthwith, as Councillor for Gresford West, due to moving away from the Gresford area. This was accepted and the Chair extended her thanks to Councillor Lewis on behalf of the Council, for her contribution as Councillor since election. **Action: Clerk to advise WCBC Electoral and to clarify the process.**

130. CHAIR’S REPORT: The Chair advised that sine May the new Council and Councillors had settled in and suggested in the new year that an informal gathering could take place where questions could be answered concerning the procedures of the Council to aid closer working.

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

- i. *P/2017/0971:* - Erection of Spectator Shelter (12m long and 3 m Wide) between existing bowling greens. Memorial Hall, Lakeside, off High Street, Gresford. Councillor M. Harriman declared an interest in this matter. A discussion took place and no observations or concerns were raised.
- ii. *P/2017/0933:* - Application for Tree Works to Tree subject to TPO (WCBC No.4:T1) Blue Cedar Tree- Fell .Briar Patch Sunnyridge Avenue, Marford, Wrexham. The advice of the Tree Officer was acknowledged and no observations or concerns were raised.
- iii. *P/2017/0942* - Notification of Proposed works to trees within Gresford Conservation Area: - 2 No. Yew trees- Crown reduction retaining trees’ shape, involving pruning the leading lateral branches away from the house by approximately 1.5 metres, pruning the leading low lateral branches over the garden wall by approximately 1 metre to retain shape of the crown. All branches to be pruned will be less than 3cm in diameter. 1. No. Ornamental pear tree- reduction in height by approximately 1.5 metres and thinning out of lower branches, all branches to be pruned will be less than 3cm in diameter: Green Farm, The Green, Gresford, Wrexham. The advice of the Tree Officer was acknowledged and no observations or concerns were raise
- iv. *P/2017/0914:* - Replacement front Porch Extension 24 Stancliffe Avenue Marford. There were no observations raised.

132. FINANCE:

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

Date	Payment To	Cheque Number	Reason	Amount £
14.11.17	Wybone Ltd	202466	3x bins and fixing kits as per Council minutes	752.33
14.11.17	Shelley Signs Ltd	202467	Lectern by lake as per Council Minutes	1212.00
7.12.17	Dee Valley Water	202468	Water supply to Cemetery	24.71
7.12.17	Steve Pugh	202469	Grave digging service	250.00
7.12.17	Encore Office Systems	202470	Printer agreement	39.60
7.12.17	N. Route	202471	Grass cutting Cemetery and Allington park	595.00
7.12.17	WCBC	202472	School Crossing Patrol	988.00
7.12.17	One Voice Wales	202473	Councillor training	40.00
7.12.17	All Saints Church	202474	Hire of room for Cemetery Committee	7.50

7.12.17	WCBC	202475	Half yearly playground inspection charges	2884.20
7.12.17	WCBC	202476	Lighting repairs	228.16
7.12.17	WCBC	202477	Lighting Maintenance	2192.16
7.12.17	Scottish Power	202478	Lighting Supply	861.71
7.12.17	Steve Pugh	202479	Gravedigging service	250.00
7.12.17	WCBC	202480	Costs of Election 2017	2654.42
7.12.17	Michelle Jones	202481	NJC Salary	
7.12.17	Serena Baxter	202482	NJC Salary	
7.12.17	HMRC	202483	PAYE Costs.	

133. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- i. **Consideration of a linesman:** Councillor Atkinson outlined the background to his suggestion of considering the employment of a 'linesman', to carry out small pieces of work. The costs of presently undertaking such works could be looked at against the cost of employing someone on a part time basis. A discussion took place around the sort of duties that could be considered and whether this was enough to warrant someone to be employed. Issues such as remit, skills, liability and the responsibility of the Unitary Authority were among the issues raised. Councillor Atkinson asked that it be put to the General Amenities committee for further consideration and this was **AGREED**.
- ii. **A Memorial Bench at Annefield Park:** Councillor Atkinson outlined a request that had been received to put a memorial bench at Annefield Park. The bench would be paid for by the family, without cost to the Community Council. A discussion took place and it was suggested that the family be asked to provide a bench of the same type and design of others that have been provided recently around the village. After discussion, it was **recommended** that the bench could be installed if a similar style of bench were used as others in the village. The County Councillor will arrange for this to be taken forward.

134. 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**. Councillor Harriman highlighted item 1 c) concerning the consultation events around the Community and Town Council review taking place locally that he and Councillor Bailey had attended in Chirk. One Voice Wales will produce a collective response in January. Councillor Edwards highlighted the waste and recycling dates over Christmas. The Clerk confirmed she has a poster which she will put in the noticeboard and on the website and Councillor Atkinson confirmed there would be no individual notification via leaflet or sticker this year.

135. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. **AGREED:** The next meeting of the Council will be the 4th January 2018 at 7.15p.m. at the Gresford Trust Memorial Hall.

COUNCILLOR B. Blackmore

CHAIR

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