

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD METHODIST CHURCH HALL ON 1st February 2018

Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, M. Harriman, B. Blackmore, J. Holmes, S. Atherton, M. J. Edwards, M. Wilde, J. Hobbly, J. Blackmore, A. Atkinson, J. Dutton, R. Gilmartin

Chair: Councillor B Blackmore

Clerk: Serena Baxter

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors M. Lightwood

151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

152. 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 for any item under discussion. Several members advised that they would wish to declare an interest concerning agenda item 11 b. concerning grants, these being Councillors J. Dutton, M. J. Edwards, J. Holmes, A. Bailey, M. Harriman.

153. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

154. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of 4th January 2018 were agreed as a true record.

155. POLICE REPORT:

No member of the local policing unit was present. The reports sent by the PCSO were considered. Councillor Harriman raised issue with the quality of the format of the reports, that the information given could not be interpreted, and this was agreed by several Councillors. Both the Clerk had, via e-mail, and Councillor Atkinson at a meeting with the Police, stated that they had raised this issue based on the previous comments. It was suggested and agreed that a letter be sent from the Community Council to the Police and Crime Commissioner stating dissatisfaction with the report. The non – attendance of the PCSO was noted but it was stated by the Clerk that apologies had been given, and by Councillor Atkinson that she is newly in post.

Action: Clerk to write letter, and to circulate PCSO contact details.

156. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i. **Parking signs and road markings on Wynnstay Lane-** The Clerk updated with comments from Darren Green of WCBC. **Action: Clerk to continue to chase with WCBC.** On this matter Councillor Edwards raised a further matter concerning parking obstructions near to the junction of Claypit Lane and Chester Road and that this is a regular occurrence. A discussion took place concerning Police powers to enforce in the absence of yellow lines. Councillor B. Blackmore suggested writing to the Methodist Church in the first instance and ask them to inform their groups. This was supported by Councillor Atkinson. A further discussion took place about the feasibility of restrictions around the church and school. Councillor Edwards stated that the restrictions that had been put in place near the school were successful and this was echoed by Councillor B. Blackmore. **Action: Councillor B. Blackmore will have an informal discussion with the Church group and the Clerk will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.**
- ii. **7 Chester Road:** Councillor Atkinson advised that he is continuing to chase this matter and updated the Council with regard the Planning permission currently in place for this site. A

discussion took place. **Action: Clerk to write on behalf of the Council to the Planning Department to enquire on progress in enforcing the condition of the land.**

- iii. **Clappers Lane:** Councillor Dutton advised that this has been an ongoing issue throughout the month with pavements and the field entrance submerged with water and mud. Councillor Atkinson advised he is shortly to meet with the Highways manager on this and other matters. Councillor Harriman raised a concern that although the funding position of WCBC is appreciated, there are risks from the flooding in this location and on the main road near the Beeches in heavy rain. Councillor Dutton gave an example of logging issues on 'fix my street' app. Councillor Atkinson echoed this and the importance of logging such issues. Councillor Dutton further enquired about Pikey Lane and a road issue there and asked for it to be raised. **Action: A letter is to be sent on behalf of the Council to the AM and MP about this matter with a copy to the Highways Manager.**
 - iv. **High Street, Gresford:** Councillor Atkinson advised that he had had a meeting with the Highways manager of WCBC and a Traffic Regulation Order is underway. Concerns have also been raised about parking on the blind bend.
157. **CASUAL VACANCY:** The Clerk advised that she has received confirmation from WCBC Electoral department that no requests have been made to them to raise an election in connection with the Casual vacancy that has arisen. That being so the next stage is to advertise the vacancy for Co-option, and this was **Agreed**.
158. **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL CONCERNING GP RECRUITMENT:** The Chair gave the background to this request . Councillor Edwards gave further background on the current situation with GP recruitment. It was Agreed that a letter be sent on behalf of the Council giving their support to the proposal by the Community Health Council. **Action- Clerk**
159. **REQUEST FROM GRESFORD SAILING CLUB CONCERNING MANSAGEMENT OF TREES AT GRESFORD SAILING CLUB AND PROVISION OF A BIN:** Councillor Atkinson highlighted the request that had been received via e-mail. A discussion took place about the vegetation. Councillor Bailey suggested the trees could have been planted as part of the flood defences at the flash some years ago. Councillor Atkinson confirmed it was one of the items he will be raising with the Highways Manager on site. It was **Agreed** that a reply shall be sent to Gresford Sailing Club. The purchase of a bin shall be considered at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk to put on next agenda and to reply to Sailing Club. Councillor Atkinson to raise with WCBC High ways and feedback.**
160. **INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL ON FUTURE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS:** It was noted that the composite response from One Voice Wales that had been promised had not yet been received by Councils in Wales. Councillor Harriman advised that the date of 7th March had been suggested in the bulletin. Therefore, it was **decided** to defer this item until such time as the composite response had been received and could be considered.
161. **COMMITTEES:**
- i. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**
 - a. The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd January 2018 were **noted**.
 - b. The table of provisional Grant awards that had been recommended by the Finance Committee were considered and **approved**. Councillors J. Dutton, M.J.Edwards, J. Holmes, A. Bailey, M. Harriman declared interests in respect of the grant applications made by the Gresford Trust, MYPAG and Marford Playgroup, Gresford Trust and Bowling Club, Community and District Library, IMAGE and MYPAG, and Gresford Bowling Club respectively .**Action: Clerk**
 - c. The Draft Standing Orders for the Council, as recommended for adoption by the Finance Committee, were presented for approval and were **Approved for adoption**.

- d. The recommendation to appoint JDH as internal Auditor for 2017-18 was **Approved.** (proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Hobbley). **Action: Clerk to correspond with JDH**
- e. The revised Policy on Reserves was presented. It was noted that the individual items need to be reviewed each year. During the discussion, Councillor Harriman advised that the Auditor at the Larger Councils conference had raised a focus on Reserves and the need to apportion them specifically. Councillor Bailey moved to accept the document as it stands and a request that the Finance Committee draw up a more detailed plan. Councillor Harriman suggested that this needs to be a three-year plan on what should be carried out. Councillor Edwards suggested the need for a longer-term Capital plan, specifically concerning the Cemetery. Lighting renewal and Allotments, and Play Areas. This was echoed by Councillor Hobbley. Councillor Holmes seconded the proposal to accept the current document pending its revision. **Action: Clerk to draft plan and put on agenda for Finance Committee.**

ii. GENERAL AMENITIES COMMITTEE

- a. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th January 2018 were **noted.**
- b. Councillor Atkinson advised on the Community Speed Watch scheme and the planned training/ awareness event. Councillor Bailey advised this could be expanded to include members of IMAGE. It was noted that the Clerk is to liaise with the Clerk at Rhos to view their protocol and procedures. **Action: Clerk to take forward training date and protocol.**
- c. Community Agent. An explanation was given on the recommendation by the Committee to defer this matter for six months and this was **accepted.**

162. LIGHTING CONSORTIUM: An overview was given of the meeting held with Councillor Geoff Edwards of Penycae concerning the Lighting Consortium. A discussion took place about the need for replacement lighting. Councillor M. Edwards suggested that it was now quite urgent to move forward with this as the existing lights are due to become obsolete. Councillor Hobbley suggested the need to use a quality company. The Clerk advised of a discussion she had had with a representative of Salix Financing. Councillors Harriman and Blackmore gave further information that had come from the meeting with Councillor Geoff Edwards. It was suggested and **agreed** to move forward with a lighting task and finish group. Members interested in joining the group were Councillors Bailey, Hobbley, Holmes, Edwards and Harriman. **Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting of the group to consider the way forward.** Councillor Holmes enquired whether information could be sought from the County Council about any side road lights that they might still be responsible for. Councillor Edwards suggested these were likely to now be all the responsibility of the Community Council. **Action: Clerk to liaise with WCBC Lighting Manager.** Councillor Harriman raised the issue of the lengthsman's scheme which had been discussed previously. He proposed that this be put back on to the next Agenda, and to write a letter to the streetscene manager to ask what they know of such a scheme.

163. LARGER COUNCIL'S CONFERENCE: Councillor Harriman and Bailey gave feedback from their recent attendance at this conference, in particular items concerning Planning, the review of Councils, and a presentation by the Auditor General.

164. FUTURE PLANNING APPLICATION COMMUNICATIONS: Councillor Bailey advised on the outcome of the special meeting of the Town and Community Council's forum, specifically to look at future communications from the Planning Department. He advised that a compromise had been reached, so that Community Councils were in future expected to search online to look at the details of the more straightforward Planning applications, but that the larger more complex schemes would result in hard copy information being sent on request. If paper copies are required they will need to be paid for. IT assistance is available. A discussion took place. Councillor Edwards suggested that Councillors should be responsible for checking online prior

to the Council meeting, and noting any difficulties they saw with an application beforehand. This was echoed by Councillor Harriman. The Chair moved that the Council see how things progress through the next two meetings and revisit if necessary, and this was **agreed**.

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

- i. **P/2018/0035:** - In consideration of this matter the comments agreed by the Council to be forwarded to the Planning department were that this should be only one property and should remain as such as it would be inappropriate to put more than one property on the site.
- ii. **P/2018/0029:** - Extensions to 2 No. Existing Poultry Units. Hoseley Bank Farm, Hoseley Lane, Marford, Wrexham. There were no objections raised to this proposal.
- iii. **P/2018/0014** - Extension and refurbishment of redundant office, associated parking and sewage treatment plant. Land adjacent to Ashgrove Nursing Home, Chester Road, Gresford, Wrexham. In consideration of this matter the comments agreed by the Council to be forwarded to the Planning department were that there were concerns over the following:
 - i. The pavement is narrow and the opportunity is there to improve its width, however there is concern that the desired width of 2 metres should not be at the expense of the existing boundary wall and its appearance as an original feature along the entrance into the village of Gresford. The wall should not be removed: if the pavement is to be widened the wall should be moved back and reinstated to its existing state and appearance.
 - ii. Further concerns raised were in regard to the citing of a medical unit and the possible impact this might have on trees and hedging. This should be minimised as far as possible and taken into account in any landscaping.
 - iii. It was further noted that the building will be doubled and a concern raised was how much increase in traffic and associated parking there would be.
 - iv. It was also noted that the lighting at the entrance on to the Chester road needs to be improved.
- iv. **P/2018/0003:** -Two storey and single storey extensions to dwelling. 39 Bodwyn Crescent, Gresford, Wrexham. The Clerk explained the issue with the deadline of 21 days and the 26th January being strictly enforced by the Planning Officer responsible. The Council saw no good reason for this and requested a letter to be sent to the Head of Planning services. It is also to be requested that it be added as an extra item for Planning committee. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Atkinson updated the Council on the outcome of some recent Planning Applications.

166. FINANCE:

- i) The following items of expenditure were presented and **Approved**.

Date	Payment To	Cheque Number	Reason	Amount
1.2.18	M. Jones	202495	NJC Salary	
1.2.18	M. Harriman	202496	Reimbursement for mileage incurred	59.60
1.2.18	N.Route	202497	Grass cutting January 2018	545.00
1.2.18	Scottish Power	202498	Electricity Supply Nov.- Dec. 2017	861.71
1.2.18	S Baxter	202499	NJC Salary	
1.2.18	HMRC	202500	Monthly Payment due	

- ii) The Quarterly Financial report was presented and **Agreed**.

iii) The payment of overtime to the Clerk as outlined was **Agreed**.

167. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no urgent matters raised.

168. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Items of Correspondence were tabled in a report from the Clerk, as received by the Council for the month of January and these were **noted**. Councillor Bailey raised the item concerning the Bee friendly scheme which would be taken forward by IMAGE and Councillor Hobbley reminded of the invitation received to attend the Lighting Consortium meeting on the 8th February.

169. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. AGREED: The next meeting of the Council will be the 1st March 2018 at 7.15p.m. at the Gresford Trust Memorial Hall.

COUNCILLOR B. Blackmore

CHAIR **Date**.....