

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD METHODIST CHURCH HALL ON 6th October 2016.

Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, J. Hughes, M Harriman, J Holmes, G. Frank-Keyes, M. J. Edwards J. Dutton, M. Lloyd-Roberts, J. Macdonald, J. Jones

Chair: Councillor S. Cleaver

Clerk: Serena Baxter

In Attendance

PCSO 3464 Lisa Davies

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors B. Blackmore, B. Watson, M. Lightwood

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.

579. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the Public present at the meeting

580. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2016 was agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair. M. Harriman raised a question as to whether Apologies given should appear within the main body of the minutes.

581. POLICE REPORT

PCSO 3464 Lisa Davies attended and gave a report for the crime statistics for Gresford East and West and Marford and Hoseley during the month of September 2016. These included going equipped to fish from the Flash (theft), 2 instances of Burglary, 1 instance of theft from a vehicle, 1 instance of burglary other than from a dwelling, 2 instances of Anti-Social behaviour, 2 instances of shoplifting at the Co-op store, and 1 instance of criminal damage. PCSO Davies was thanked for her report, and for her attendance at the Village Festival. The point was raised as to whether a statistical report would show any evidence of rising trends. The comment was made that the Police attendance at a recent burglary in Marford had been exemplary.

PCSO Davies highlighted that Police attendance at Community Council meetings will be reduced from monthly attendance to quarterly. The monthly report will still be forthcoming. It was requested that this be sent to the local Members, Chair and Clerk. The reduced attendance was discussed.

Action Agreed: Clerk to write to the Chief Constable of North Wales Police to express concern at the reduction in attendance at meetings of the PCSO, as the regular information is valued.

582. PROPOSED ADDITIONAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

The Clerk advised on two suggested future additional agenda items: an update from the Clerk on any relevant matters not otherwise covered elsewhere, and Member's urgent announcements and requests for future meeting items. Resolved to adopt these as standard agenda items for the future.

583. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

i) Car Parking

- a) Village (Gresford) – There was no further update. Resolved: To remove item from future agendas and review annually, anything urgent to be raised under member's announcements.
- b) Co-op Store Marford. – Councillor Edwards reported that the right signage has now been installed. There were no further issues and it was resolved to remove the item from future agenda.
- c) Rofft school- Following the site meeting held, Darren Green of WCBC had forwarded a brief report and a map indicating where yellow lines were being proposed to alleviate the parking issue raised. These were discussed and it was agreed that the proposal would cause difficulties. **Action Agreed: Clerk to respond to Darren Green**

ii) 7 Chester Road: It was reported that there had been no further developments and the site remained as previously discussed. Clerk reported that Planning had not yet responded to request to attend meeting to advise on situation. A discussion took place, and concerns were raised about the deteriorating visual amenity of the site and the seeming lack of follow up action to enforce the prior legal action taken. **Action Agreed: Clerk to write to Chief Executive, outlining concerns.**

iii) Broken Bollard on parking area close to Allington Park: A discussion took place about ongoing concerns that the Park could be accessed by large vehicles. A question was raised about the terms of the lease. **Action Agreed: JH to further investigate the extent of Trust's responsibility for this area, and Clerk to look back at previous minutes. A letter to be written to the Trust.**

iv) Tree by Texaco Garage: Councillor Bailey reported that he had continued to liaise with Jon Brewin of WCBC over the proposed bollard which will resolve the matter once situated.

v) Overgrown vegetation near Gresford Sailing Club (The Flash): Councillor Bailey reported that following hedge cutting the matter should be resolved. A discussion took place about other vegetation and saplings and responsibility to maintain. **Action Agreed: Councillor Bailey to discuss further with Highways.**

vi) Terms of Reference of Committees: Public attendance and notification. Clerk updated the Council with further advice obtained from One Voice Wales legal consultant. This stated that committee meetings should include the Public as Full Council and should be notified in the same way. It was noted that committees do not take decisions. It was proposed that Committees are opened to the Public **AGREED: Committees to be open to the public and notified, in accordance with advice received.**

584. COMMITTEES

Cemetery Committee

The Chair of Cemetery Committee advised on a future meeting of the Committee to be held early in November. The Administrative Assistant has publicised the pre purchased plots that had not been utilised and had had some response.

General Amenities Committee

- a) The Chair updated the council that the Committee had met on the 14th September. The Play Area SLA had been looked at. The gate and fence next to the Scout hut has been addressed and a delivery date of 14th October has been given. A request for a young person's seating area in Marford Play area was considered and Councillor Blackmore is to take this forward. Lighting matters were considered and reports taken.
- b) Street Lighting Maintenance Agreement- Renewal of Contract with WCBC: Clerk advised that a letter had been received requesting whether Council wished to renew this contract.

ACTION AGREED: Contract to be renewed on terms outlined and Clerk to liaise with WCBC

- c) Christmas arrangements: Councillor Bailey advised that he will ask locally regarding a tree and is liaising over hand bell ringer's availability. The likely date will be the 17th December. He is also looking into the erection of the tree and there may be a charge
- d) Approval sought for expenditure on lakeside lectern-style information board: Councillor Dutton presented quotations received, and the considerations of vandal proofing, accessibility and positioning. The costs presented were: £685 with own artwork or £870 with artwork plus installation and VAT, a total cost of £1212 including VAT. It was proposed that Councillor J Dutton with Marion Williams and Phil Edwards proceed with artwork. It was suggested that this is a big task, also that the purchase in total should be no more than £1500. Resolved: Approval to delegate the task to JD to speak to Shelley's signs and make arrangements for the artwork and to bring back to next meeting.
- e) Approval sought for expenditure to repair two aerial runways at Marford and Gresford Play areas. It was explained that WCBC now advised that on a recent inspection the aerial runways had been found to be in more urgent need of replacement than the previous annual inspection report had suggested. The risk was however categorised as still low- medium. The cost of each runway was given as £490.00 plus VAT, which would be carried out by a specialist play area provider. **AGREED: Expenditure suggested as necessary and should be spent.** A point was raised that the amount of Emergency payment in Financial Regulations should be reviewed. A point was also raised that the amount of expenditure being requested for approval should appear on the agenda. **ACTION: Clerk to investigate.**

Finance Committee

Councillor Cleaver had chaired the last Committee meeting on the 26th October and reported that the relevant Terms of Reference that had been reviewed and additional clauses proposed to be brought to the next meeting of the Council. The Model Financial Regulations had been considered and the Grant Application process is to be reviewed by Councillor Watson. An additional meeting will be held on the 24th October to consider additional items.

585. REPORTS

- i) **Proposal:** The proposal for a limit on the time available to hear a report was accepted.
- ii) **Chair's Report:** The Chair reported that a review meeting had taken place with the Clerk concerning the end of the contractual probationary period. The probationary period had been successfully completed, and five performance objectives were agreed.
- iii) **Wrexham County Borough Council:** Councillor Bailey reported that a copy of the Council's 'Difficult Decisions' consultation on the forthcoming budget has been placed in the Gresford Library. Two Senior Officers of the Council are retiring. The Griffin Hill will be closed for repairs on the 13th October.
- iv) **Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum-** Councillor Bailey reported that the meeting had covered the reduction in bus services in parts of the borough following the collapse of GHA, the Council's 'Difficult Decisions' budget consultation, an update on Kingdom Enforcement arrangements, and 'Your Voice Wrexham', a Community engagement hub.
- v) **Gresford Trust:** Councillor Dutton advised that Gresford Athletic Football had obtained planning permission for a stand for 188 seated spectators, with a need for a total of 250 seated (to include current stand) to comply with Cymru Alliance league criteria A, and ongoing work is underway to address concerns arising. Forthcoming dates of note include: 1st November - the Trust is represented on Calon FM .10th November - presentation of Queen's Award for Voluntary Service by the Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd. Trustees past & present will be invited. 17th November is the date of next Trust meeting (IMAGE meeting to be 24th Nov.) The Trust has applied for 2 grants

from the AVIVA Community fund for an Internet Learning Centre and Irrigation Scheme. Voting will be online from 21st October.

- vi) **IMAGE:** Councillor Bailey reported on the lectern, and Christmas arrangements, and advised that over £400 had been raised from the success of the Scarecrow Trail.
- vii) **MAES Y PANT-** Councillor Edwards circulated a report and highlighted that MyPAG has obtained charitable status, and are encouraging the use of the site as educational resource. MyPAG has also been awarded Green Flag for Community Award, and has reached second stage for Tesco Bags of help community funding. A five-year woodland management plan has also been produced and adopted.
- viii) **Website:** Councillor Cleaver reported there had been 745 unique visits to the website, in particular the Village diary, the Business directory and the Council minutes. The website has recently benefited from additional information including the dates of Committee meetings and installation of Apps.
- ix) **Library:** Councillor Jones reported that usage of the library has plateaued and is being well used, by on average 357 people each week. Activities for a Saturday morning and half term are being looked at.
- x) **One Voice Wales Conference:** Councillor Bailey reported on the presentation given by Mark Drakeford and his plans for taking forward reforms in the Council sector including praise for the work of Community Councils and the need for a consistent approach and diversity across Councils as well as 'Powers of Competence' for Town and Community Councils, and increasing involvement of the local community in community matters. Councillor Harriman advised of a presentation by the Remuneration Panel, who were advocating Community Councils to relook at their policy on Council Members claiming expenses, as they are of the view that this will encourage diversity and more interest in residents becoming involved in Community Councils. It was stated this should be brought back to a future meeting for further discussion.

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

P/2016/ 0880 - Planning (Listed buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990) Listed Building Consent for demolition of existing single storey outrigger and replacement with new extension to include lean-to to adjoining two storey outrigger, replacement of 7 no. windows to existing dwelling and internal alterations including formation of stairwell to cellar. - Beechmont, Marford Hill, Marford.: **No observations**

ii. *P/2016/ 0861* – Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted development) (Amendment)(Wales) Order 2002, Part 24- Application to determine whether prior approval is required for upgrade of telecommunication equipment- Replace existing 11.8m high pole by a new 15m pole high pole together with associated cabinets telecommunication installation Pant Lane Gresford.: Council are objecting generally to the proposal for a new pole. It is significantly wider and higher than existing. The existing pole now has an element of screening. Council do not feel there has been sufficient case made in respect of TAN 19 for the need for the replacement post.

iii) *P/2016/ 0904* Erection of Fence in retrospect 17 Hillock Lane Gresford: Council are objecting to the fence. It has a negative visual impact on the surrounding area and is not in keeping.

587. FINANCE

i) The Following items were approved for Payment:

Date	Item	Cheque No	Amount(£)
6.10.16	Michelle Jones	202289	NJC Salary

			NJC Salary and expenses
6.10.16	Serena Baxter	202290	
6.10.16	R.Beattie	202291	24.10
6.10.16	Gresford Methodist Church	202292	18.00
6.10.16	Steve Pugh	202293	1880.00
6.10.16	Scottish Power	202294	858.67
6.10.16	M Harriman	202295	93.75
6.10.16	N Route	202296	575.00
6.10.16	HMRC	202297	59.47
6.10.16	Sue Cleaver	202298	14.99

- ii) **Quarterly Financial Report:** The Clerk presented a financial report detailing half yearly expenditure against the budget. The report was discussed and approved.
- iii) **IMAGE Grant-** amount unspent: Councillor Cleaver explained that the amount awarded earlier in the year to IMAGE as a grant to buy tubs and planters was underspent. A vote was taken on whether the amount should remain in IMAGE account or should be paid back. Councillor Cleaver and Bailey abstained from the vote due to interest in IMAGE. **AGREED:** The amount should remain with IMAGE to spend on other items of benefit to the Community Environment, and IMAGE were requested to report back informing the Council how the money has been spent.
- iv) Course expenditure for Clerk CILCA: The Clerk explained that the costs of the CILCA qualification would total £500. Approval was given for this expenditure to go ahead as required.

588. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were noted as correspondence received through the month of September:

- i. Boundary Commission for Wales: notification of publication of the Initial Proposals report for changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales (www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk)
- ii. WCBC: Notification of Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum 8.12.16 at 4pm
- iii. WCBC: Wrexham Public Service Board Invitation to consultation event on 12th October
- iv. WCBC: Notification of Consultation 'Difficult Decisions'

589. Member's urgent announcements and requests for future meeting items.

The following items were raised:

Councillor Frank-Keys highlighted an issue raised by residents concerning boundary hedges causing obstruction on some pavements. He also highlighted an item requested for discussion at the next meeting concerning the narrow pavement on High Street and the speed and volume of traffic. A speed limit of 20mph was suggested. **Action:** Clerk to agenda item for next meeting. Councillor Edwards wished it to be known that he is formally resigning as Vice Chair and suggested a replacement should be discussed at a future meeting. **Action:** Clerk to agenda item. Councillor Dutton highlighted the issue of road markings on Clapper Lane.

590. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED: The next meeting to be held on the 3rd November 2016 at 7.15 pm at the Gresford Trust Memorial Hall.

COUNCILLOR S Cleaver

CHAIR

Date.....