

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2015

### Members Present

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

### Apologies

Councillors Mrs J Dutton, Mrs J MacDonald and PCSO Lisa 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.

### 420 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### 421 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

### 422 ONGOING MATTERS

#### Gresford Trust – Appointment of Representatives

Councillor Mark Perry indicated that he was prepared to continue to serve as the Community Council's representative on Gresford Trust.

#### Marford Community Centre

It was reported that the AGM would be held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The lease had now been signed but there were still difficulties regarding the insurance premium and cutting the grass. It was agreed that if an application for funding was received in time, it would be considered at the additional meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015, otherwise the Chairman and one other member would decide upon the application.

#### Youth Services

In accordance with the Community Council's instructions the Play Areas Sub-Committee had met Officers of the Youth Service at a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

***The Community Council resolved to notify the Head of the Youth Service that if the Community Council does not receive firm ideas from him to improve the Youth Services for the benefit of the youth of the community of Gresford by its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 the Council will consider withdrawing the funding budgeted for in 2015 – 2016.***

#### Community Council's Website

There was a noticeable reduction in the number of unique visits this month, but Councillor Cleaver was refreshing the site with notices regarding perils of feeding the ducks and a DVLA video.

#### 7 Chester Road, Gresford

This item was deferred to the additional meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

### **Road Traffic Sign, Old Wrexham Road**

Councillor J Dutton was expecting members to comment on the signs, but as none had not yet been received nor a report on the suitability/safety of the pole, the matter was deferred until the September meeting.

### **Village (Gresford) Car Parking**

The group had met and subsequently, Councillor Cleaver had approached the licensee of the Plough Inn but he was reluctant to become involved in the scheme and was not seeking publicity. There was a continuing need for additional parking facilities and therefore this item was deferred until the September meeting.

### **Legacy of the Late Mrs Gwyneth Evans**

Details of the quotations obtained for the purchase of benches by the lake and replacement of one in Cemetery Lane had been circulated prior to the meeting. ***It was resolved that Model 28 be purchased from Victor Stanley to replace the concrete one near the lake at a cost of £936.00 including delivery, and that hardcore be supplied by Mr Brian Lightwood. It was also agreed that a similar bench should be purchased from Victor Stanley to replace the one at the junction of Cemetery Lane and Clapper Lane.***

### **School Crossing Patrols near All Saints CP School, Gresford**

Councillor A Bailey had met with the appropriate officers and it was estimated that the cost would be between £3,000 and £3,500 per annum for three years. A survey would be carried out before the end of 2015.

### **Premier Inn, Gresford**

A satisfactory reply had been received from Whitbread Group plc in response to the Community Council's representations. ***The Community Council agreed that a copy would be made available to the Police.***

## **423 MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE LAST MEETING**

### **Appointment of a Finance Committee**

The need to consider the appointment of a Finance Committee was discussed and a task and finish group comprising Councillors M J Edwards, Mrs S Cleaver, Mrs B Watson, M Harriman and the Chairman was set up to pursue the constitution and terms of reference of such a committee.

### **Application of Grant under £500 from Gresford Festival**

An application was circulated and the Community Council ***resolved to make a grant of £200 towards this year's Gresford Festival.***

### **Rats/Vermin at the Lake and Japanese Knotweed in the Village**

***The Council resolved to obtain the services of a Pest Control Officer and would consider the report at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015. It was also agreed that Councillor Bailey would liaise with Wrexham Council over the erosion of the bank by the Lake.***

Representations should be made to the owner of the land at the rear of the shops to ask him to take steps to remove the Japanese Knotweed.

**Community Engagement** The Chairman would present a report to a future meeting.

#### **424 GRESFORD CEMETERY**

Information on the undermentioned matters had been circulated to members and were now considered, namely:

Advice and information for Grave Owners – ***this was approved;***

Three quotations for removal of Earth Spoil, Concrete Bunker and other Concrete Slabs and Plinths from Cemetery Grounds had been received. ***It was resolved that the lowest quotation from Mr Neil Route be accepted.***

Fees and Charges with effect from 1st August 2015 – ***it was resolved to implement these charges and in future to review them as soon as Wrexham Council's charges were known.***

Headstone Safety by Blackwells had now been completed and 158 were found to be unstable. It was agreed that the Cemetery Assistant should write to the owners (where known), that an item should be included on the Council's website and in the Local Press.

#### **425 POLICE REPORT**

Two Police Officers arrived and apologised for the delay, which was due to operational duties. Crime statistics for June 2015 were circulated and discussed.

#### **426 REPORTS**

##### **Gresford and District Community Library**

It was noted that the number of users was satisfactory.

##### **Play Areas Sub-Committee**

The report of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 was received and noted.

**Councillor A Bailey** reported on Local Government Reorganisation, the Review of Yellow Lines in the Community, including Burton Rise and on Welsh Medium Education.

**Councillor M J Edwards** reported on the appointment of a new Audit Committee, the independent Chairman was from Marford.

**Gresford Trust** – it was reported that vandalism at the Hall continued to cause concern; the Millennium Map had been removed and would be repaired and re-sited; the Craft Group continued to flourish and raise money and the volunteers were thanked for their efforts.

**IMAGE** – The Community Council was thanked for the sum of money given for the purchase of planters and bench and the levelling of pavements.

**Maes-y-Pant** - Fires in the quarry were of concern. The Fire Service had been called out twice in recent weeks.

#### **427 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

P/2015/0404 – Extension to Dwelling, Crest Tor, 20 Sunnyridge Avenue, Marford – ***Members had concerns that this proposal may disturb the hedge/fence as it backs onto Old Turnpike Lane***

P/2015/0408 – Single-Storey Front Extension to Extend Garage, Lounge and Porch, 25 Hawthorn Road, Marford – **No Comments**

P/2015/0427 – Rear Conservatory Extension, Greenbank Cottage, Borrass Road, Wrexham – **No Comments**

P/2015/0436 – Two-Story Side Extension to provide Double Garage with Bedroom Suite over and Single-Storey Rear Kitchen extension, 17 Hillock Lane, Gresford – **No Comments**

P/2015/0445 – Single-Storey Extension and Front Porch, 7 Sandrock Road, Marford – **No Comments**

P/2015/0431 – Installation of Three Illuminated Fascia Signs and One other Non-illuminated sign, 58 Chester Road, Gresford - **Not in keeping with the area and obstructions to traffic.**

P/2015/0454 – Garden Room Extension, Horseshoe Barn, Borrass Road, Wrexham – **No Comments**

#### **428 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MONITORING THE BUDGET**

The satisfactory financial statement was received for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and noted.

#### **429 FINANCE**

***The following items were approved for payment:***

Scottishpower – Electricity Supply	£860.75
One Voice Wales – Training Course	£70.00
Dee Valley Water Services – Water charges	£1.09
Mr S Pugh – Grave making	£225.00
Mr C A Route – Grounds Maintenance	£170.00
Cemetery Maintenance	£375.00
Mrs M Jones - Salary	NJC rates
Reimbursement for repair to Register of Graves	£200.00
Maurice Paddock - Salary	NJC rates
HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates

#### **430 CORRESPONDENCE**

Consultation on Protecting Community Assets - this had been circulated to members and would be looked at by them during the summer in order to reply by 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Statutory Guidance - Access to Information on Community and Town Councils - The Clerk's briefing note on the requirements of Section 55 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 was considered and the statutory duties imposed would be implemented.

Wrexham Area Civic Society Awards 2015 - The Council was invited to nominate schemes for the various awards. ***The Council resolved to nominate the Drinking Fountain and improvements to Gresford Methodist Chapel.***

**431 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:** It was confirmed that an additional meeting would be held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at Gresford British Legion at 7.15 pm, and that the Clerk of the Council be authorised to deal with any urgent matters, including cheques in consultation with the Chairman. Planning Applications would be emailed to members and the Clerk would compile observations for sending to Wrexham Council and the two local members. Finally the next monthly meeting would be held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 at 7.15 p.m. at Marford Community Centre.

**COUNCILLOR M PERRY  
CHAIRMAN**

Chairman.....

Date.....