

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2014**

### **Members Present**

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

### **Apologies**

Councillors Mrs M Lightwood and Mrs J MacDonald

### **In Attendance**

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.

### **282 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 were received, approved and signed by the Presiding Chairman. Corrections were made to the Minutes as follows:

PCSO Lisa Davies had apologised for non attendance at the meeting;  
The words "and unsafe" were deleted from paragraph 276;  
The word "civil" was changed to "civic" and the word "annual" was deleted from paragraph 281

### **283 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

One member of the public was present but did not wish to address the Council.

### **284 POLICE REPORT**

Crime statistics for May 2014 were circulated, discussed and questions answered.

### **285 LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

The Licensing Officer reported on the licensable activities of the Authority relating to the Sale of Alcohol by Retail, Late Night Refreshment; Regulated Entertainment; and Supply of Alcohol from a club to its members or guests of members.

After answering questions from members the Officer was thanked for his attendance and informative report.

### **286 MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **Youth Services**

The Service was discussed and members reported seeing officers of the Youth Service speaking to young people. The position was noted.

#### **Marford Community Centre**

It was reported that the new group taking responsibility for the centre were meeting with officers of Wrexham Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014 with a view to making progress. However the current Management Committee was only informally being kept up to date with the position.

The Council expressed its concern at the slow progress being made and asked for its representatives on the new Management Committee to report to the Chairman of the Community Council following the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June.

### **7 Chester Road, Gresford**

The reply from the Head of Community Wellbeing and Development was received and noted as an interim situation. However Councillor J Holmes had not received a reply to her email some weeks earlier and members asked about the position of the new access to the site from High Street, which appeared to be in a different location to the one indicated on the approved plan. The Council also considered requesting the use of CCTV, but this did not appear appropriate and may be prohibited. The question of railway sleepers being stored on the land was also discussed. The present unsatisfactory position was noted.

### **Gresford & District Community Library**

It was reported that the Official Opening was well attended and there had been 300 visitors during the past four weeks. A meeting between representatives of the Library and of Wales Co-operative Centre relating to fund-raising efforts was going ahead. The position was noted.

### **Community Council Website**

Councillor Cleaver reported that there were 2,125 unique visits to the site since the last meeting. The position was noted.

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

The report of the meeting of the Play Areas Sub-Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014 was received. It was noted that a new Service Level Agreement for the next twelve months had now been signed. The question of goal posts at Marford Play Area was discussed and it was agreed to discuss the matter further at another meeting of the Play Areas Sub-Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 9.30 a.m.

### **Cemetery Sub-Committee**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee should be held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 at 6 p.m.

### **Street Lighting Column at Pistyll Hill, Marford**

A reply had not yet been received from Scottishpower and therefore this would be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

### **Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum**

An email and pro-forma was received from Wrexham Council in regard to the Community Council's request for consideration of items relating to Youth Services throughout the County Borough and overgrown verges – lack of grass cutting. The pro-forma was completed in respect of both matters.

### **Tendering Sub-Committee**

The email from Councillor Cleaver and details from One Voice Wales relating to the establishment of a Tendering Committee was thoroughly discussed. It was also pointed out that a Parish Council in England had a format for its committees which was relevant to the situation at Gresford.

***On being put to the vote it was resolved to appoint a Tendering Committee comprising the Chairman of the Community Council and four other members, and that the Terms of Reference be further discussed at the next meeting.***

### **Funding/Council Tax Requirements**

This matter was discussed having regard to the present position where it appeared that more and more services would be devolved to Community Councils. This situation would inevitably mean in Gresford Community Council's case that further funds would have to be allocated in respect of any devolved services.

Councillor Mrs B Watson and the Clerk of the Council were asked to look at the establishment of a Policy relating to grants and other financial assistance to outside bodies.

***The Council resolved to consider the situation at a later date when more progress in the devolution process had taken place.***

### **Annual Return for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

The Draft Annual Return and the report of the Internal Auditor were received and considered.

***The Council approved the Draft Annual Return and the Chair signed page 1 where required; the Internal Audit Report was also noted.***

### **Welsh Government Consultation on the Provision of Access to Toilets for Public Use**

The email from the Welsh Government regarding consultation with local authorities was received and noted.

### **287 OVERGROWN GRASS VERGES**

This item had been included on the Agenda at the request of Councillor Mrs B Watson. It was noted that the verges had now been cut and that Wrexham Council had agreed a revised policy for grass cutting.

### **288 PARKING AND OTHER CONDITIONS AT OR NEAR BURTON RISE**

Councillor Mrs B Blackmore reported the concern of residents of Burton Rise and nearby properties of vehicles being parked on the junction with Chester Road. This was considered to be a dangerous and possibly illegal practice. Many of those parking their vehicles appeared to be left for most of the day while the drivers went off to places of employment, etc. It had been suggested that one possible solution was an Order prohibiting traffic together with the appropriate "yellow lines".

The Council asked Councillor A Bailey, as the representative on Wrexham County Borough Council, the Highway Authority, to pursue the issues.

### **289 REPORTS**

Councillor Bailey reported that new regulations were being implemented regarding residential caravans and the present occupants of the caravan park in Old Wrexham Road were being consulted on the issue of homelessness if the caravan park was closed as a result of these new regulations.

Councillor M J Edwards reported that 18 CCTV cameras were to be removed as part of the County Borough Council's economic measures; also that the Luncheon Club at Marford Community Centre needed more helpers; the result of the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for changes at the Red Lion were likely to be known within the next two weeks and Councillor Edwards thought the public attendance at the hearing was disappointing; the Planning Appeal against the refusal of the Planning Authority to grant permission for the drilling of exploration bore holes at Commonwood Farm, Holt was not likely to be by way of a public hearing.

Councillor M Harriman recommended that a grant of £200 be made to Gresford Festival Committee, 2014 and it was agreed to consider this item at the July meeting of the Community Council.

Councillor G Frank-Keyes reported that the work had not yet started on the Drinking Fountain and that a grant in respect of improvements to the Village had been submitted; also he had attended two meetings on proposals regarding drilling and the consequential fracking position, he encouraged more members to attend the meetings because of the adverse affect fracking may have on the residents of Gresford Community.

Councillor Mrs J Holmes reported that Gresford Trust had held it's AGM and that there were still vacancies for Trustees.

## **290 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/2014/0240 – Erection of timber barn style garage and car port (4 vehicles in total), Hillside, Horsley Lane, Marford - **No Observations**

P/2014/0286 – Erection of new disabled ramp and internal refurbishment, Trevor Arms, Marford, Hill, Marford – **No Observations other than to support the re-opening as a public house**

P/2014/0287 – Listed Building Consent for new disabled ramp and internal refurbishment, Trevor Arms, Marford, Hill, Marford – **No Observations other than to support the re-opening as a public house**

P/2014/0339 – Reduce the height of 3 horse chestnut trees (T1, T2,T3) to the current height of the adjacent sycamore (T4) and remove 2 lowest limbs over garden from 1 sycamore (T4), to trees protected by TP0 DCC NO 20, Cedar Hall, The Green, Gresford – **The Council was content with the proposal provided Wrexham Council's Arboricultural Officer raised no objections.**

P/2014/0352 – Installation of Sculpture on Traffic Island, Junction of Clapper Lane and Chester Road, Gresford - **No Observations**

P2014/0353 – First-floor extension over existing garage and single storey rear extension, 17 Yew Tree Court, Gresford – **The Council supported the comments of neighbours**

P/2014/0365 – Internal Alterations & General Repairs & Improvements, Romney Cottage, Marford Hill, Marford - ***The Council asked that the proposals be carried out tastefully and as near to the original as possible, as this was a listed building and also that measures should be taken to reduce the effects of flooding in the area.***

## **291 FINANCE**

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

Mr C A Route, Grounds Maintenance and Cemetery work	£545.00
Wrexham CBC – Trade Refuse Charges 2014/2015	£622.20
Scottishpower plc, Unmetered supplies	£832.18
Mr S Pugh – Grave Making	£1,675.00
Wrexham Area Civic Society – Corporate Membership 2014	£25.00
Gresford & District Community Library – Financial Assistance	£1,500.00
P & W Contracting Ltd – Grounds Maintenance March 2014	£59.53
JDH Business Services Ltd – Internal Audit Report 2013/2014	£432.92
Councillor M Harriman – Travelling Expenses	£71.55
Broker Network Ltd – Insurance Premium	£2,509.69
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC rates
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC rates
HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates

## **292 CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence that had been received and available for members was noted or otherwise dealt with as follows:

One Voice Wales – Training. The Council agreed to attend the Training Course in principle and in view of the duplication of dates the Councillor to attend be nominated at the next meeting.

Splash Community Trust - A letter was received from the Chairman and the Secretary of this Trust requesting financial assistance to reopen Plas Madoc Leisure Centre. The letter was noted.

Variation of Licensing Activity - The Clear Black Line Company, 17 Chester Road - No objection was made to this variation.

Electronic Communication on Planning Consultations – An email from the Business Support Officer of the Community Wellbeing and Development Department was considered, and subject to answers to various concerns of members, it was agreed to trial this method of consultation.

**293 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting would be the on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 at 7.15 p.m. at Marford Community Centre.

**COUNCILLOR MRS B BLACKMORE  
CHAIRMAN**

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