

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 7th September 2017

Members Present

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

Chair: Councillor B Blackmore

Clerk: Serena Baxter

Apologies given and accepted: Councillor S.Atherton, M. Lightwood, M. J. Edwards, J. Dutton

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

58. 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.

59. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Members of the Public were present.

60. POLICE REPORT: PCSO Lisa Davies attended and gave a report for criminal activity in the area during July and August highlighting two incidents of shoplifting, two incidents of criminal damage which included the damage to the sculpture in the quarry, two items of plant machinery stolen from a building site, an attempt to steal from an ATM and six incidents of anti-social behaviour, during July in Gresford. In Marford during July there was an incident of burglary and one of arson and two incidents of shoplifting from the Co-op. In Gresford during August there were two incidents of theft and two of criminal damage a drug offence and eight incidents of anti-social behaviour. In Marford during August there were singular incidents of theft, Arson and anti-social behaviour. A discussion took place. Councillor Hobbley highlighted an incident of youths causing nuisance around the Plough / village area and a bottle had been thrown. Councillor Holmes raised an issue of a person going around the Trust area on a moped causing a nuisance. PCSO Davies said she would arrange for patrols in those areas. Councillor Atkinson stated that Poplar road is ongoing and he would liaise with PCSO Davies. Councillor Holmes raised an issue of the contact number 101 being a long time to receive an answer, the concern being that incidents may go unreported. PCSO Davies highlighted the staffing of this number. Councillor Harriman suggested writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner. **Action: Clerk to write a letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner raising concerns.**

61. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 6th July 2017 were agreed as a true record

62. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

i. **Car Parking Rofft school-** The Clerk referred to her report and advised that the parking restrictions are advised as due to be installed shortly and the necessary letters of notification have been made.

ii. **7 Chester Road:** The Clerk advised that she has since the last meeting liaised with Councillor Harriman and a letter was sent to WCBC in August. A reply is awaited. Councillor Atkinson advised that he is aware that plans are due to be resubmitted by the site owner.

iii. **Clappers Lane:** The Clerk referred to her report to advise the situation is as previously reported.

- iv. **Additional lighting requested Pont Y Capel Lane:** The Clerk advised that the situation with Pont y Capel lane as previously reported. The Clerk also advised members of advice received from WCBC concerning replacement lighting columns at Clappers lane and the likelihood that due to Scottish Power's policy on replacement wooden columns, that the Community Council will have to pay to have them replaced. The clerk would supply further confirmation on the situation when received.
 - v. **Parking at the Co-op:** The Clerk advised on responses received from North Wales Police and from New River Retail. Councillor Gilmartin also advised that if anyone is transgressing then a photo needs to be passed to WCBC and the Police.
 - vi. **Pistyll Hill Traffic matter.** Councillor Gilmartin advised that he has been in touch with residents who are requesting a 20-mph limit. A discussion took place about alternative signage and possible solutions. Councillor Harriman advised that the only reason for the suggestion of a street light being installed came from WCBC to create a 30-mph restriction. It was suggested that enforcement on these means could be problematic. **Action: Clerk to write to WCBC and Councillor Gilmartin to speak to WCBC.**
 - vii. **HIGH STREET GRESFORD:** The Clerk referred to her report and advised of costs provided by WCBC. **AGREED: In view of the length of time taken that the installation of the signs is agreed to go ahead providing the costs of installation are not excessive.**
- 63. COMMUNITY AGENTS: -** A discussion took place following the presentation and subsequent information received since the last meeting of the council. Councillor Wilde advised that Rossett have taken one on but that in his experience from elsewhere, it is sometimes difficult to determine what the agent actually does. In his view, Councillor Wilde suggested, it would be better run from a central place like AVOW. The experience of other areas is that in one area, feedback has been positive, in another, not so positive. It was confirmed that the Community Council would be the employer of the agent. It was highlighted that there is a lot going on in Gresford. Councillor Hobbley suggested there were also a number of people who may feel isolated. This was echoed by Councillor Holmes. Councillor Bailey highlighted the links that take place with GP's. Councillor Harriman said he would try to gain some information via a contact in Flintshire. **Action: Clerk to obtain Job Description and put item on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.**
- 64. PURCHASE OF WASTE BINS: - APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE SOUGHT.** The Clerk advised of costings of three waste bins and advice sought from WCBC as to fixings. A cost of £645. was agreed. **Action: Clerk to order and arrange installation.**
- 65. VILLAGE FESTIVAL- UPDATE: -** An update was given on behalf of IMAGE who were organising the event. A discussion took place. The Clerk advised on costs of publicity material and options. **AGREED: to order 500 colour leaflets at a cost of £125.**
- 66. CAMERA AT ALLINGTON PARK: -** The Clerk advised on a discussion with the company that holds the laptop connection to the camera on Allington Park and the fact that it has been in place for some time now. Costings had been received for a suggested service of the equipment which would cost £150. It was suggested that costs of an upgrade should be explored before agreeing to a service of the current equipment. **Action: Clerk to liaise with company and feedback at next meeting.**
- 67. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME: -** Councillor Atkinson introduced the possibility of a Community Speed watch scheme in order to act as a deterrent in several locations to speeding. He advised that equipment needs to be purchased but the overall costs range from £100 - £1000. After discussion, it was **AGREED that the necessary equipment could be purchased up to the value of £500.**
- 68. DISPENSATION: - Report required to WCBC Standards Committee: -** After discussion on this point it was determined that The Council need to report to WCBC Standards committee for dispensation or the following Councillors to enable them to take place in discussions where there may be a dual interest with their connections to Gresford Trust. Councillor Bailey, Atherton,

Dutton, Holmes, and two members of the Community Council who represent the Council at meetings of the Trust. **Action: Clerk to write report.**

69. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON ELECTORAL REFORM: - The Clerk introduced this item which had been received from Welsh Government via One Voice Wales and circulated. It was suggested that One Voice Wales will have done a response on this matter and that that would suffice.

70. APPROVAL FOR ATTENDANCE OF DELEGATES AT ONE VOICE WALES CONFERENCE: - Approval was granted for the attendance of Councillors Bailey and Harriman at the forthcoming conference and associated costs.

71. APPROVAL TO UNDERTAKE TREE WORK: - The Clerk advised she is still awaiting quotations in respect of proposed tree work. To be deferred to next agenda.

72. COMMITTEES

i. General Amenities Committee: -

a. Minutes of meeting held 17th July 2017: The minutes of the meeting of the General Amenities Committee held on 17th July 2017 were noted.

b. Telephone kiosk: - The Clerk gave an update via the Clerk's report on the current position that confirmation is awaited from BT that there is a power supply to the box, and outlined a quotation of £400 that had been received from a local Contractor to undertake improvement work to the box including painting and rehangng the door. **AGREED: Approval granted for expenditure of £400 on the Telephone kiosk- Clerk to action.**

c. **Approval was requested** for expenditure on Bike stands as previously discussed to the total value of £417. **Approval was granted- Clerk to action.**

d. **Confirmation of price of £40** was given for the re-lettering of the Algae warning sign, and this was **accepted**.

e. **Approval was requested for the purchase of a throwline alongside the lake.** After discussion, it was referred to the Clerk to investigate whether it was necessary expenditure: **Action: Clerk to research further.**

ii. Cemetery Committee: -

a. Minutes of Meeting held 19th July 2017: - The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th July were noted.

b. Approval required for revision to fees: - A document was circulated detailing an uplift to fees for the forthcoming year. **AGREED: - Cemetery fees to be increased as detailed.**

73. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

i. **Allotments.** The Clerk referred to the Clerk's report and advised on conversations held with Mr Rainey of the University of Wales and with Ed Harris Solicitors of Swansea.

ii. **Youth Working Party:** Councillor Blackmore advised that there was no further report on the Youth Working Party, but that Mrs J Jones was working on a webpage and that this would be presented into schools.

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

i. *P/2017 / 2017/0677:* - Parking and Operation of 2 Private hire vehicle(s) (One car and one minibus) Fairfield Farm, Barkers Lane, Borrass- *No observations to make*

ii. *P/2017/0663 :-* Change of Use of first floor to Class D2 (Assembly and Leisure) 4 A Chester Road, Gresford, Wrexham.- *Concern that parking might be an issue if more than one client is visiting at a time.*

- iii. *P/2017 /0654: - Front Porch Extension and Internal Alterations, 3 Park Leigh Farm Barns, Park Lane, Rossett, Wrexham. - Members wish to point out that there is a pdf from the Planning Inspector on appeal which is relevant as it refers to no other development on site other than painting. Otherwise no further comments to make.*
- iv. *P/2017/0621: - Single Storey Front extension 23 Woodridge Avenue, Marford, Wrexham- No observations to make.*
- v. *P/2017/0590:- (in retrospect) Land to rear of Whiteway Drive Gresford, Wrexham. Scots Pine (T14) Reduce identified branches by 3m. Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Coppice under storey, 10% thinning works and pull up selective saplings to reduce density of growth (TPO No WCBC No 1). -No observations to make- the advice of the Council's Tree Officer is considered to be followed in this matter.*
- vi. *P/2017/0695 :-Demolition of Existing buildings associated with Balmuir Garage, and outline application for residential development consisting of 4 No. Dwellings. Balmuir Garage, 1 Chester Road, Gresford, Wrexham. Amendment received: As above but location of the development has changed to 3 Chester Road Gresford. -No observations to make. This latest plan seems better and more reasonably spaced.*
- vii. *P/2017/0716: -Removal of 3 No. Self-seeded Holly Trees alongside Chester Road.Crown reduction by 1.0-2.0m and re-shaping of 3 No. Yew Trees to create one single feature. Raise crown of Beech Tree to provide 6m clearance from ground level and 2m clearance over adjacent garage roof and crown thinning by up to 15% (protected by Marford Conservation area) Roflee, Springfield Lane, Marford. -No observations to make- the advice of the Council's Tree Officer is considered to be followed in this matter.*
- viii. *P/2017/0708: - Extension and Alterations and Erection of Garage. 1 Green Pastures, Pont Y Capel Lane, Gresford. -No observations to make. Councillor Harriman left the meeting*
- ix. *P/2017/0720: 1 No. Oak Tree- Remove dead branches and reduce height and shape by 15% (Tree Protected by Conservation area) Castle Stables, Springfield lane, Marford, Wrexham. -No observations to make- the advice of the Council's Tree Officer is considered to be followed in this matter.*
- x. *P/2017/0726 :1 No. Sycamore Tree- reduce mid and lower portion of canopy over garden area only, Approx. in line with bird bath/ fountain. Prune to maintain existing form.1.No. Ash tree - Pollard to previous points (approx. 5.0.m in height) ensure retention of juvenile shoots and young epicormics where possible. The Chancel, 4 Church Green, Gresford. -No observations to make- the advice of the Council's Tree Officer is considered to be followed in this matter.*

75. REPORTS

- i. **Wrexham County Borough Council:** Councillor Atkinson reported that all items have been reported on in Essentials magazine. It was highlighted that a lot of street signs were being obscured by overgrown trees and bushes. Councillor Atkinson agreed to look into this. A discussion took place about the closure of the Sprouts nursery.
- ii. **Gresford Trust:-** Councillor Holmes highlighted that the Defibrillator is now in place and training is due to take place later in the month.
- iii. **IMAGE:** Councillor Bailey advised on the Scarecrow trail.
- iv. **Website:** The Clerk reported 886 unique visitors to the website in July and August.
- v. **Library:** Councillor Bailey reported on fundraising events and that a water butt has been purchased for the rear.

- vi. **Suggestion to move Reports to a quarterly instance:** This was **AGREED** in view of the number and often complex nature of other agenda items for consideration.

76. FINANCE

- i. The Following items were approved for Payment:

Date	Payment To	Cheque Number	Reason	Amount £
4.8.17	Scottish Power	202424	Lighting Supply July	833.96
4.8.17	Gresford Trust	202425	Hire of rooms charges to end of March 2017	266.75
4.8.17	One Voice Wales	202426	New Councillor Training	160.00
4.8.17	One Voice Wales	202427	Larger Council Conference Delegate	50.00
4.8.17	Encore Office Systems	202428	Charges for June/ July Maintenance and hire	39.60
4.8.17	NJ Route	202429	Grass Cutting July 2017	625.00
4.8.17	Michelle Jones	202430	NJC Salary	
4.8.17	One Voice Wales	202431	Councillor Training x 2	80.00
4.8.17	Serena Baxter	202432	NJC Salary	
4.8.17	HMRC	202433	Monthly amount due rel. to salary	
7.9.17	Serena Baxter	202434	NJC Salary	
7.9.17	Michelle Jones	202435	NJC Salary	
7.9.17	S Pugh	202436	Gravedigging service	305.00
7.9.17	Scottish Power	202437	Lighting Supply	861.71
7.9.17	S. Pugh	202438	Gravedigging Service	330.00
7.9.17	WCBC	202439	School Crossing patrol recharge	988.00
7.9.17	Atlantic Hardware	202440	For relettering of Algae sign	40.00
7.9.17	The Information Commissioner	202441	Registration to Information Commissioner	35.00
7.9.17	HMRC	202442	Monthly amount due re: Salary.	

- ii. The Clerk highlighted approvals required for regular expenditure: these being the Remembrance wreath for £25 and ten additional roadside poppies at £5 each. **This expenditure was APPROVED.**
- iii. The Clerk requested the approval of skip hire to assist the lakeside clean up at a cost of £340. This was **APPROVED.**
- iv. The Clerk requested a change of date for the next Finance Committee meeting from the 27th September. It was **AGREED** to change the date of the meeting to the **11th October at 6pm**

77. MEMBERS URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Councillor Atkinson highlighted an issue that had been raised with him which was the need for additional signs warning of the presence of ducks on the High Street and up Pant Lane. It was agreed to contact Highways and see what permissions are needed and where such signs can be obtained from. **Action: Clerk to ascertain with regard to additional signs.**
- ii. Councillor Bailey suggested that a nomination be made to the Wrexham Area Civic Society Awards 2017 for the ATS site. **Agreed:**

78. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE

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

