

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 3rd November 2016.

Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, M Harriman, J Holmes, G. Frank-Keyes, J. Dutton, M. Lloyd-Roberts, J. Macdonald, J. Jones, B Watson, B Blackmore,

Chair: Councillor S. Cleaver

Clerk: Serena Baxter

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors M. Lightwood, M. J. Edwards, J. Hughes

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.

591. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the Public present at the meeting

592. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair. There was one suggested amendment to item 584, d) regarding the persons mentioned as being involved.

593. POLICE REPORT

The Police were not in attendance but had forwarded a report which was considered. Points were raised on matters of arson, following recent fires locally, and the proposed reduction in Fire Engine capacity. Clerk read out a response received from Inspector Jackie Downes concerning future Police attendance at Council meetings.

594. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

i) **Car Parking** Rofft school- It was reported that a second site meeting had taken place with Darren Green of Wrexham Council to look at a revision to his original proposal for prohibited parking. The revised proposal he had submitted along with an outline of the procedure involved was outlined.
Resolved: To accept revised proposal. Action: Clerk to liaise with Darren Green.

ii) **7 Chester Road:** Councillor Bailey reported on a discussion he had with Louise Phillips of the Planning department. Clerk advised that she had received an acknowledgement from Wrexham Council following the letter to the Chief Executive, but no further communication. Councillor Harriman had previously highlighted possible options from legislation. A discussion took place on possible ways forward including the Ombudsman, legal advice, and MP.

Resolved: Further action to be taken by the Community Council, in the form of a letter to the Ombudsman, with covering letters to Lesley Griffiths and Ian Lucas. Action: Clerk.

iii) **Broken Bollard on parking area close to Allington Park:** Councillor Dutton advised that she had spoken with the previous Clerk. The Clerk advised that she had found relevant information in the file and had advised the Chair and Vice Chair.

Resolved: The Community Council is to repair the bollard. Action: Clerk.

iv) **Tree by Texaco Garage:** Councillor Bailey reported that the matter is with Wrexham Council and the bollard is to be installed in due course.

v) **Overgrown vegetation near Gresford Sailing Club (The Flash):** A discussion took place about other vegetation and saplings and responsibility to maintain. **Action Agreed: Councillor Bailey to discuss further with Highways.**

vi) **Christmas arrangements:** Clerk advised the tree is on order at a cost of £150. Clerk to advise Councillor Bailey of delivery date and he will arrange with the Council for the erection of the tree. Clerk to arrange for lights to be fitted, in advance of the Carol service, which Councillor Bailey confirmed is at 4pm on the 17th December. Chair confirmed that there will be a procession for Remembrance Sunday from the legion to the Church. Community Council will be represented in the procession.

595. Appointment of Vice Chair. It was noted that Councillor Edwards had served notice of his intention to stand down as Vice Chair, and this was accepted. It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Watson be Vice Chair.

Resolved: Councillor Barbara Watson to be appointed Vice Chair until May 2017.

596. High Street Gresford. Councillor Keyes outlined concerns that had been raised about the speed of traffic and the narrowness of the pavement and road, explaining that it is particularly busy with cars and pedestrians at particular times of the day. Councillor Keyes proposed a 20 mph speed limit to be introduced and the pavement to be levelled smooth for pedestrian access. A discussion took place on the extent of the limit, and whether it should be a restricted zone, or simply a speed limit. The proposal for a 20 mph speed limit for the length of High Street was proposed and seconded.

Resolved: To take forward the proposal for the introduction of a speed limit along High Street Gresford. Action: Clerk to arrange for a site meeting with relevant officers from Highways and Road Safety. All Councillors to be invited to that meeting.

597. Allotments. Councillor Bailey outlined an issue raised on behalf of the Allotment Association. The land is for sale and as potentially preferred bidder they are looking to purchase the land with various funding. **Action: Jerry O'Keefe to be invited to the next Council meeting for the relevant item to appraise Councillors at the meeting of the current situation.**

598. Policy on Council Member's expenses. Councillor Harriman outlined the recommendations of a report produced by the Independent Remuneration Panel on behalf of Welsh Government. He had previously sent a link for the report, which is to form the basis of a framework to be introduced in February 2017. The Panel suggests that to compensate for costs and expenses incurred by Council members (which could include child or adult care), Councils could be authorised to make payments to individual members of up to £150 per year, or more where caring responsibilities are concerned. A discussion took place.

Resolved: To put as an Agenda item for Finance Committee to take forward and bring back to Council once determined.

599. Committees.

Finance Committee

- i. The Chair of the Committee Councillor Macdonald advised of the record of the meeting held on the 26th September and this was noted.

The Committee Terms of Reference were discussed, in particular the fact that comments had been requested and received from Paul Egan of One Voice Wales. Due to a discrepancy in the circulation of the document, these were deferred for discussion to next Finance Committee.

Resolved: To be brought back to the next meeting of Council.

Model Financial Regulations. Councillor Macdonald outlined the Model Regulations that had been discussed at the recent Finance Committee. Particular items were highlighted, including expenditure limits of above and below £500 and relevant authorities to spend, the need to produce forecasts of budget expenditure by the relevant committees and that these would be for a three-year period. Councillor Cleaver highlighted the need for a policy on Reserves statement. The Model Financial Regulations were proposed for adoption by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Dutton.

Resolved: That the Model Financial regulations be adopted, with the expenditure limits and delegated duties as set out in the document as agreed by Finance Committee. That the Council and each Committee work towards producing three-year forecasts of potential expenditure, and reserves earmarked as appropriate, to be agreed by a future meeting of the Council.

600. REPORTS

- i) **Chair's Report:** The Chair reported that she had responded to an approach recently from a company wishing to install a mobile phone mast at the junction of Pant Lane and Chester Road. This was in addition to the application heard at last month's Council meeting for a replacement mast at the same location. On a recent site visit about another matter it was noticed that the noticeboard had been moved due to what seemed to be preparatory works, although the application has yet to be presented.
- ii) **Wrexham County Borough Council:** Councillor Bailey reported that the Difficult Decisions consultation had now ended and there would be a series of budget workshops held. In anticipation of next year's elections there is an event to be held in the Guildhall 'Be a Councillor'.
- iii) **Gresford Trust:** Councillor Dutton advised that on November 10th the Lord Lieutenant will be present at the event held to mark the Queens Award to the Trust and this will be the official presentation. The recent Village Festival raised over £8000. On 28th November a radio interview with Trust representatives will take place with Calon FM. Two Grant applications with Aviva have been lodged: An Internet Café, and for irrigation of the Bowls and Cricket pitches. All are encouraged to go on line and vote for these.
- iv) **IMAGE:** Councillor Bailey reported that following the success of the Scarecrow Trail, another is planned for next year. Tidy up Sundays have recently been held, tackling the Fountain and the beds at Pant Olwen and Burton Rise. A Christmas Quiz is being organised. Councillor Cleaver reported that the issue of additional planters in this location could cause difficulties with Utilities and may have to be rethought.
- v) **Maes Y Pant-** Councillor Edwards had circulated a report which Councillor Bailey outlined, in particular highlighting the reminder about the Tesco Bags of Help voting, and the information board outlining the Woodland Trail that has been installed.
- vi) **Website:** Councillor Cleaver reported there had been 787 unique visits to the website, the most popular being the Councillors, 'What is Happening' and the Library. A Blog for use by Councillors is currently being developed.
- vii) **Library:** Councillor Jones reported that usage of the library has been steady averaging 370 people each week. The Children's library refurbishment is now completed and other improvements and funding being explored.

601. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)

- i. *P/2016/ 0972:* Single Storey side extension to provide annexe- Maytree 11 Wynnstay Lane, Marford, Wrexham. - No comments to make
- ii. *P/2016/ 0973:* Trees Protected by TPO WMBC No 36. Land at Bryn Y Groes, Chester Road, Gresford, Wrexham (T1 Horse Chestnut -pruning) (T2 Corsican Pine- removal of sycamores around base). - Council view works as necessary subject to the advice of the Arboricultural Officer
- iii. *P/2016/0881:* Demolition of Single Storey outrigger and replacement with new extension to include lean-to to adjoining two storey outrigger, replacement of 7 windows to existing dwelling and internal alterations including formation of stairwell to cellar- Beechmount, Marford Hill, Marford, Wrexham- No Comments.to make.
- iv. *P/2016/0967:* Single Storey side extension to form dining area, construction of sun terrace and new stone faced retaining wall - LLwyn Eglwys The Green, Gresford, Wrexham. - Council wish to comment that any work needs to be in keeping with the location as a Conservation area.

602. FINANCE

i) The Following items were approved for Payment:

	Payment to	Cheque Number	Reason	Amount £
3.11.16	Mrs Michelle Jones	202300		NJC Salary
3.11.16	Miss Serena Baxter	202301		NJC Salary
3.11.16	Vivid Floral Design	202302	Purchase of Christmas Tree for Village centre	150.00
3.11.16	Gresford Royal British Legion	202303	Purchase of wreath and poppies for Remembrance Sunday	125.00
3.11.16	Northalls ltd	202304	Invoice for installation of Gate at Allington Park	696.00
3.11.16	WCBC	202305	Invoice for half yearly instalment for inspection agreement for Play areas	2855.40
3.11.16	Encore Office systems	202306	Quarterly figure for copier /printer	39.60
3.11.16	Scottish Power	202307	Monthly bill for street lighting supply	830.95
3.11.16	One Voice Wales	202308	Invoice for Training event (Cllrs Harriman and Holmes)	70.00
3.11.16	HMRC	202309	Monthly due payment	59.47
3.11.16	Steve Pugh	202310	Grave digging service	250.00

603. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Items of Correspondence were tabled in a report from the Clerk, as received by the Council for the month of October, and these were noted. Clerk reported on an additional item received from the Service Manager for Prevention and Support concerning provision and costs of Youth Services. It was noted that this had already been explored by the Community Council in recent years, however in the light of the recent communication, after discussion, it was agreed to set up a working party to explore Youth issues. The working party will comprise Councillors Blackmore, Jones, Watson and Lloyd-Roberts.

604. Member’s urgent announcements and requests for future meeting items. None reported

605. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED: The next meeting to be held on the 1st December 2016 at 7.15 pm at the Gresford Methodist Church Hall.

COUNCILLOR S Cleaver

CHAIR

Date.....