

GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GENERAL AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Meeting held 23rd October 2017

Present: Councillors A Bailey, J Dutton, J. Blackmore, A. Atkinson, S. Atherton, B. Blackmore

Chair: Councillor Sarah Atherton

Matters Discussed.

1. There were no apologies.
2. The **minutes of the previous meeting** held on the 17th July 2017 were agreed as a true record.
3. The Clerk highlighted progress on a number of items not otherwise on the agenda. She advised that a letter had been sent following the lighting matter discussed at the previous meeting following a request for a light on Pont Y Capel Lane. There had been no further communication. The Conservation Officer had been written to on a number of occasions concerning the outstanding matters. Councillor Dutton confirmed that the school railings had now been painted red. The boundary posts are still missing. Councillor Dutton will check the sign again and report back. The Clerk will continue to contact the Conservation officer. The Clerk advised that she has made attempts to trace which telephone company had moved the noticeboard at the top of Pant Lane in April, but cannot find anything definitive. She will continue to pursue. A discussion took place concerning the rough ground in front of the noticeboard and it was determined that the Clerk will request a price from local contractors to tarmac or slab in front of the noticeboard so that the ground is level. With regard to boulders to be placed on Allington Park, the clerk advised that she and Ian Gibson of the Trust had attempted to contact the Golf Club for permission to move the boulders to Allington Park but this had not been forthcoming. It was agreed that any immediate concern had now passed, and will be revisited next year.
4. **Play Area Inspection reports:** The clerk circulated the tabled summary of actions required from the Play Area Inspection reports and advised that she has made contact with Ray Parry, and is due to meet him on site in the near future to look at the matters concerning him. Some of the more urgent tarmacking matters had already been completed just after the annual inspections for the report had taken place and can be marked as completed. The Clerk reported that following the decision at the last meeting to tackle all matters raised in the inspection reports, including all low risk and very low risk items. The Clerk had enquired with WCBC about getting the work done and had received advice from the Parks, Countryside and Rights of Way Manager. This advice concerned the inspection and reporting regime undertaken by WCBC as part of the monitoring contract held with them, and the levels of risk and the probability significance, and that 'it is often impossible to achieve a completely non-risk area'. This was also echoed by Ray Parry when she had spoken to him, because although a level of mud as a risk had been raised on the matting for example, unless the matting was damaged it would necessitate lifting it all which would mean the turf also being lifted and the play area out of action. A discussion took place and it was decided to heed the advice being given and monitor the items identified in the Play Area Inspections, with the knowledge and reassurance that any deterioration would be reported by WCBC on their weekly inspections, alerts given and immediate action taken.

A discussion took place concerning the provision of play items for the disabled child, which had been raised at the picnic in the park event. It was Agreed that Councillor Atherton would investigate this further with those families affected and report back on types of equipment needed and their costs.

5. **Gresford Lake:** - Councillor Dutton advised that she had been in touch with a contractor about the fitting of the lectern. The Clerk advised on research she had done as requested by Full Council concerning the provision of throwlines by water, and had looked at advice from ROSPA and measures taken by other councils. She is awaiting a response from the Park Ranger concerned with Acton Park. It was agreed that the situation will be monitored and a decision taken when further information is available.

A discussion took place about the lake clear up that had taken place at the beginning of September and the costs incurred in supplying skips for the disposal of waste. It was agreed that as this was the first year this had been paid for by the Community Council and not taken away by Wrexham County Borough council, that the equivalent amount will need to be budgeted for in the next Financial year. It was also agreed that it will be good practice to meet with Mrs Williams in advance of the organised Clear up, to determine what areas need to be cleared and which areas can be left. This will give an idea of the number of skips that may be needed. Councillor Bailey will investigate the possibility of a shredder.

6. **High Street Signage:** - The Clerk reported that she has been in touch with Mr Lloyd of WCBc but has not yet received a date when they will be fitted.

Actions agreed. Clerk to continue to pursue for the installation of the signage.

7. **Lighting Matters:** - A discussion took place. No specific lighting matters had been reported. It was reiterated that it had been decided it was unproductive for Councillors to inspect all the lights and dark spots, as in the past residents had not wanted new lights when approached. The matter of Pistyll hill and the suggestion of a light to invoke a 30mph speed limit was reconsidered by Members, but it was agreed that the £5,500 costs advised make it prohibitive to consider at this time. A discussion took place about the lighting columns being replaced along Clapper Lane. These costs had been unforeseen. The Clerk reported on a meeting due to take place in November of the Lighting Consortium to which a number of Community Councils belong. It was agreed that the Clerk will attend along with any Member who wishes to attend with the aim of finding out more about how this works and whether it would benefit this Council in the future. The Clerk will circulate the details of the meeting when she has them.
8. **Youth Working Party:** - Councillor Blackmore advised there is still a week to run on the consultation then it will go ahead. A leaflet is to be produced.
9. **Allington Park grass cutting.** Councillor Dutton gave an update on the matters raised by Councillor Wilde and what she has found out about the organised football games being played, seemingly without permission. In the course of her investigations, comments had been received about the estate of the grounds. The Clerk raised the possibility of the need to revisit the contractual arrangements for the cutting of grass at Allington Park, at the Cemetery and any other locations. It was agreed that a Grass Cutting contract shall be pursued. Action: Clerk to investigate further and draft a contract specification. Finance Committee to be informed. Comments were made concerning continuing flooding at the Trust land on Clapper lane and the lack of action by WCBC on this matter despite it having been raised continually. Clerk to forward to the Chair all recent communications.

10. **Telephone Kiosk:** - The clerk advised that the agreement has now been signed and sent back to Cadwyn Clwyd and we have been invoiced for the 30% match funding costs. It is anticipated that once this is paid across, we will start to have contact and arrangements made regarding consultations on the information board and the defibrillator.
11. **Progress on Bike Stands:** -The Clerk advised that she has been in touch with Highways and traffic but not heard yet regarding permission on the highway. She has also asked for a quote for fitting. Action: Clerk to continue to explore Highways permission and costs.
12. **Precept:** -A discussion took place in advance of the budget setting and precept and consideration given to future costs of lighting, Environmental matters and the lake area.
13. **Community Agent:-** There was no further update on this matter since the Full Council meeting.
14. **Gate at Allington Park:-** It was reported that a complaint had been received as a mother had struggled to open the gate whilst wheeling a pushchair. It was stated that the gates are set; in such a way for health and safety reasons but the situation would be monitored.
15. **Christmas Arrangements:** - The tree is to be ordered and the Clerk advised on decoration.
16. The **next meeting** will be held on the 16th January at 6.15 pm