

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT
GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 9th JANUARY 2014**

Members Present

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs S Cleaver, Mrs J D Dutton, M J Edwards, G Frank-Keyes, M Harriman, Mrs J Holmes, Mrs J MacDonald, G Peake, M Perry and M L Roberts.

Apologies

Councillors Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs M Lightwood, Mrs B Watson and PCSO 2118 Wendy Harris

In Attendance

PCSO 3464 Lisa-Marie Davies

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. Councillors M Harriman and G Peake indicated their intention to declare personal and/or prejudicial interests at the appropriate time.

218 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

219 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public were present, Ms Courtney Gates and Mrs Denise Nicholls who would speak to the Council later.

220 POLICE REPORT

Crime statistics for November and December were circulated and discussed. Members expressed their concern at the increasing incidence of vehicles mounting the pavements when parking.

221 MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Marford Community Centre

Ms Courtney Gates reported that the Committee had sufficient resources and a Business Plan to assume responsibility for Marford Community Centre for three years. The relevant information had been given to officers of Wrexham Council who were now considering the position along with the other budget cuts.

After answering the questions of members, Ms Gates was thanked for her attendance and report then left the meeting.

Youth Provision

The notes of the meeting held on 9th December 2012 were circulated and discussed. In view of the staff shortages at Wrexham the proposed Open Night was not pursued and it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance until these shortages had been settled.

Office of Mayor

The reply from the Leader of Wrexham Council was circulated together with a recent letter from Offa Community Council, both of which were noted.

Village Improvements

A report and diary of events were circulated from IMAGE in regard to the Drinking Fountain. It was noted that a Heritage Fund Grant of £7,500 was expected and this, together with the Community Council's contribution of £2,810.52 would be sufficient to cover the total cost of the project amounting to £10,310.52 (including VAT). As the work would have to be completed by 1st July 2014, the Community Council would be required to loan IMAGE the necessary funds to meet the short term costs of the project, but would be refunded by the Heritage Fund Grant.

The Council resolved to approve these arrangements.

Community Council Website

Councillor Cleaver reported that there had been 2,034 unique visits to the site.

Stones at the Lakeside

Discussions had taken place and it was decided to include the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Replacement Tree at Allington Park

This matter had been included on the agenda as Wrexham Council's Tree Officer considered that a replacement tree should be purchased and had recommended a species known as "Pride of India". It was also reported that a local resident could obtain a tree to replace the one cut down by the Community Council.

This matter was referred to the Play Area Sub-Committee.

Drilling of Exploration Bore Holes at Commonwood Farm, Holt - P/2013/0660

The answers to the questions raised by the Community Council from the Planning Officer dealing with the application had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Mrs Denise Nichol addressed the Council on her investigations and the issue was fully discussed.

It was resolved to ask Holt and Rossett Community Councils for their respective decisions on the application and to ask the Council's Planning Officer to attend an early meeting of the Community Council.

Parking Restrictions on School Hill, Gresford

The present position regarding parking on School Hill was noted.

Carved Oak Sculpture

The informal views of the Planning Assistant regarding the proposed siting of the Carved Oak were received.

In view of his observations on the proposal, which were not binding on the Planning Authority, it was resolved to apply for planning permission to site the Carved Oak on the Splitter Island, and the Council's Working Party would oversee the details.

Street Lighting Schemes

Details and breakdown of the likely costs involved for the various proposals of the Lighting Sub-Committee were received. The comments of various members who had recently looked at the proposed sites were also received.

Consequent upon the results of the voting the Council resolved to proceed with these schemes.

It was also resolved to investigate whether the Community Council would be permitted to obtain quotations from other approved Electrical Contractors, having regard to the current contract between the Community Council and Wrexham Council.

Terms and Conditions of Service of the Clerk of the Council and Cemetery Assistant
Having regard to the Council's decision on 5th December, 2012 ***it was resolved that a Task and Finish Group comprising Councillors M Harriman, Mrs J MacDonald and M Perry would deal with this and report back to the Council in due course.***

Griffin Hill and Bottom Lane/Springfield Lane

In view of the fact that no reply had yet been received from the Highway Authority regarding these problems, the Clerk of the Council was instructed to vigorously pursue the Highway Authority for a reply.

222 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/2013/0831-Single Storey Study and Two-Storey Sun-Lounge with bedroom and Shower Room over extensions, 12 Sunnyridge Avenue, Marford – **No comments were made.**

P/2013/0857 – Crown raise by removing bottom 3 branches from 1 Corsican Pine (T1) and remove lowest branches growing over garden from 1 Sycamore (T1) trees protected by WCBC No1, land to the rear of 14 Whiteway Drive, Gresford – ***The Council was content with the proposal provided that Wrexham Council's Arboricultural Officer approved***

P/2013/0858 – Two-storey side Extension and Realignment of Garage Roof, Tintern, Pistyll Hill, Marford – ***The Council was content with the proposal provided that Wrexham Council's Arboricultural Officer raised no objections.***

Demolition of existing Retail and Residential Dwelling and Erection of Two-Storey Bar and Restaurant Unit with Two-Bedroom Flats on Third Floor, 7 Chester Road, Gresford - P/2012/0350 – Members commented upon the disgusting state of this site in a prominent part of the Community. It would appear that the developer had not complied with the conditions of the planning permission.

Accordingly, it was resolved that the Head of Community Wellbeing and Development should be asked to take urgent enforcement action.

Erection of Retail Unit and Associated Works, land adjacent to Red Lion Public House, Marford Hill, Marford – P/2012/0350 An appeal had been made to the Welsh Ministers in respect of this application. The appeal was to be decided on the basis of a public Local Inquiry. If the Community Council wished to make any additional comments they should do so within six weeks of the Start Date.

The Council resolved to support its earlier decision.

223 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:

Mr C A Route, Grounds Maintenance and Cemetery work	£545.00
Scottish Power, Unmetered Supplies	£831.06
Wrexham CBC – Marford Community Centre Grant	£1,348.00
Mr Steve Pugh – Grave Making	£750.00
Encore Office Systems – Photocopying Services	£39.60
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC rates
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC rates
HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates
Scottish Power – Unmetered Supplies	£858.70

224 CORRESPONDENCE

Application for Financial Assistant – Gresford Recreation (Snooker) Club

(Councillor M Harriman and G Peake declared personal and/or prejudicial interest in respect of this application and left the meeting whilst it was discussed) ***It was resolved to make a grant of £1,000 towards the repairs to three snooker tables.***

Licensing Applications

The invitation from Wrexham CBC`s Licensing Officer was accepted.

Application for Financial Assistance – Friends of Alyn Family Doctors

The Clerk of the Council reported that the Friends had obtained alternative funding for the purchase of COPD Packs and therefore had asked if the three Community Councils would agree to their earlier contribution being used to fund a Spirometer, an essential piece of equipment used in association with respiratory disorders including COPD.

It was resolved to agree to this proposal.

225 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 6th February 2014 at 7.15 p.m. at Marford Community Centre.

**COUNCILLOR MRS J MACDONALD
CHAIRMAN**

Presiding Chairman.....Date.....