

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD METHODIST CHURCH HALL ON 7th June 2018

Members Present

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

Chair: Councillor J. Holmes

Clerk: Serena Baxter

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors R. Gilmartin, J. Blackmore,

240. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

241. 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.

242. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

243. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 3rd May 2018 were agreed as a true record.

244. POLICE REPORT: PCSO Susie Lawrence was welcomed to the meeting and presented crime figures for Gresford and Marford for the month of May. PCSO Lawrence highlighted several instances in Gresford and Marford of anti-social behaviour, and also a theft of a bike. There had also been an incident of damage to a car, and an incident of theft from a shop, and one of fraud over the telephone. A discussion took place about the pitch at Wynnstay Lane where some concerns had been investigated. Councillor Dutton reported on an incident at Pont Y Capel Lane. Councillor Smith reported on incidents of traffic nuisance.

245. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **Parking signs and road markings Wynnstay Lane** - 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.
- ii. **Parking near junction of Claypit Lane and Chester Road.** - A site meeting had been held with Mr Green of WCBC, attended by Councillors B. Blackmore and Dutton. It was stated that this had been a productive meeting and Mr Green was supportive of a Traffic management order being put in place at that junction. He will take this forward.
- iii. **7 Chester Road:** Councillor Atkinson advised there had some discussion with Planning, and they have recently been in contact with the owner of the land. Councillor Blackmore expressed frustration at the length of time the situation had not moved on. Councillor Harriman suggested a letter be sent to Planning to ask for enforcement action. The Clerk advised she had written recently but not received a response. Councillor Holmes raised concerns about pedestrians and the fact there is no pavement at this location. **Action : Clerk to write again to WCBC.**
- iv. **Clappers Lane:** Councillor Atkinson reports there had been no further progress on this matter.
- v. **High Street, Gresford:** It was acknowledged that this matter had been ongoing and requested since January 2017. However after discussion with Mr Green at the site meeting it transpired that a traffic order consultation had been developed but had not been sent to the Community Council. Mr Green had therefore extended the consultation deadline and had sent plans through. This traffic order showed yellow lines being put in place on High Street

at the entrance to the car park, scout hut, Trust etc. All were in agreement. **Action: Clerk to inform Mr Green.**

- vi. **Pont Y Capel Lane.** Both the Clerk and Councillor Dutton reported on this as it had been discussed at the site meeting with Mr Green of WCBC. He was supportive of the proposal to block the road and suggested a barrier with a padlock and key access for the farmer and British Rail. There is room for vehicles to turn at the proposed location (the bend). He suggests writing to the police to obtain evidence to support the request for road Closure Order. He also suggests writing as part of the LDP consultation concerning the proposed traveller site and the confusion that might arise. It would then become a planning condition. Councillor Dutton confirmed that residents have complained The PCSO has reported drug dealing and other anti-social issues, concerning county lines activity. **Action: Clerk to send a letter to police requesting evidence, and a further letter in response to the LDP consultation outlining issues, including a suggestion that the road might be renamed.**

246. **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES:**
The Clerk circulated a revised list of meetings and committee membership and this was agreed.

247. **Refurbishment of Telephone Kiosk Pant Lane:** Following the previous meeting, a formal approval of the quotation received was required. The quotation of £781.68 had been received to include a new door and closer. This was an amendment to the previous approval given in September 2017. All agreed with the revised quotation and this was **approved: Action Clerk to contact contractor to arrange a start date.**

248. **Finance Committee:**

- i. The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 21st May 2018 were noted. It was noted that there would be costs associated with an eco-survey.
- ii. The Clerk presented a Financial Report to the year end of 2017-18. This report was **accepted.** Councillor Bailey reminded that the School crossing patrol was initially for three years and this must be taken account of in the next budget.
- iii. The Clerk presented the report received from JDH Financial services as Internal Auditors. A few items had been raised but overall the report was positive in terms of the Council fulfilling its financial obligations and management of finances. This report was **accepted**, and approval granted for the submission of the return to External Audit.
- iv. **Engagement of a solicitor:** - Councillor Harriman and Councillor Holmes explained the background concerning the allotment land, and the requirement to now appoint a solicitor to make any pre-contract enquiries on behalf of the Council. The Clerk advised the Council on the advice received concerning the appointment of a solicitor, from SLCC and recommendations from other Community Councils. **It was resolved that the Clerk and one or two other members of the Council go to see recommended solicitors to see what advice they could offer, at the estimated costs of £225 per hour and expenditure up to £3000 approved, and to report back to Council.**
- v. An annual allowance of £30 p.a. for use of home as office in respect of the Cemetery Assistant was **approved.**

249. **Lighting Committee:**

- i. The minutes of the Lighting Committee held on the 29th May were reported on by Councillor Harriman as Chair , and were noted.
- ii. SLA for Street Lighting Maintenance: Councillor Harriman advised of concerns of the Committee concerning WCBC's ability to meet its obligations under the SLA. It may be considered for the future, whether ongoing maintenance of street lighting is included in any future tender process.
- iii. Councillor Harriman explained about the process of trimming and dimming of street lighting and Councillor Hobbley pointed out that this extends the life of the light. The Clerk advised of a report commissioned from the Carbon Trust, which gave three options, which point towards cost savings and shorter payback period on the loan, if trimming and dimming is employed. It was suggested that other Councils are asked about whether they utilise dimming. Councillor Harriman noted it is 'footway 'lighting and suggested looking

at lights in other areas for ideas about types of lantern. In the meantime, the Committee members will continue to research this.

- iv. Report on Street Lighting Inspection from WCBC: - It was reported that the Street lighting Inspection report had now been received from WCBC and this suggests that around seven columns will need attention in the near future and a further fifteen will need some repair at a later date.

250. General Amenities Committee:-

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on the 30th May 2018 were noted. Councillor Atherton reported that Councillor Atkinson had secured the sum of £12k for the Allington Park play area through Planning process in regards to a local development. A discussion took place about Planning process. **Action: Clerk to check this through Planning.** A discussion took place about progress on the grass cutting contract. The Chair had obtained some comments from a local grass contracting expert and it was resolved that to take this forward the three Committee Chairs (Finance, General Amenities, Cemetery) would meet to discuss it. **Action: Clerk to arrange.** Councillor Atherton also highlighted other areas the Committee are currently working on. Councillor Edwards enquired about progress with the Community Speed Watch. Councillor Atkinson stated the areas had been approved and it can start as soon as people are available to go out. Councillor Atkinson is the contact with the Police and will notify them as people go out in pairs. It was agreed that the Speed watch equipment shall be kept at the Plough with Councillor Smith in order to be easily accessible.
- ii. **Installation of bike stands:** - The Clerk informed the Council of the quotation received concerning the installation of bike stands. This was a change from the previous decision made due to the technical specification of fitting them. The costs of £429.69 (purchase) and installation costs of £350 were **APPROVED. Action: Clerk to make arrangements.**
- iii. It was **agreed** to order the ten bins from WCBC at the locations stated in the minutes of the Committee meeting. **Action: Clerk to order.**
- iv. **APPROVAL** was granted to install the three bins previously purchased at a total cost of £300.

251. Reports:-

- i. **Chair:** The Chair had nothing to report.
- ii. **WCBC:** Councillor Atkinson presented the report as Borough Councillor on WCBC matters. He highlighted the family fun day that was to be held in the village. He noted the Planning conditions as previously reported for the sum of £12k for play equipment for the village. There may also be improvements to street lighting and pavements in that area. Much of Councillor Atkinson's time recently was taken up with the possible Health Centre closure, but at present is awaiting the Health Board's response. Roads and potholes are still a concern and being reported on. Councillor Edwards raised his concerns for cyclists in respect of the number of potholes forming on Marford Hill. Councillor Atkinson stated he would approach WCBC on behalf of Councillor Gilmartin.
- iii. **Gresford Trust:** Councillor Dutton reported that she had detailed matters in a report in Essentials magazine. Work on the kitchen areas is underway. Maintenance work has taken place on the playing field and outfield. Gresford Cricket Club are very active in coaching from age five up wards and have the highest subscription for this in Wales with the exception of Cardiff. The craft group will be holding a fundraising event.
- iv. **IMAGE:** Councillor Bailey presented the report on behalf of IMAGE, in particular the Scarecrow Trail, and that new tubs have been purchased and tubs have been installed in Marford. Councillor Atkinson praised the work of the street sweeper and suggested an award could be put in place. Councillor Harriman echoed this and said that a Community Award scheme as they have in Rossett would be a good thing to take forward for the village. **Action: Clerk to write to the street sweeper and thank him for his work.**
- v. **Maes Y Pant:** Councillor Edwards advised that the group is hoping to install a new container for tools. The charity has introduced a rule that dogs must be kept on a lead in

the all ability areas and the easy walking path and wheelchair access paths from the entrance to the field/. Signs will be put up. Most dog owners appear happy with this move. Following the recent incident of a dog owner fined in the car park, by Kingdom, Councillor Atkinson asked if the signs could be made very clear when dogs should be on a lead to avoid any confusion. Councillor Holmes suggested it is a dog owner's responsibility to know what the rules are in a particular place. Councillor Bailey advised that it will be publicised in Essentials. MBNA bank have asked to undertake a rubbish clearance.

- vi. **Council website:** The Clerk reported that there had been 1134 hits on the website during the month of May which worked out at average 33 per day. The most popular pages were the Minutes, the Councillors and the village diary and business directory.
- vii. **Gresford Community Library:** Councillor Bailey presented a written report on behalf of the library which detailed ongoing fundraising and initiatives to increase footfall.

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

- i. *P/2018/0383:* Extension at first floor level to provide ensuite 24 Stancliffe Avenue, Marford, Wrexham. There were no objections raised.
- ii. *P/2018/0352:* Erection of storage container (3.0m wide x 2.4m deep x2.5m High) to be sited next to the existing container- Quarry entrance Pant Lane Gresford Wrexham. Councillors Bailey and MJ Edwards declared interests and left the room. It was agreed there were no objections as long as the container was painted green. Councillors Edwards and Bailey rejoined the meeting.
- iii. *P/2018/0432:* Ground Floor rear extension- 1 Hawthorn Road, Marford, Wrexham. There were no objections raised.
- iv. *P/2018/0430:* Two storey side extension and alterations- 10 Wynnstay Lane, Marford, Wrexham. There were no objections raised.
- v. *P/2018/0407:* Application for works to tree subject to Tree Preservation Order no. WCBC No. 136- Cedar of Lebanon Selective pruning, Crown thin, Reduce by 1.5m (wounded branches only), Remove crossing branches- 2 The Woodlands, Chester Road, Gresford, Wrexham. The advice of the Arboricultural Officer is accepted, and no objections raised.
- vi. *P/2018/0366:* Demolition of existing dwelling and domestic garage, Erection of new dwelling with detached garage and gym over Balmuir Garage, 3 Chester Road, Gresford, Wrexham . There were no objections raised. Councillors Holmes and Dutton declared an interest in this matter as it borders Gresford Trust land.
- vii. *P/2018/1043:* Notification of Appeal, Erection of Double Garage - Disused Shippon, Off Village Walks, Marford., Wrexham. The comments made on the previous occasion still stand.
- viii. *TPO WCBC 276/2018:* Notification of Tree Preservation Order (Granted) at Caravan Park, Old Wrexham Road, Gresford, Wrexham. This was noted.
- ix. *P/2018/0419:-* Alterations to form enlarged garage and new garage roof – new front Canopy porch and single storey rear extension- The Laurels 9 Sunny Ridge Avenue Marford Wrexham. There were no objections raised.

253. FINANCE:

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

Date	Payment To	Cheque No.	Amount £	Reason
7.6.18	ICCM	202547	90.00	Membership Renewal
7.6.18	Ray Parry	202548	468.00	Repair to Play Equipment
7.6.18	Encore Office systems	202549	123.60	Toner supply and regular lease charges
7.6.18	JDH Business Services Ltd	202550	409.20	Audit Fees for internal Audit
7.6.18	AVOW	202551	10.00	Membership Renewal

7.6.18	Wrexham Area Civic Society	202552	25.00	Membership Renewal
7.6.18	Came and Company	202553	2056.24	Annual Insurance Premium
7.6.18	Scottish Power	202554	834.95	Monthly Lighting supply charges
7.6.18	Steve Pugh	202555	80.00	Gravedigging services
7.6.18	Derwen Computers	202556	108.00	New Hard drive to Clerk's computer
7.6.18	Dee Valley Water	202557	24.01	Water Charges Cemetery
7.6.18	Gresford Trust	202558	13.00	Hire of room
7.6.18	Martyn and Michelle Jones	202559	135.00	Purchase back of CR plot.
7.6.18	Wrexham County Borough Council	202560	2940.00	Play Area Inspection charges
7.6.18	N . Route	202561	2220.00	Grass Cutting April and May , and February and March reissued.
7.6.18	M. Jones	202562		NJC Monthly salary
7.6.18	S Baxter	202563		NJC Monthly Salary and reimbursement
7.6.18	HMRC	202564	91.59	Monthly costs due

254. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS: - Councillor B. Blackmore advised that she will be nominating the Chapel for the Civic Society awards. Councillor Holmes advised of the forthcoming Gresford Trust meeting.

255. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE

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

DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED: The next meeting of the Council will be the 5th July 2018 at 7.15p.m. at the Gresford Trust Memorial Hall.

COUNCILLOR J. Holmes.

CHAIR Date.....