

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 7th March 2019

Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, J Holmes, M. J. Edwards, J. Dutton, B. Blackmore, M. Harriman, M. Wilde, S. Atherton.

Chair: Councillor J. Holmes.

Clerk: Serena Baxter.

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors. R. Gilmartin, A. Atkinson, R. Smith.

Absent without Apology: Councillors J. Blackmore J. Hobbley.

388. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

The Chair advised members present that she had recently attended a course on chairing meetings, which had been useful and highlighted some useful suggestions. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that in future, the Clerk will produce and circulate the Minutes firstly to the Chair for comments, and then to all Members, giving members an opportunity to comment within 48 hours. If no comments are received, it will be deemed that the minutes are accurate, and can be published as Draft minutes, and will be receive final approval at the next meeting of the Full Council. This will give opportunity for a more prompt publication of the Meeting to the electorate. This arrangement will be reviewed at the Annual meeting in May to see if any issues arise.

389. 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.

390. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no Members of the Public or Press present.

391. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Councillor Bailey made a point as to which meeting declarations of interest concerning grant awards were made. It was confirmed that Councillors present at the Finance Committee had made declaration in regard to their involvements with clubs requesting grants. Councillor Bailey had made a declaration due to his involvement at the Full Council meeting on the 7th February. The Clerk noted the amendment. The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 7th February 2019 were otherwise **Agreed as a true record**.

392. POLICE REPORT: PCSO. Lawrence had forwarded her apologies and had sent through a report indicating the issues with crime and anti-social behaviour for the month of February. The report was noted. Councillor Dutton highlighted an issue concerning Pont Y Capel lane, with a number of gas cannisters being left there, indicative of a gathering of people and anti-social behaviour. Councillor Wilde highlighted recent communication which suggested that the number of PCSO's is reducing and they are covering a wider area. Councillor Holmes highlighted the importance of reporting via the 101 number, so that the Police can receive full and correct information.

393. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **Parking near the junction of Claypit Lane and Chester Road.** - It was noted that Councillor Gilmartin had previously advised on this issue that the request made for parking restriction measures would be progressed and put out to consultation. The Clerk confirmed no consultation had been received for the Community Council to date. The Clerk was asked to follow up on this matter with WCBC **Action: Clerk**.

- ii. **7 Chester Road:** There was no further update on this matter.
- iii. **Clappers Lane flooding:** Councillor Dutton reported that nothing further had progressed and the area had continued to be affected by heavy rain. It was noted that various areas seem to be suffering similarly with flooding. The Clerk was asked to put a request to raise the issue of blocked gullies and lack of action in cleaning out by the Council, to the next Town and Community Council forum. **Action: Clerk.**
- iv. **High Street, Gresford:** The question was asked whether the traffic survey requested had been carried out? **Action: Clerk to follow up with WCBC.**
- v. **Pont Y Capel Lane.** The Clerk advised on a response she had received from WCBC; essentially that their Legal department is too busy to deal with such a request and that the matter has been passed back to the Highways Manager to progress. Councillor Harriman stated this is a matter of great concern in that such a request has not been able to be progressed by the Unitary Authority who have responsibility for these matters. Similarly, the Council is still awaiting a response concerning the lease for the Cemetery. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk seek clarification from the Highways Manager as to progress, and depending on the outcome the matter could then be taken up with the Council's Chief Executive. **Action: Clerk.**
- vi. **Marford Play Area:** The Clerk advised of a recent communication received from Ms Parry of WCBC. Ms Parry has contacted Rofft School who may be favourable towards a lease arrangement for the land, and Ms Parry will look to progress this further. In the meantime, she has made arrangements for the cutting of the grass and the hedge. **Action: The Clerk will continue to keep in touch with WCBC on this matter.**

Councillor Harriman referred back to the previous minutes and requested that in future, updates on all Actions requested be added as an Agenda item, to future agendas.
Action: Clerk.

394. GENERAL AMENITIES COMMITTEE:

- i. The **Minutes** of the meeting held on the 12th February 2019 were noted.
- ii. **Agreement with Gresford Athletic Junior Football Club:** Councillor Atherton advised that a further meeting had taken place with the Gresford Athletic Football Club, (GAJFC) concerning the proposed agreement for the use of Allington Park for the Junior section of the club. Matters for discussion and approval by Council were as follows: Schedule 2 of the agreement concerning Maintenance costs. The Council will arrange the Restorative Maintenance work to be carried out during April, and will charge these costs back to GAJFC. General Amenities Committee had recommended a 'peppercorn' rent of £10 per annum for the use of the area, and this was **AGREED**. It was further **AGREED** that any charges would be raised as one charge to be paid by the Club in one payment, unless they raised any issue in doing so. The Agreement and arrangements contained therein were **APPROVED**. **Action: Clerk to make a number of further minor amendments and the Agreement can then be sent to GAJFC.**
- iii. **Community Awards Scheme:** Councillor Atherton advised that it had been decided to move away from 'Awards' and instead move to achievements and work carried out by residents of the Community under the banner 'Community Spotlight'. However, a number of matters still needed consideration and this would be undertaken by the General Amenities Committee.
- iv. **CCTV:** Councillor Holmes updated the Council on progress with the installation of CCTV. An issue had been raised about the existence of any past agreement with the Scouts for payment of Electricity. Councillor Dutton gave some background information. **Action: Clerk and Councillor Dutton to continue to look into this matter.** Councillor Wilde raised an issue about youths congregating in the Shelter and whether the CCTV would pick them up. It was determined that the old camera is left there as a deterrent, but has not had this effect. The matter can be monitored in due course.

- v. **A concern was raised about the speed of the new roundabout.** Although the children enjoy it, it is a cause for concern. **Action: Clerk to contact Ray Parry to ask him to inspect it.**
- 395. PLAY AREA INSPECTION ARRANGEMENT:** The Clerk advised of the renewal notice received from WCBC, to continue with the Service Level Agreement with WCBC into 2019-20, to continue to carry out the inspections of the play areas, at an annual fee of £4996.30 plus VAT. It was **RESOLVED** to renew the agreement as set out, but that following a suggestion made by Councillor Harriman, the matter of ongoing inspection arrangements will be looked into during 2019-20, to see if there are any other options available, and their costs. **Action: Clerk to put on Agenda for the next General Amenities Committee.**
- 396. LIGHTING COMMITTEE: REPORT ON OUTCOME OF TENDER EXERCISE AND APPROVAL SOUGHT FOR AWARD OF CONTRACT:** This item was heard under Part 2 of the Agenda, and the Press and Public were excluded from the Meeting. The Clerk provided a Briefing Note which set out the process undertaken in reviewing the tenders submitted by a number of companies. Councillors remarked positively to the rigours of the evaluation process. The recommended company was identified. Councillor Edwards proposed accepting the recommendation of the Evaluation panel, and this was seconded by Councillor Wilde. it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the granting of the Footway Lighting Replacement programme .
- 397. VACANCY GRESFORD EAST WARD:** The Clerk provided an update on progress with the Vacancy and communications with Electoral Services at WCBC. This was noted.
- 398. DRAFT COMMUNICATION POLICY- AMENDED POLICY FOR CONSIDERATION:** The Clerk had circulated a draft copy of the amended policy to members and also a briefing note containing matters for consideration and her advice, particularly concerning Social Media communications. A discussion took place about 'nextdoor' and 'Marford and Gresford' Facebook accounts. Councillor Wilde advised that Gwersyllt Community Council, where he also sits as Councillor, had resolved not to enter into any communications via facebook, because of its potential drawbacks. The view of Electoral Services to the recent posting on this account of the Council vacancy was relayed to members by the Clerk. It was noted by Members that this posting had taken place by a Councillor purely for the purpose of highlighting the vacancy to increase coverage, and similarly other matters posted concerning the Community Council, such as the installation of the bike racks, had been intended to increase positive coverage. Councillor Bailey moved that the Policy in its current format be **ADOPTED and this was AGREED.**
- 399. REPORT FROM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS GRESFORD AND MARFORD:**
- i. **County Borough Councillor for Gresford-** In the absence of Councillor Atkinson, Councillor Dutton relayed a message from Councillor Atkinson concerning the proposal by Alyn Family Doctors. The GP's are taking forward Patient Engagement through a forum. Councillor Holmes expressed her disappointment at the Public Meeting that was held on the 5th March at Llay. Consensus among members was that the meeting was well intentioned but no answers were gained. It was noted that if attending any public forum, Councillors should make clear when they are expressing an opinion, that it is their own opinion and that they are not speaking on behalf of the Council. General discussion took place about the meeting that was held and thoughts were expressed about how to take the matter forward with BCU Health Board. Councillor Harriman suggested that the Council might write to the Primary Care Director of BCUHB to express a lack of faith in Alyn Family Doctors and to ask them to look at the configuration of GP provision as a Health Board with a view to two or more practices being configured within the area. It was noted that thoughts had been expressed at the meeting concerning how health services could be configured for the future. These were generally thought to be nothing concrete but purely ideas. It was acknowledged that in other areas hubs have been developed, which do bring some advantages. Examples were given. Councillor Atherton

suggested that in her experience the health sector generally is looking to trim costs in the future. A comment made by Councillor Harriman was withdrawn at the request of Councillor Edwards. Councillor Holmes stated it was important for the Community Council to give its support to the Patient Engagement group. Councillor Harriman again suggested the proposal must be challenged and ask for the contract to be reconfigured as Councillor Atkinson had put forward. A discussion took place about patients need to see a doctor and the difficulties of transport. Councillor Atherton put forward the idea of community minibuses. A discussion took place about potential for expansion at the existing site. Councillor Atherton suggested it was important to go back to BCUHB to advise them of their duty of care and to express the need for alternatives. It was **RESOLVED** to write to BCUHB to state that Gresford Community Council are against the proposals of Alyn Family Doctors and are concerned that Llay is not an adequate solution for the problems they state they are experiencing. It is not acceptable for residents to have to travel to Llay or to use Rossett as it is essentially a residential property and therefore unsuitable. **Action: Clerk to draft letter to BCUHB.** It was further **RESOLVED** to write to WCBC and express concern about the lack of signage to direct residents to Llay Health Centre. **Action: Clerk to draft letter. Clerk to put this item on the next and subsequent agendas.**

- ii. **County Borough Councillor for Marford-** The Clerk relayed to members that Councillor Gilmartin had forwarded copies of traffic survey information to her. The Clerk had suggested that perhaps a report could be provided which summarises the findings and recommendations, perhaps for the next meeting of Full Council and this was agreed. In the meantime, the Clerk will forward this information to members.

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

- i. *P/2019/0119:* Siting of mobile classroom (previously granted under Ref. no. P2013/0871. All Saints Church in Wales VA School, Clapper Lane, Gresford, Wrexham. - **No objections or observations to make.**
- ii. *P/2019/0097:* Single Storey rear extension, Alterations to roof, New porch and Roof elements to front elevation- Brancote, 71 Wynnstay Lane, Marford, Wrexham. -**No objections or observations to make.**
- iii. *P/2019/0099:* New pitched roof over existing Garage- 18 Hillock Lane, Gresford, Wrexham- **No objections or observations to make.**
- iv. *P/2019/0130:* Application for works to trees subject to Tree preservation Order WCBC No. 83 (Marford Wood): - 3 No. Sycamore Trees and 1 No. Ash Tree adjacent to boundary – remove individual limbs back to source and trim adjacent hawthorn back to boundary line. Highdown, Quarry Brow Pant lane Gresford Wrexham. - **No objections or observations to make providing the advice of the Arboricultural Officer is followed.**
- v. *P/2019/0146:* Conversion of Existing Coach House into 1 No. dwelling. Erection of double garage with external staircase leading to loft area and construction of new access. The Pikey, Pikey Lane, Gresford, Wrexham. Councillor Dutton declared an interest in his matter and took no part in the discussion, except to advise on access as adjoining landowner. The Council were most concerned about this proposal and wish to object on the following grounds:

Objection: That the proposal in its present form will lead to the removal of a long-established hedgerow, and this will impact greatly on the environment, appearance of the area and wildlife.

Objection: On the grounds of danger to traffic and pedestrians. The new access as detailed is no improvement on the current access and in fact could lead to a greater danger. The situation of the current access and proposed access is near to a very sharp bend, and as the access statement already mentions, poor visibility from both directions, and traffic speeding in this location. Even if the hedgerow is cut back or removed, as

stated, which the Council object to, the bend and camber of the road will not be removed, and may even make the situation worse. The road is busy at particular times of the day, and the property is in proximity to a Public house/ hotel, and a Children's Nursery. Agricultural access is also required. It is feared that the proposal will present a greater danger to traffic and pedestrians as stated. It should be noted that at this point the road sinks away and is in a poor condition.

vi. P/2019/0172: Single Storey Extension to form dining area, shower/WC- 4 Willow drive, Marford, Wrexham. **-No objections or observations to make.**

401. FINANCE:

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

Date	Payment To	Reason	Amount £
19.2.19	SR Security	Deposit for installation of CCTV.	748.80
7.3.19	Cllr Sarah Atherton	Annual Allowance payment to Councillor	150.00
7.3.19	Cllr Andrew Bailey	Annual Allowance payment to Councillor	150.00
7.3.19	Cllr Beryl Blackmore	Annual Allowance payment to Councillor	150.00
7.3.19	Cllr James Hobbley	Annual Allowance payment to Councillor	150.00
7.3.19	J.R. Boyle	Invoice for glass replacement Telephone kiosk	54.00
7.3.19	Steve Pugh	Invoice for Grave digging service	630.00
7.3.19	B. Lightwood	Invoice for Installation of Bike racks	180.00
7.3.19	Wales Audit Office	Invoice for Payment of Audit fees	225.75
7.3.19	Treehogs Ltd	Invoice for removal of tree at Cemetery	780.00
7.3.19	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Invoice for water supply at Cemetery	21.30
7.3.19	WCBC	Invoice for Printing service	67.00
7.3.19	Steve Pugh	Invoice for Grave digging service	700.00
7.3.19	One Voice Wales	Invoice for membership Renewal	842.00
7.3.19	Scottish Power	Invoice for Monthly Electricity supply Lighting	850.80
7.3.19	Serena Baxter	NJC Salary, allowances and reimbursements	
7.3.19	Michelle Jones	NJC Salary	
7.3.19	HMRC	Monthly payment due	
7.3.19	Cllr Russell Smith	Annual Allowance payment to Councillor	150.00
7.3.19	Planning Aid Wales	Invoice for Training Place March	35.00
7.3.19	Townsweb Archiving	Invoice for 50% deposit digitisation	1950.19
7.3.19	Janet Holmes	Reimbursement for Voucher for Lighting consultant for advice and time given.	20.00
7.3.19	Gresford Retirement Club	S.126(1) Expenditure- Power of Well Being-Grant	380.00
7.3.19	Maes Y Pant Action Group	S.126(1) Expenditure- Power of Well Being-Grant	400.00
7.3.19	IMAGE	S.126(1) Expenditure- Power of Well Being-Grant	500.00
7.3.19	Gresford Play Group	S.126(1) Expenditure- Power of Well Being-Grant	490.00
7.3.19	Gresford Village Bowling Club	S.126(1) Expenditure- Power of Well Being-Grant	1000.00
7.3.19	Gresford Cricket Club	S.126(1) Expenditure- Power of Well Being-Grant	610.00
7.3.19	Gresford Snooker Club	S.126(1) Expenditure- Power of Well Being-Grant	1500.00

