

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 1st MARCH 2012

Members Present

Councillors A C Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore A B Edginton, M J Edwards, M Harriman, J L Jones, Mrs J MacDonald, M Pritchard and R H Willis

Absences

Apologies from Councillors Mrs J Dutton, M Hughes and Mrs S Layhe were received and accepted.

In Attendance

Inspector Nick Evans and PCSO Johnson.

Presiding Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Councillor R H Willis presided over the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors gave notice of their intention to declare personal and/or prejudicial interests at the appropriate time during the meeting, Councillors A Bailey, M J Edwards, J L Jones and A B Edginton.

363 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 2nd and 18th February 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Presiding Chairman.

364 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

365 POLICE REPORT

The Crime Report for December 2011 from the police was circulated and discussed at length with the Inspector, together with other issues of concern. The next PACT meeting was to be held on 6th March at Marford Community Centre.

366 ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Costing of Play Schemes (Reply attached)

Mr Paul Crewe, Community Worker spoke to the Council about funding for the Play Scheme this year following Wrexham Council's decision to reduce their share of the funding. Councillors received details of the attendance last year and several members expressed their disappointment at the numbers of children and therefore the relevant cost per child.

After Mr Crewe had answered members questions regarding alternative play schemes and venues and on being put to the vote, the Council **RESOLVED to approve the arrangements for 2012 resulting in two members of staff supervising play schemes for two weeks at Easter and six weeks during the summer holidays at a total cost of £1,275.36**

The Presiding Chairman agreed to fund the cost of £30 to provide young people at Gresford Youth Club with their certificates at an awards ceremony on 28th March 2012 to which all Members were invited to attend

Gresford Post Office Community Room

In accordance with the Community Council's request, Mrs S Bellamy, Postmaster, Gresford Post Office was present this evening to discuss her proposals to keep the Post Office viable and open in the current economic situation by utilising a room at the revamped Post Office for community purposes.

The Council resolved to enter into an Agreement with Mrs S Bellamy for a trial period of twelve months initially whereby the Community Council would take responsibility for the Meeting Room at the Post Office which amounts to 10 cubic metres approximately for a peppercorn rent

To pay the Business Rates on that part of the hereditament amounting to approximately £360 pa for 2012 to 2113

The Community Room to be hired to local community groups for small informal meetings and the bookings would be controlled by the Post Master, Mrs Bellamy, who would keep a diary of such usage for inspection purposes by the Community Council's Auditors

The Mrs S Bellamy, Postmaster to continue to be responsible for the insurance, including public liability insurance, maintenance and upkeep of the Community Room

Wrexham & District Citizens Advice Bureau

(Councillor J L Jones declared a personal and/or prejudicial interest in this letter and left the room whilst it was discussed) The Bureau had written to say that during the period April 2009 to March 2011 they had assisted 156 clients from the Council's area, of these 12 required financial assistance and 31 required assistance for claiming disability benefits.

The Council resolved to make a grant of financial assistance in the sum of £500 to Wrexham & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

Oak Tree at the Junction of Chester Road and Clapper Lane

The Community Council received an email and suggested tree carving from Mr Simon O'Rourke. In the opinion of members this suggestion looked too fragile and seemed to have little direct association with the Community of Gresford. ***Accordingly it was decided to ask Mr O'Rourke to further consider alternative carvings and one suggestion made by members that they could include a set of bells as Gresford Church bells were seen to represent modern-day Gresford.***

P/2012/0040 – Erection of new double garage, Gladwyn Lodge, Chester Road, Gresford

Arising from the observations of the Community Council the developer had submitted revised plans indicating that the double garage would be re-sited and therefore not obstruct the views of drivers entering or leaving the property or the neighbouring Nursing Home.

The revised plans were noted.

Heating System, All Saints Church

(Councillor M J Edwards declared a personal and/or prejudicial interest in this application and left the room whilst it was discussed). The application for financial assistance remained outstanding as the Clerk of the Council had not received the information from the Church.

The Council was firmly of the opinion that confirmation that Section 8 (1) (b) of the Local Government Act 1984 had been repealed or had no effect in Wales was required from the Diocesan Solicitors or Senior Bishop before the application was approved.

Accordingly the Clerk of the Council was instructed to write to the Church Warden seeking this confirmation.

The application from Gresford Trust in respect of the proposed purchase of a projector and screen in the region of £650.00

(Councillor A C Bailey declared a personal and/or prejudicial interest in this letter) The Clerk of the Council reported that he had spoken to Ms J Burke who had confirmed that the sum of £650.00 was the estimated cost of purchasing the projector and screen. Members considered, however, that information should be obtained from the Trust regarding the level of charges the Trust proposed to make to users of this equipment, the income they foresaw being generated and whether the equipment would be at a fixed location within the Memorial Hall.

The application was once again deferred to enable this information to be obtained.

CCTV Equipment – Report of the Play Areas Sub-Committee

At the request of the Community Council the Play Area Sub-Committee had inspected the site and considered that sufficient lighting was necessary to achieve maximum use and clarity of the images generated by the CCTV equipment. It was therefore recommended that the lights should be timed from 4.00 pm to midnight during the winter months and from 9.00 pm to midnight during the summer months.

The Community Council approved this recommendation and asked that light sensors should also be installed.

Village Improvements

Members reported that a very successful meeting had been held on 18th February 2012 attended by approximately 30 persons and a further meeting was planned for the 15th March 2012.

The position was noted.

367 REPORTS

Councillor Mrs Beryl Blackmore reported on the recent visit by the Chief Executive Officer of Wrexham Council to Gresford and on educational issues.

Councillor M J Edwards reported that the Council Tax would be increased by 2.69% this year. Gresford Community Council's increase was lower than the average Community Council increase for Wrexham.

Councillor A C Bailey reported on the activities of IMAGE and on Gresford Trust including the Olympic Torch and a meeting on the 14th March 2012 to consider the arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee.

Councillor M Harriman referred to the traffic situation at the junction of the A485/A55 and considered representations should be made to the relevant authorities for the reopening of Rossett Station in order that it would be made available for passengers who might otherwise go by car.

Councillor R H Willis reported that Gresford Youth Club was having difficulties in appointing a suitable Youth Leader and this was of great concern to the Management Committee.

368 RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The Council resolved to approve the Risk Assessment and Management Strategy for 2012 -2013.

369 INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROLS

The Council resolved to approve the Internal Financial Controls for 2012 – 2013.

370 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/2012/0089 – Remove two lowest branches growing over garden of 23 Sycamore Drive from one Sycamore (T1), pruning back to points shown on submitted photographs, 33 Meadows View, Marford (Councillor A B Edginton declared a personal and/or prejudicial interest in this matter and took no further part in the discussion of this item). - ***The council would raise no objection to this proposal provided there was no detriment to the tree.***

P/2012/0116 – Extension to rear of dwelling to provide Breakfast Area and Sun Lounge, 20 Springfield, Court, Gresford – ***No representations***

P/2012/0127 – Single Storey extension to rear of Property, 14 Orchard View, Gresford – ***No representations***

371 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment

Marie Curie Cancer Care – Flintshire & Wrexham	£150.00
Advance Brighter Futures Wrexham	£50.00
Mencap Cymru	£50.00
Macmillan Cancer Support	£150.00
Cruse Bereavement Care	£25.00
North Wales Deaf Association	£50.00

Home Start County Borough of Wrexham	£150.00
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod	£100.00
North Wales Association for Spina bifida & hydrocephalus	£50.00
Wales Air Ambulance	£100.00
Gresford Constitutional & Snooker Club	£500.00
Gresford Village Bowling Club	£500.00
Encore Office Systems, Photocopy services	£46.80
P & W Contracting Ltd., Grounds maintenance	£59.53
Scottishpower plc., Unmetered Supplies	£669.66
AON Ltd., Additional premium for part of year	£29.35
Mr C A Route, Grass cutting and cemetery work	£545.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC Rates
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC Rates
HM Revenue and Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE Rates

372 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting would be at Marford Community Centre on Thursday 5th April 2012 at 7.15 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR R H WILLIS,
PRESIDING CHAIRMAN**

Presiding Chairman.....

Date.....