

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 5th MARCH 2015

Members Present

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

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.

366 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2015 were agreed as amended and signed by the Chairman.

367 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

368 ONGOING MATTERS

Marford Community Centre

The Chairman reported on a very positive meeting the Management Committee had recently with the Head of Wrexham`s Social Services Department and appropriate Officers. The lease had not yet been received from Wrexham`s Legal Department, but the Chairman and Management Committee would pursue this matter further.

After some discussion it was agreed to write to Mr Ken Skates, AM Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport & Tourism to see if he could help with the delay with the lease.

Youth Services

The reply from the Head of Lifelong Learning was noted and further information was expected from the Community Intervention Manager regarding what might be affordable for the sum proposed by the Community Council.

Gresford & District Community Library

The monthly report was received and the volume of footfall appeared to be constant. A series of visit by Assembly Members was taking place.

It was agreed to write to Wrexham Council`s Lead Member for Community Services expressing the Community Council`s concern that a Trust to administer the Library Service should be established with an appropriate Community Trust in South Wales, as it appeared to this Community Council that it was more appropriate to have such a Trust based in North Wales.

Community Council`s Website

It was reported that the number of unique visits seemed to be lower recently than when the Website was first opened. It was noted that the Council`s Policy and Procedure for dealing with financial assistance to various outside organisations would be included on the Website.

7 Chester Road, Gresford

Wrexham Council's Planning Officers had reported that the situation existing at this site had been referred to their Legal Department.

369 ROAD TRAFFIC SIGN, OLD WREXHAM ROAD, GRESFORD

The traffic sign from Old Wrexham Road had now been removed and was being stored at Clapper Farm. The sign was rusty and in need of attention. ***It was agreed to obtain three quotations for carrying out this work.***

370 CARVED BELL

It was reported that the Carved Bell was in need of oil and also the Welsh lettering had not yet been corrected. ***The Community Council agreed that both jobs should be carried out by Mr Simon O'Rourke.***

371 VILLAGE (GRESFORD) CAR PARKING

This item had been included on the Agenda at the request of Councillor Mrs B Blackmore who was concerned that car parking near the shops continued to be a problem. All members shared this opinion but as it appeared that nothing positive could be done at this moment in time. ***Therefore it was agreed to have an item on the agenda for future meetings to monitor the situation.***

372 POLICE REPORT

Crime statistics for February 2015 were received from the PCSO and noted. Members' questions were answered. The Council was informed that the reports were being standardised throughout the County Borough and may appear in a different format in due course. It was reported that the bicycle purchased by the Community Council during 2007 - 2008 was not being used by the Police for Health and Safety Reasons and would be returned to the Community Council.

373 TWEET FROM THE DAILY POST REGARDING GRANTS FOR PLAYGROUNDS

Councillor Mrs S Cleaver had brought to the Council's attention the fact that Wrexham Council had been awarded additional grant funding for playgrounds. Councillor A Bailey had made further enquiries and to obtain the funding the money would have to be spent by the end of March.

The position was noted.

374 REPORTS

Councillor M J Edwards reported that the budget for 2015-16 had been set with a small percentage increase.

Councillor A Bailey reported that Wrexham Council and others were looking into the cost of providing LED Lighting but nothing specific had been decided to date.

Councillor Mrs J Holmes informed the Community Council that following the sudden and untimely death of the serving Chairman of Gresford Trust, Councillor Mrs J Dutton was now Acting Chairman; efforts were being made to arrange a Village Festival to be held once again this year.

Councillor M Perry reported on the attendance of the Chairman and himself at the recent meeting held to hear the results of `Difficult Decisions` survey. The report was now available on Wrexham`s Website.

Councillor Mrs J Dutton reported that the lights in Pont-y-Capel Lane were still not lit. Accordingly it was decided to hold a meeting of the Lighting Sub-Committee to look at this issue and associated problems.

Councillor Mrs S Cleaver reported that eight trees had been obtained by IMAGE as a consequence of grant funding and these had been planted around the village. It was anticipated that further grants will be available to purchase plants for the village centre.

Councillors Mrs J Macdonald and Mrs M Lightwood reported on today`s meeting of the Borrass Park Liaison Committee. It would appear that complaints are virtually non-existent.

375 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/2015/0069 – Single-storey rear extension to form sitting room, 7 Laurel Close, Marford - **No Comments**

P/2015/0078 - Erection of Single Storey rear extension, Gresford Pharmacy, 15 Chester Road, Gresford - **No Comments**

P/2015/0133 – Demolition of existing building and erection of two dwellings and one of these dwellings will incorporate existing front elevation of former smithy, Former ATS Tyre Depot, Marford Hill, Marford – ***The Community Council considered this proposal to be too large and would be out of character with this part of the community; it would also change the appearance of the area as approaching from Rossett.***

P/2015/0134 – Application for consent to demolish existing buildings to enable erection of two dwellings, Former ATS Tyre Depot, Marford Hill, Marford – ***The Community Council considered that it would be inappropriate to determine this application prior to the outcome of Application P/2015/0133.***

376 ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Strategy prepared on the advice of the Welsh Government was approved for the 2015-2016 Financial Year.

377 RISK ASSESSMENTS AND MANAGEMENT

The Council approved the Risk Assessment and Management Strategy for 2015-2016.

378 INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROLS

The Council approved the Internal Financial Controls for 2015-2016.

379 QUOTES FOR REPAIRING REGISTER OF GRAVES AT GRESFORD CEMETERY

Details of the three quotes received for repairing the Register of Graves at Gresford Cemetery were received and it was agreed to accept the quotation submitted by Mr Paul Delrue, Crispin, Mill Street, Ruthin in the sum of £200.

380 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR BUDGET MONITORING

The Financial Statement for the period to 26th February 2015 was received and approved.

381 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:

Wrexham County Borough Council – Community Street Lighting Repairs	£71.58
Scottish Power – Electricity charges	£859.86
P & W Contracting Ltd – Grounds Maintenance	£59.53
Maes-y-Pant Action Group – Financial Assistance	£600.00
Gresford & District Community Library – Financial Assistance	£3,600.00
North Wales Deaf Association – Financial Assistance	£50.00
Gresford Trust – Financial Assistance	£3,700.00
The Friends of Gresford Colliery Disaster Memorial – Financial Assistance	£100.00
Advance Brighter Futures – Financial Assistance	£50.00
Gresford Retirement Club – Financial Assistance	£100.00
New Steps Life After Stroke Club – Financial Assistance	£50.00
Home Start County Borough of Wrexham – Financial Assistance	£50.00
Mr C A Route – Grounds Maintenance	£170.00
Cemetery Maintenance	£375.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC rates
Maurice Paddock - Salary	NJC rates
HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates

382 CORRESPONDENCE

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

North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan

Licensed Premises Application, Co-operative Food formerly Red Lion, Marford Hill, Marford – Members commented on the affects such a licence might have on the situation whereby young people would have greater opportunity to purchase alcohol, but in view of the limited grounds for making representations it appeared nothing could be done by the Community Council and this was a far from satisfactory state of affairs.

Legacy of the late Mrs Gwyneth Evans – an email had been received from Allington Hughes, Solicitors indicating that they acted for the Executors of the estate of Mrs Gwyneth Evans who had left a sum of £6,000 for the Gresford Lake Community, as she had during her lifetime being fond of visiting the lake for a picnic and feeding the birds. -

The Council agreed to accept and administer this legacy as owners of Gresford Lake as there was no other appropriate group for administering the legacy.

Wrexham Local Development Plan – Vision, Objectives, Strategic Growth and Spatial Options Consultation with Key Stakeholders – Deadline for responses 10th April 2015 – deferred until the next meeting.

383 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next ordinary meeting would be held on Thursday, 2nd April 2015 at 7.15 p.m. at Marford Community Centre.

**COUNCILLOR MRS BERYL BLACKMORE
PRESIDING CHAIRMAN**

Chairman.....

Date.....