

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 14th MAY 2015

Members Present

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

In Attendance

PCSO Lisa Davies

Apologies

Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs S Cleaver and Mrs B Watson

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.

398 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor G Peake, seconded by Councillor Mrs J MacDonald and unanimously **resolved that Councillor Mark Perry be elected Chairman for the ensuing year**. Councillor Perry thanked the members for the honour of electing him Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and to observe the Code of Conduct.

399 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor A Bailey, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Dutton and unanimously **resolved that Councillor Mrs S Cleaver be elected Vice-Chairman of the Community Council for the ensuing year**.

400 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

401 POLICE REPORT

The crime reports for March and April were received and discussed. Arising from the observations of the Police Community Support Officer regarding thefts from vehicles at the Premier Inn, Chester Road, it was **resolved to issue a press release regarding the Council's concerns about the apparent lack of co-operation between the Senior Management and the Police to combat these crimes**. The Chairman was authorised to approve the press release and for a copy to be sent to the Whitbread Group plc.

402 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public addressed the Council on the issue of planning permission for three two-bedroom dwellings at Parsonage Close, Gresford and called upon the Community Council to reissue it's observations. It was pointed out that the Community Council did not have the authority to do this and the local resident was advised to ensure that all further comments were submitted to the Planning Department in Wrexham before a decision on the application was made.

403 APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

It was resolved that the following sub-committees comprising the appropriate members be appointed for the ensuing year:-

Cemetery Sub-Committee Councillors A C Bailey, B Blackmore, M Harriman, M Perry and L Roberts

Community Council Website Working Group
Councillor S Cleaver, J Holmes and B Watson

Play Areas Sub-Committee Councillors A C Bailey, J Dutton, M J Edwards, J MacDonald and B Watson.

Lighting Sub-Committee Councillors J Dutton, M J Edwards, G Frank-Keyes, J Holmes, and G Peake

Risk Assessment Sub-Committee Councillors A Bailey, B Blackmore, J Dutton and M Perry

Tendering Sub-Committee Councillors B Blackmore, S Cleaver, J MacDonald, M Perry and B Watson; Councillor G Peake was co-opted onto the sub-committee.

404 DATES, VENUES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS

It was resolved that meetings for the ensuing year be held alternately at Gresford Memorial Hall and Marford Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month at 7.15 pm, except on 12th May 2016 (Annual Meeting) in view of the proposed Welsh Assembly election on 5th May. The Council also resolved to re-iterate its decision that no meetings be held in August and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were authorised to deal with planning applications requiring attention before 3rd September 2015.

405 ONGOING MATTERS

Marford Community Centre

No further report at present.

Youth Services

The Clerk of the Council reported that senior officers of the Youth Service were of the opinion that the Community Council's budget of £2,500 was too low to afford two Detached Youth Workers in the present financial year. The Officers suggested a meeting between a small number of Councillors and officers of the Youth Service to discuss the issues and agree a way forward. ***The Council referred this matter to the Play Area Sub-Committee.***

Maintenance of Street Lights

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor M Harriman who reported that a number of Community Council's had not renewed their contracts with Wrexham and therefore the Clerk was asked to seek the views of those Community Councils. The Clerk of the Council was also authorised to attend any joint meetings of community councils who were reviewing the operation of their contracts this year.

Gresford & District Community Library

The figures given last month were corrected to show that the average attendance was approximately 300 per month.

Community Council's Website

No further report this month.

7 Chester Road, Gresford

There had been no appeal against the notice and therefore the site should be tidied up and other work carried out in accordance with that notice.

Road Traffic Sign, Old Wrexham Road

Two options were under consideration. It was also considered prudent that the pole upon which the road sign had been erected should be investigated from a health and safety point of view.

Carved Bell

Councillors Mrs J MacDonald, M Perry, G Peake and M L Roberts volunteered to oil the bell when the weather was suitable.

Village (Gresford) Car Parking

Councillor Harriman submitted two parking discs issued by one County Council in England and one County Council in Wales who operated a scheme similar to that which the Community Council had in mind for the Plough Car Park.

It was resolved that a Task and Finish Group comprising Councillors M Harriman, Mrs S Cleaver, M Perry, A Bailey, Mrs J MacDonald and G Frank Keyes be appointed to investigate this matter further.

Obstacle on land Adjacent to Gerrards Shop, Chester Road, Gresford

In accordance with the Council's instructions the Clerk of the Council had written to Gerrards Bakery and the obstacle had now been removed and the location made safer.

Application for Financial Assistance from IMAGE

(Councillors A Bailey, Mrs J Dutton and G Frank Keyes declared personal non pecuniary interests in this application and left the meeting whilst it was discussed) IMAGE had resubmitted its application for financial assistance

It was resolved that a grant of £1,948.39 be made to IMAGE provided that the bench was robust; the tubs should be large enough to accommodate the trees and all should be maintained by IMAGE in the future.

IMAGE was also advised to seek permission from the Highways Department.

Legacy of the Late Mrs Gwyneth Evans

It was noted that the legacy bequeathed to Gresford Lake Community had been received from the Executors of the estate of the late Mrs Gwyneth Evans. The residents and others had identified items that might be provided to recognise the legacy, namely: additional Seat, Picnic Table and area for mothers and children, additional or improved islands in the lake for birds, repairs to the lakeside where vermin have been seen and acrylic Information Boards providing details of the birds and ducks generally resident in the area. Councillor Mrs J Dutton had quotations for public benches.

It was agreed to investigate obtaining these items.

Grave Memorial Inspections

The Cemetery Administration Assistant had obtained details of two quotations for carrying out this work, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

It was resolved to accept the lower quotation in the sum of £500, and the Officer was instructed to take the appropriate action based on any report regarding the safety of the memorials and the advice of the ICCM.

406 REPORTS

Arising from the observations of members, it was ***resolved in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that if members of the public were present during discussion there might be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the said Act.***

After the information was circulated, read by members and considered, ***the Council resolved that this issue should be dealt with by the members involved privately, as the Community Council could do nothing further. If appropriate the matter could be reported on at the next meeting.***

The press and public were re-admitted to the meeting.

Councillor M J Edwards reported on the work of Wrexham County Borough Council including a report due for consideration concerning the political balance of the Executive Board and a proposal that meetings should start no later than 4.00 pm; he also referred to the two awards granted by Tidy Wales to Maes-y-Pant. It was ***resolved that the Council's congratulations be conveyed to MyPAG.***

Councillor A Bailey reported on his work for Wrexham County Borough Council including the forthcoming Food Festival; the proposal to establish a trust to run Waterworld and that a further report on the Library Trust was due to be considered in June.

Councillor Mrs J Holmes reported on the substantial works being carried out at the Memorial Hall; and also that the Village Festival was to be held this year on 13th September 2015.

Councillor G Frank- Keyes reported that IMAGE had produced post cards of the Fountain which were for sale to the general public as a way of raising funds.

Councillor Mrs S Cleaver had circulated to members the response from WCBC to her enquiry about the rats in the lake. Litter bin bait stations could be installed but as the Council's Pest Control Service had ceased, a reputable private company should be employed to undertake the treatment.

407 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/2015/0215 – Erection of Agricultural Building, Springfield Farm, Marford Hill, Marford – **No Comments**

P/2015/0220 – Single-Storey Side Extension to provide additional living accommodation, Pant Cottage, Pant Lane, Gresford – **No Comments**

P/2015/0286 – Erection of Detached Garage and Erection of Ground and First –floor extension, 16 Sunnyridge Avenue, Marford – **No Comments**

P/2015/0290 - Erection of Detached Garage, Turnpike House, Turnpike Lane, Marford – **No Comments**

P/2015/0297 – Crown Thin By 10%, Crown Reduce Southerly And South-Eastern Side Of Crown By Up To 2 Metres And Crown Raise To Height Of 6.4 Metres One Lime (T1), Tree Protected By TPO WCBC 237, 2015 5 Orchard Court, Gresford - **The views of the Council’s Arboricultural Officer should be considered but no unnecessary felling of this mature tree should be permitted.**

P/2015/0298 – Fell 1 Sweet Chestnut (T1), 1 beech (T2), 1 Sycamore (T5), 1 elm (T9) and Remove Lowest Branch on North Side From 1 Beech (9T3). Trees protected By TPO DCC No 20, Cedar Hall, The Green, Gresford **The views of the Council’s Arboricultural Officer should be considered but no unnecessary felling of mature tree should be permitted.**

P/2015/0304 - Application to remove conditions 3 and 5 of P/2013/0771 (Code for Sustainable Homes) and Variation of Condition 9 of P/2013/0771 to allow hedge to be retained at 1m height instead of removal, Hudson Heights, Wynnstay Lane, Marford – **The Community Council supports the removal of the hedge and the retention of the original splayed access.**

408 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Scottish Power – Electricity charges | £1,692.90 |
| Mr C A Route – Grounds Maintenance | £170.00 |
| Cemetery Maintenance | £375.00 |
| Wrexham County Borough Council – | |
| Lighting Column 150, Pistyll Hill | £784.66 |
| Street Lighting Repairs | £109.43 |
| Quarterly Maintenance – Street Lighting | £1,163.77 |
| Trade Refuse Charges | £311.25 |
| Encore Office Systems – Photocopying charges | £39.60 |
| Mr S Pugh – Grave Making | £155.00 |
| Broker Network Ltd – Insurance Premium | £2,332.95 |
| Dee Valley Water Services – Water Charges | £12.53 |
| Wrexham Area Civic Society – Corporate Membership 2015 | £25.00 |
| Mrs M Jones, Salary | NJC rates |
| Maurice Paddock - Salary | NJC rates |
| HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax | PAYE rates |

409 CORRESPONDENCE

Annual Return and Basic Audit – Year Ending 31st March 2015 – ***The Chairman was authorised to sign the Annual Return when it was returned by the Internal Auditor and forward it to the External Auditor by the required date.***

Invitation to the Annual Meeting of Wrexham County Borough Council – Chairman to attend.

Wrexham Town & Community Council`s Forum – next meeting 11th June 2015.

One Voice Wales – Newsletter.

Lesley Griffiths, AM – Reply regarding Planning Guidance in relation to Fracking

Meeting of Rural Community Councils with the Chief Executive of Wrexham County Borough Council on 2nd June 2015 from 6.00 – 8.00 pm – The Chairman was authorised to attend.

410 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next Meeting would be held on Thursday, 4th June 2015 at 7.15 p.m. at Marford Community Centre.

**COUNCILLOR M PERRY
CHAIRMAN**

Chairman.....

Date.....