

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT
MARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 12th MAY 2011**

Members Present

Councillors A C Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs J Dutton, M J Edwards, M Harriman, J L Jones, and R H Willis.

PCSO Jason Knowles was also in attendance

Apology for Absence

Apologies received from Councillors M Hughes and Mrs M Lightwood were accepted.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor M J Edwards gave notice of his intention to declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Temps out of School Club and planning application P/2011/0300

Councillor J L Jones gave notice of his intention to declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Temps out of School Club, planning application P/2011/0039 and letter from AVOW.

278 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor M Harriman, seconded by Councillor A C Bailey and unanimously resolved that Councillor M Hughes be elected Chairman of the Community Council for the ensuing year.

279 PRESIDING CHAIRMAN

In the absence of Councillor Hughes, Councillor J L Jones was appointed Chairman of the meeting

The Council also resolved, that in accordance with section 83(4) Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Hughes be permitted to make the Declaration of Office at the next meeting on 2nd June 2011.

Councillor Jones thanked everyone for their support during his term of Office and wished Councillor Hughes all the very best for his coming term.

280 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was moved seconded and resolved that Councillor Mrs Mary Lightwood be appointed Vice Chairman of the Community Council for the ensuing year.

281 MYPAG

Mrs Sue Kelly and Mr John Troth had accepted the invitation to attend the meeting to report on the position now that the quarry had been acquired. Some formalities and legal requirements remained to be sorted out but everything seemed to be moving along nicely. Forestry grants were still available in spite of the length of time taken to complete the transaction.

The Board and its Officers were continuing to liaise with the police and other key contacts regarding control and management of the quarry and nuisance behaviour. The Board was looking for new members especially with particular expertise and youthfulness.

The Presiding Chairman thanked the Officers for their attendance and the very information address.

282 POLICE REPORT

Crime statistics and other matters of concern were discussed. Changes were being implemented to the Police service with many more community issues and acts of anti-social behaviour being

now dealt with by CPSOs. The Council was informed that an action plan was being developed for the Marford Quarry and the police were monitoring the incidents of anti-social behaviour and other undesirable activities at the Skatepark.

283 APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The Community Council resolved to appoint the following sub-committees comprised of the undermentioned members for the ensuing year, namely

Cemetery Sub-Committee Councillors A C Bailey, B Blackmore, M Harriman, J L Jones and M Pritchard

Play Areas Sub-Committee Councillors A C Bailey, J Dutton, M J Edwards, C Hollway, J I Jones, J Macdonald and M Pritchard. *The Council agreed that there was no need to co-opted onto this sub-committee at the present time.*

Lighting Sub-Committee Councillors J Dutton, M J Edwards, M Hughes, M Lightwood, H Williams and R H Willis

Risk Assessment Sub-Committee Councillors B Blackmore, J Dutton, J L Jones and M Pritchard

Gresford Colliery Sheaves Sub-Committee

The Council decided not to re-appoint this Sub-Committee

Marford Community Centre Sub-Committee

Councillors A Bailey, C Hollway, J L Jones and J MacDonald.
(With power to co-opt)

284 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Community Council resolved to nominate the following members to represent the Council on the undermentioned organisations, namely

Gresford and District War Memorial Trust Councillors M Hughes and J Macdonald

Gresford United Charities Councillors J Dutton, M Pritchard and R H Willis

Gresford Youth Club Management Committee Councillors A Bailey and B Blackmore

Marford Community Centre Management Committee Councillors B Blackmore and M Harriman or substitute when required

One Voice Wales Councillor M Harriman

Tarmac Liaison Committee Councillors M Lightwood, J MacDonald, M Pritchard and R H Willis

285 DATES, VENUES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS

The Community Council resolved that for the ensuing year meetings be held alternately at Gresford Memorial Hall and Marford Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month at 7.15 p.m., except for August (no meetings).

286 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were present and three of them spoke about the voluntary efforts by residents to keep the area around the lake in High Street tidy and suitable for people and wildlife. Mr P smith referred to his letter which was on the agenda for discussion later this evening and was

of the view that the work was reducing the habitat for ducks and other birds. However, two other residents considered that the work was necessary to preserve the habitat.

287 VARIATION OF AGENDA

In accordance with Standing Order 16 it was resolved that the order of business be varied on the grounds of urgency.

288 THE LAKE HIGH STREET

The letter from Mr P smith regarding the lake was dealt with at this time. As the Council had earlier heard the views of the residents on this issue it was agreed to defer that matter for consideration at the next meeting and that the Clerk should seek guidance from the Countryside Council for Wales and the RSPB.

289 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th and 18th April 2011 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman. Councillor Bailey reported that he had spoken to the Monitoring Officer about Councillor M Hughes' decision to declare a personal non prejudicial interest in matters concerning Gresford Trust. The Monitoring Officer had expressed the view that there was no requirement for such action. In view of the differing views on this subject the Clerk was instructed to write to the Monitoring Officer to clarify which members should declare an interest in matters concerning Gresford Trust.

290 ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Gresford Trust

The Council was reminded that the Trust had appealed to the Community Council to meet them once or, preferably, twice a year for regular up-dating and to include Trust matter as a standing item on the agenda at each Council meeting. After discussion, it was noted that all members could report on matters and that Councillors Bailey, Dutton and MacDonald frequently reported on matters regarding the Trust.

The Council resolved to leave matters as they were and to continue the practice whereby members would report on issues concerning Gresford Trust at each meeting, if necessary.

Allington Park and Marford Play Areas

Preparatory work on the refurbishment proposals was continuing.

Reinstatement of Footpath, boundary fence and gate at Woodlands Road

A reply from the Leader of Wrexham Council was received and it was noted with regret that:

Wrexham Council was unable to assist as they had no powers to enforce the reinstatement of the boundary fence;

That Council would provide a PROW signpost at the end of Woodlands Road in the near future – a gate would serve no purpose at present.

With regard to the covenant, it was a personal covenant which was only enforceable against the initial purchaser.

Zebra Crossing, Chester Road, Marford

In accordance with the Community Council's instructions the Meeting with Officers of the Highways Department had taken place on 10th May 2011. The Officers had agreed to look into the possibility of increasing the luminosity and frequency of the lights on the crossing, the provision of down lighters on the bleacher beacons and to refresh the road markings at the time of resurfacing. The position was noted.

TEMPS Out of School Club, Marford – To consider the payment of the loan of £50,000
Matters were progressing. (Councillors M J Edwards and J L Jones declared personal non prejudicial interests in this item)

Youth Councils

Nothing further to report.

Oak Tree at the Junction of Chester Road and Clapper Lane

It was noted that the Contractor had written to say that he would be very busy over the next three months, but would get the ball rolling and contact Glyndwr University. He may have a better idea of completion dates etc by the end of May and would keep in touch.

291 SKATEPARK/ALLINGTON PARK CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA - GLASS; LIGHTS OFF ON SKATEPARK; CAR PARK; CCTV AND DRUGS

Item was included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Martin Pritchard. As he was not present this evening and most of the items were being dealt with by the police and others the item was referred to the next meeting of the Play Areas Sub-Committee for consideration and with a view to CPSO Jason Knowles attending.

292 REPORTS

Councillor Mrs J Dutton reported that the AGM of Gresford Trust would be held on 19th May and that Gresford Royal British Legion was taking part in the 90th Birthday celebrations of the Royal British Legion this year.

Councillor M J Edwards reported on Wrexham's bid for the Rugby League World Cup in 2013 and that there was a 50% increase in tourism.

Councillor Mrs Beryl Blackmore reported on Marford Community Centre, the poor state of the roads in Winchester Way and low energy monitors in libraries.

Councillor A Bailey reported that IMAGE was proposing to hold another Gresford's Got Power Evening in the near future.

293 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received from the Chief Planning Officer were available for Members and dealt with as follows:

P/2011/0275 - Extension to dwelling, Pantwood, Pant Lane, Marford – ***No representations***

P/2011/0278 – Two storey rear and side extension, Sunny Croft, Borrass Road, Borrass – ***No representations***

P/2011/0293 – Demolition of conservatory and erection of new single storey extension to form family room and utility/shower room, 18 Sycamore Drive, Marford – ***No representations***

P/2011/0300 – Two storey extension to rear of property and single storey side extension, 3 Lakeside Close, Gresford (Councillor M J Edwards declared personal non prejudicial interests in this item) – ***The Community Council asked the Planning Authority to inform the applicant that the site of this proposal lies adjoining recreation land including a children's play area and located on a proposed "Safe Route to School"***.

P/2008/0804 - Modification to Ski jump Area to provide a K65 Ski jump in replacement to K60, The Wilderness Tip, Gresford

The Community Council remained concerned about the affects this proposal would have on the local area unless the development was properly controlled. The Community council therefore asked that the appropriate committee of the Council to check carefully the type of materials used and the colour as the final height of the development should be as unobtrusive as possible.

The Community Council also reminded the planning authority that conditions be attached to the planning permission to control and regulate the traffic flows around the site, especially the impact on Gresford roundabout and the hours during which the floodlights were operational at “unsocial hours”.

APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL - Erection of single storey dwelling, single garage and utility room and construction of new access, land adjoining 5 Lakeside Close, Gresford (Councillor J L Jones declared personal non prejudicial interests in this item)

P/2011/0333 – Erection of Replacement dwelling with double garage, Winewood, Hoseley Lane, Marford – ***The Community Council had the following observation to make, namely that as this was a large proposal prominent in the area and the character of the area should be taken into account.***

294 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment

Gresford Trust, Club Financial Assistance	£7,250.00
Gresford Village Bowling Club, Club Financial Assistance	£500.00
Gresford Constitutional & Snooker Club, Financial Assistance	£250.00
Gresford Cricket Club, Club, Financial Assistance	£750.00
Gresford AFC, Club Financial Assistance	£250.00
Family & Friends, Club Financial Assistance	£75.00
AON Insurance Ltd, Annual premium	£6,398.77
Mr S A Pugh, Grave making	£475.00
Dee Valley Water Services, Water charges	£3.23
Wrexham County Borough Council	
Quarterly maintenance of Community lights	£1,154.93
Rechargeable Repairs	£1,033.04
One Voice Wales,	
Membership Fee	£651.00
Training course Fee	£50.00
Mr C A Route, Grass cutting and cemetery work, April 2010	£545.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary and refund of keys	NJC Rates
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC Rates
HM Revenue and Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE Rates

295 CORRESPONDENCE

Community Council owned Cemeteries

The letter from Wrexham Council’s Head of Corporate and Customer Services called attention to a European Court decision relating differential charging rates whereby to charge discounted rates for local authority services in council owned cemeteries maybe contrary to EC law as it disadvantaged persons who did not live in the local authority area.

However, the Local Government Regulator (LACORS) had taken advice and had advised that local authorities could continue to charge increased amounts for burial and cremation of individual from outside their local area by establishing the objective criteria in Regulations 30 (3) of the

Provision of Service Regulations 2009. For example, local residents will have been contributing to local services through the payment of council tax and as such will have already been providing a financial contribution to all local services that an individual from outside the area will not. In addition, local authorities need to provide a basic level of service to their local residents and the additional charges for individuals from outside of the local area ensures that a local authority still has appropriate capacity to provide the services required by their own residents.

The Community Council was satisfied that it had in place the required objective criteria.

AVOW Associate Membership

(Councillor J L Jones declared a personal non prejudicial interest in this item) – ***It was resolved to join AVOW for an annual fee £15.00***

Wrexham Town and Community Councils Forum – Tuesday, 28th June at 6.30 p.m.

Play for Wales Newsletter

Resignation - Community Councillor - Marford and Hoseley Ward

The Community Council was disappointed to hear that the Chairman had received the resignation of Councillor Mrs Sue Layhe dated 19th May 2011.

The Council noted her reasons but asked the Clerk to write to her pointing out that there was no reason to resign simply because you no longer lived in the community. She should be invited to reconsider at let the Clerk know by the next meeting on 2nd June.

SLCC's CPD Course on Financial Management

The Clerk of the Council was authorised to attend this course at Caernarfon on Thursday, 30th June 2011 for a fee of £95.00

296 DATE, VENUE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Council confirmed that the date for the next meeting at Gresford Memorial Hall on 2nd June 2011 at 7.15 p.m.

COUNCILLOR J L JONES, CHAIRMAN

.....**Presiding Chairman**

.....**Date**