

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 8th JANUARY 2015

Members Present

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs S Cleaver, G Frank-Keyes, M Harriman, Mrs J Holmes, Mrs M Lightwood, G Peake, M Perry, M L Roberts, and Mrs B Watson

In Attendance

PCSO Lisa Davies

Apologies

Councillors Mrs J Dutton and Mrs J Macdonald

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.

349 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

350 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were present and indicated their wish to address the Council. The Chairman invited them to speak. Their representative reported that development contained in planning application P/2014/0905 for the erection of houses on land at Gresford Road, Llay had caused strong feelings among residents of Llay. These feelings which had later been substantiated were that the local schools in Llay, Gresford and Rossett did not have sufficient capacity to take the children. The same was also said of Alyn Family Doctors. The roads were also inadequate to deal with the additional traffic generated by this proposal.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their remarks and pointed out that they would be taken into account later this evening when the community council considered the application. The representatives were invited to remain but the community council would not enter into discussion with them as this would be contrary to the advice of the Welsh Government.

351 POLICE REPORT

Crime statistics for November and December 2014 were received from the PCSO and noted. Members commented that despite the speculation about Police presence in Gresford, these crime statistics were reasonably good. PCSO Davies reported that in view of staff vacancies she was also covering the communities of Gwersyllt and Rossett in addition to the community of Gresford.

352 ONGOING MATTERS

Marford Community Centre

No reply had been received from the officers of Wrexham Council in reply to correspondence from the Clerk of the Council neither had the draft lease been received by the Management Committee. In these circumstances, the Chairman was authorised, in

consultation with the Clerk to arrange an appropriate press release highlighting these shortcomings of Wrexham Council.

Youth Services

A report was received from the Detached Team in Gresford and Marford. Members commented that the report did not address the concerns of Councillors. Accordingly, the Clerk of the Council was instructed to write further to the Head of Youth Services seeking specific information relating to location of where the young people lived, their age range, gender and how many young people were spoken to on specific dates. If possible, a copy of the report that the Youth Service is required to make to ESTYN would be of assistance to the Community Council.

Gresford & District Community Library

A report on the Library was received and it was noted that Friends of Gresford Library were seeking more supporters.

Community Council's Website

It was reported that there were 1,027 unique visits to the website in November but there had been a drop in December.

7 Chester Road, Gresford

The local member for Gresford East and West on Wrexham Council had asked the Chief Planning Officer to use his powers under the provisions of Section 221 of the Planning Act 1996. ***The Community Council resolved to support the actions under Section 215.***

It was also noted that Leslie Griffiths, AM had written to the Head of Community Wellbeing & Development asking for an update and would contact the Clerk when further information was received.

Report of the Tenders Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee had met before Christmas and formulated proposals seeking PQQs from twelve appropriate Lighting Contractors. A reply was requested by 31st January 2015. The Clerk of the Council reported that three PQQs had been received. A further meeting of the sub-committee to consider the PQQs would be held on a date to be fixed by them; to approve the tender documents for submission to those lighting contractors who had expressed an interest in tendering and were acceptable to the sub-committee.

The Council agreed:

To co-opt Councillor G Peake onto the Sub-Committee for the Street Lighting Maintenance tenders in view of his expertise;

That in view of the short time available to the Community Council the contract with Wrexham Council for Street Lighting Maintenance up to 31st March 2016 be approved; and

One Voice Wales was asked to arrange for the Wrexham/Flintshire Area Committee to consider all aspects of the tendering procedure

Weight Restrictions Order on Springfield Lane, Bottom Road, Gresford

As it was unlikely that such an Order would be made, this item should be left off future agenda.

Purchase of Poppies for Remembrance Day 2014

The Community Council had agreed in principle to purchase 20 poppies from the Royal British Legion. **Accordingly it was now agreed to donate £100 to the Royal British Legion and to purchase a further 20 poppies for 2015 when they were available.**

Management and Maintenance of Play Areas

The Play Area Sub-Committee had met on 19th November 2014 and after thoroughly reviewing the implications connected with the management and maintenance of Play Areas had recommended that the contract from Wrexham Council to 31st March 2016 be accepted.

The recommendation was accepted by the Community Council.

353 REPORTS

Councillor Bailey reported on the discussions taking place at Wrexham Council regarding use of School Halls out of school hours; discussions with Network Rail regarding the wall on Griffin Hill and meetings with the appropriate Assembly Minister on the Williams Report.

Councillor Holmes reported on the activities of Gresford Trust.

Councillor Frank-Keyes reported on the activities of IMAGE including the success of the Christmas Quiz, that the next Tidy Up Weekend would be on the 1st and 2nd February 2015; he thanked the Community Council for the financial assistance with the village drinking fountain and the their efforts in providing this year`s Christmas Tree.

Councillor Mrs B Blackmore reported that Marford Community Centre was doing very well despite lack of support from Wrexham Council.

354 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received from the Head of Community Well-being and Development were available for Members and dealt with as follows:

P/2014/0896 – Reduce by up to 2 metres to suitable side branches, crown raise to 3 metres and thin by 10 – 15% Purple Plum and reduce longer branches by 2 metres, crown raise to 3 metres, remove crossing and rubbing branches and branch stubs from 1 walnut (Trees protected by the Marford Conservation Area) Pistyll Bank, Springfield Lane, Marford - ***The Community Council was content with the proposal provided Wrexham Council's Arboricultural Officer raised no objections.***

P/2014/0911 – Two-Storey and side extension, 6 Mayflower Drive, Marford
- No Comments

P/2014/0905 (Community of Llay) – Outline Application for 365 Dwellings and Erection of 300 square metre Retail Unit – All detailed matters reserved, Home Farm, Gresford Road, Llay – ***The Community Council concurred with the views***

of local residents of Llay that the roads in Gresford and Llay are inadequate to deal with any additional traffic generated by this proposal; the schools in Llay, Gresford and Rossett did not have enough spare capacity to take the extra children; the sewerage capacity was inadequate to support a development of this size; the Alyn Family Doctors did not have spare capacity. Therefore considerable public investment would be needed if the proposal was approved. Also, the diverse wildlife of the area and the hedgerows would have to be protected.

P/2014/0926 – Listed Building Consent for rear Porch, Strode House, The Green, Gresford - ***The Community Council was content with the proposal provided that it was in keeping with the conservation Area.***

P/2014/0947 – Two-Storey and Single-Storey extensions and alterations, Timberscombe, 58 Wynnstay Lane, Marford - ***No Comments***

355 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:

Scottishpower plc, Unmetered supplies	£1,692.04
Mr S Pugh, Gravemaking	£750.00
SLCC, Clerk's Membership Fees	£131.00
Mr C A Route - Grounds Maintenance	£170.00
Cemetery Work	£375.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC rates
Maurice Paddock - Salary	NJC rates
HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates

356 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 5th February 2015 at 7.15 p.m. at Marford Community Centre; the Clerk of the Council was told to be present at 6.30 pm in order that members could peruse the applications for grants which had been received in accordance with the Community Council's new policy guidelines.

**COUNCILLOR BERYL BLACKMORE
PRESIDING CHAIRMAN**

Chairman.....

Date.....