

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 2nd NOVEMBER 2017

### Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, M. Harriman, B. Blackmore, J Holmes, S. Atherton, M. J. Edwards, J. Dutton, I. Lewis

**Chair:** Councillor B Blackmore

**Clerk:** Serena Baxter

**Apologies given and accepted:** Councillors, M. Lightwood, M. Wilde, J. Hobbley, J. Blackmore, A. Atkinson, R.Gilmartin

---

### 105. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

### 106. 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.

### 107. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Members of the Public were present.

**108. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October were agreed and approved as a true record.

**109. POLICE REPORT:** Inspector Steve Owen and Sergeant Katie Davies attended the meeting. Sergeant Davies presented a detailed report which illustrated trends in crime by category for the previous twelve months. The report detailed comparison with the current and previous year's statistics. For Gresford, there had been a rise in crimes of violence without injury with 13 more incidents occurring. There had been a 100% decrease in burglary. A 50 % (or 1 more incident) of violence with injury, an increase of 1 more incident of non-residential burglary, no change in vehicle crime, and a marked increase in the number of incidents of criminal damage and arson. There had also recently been 3 incidents of anti-social behaviour. In Marford and Hoseley there had been no change across all recorded categories, between the number of incidents this year compared with the previous year.

Sergeant Davies was thanked for her report. A discussion took place concerning local policing. Councillor Dutton referred to unreported crime and Sergeant Davies confirmed the figures are all recorded crime. Councillor Atherton asked if these were true figures and referred to a lack of visibility in the village. Sergeant Davies explained that the PCSO's are based in the village but do cover other wards, and regular patrols take place in each area. Councillor Atherton referred to the difficulty of reporting, the process and the wait involved. Councillor Lewis spoke of a 20-minute wait on based at St Asaph, and extended an invitation to Councillors to view the facility if they so wish. He stated he appreciated there were failings on occasion and explained the service pressures. Councillor Edwards enquired about the methods of reporting and whether they could be simplified. A discussion took place about the amount of detail and time required. Councillor Harriman advised that confidence is being eroded generally through the media. It has been reported locally that the funding for the PCSO may decrease. Inspector Owen explained his current resources and limitations for the service, but gave an assurance about ensuring PCSO presence in the village.

A discussion took place about the priorities set by the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was stated that cases are prioritised under threat risk harm and vulnerability scores. Councillor Atherton highlighted the increases in reported crime that had been reported for Gresford.

Councillor Holmes enquired about the effect of the closure of youth clubs. Sergeant Davies affirmed this but also highlighted a cultural trend among young people in not engaging with services provided. Councillor Holms enquired about a specific local recent incident. Inspector Owen outlined the prioritising of the case and the different charges that could potentially be brought in such a case.

The Officers were thanked for their attendance and the information they provided.

#### 110. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i. **Car Parking Rofft school-** Councillor Edwards advised that the parking restrictions were still only partially completed. The lines that had been placed had improved safety. There is a small sign warning of the restrictions which is in Welsh only. Councillor Edwards also highlighted the lack of a 20mph sign on the spur from Chester Road, despite previous requests for one. **Action – Clerk to write a letter expressing concerns.**
- ii. **7 Chester Road:** There was nothing further to report on this matter and no action at present.
- iii. **Clappers Lane:** Councillor Dutton reported that following General Amenities committee she had traced emails back on this matter to 2011. Councillor Bailey also referred to his previous requests to WCBC to have this matter attended to. Councillor Atherton stated she is going to visit the Streetscene manager to see if she can obtain some answers.
- iv. **Parking at the Co-op:** As there had been no further issues on this matter it was agreed to remove it from future agendas.
- v. **High Street Gresford:** it was reported that flashing lights are now in situ and operational. It was stated that there had been no sign of the crosshatch markings that had been discussed originally at the site meeting. **Action: Clerk to find out.**
- vi. **Community Speed Watch Scheme:** There was nothing further to report on this matter in the absence of Councillor Atkinson.

111. **REGISTER OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS** - The Clerk advised of the actions she had taken regarding the Register of Member's Interests which is required by law. Two notifications were still outstanding. The content of the register came solely from the forms completed by Members back in May. Members were advised they could view the forms and make any necessary amendments. A copy of the amended register will be circulated and if no further amendments received the Clerk will circulate and publish.

#### 112. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i. **Finance Committee:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were noted. The further recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel were circulated and discussed. It was noted that there is now a mandatory payment of £150 to each Council Member, which Members can then choose to accept or not. The Clerk has devised a form for this purpose. Finance Committee recommended to Council that the proposals were adopted. Adoption of the Regulations was proposed by Councillor Harriman and seconded by Councillor Holmes. **Agreed: The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are adopted by Gresford Community Council.**

The Clerk advised on an update she had received from the University of Wales relating to the possible land purchase for Allotments.

A matter concerning staffing was relayed to the Council and discussed in exclusion of members of the press and public.

- ii. **Cemetery Committee:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were noted. Councillor Bailey gave an update on the progress of unused pre-purchased grave plots. The Clerk advised that as a price had not yet been received for the repair of the path, which is next to a grave and was noted on inspection, it is to be advised to the Chair once received so that the repair can take place urgently and will be reported to Council in

retrospect. A discussion took place about grant monies potentially to place a non – denominational war memorial in the cemetery. **Action: Councillor Blackmore and Harriman will explore this further.** Councillor Harriman also advised that the construction of a spoil heap is being explored. A discussion took place on this matter. Councillor Harriman also raised an item that had been forwarded from One Voice Wales concerning burial charges for children across Wales. The Clerk explained that she had advised of Gresford’s practice via the survey, and that further guidance is then awaited.

- iii. **General Amenities:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October were noted. Councillor Atherton advised of a change in approach regarding the Play Area risk assessments. It had previously been agreed to tackle each item identified as a risk, however on further enquiry with WCBC, advice given was that although each potential risk is pointed out, those designated low or very low risk will be subject to the inspection regime in place with WCBC ,and the Council will be alerted to any that become a medium risk or in need of urgent repair. Therefore it was the view of the Committee that based on this advice, there is no urgent need to tackle those items designated low risk. Councillor Edwards advised that each risk should be designated as having been accounted for. Councillor Bailey highlighted the discussion that had taken place on the need for disabled equipment to be purchased. Councillor Dutton advised on the outcome of her investigation into ball games played on Allington Park. Gresford Athletic Juniors pay to have the pitch area trimmed and so the Community Council are paying a contractor to trim the outer boundaries and the play area only. Councillor Atherton advised it had been decided to explore a grass cutting contract for all areas that the Community Council is responsible for. Councillor Atherton further advised on the outcome of the lake clean-up and Councillor Bailey advised that the use of the shredder from Maes Y Pant had been agreed for the future. Councillor Dutton advised on the fitting of the lectern. The Clerk advised that the agreement with Cadwyn Clwyd has been signed and sent back and they will contact the Council shortly about taking the project forward. There were no further updates on the Community Agent. The Clerk affirmed she will order the tree for Christmas.

**113. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT ABOUT ONLINE CONSULTATION:** The Clerk had previously circulated the communication for views and recapped on the matter. A discussion took place. Councillor Bailey stated that not all Councillors had IT and not all venues used had facilities. He advised he would ask for it to be put on the agenda for the next Town and Community Council forum. Councillor Harriman advised on aspects of the Town and Country Planning Act which he felt might be breached by this approach of the County Council. Councillor Edwards suggested it was the way that things were moving, with cutbacks and technology and pointed out that the mandatory payments are now in place for Council Member’s expenses, and this was supported by Councillor Dutton. **Action: It was agreed that the Clerk shall write a letter to the Planning Department on behalf of the Council pointing out the concerns, and will also ask the advice of One Voice Wales on the matter.**

#### **114. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)**

- i. *P/2017/0826:* - Remove lateral branches from 2 No. multi stem sycamore trees to a height of 7 metres which are overhanging garden, coppice small holly leaning into garden and sever ivy from sycamores to allow inspection at a later date (trees protected by TPO WMBC No.3) 22 Bodwyn Park, Gresford: This matter was considered and it was agreed that the **view of the Arboriculture Officer shall be accepted in this matter.**
- ii. *P/2017/0860:* - Erection of a log cabin to create additional space for children at day nursery and construction of car parking area Homestead Nursery Old Wrexham Road, Gresford, Wrexham. This matter was discussed and concern was raised as to whether the extension of the car park had any encroachment on neighbouring greenfield area. It was **agreed to request that the area shall be adequately screened with appropriate material not obtrusive to the countryside, e.g. hedging and trees.**
- iii. *P/2017/0883:* - External and Internal Alterations 1 Park Leigh Farm Barns, Park lane, Rossett, Wrexham. This matter was discussed and Councillor Harriman advised of a previous application

on a neighbouring property where there had previously been an Inspectors report. **It was agreed that there were no objections to be made in this case.**

iv. *TPO 269/2017*: Members were advised of notification of a Tree Preservation Order that had been confirmed on a tree at the Red Lion Marford Hill Wrexham.

**115. FINANCE:**

i) The following items were presented and **Approved**.

Date	Payment To	Cheque Number	Reason	Amount £
2.11.17	WCBC	202456	Trade Refuse Charges Cemetery	359.00
2.11.17	Scottish Power	202457	Electricity Lighting Supply 31.8 17 – 30. 9.17	833.96
2.11.17	IMAGE	202458	Reimbursement of cost of insurance for Picnic in Park event	62.02
2.11.17	Wales Audit office	202459	Annual External Audit fee	243.00
2.11.17	One Voice Wales	202460	2 delegates to conference	160.00
2.11.17	WCBC	202461	Photocopying of publicity materials	127.55
2.11.17	Cadwyn Clwyd	202462	Agreement payment Match funding	1500.00
2.11.17	Michelle Jones	202463	NJC Salary	
2.11.17	Serena Baxter	202464	NJC Salary and reimbursement of office costs and mileage	
2.11.17	HMRC	202465	Monthly amount due	

ii) Financial report Quarters 1 and 2: The Clerk presented a report to Members detailing income and expenditure and account balances for the first two quarters of the Financial year to the end of September. The report was **accepted**.

**116. MEMBER’S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Consideration of a linesman: It was agreed that in the absence of Councillor Atkinson, he should be asked to provide a report on the need for a linesman and what duties the person might carry out, for consideration at the next meeting of the Council. **Action. Clerk to advise Councillor Atkinson.**

Councillor B. Blackmore asked if the Council would consider the appearance of the Red Lion area. This was discussed and it was **agreed that the Clerk shall write to new River Retail who own the site to put the matter to them.** Councillor B. Blackmore also raised the issue of a rise in the pavement opposite the Spar caused by a tree root. The Clerk advised she has raised this with Highways and will report back on their view.

An issue was raised by Councillor Dutton concerning an incident on Allington Park involving a scooter which may require CCTV to be viewed. It was **Agreed that the Clerk shall contact the company once the date is established to see if the footage can be retrieved, and if a cost is to be paid it shall be paid on this occasion.** A further discussion took place about the need for an improved CCTV system.

**117. REPORTS:** The Chair had no items to report. There were no reports received from County Borough Councillors. Councillor Holmes, for Gresford Trust, advised that the defibrillator is in place and training has been given. A survey is to be carried out on the trees on Trust land. Wrexham Council will do a roadside survey and branches affecting street lights will also be looked at. The Bowls Club have applied for Planning Permission to erect a shelter. The fence on Clappers lane is to be repaired. Written reports from Image and Maes Y Pant were circulated and accepted. A discussion took place about reports generally and about attendance at

