

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT
MARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 1st NOVEMBER 2012**

Members Present

Councillors A C Bailey, Mrs S Cleaver, Mrs J D Dutton, M J Edwards, M Harriman, Mrs J Holmes, Mrs P M Lightwood, Mrs J MacDonald, G Peake, M Perry, M Pritchard.

Apologies for absence

Councillors Mrs B Watson, M L Roberts and PCSO 2118 Wendy Harris.

Declarations of Interest

No Councillor gave notice of their intention to make declarations of interest at this meeting.

67 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

68 POLICE REPORT

The Crime Statistics would be circulated to members as soon as they were received.

69 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to address the Council.

70 MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Village Improvements

The Council noted that the meeting between BCA Consultants, IMAGE and Community Councillors would take place at Gresford Memorial Hall on 19th November 2012 at 7.00 pm. All members were urged to make every effort to attend.

101 Telephone Service

The Call Centre Manager for North Wales Police had offered a number of dates for Councillors to visit the centre to see the service in operation.

The Clerk of the Council was instructed to make arrangements for the meeting to take place on 14th November 2012, leaving Gresford at 5.30 pm.

Oak Tree at the Junction of Chester Road and Clapper Lane, Gresford

A reply was received from Wrexham Council's Network and Infrastructure Manager indicating that he considered that a feature of this nature as currently proposed by the Community Council would be a potential obstacle to visibility between vehicles across the splinter island and a potential distraction to drivers. He would therefore not support the sighting of this feature in this location in the interests of highway safety.

Councillor Mrs J Dutton in consultation with the Clerk of the Council were authorised to prepare a suitable location plan and consult further with the Officers of Wrexham Council on the sighting of this carving.

Repairs to Footpath on Allington Park

Two quotations had been received for this work and the Council instructed the Clerk to attempt to obtain at least one more.

Annual Return for the Year Ending 31st March 2012

It was noted that the External Auditors had concluded the audit and were satisfied that the Annual Return was in accordance with proper practices, save that the Council had not approved an investment strategy during the year.

Precept for the Year Ending 31st March 2014

It was agreed to consider the budget and precept requirements at a meeting of the Council on 3rd January 2013. Consequently the meeting fixed for 10th January 2013 would not now be required. The position was to be reviewed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 2nd May 2013 for next year.

71 GET UP AND PLAY SCHEMES, GRESFORD

With reference to the decision at the Council Meeting on 1st March 2012, Mr Paul Crewe, Community Worker presented his report and the worksheets for this year's scheme. Members were not satisfied that this year's scheme was cost-effective and therefore the Council decided to refer the proposed scheme for 2013 to the Play Area Sub-Committee

Mr Crewe was thanked for his attendance and report.

72 GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE

Members expressed their concern that the present website appeared to be out of date. It was noted that out of 34 Community Councils in the County Borough of Wrexham only eight had websites.

The Council set up a sub-group comprising Councillors Mrs S Cleaver, Mrs J Holmes and Mrs B Watson, with the power to co-opt, to investigate and come forward with proposals for an alternative website.

The Council decided not to pay the invoice received from Ellison Marketing for hosting the website for the next 12 months, pending the sub-group's deliberations.

73 LIGHT OVER MULTI-USE GAMES AREA

This item had been included at the request of Councillor Mrs Janet Holmes who was concerned that the fault on the light causing it to intermittently turn on and off, could lead to an accident on the Skate Park. The Clerk of the Council reported on his efforts to resolve the problems with Wrexham County Borough Council and a private contractor.

Having regard to the involvement of the County Borough Council, Councillor Bailey agreed to pursue the issue with senior staff of that Authority.

74 REPORTS

Councillor M J Edwards reported on the forthcoming changes to Welfare Benefits and urged all members to assist those people who might be finding the changeover difficult.

Councillor A C Bailey reported that this year`s Carol Service would be held on the 8th December and not 15th December as originally envisaged; that Darland High School was progressing towards improved standards, and on the need for an early meeting of the Lighting Sub-Committee. It was decided that the Lighting Sub-Committee should take place on 8th November 2012 at 5.30 pm and that Mr R H Willis` offer to drive members around would be gratefully accepted. The arrangements for the planting of trees at Marford Quarry was discussed

Councillor Mrs J D Dutton reported on the meeting between her, Councillor MacDonald and Gresford WI regarding the proposals of the tree carving.

MyPAG A monthly report was received from Mrs Sue Kelly regarding the Grant Aid from the funding agencies and on the arrangements for the planting of trees at the Quarry on 21st November which was expected to be filmed by the BBC `One Show` on the 20th November 2012. In this connection it was agreed that the Chairman of the Community Council would plant the Jubilee Oak.

Councillor M Harriman reported on the Annual Conference of One Voice Wales and it was noted that their fees would be increased this year by no more than 2%.

75 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of a planning application received from the Head of Community Well-being and Development was available for Members and dealt with as follows:

P/2012/0678 – Extension to dwelling (in retrospect) Strode House, The Green, Gresford - **No representations**

P/2012/0679 – Listed Building Consent for Extension to dwelling Strode House, The Green, Gresford - **No representations**

P/2012/0710 - Proposed Utility Room Extension to rear of garage, Holmeswood, Vicarage Lane, Gresford - **No representations**

P/2012/0727 – Single storey front extension, The Brambles, Pistyll Hill, Marford - **No representations**

76 FINANCE & FRESH BANK MANDATE

The following items were approved for payment

Gresford Royal British Legion	£50.00
Dee Valley Water plc – Water Charges	£23.58
Scottish Power plc, Unmetered supplies	£602.80
UHY Hacker Young – Audit of the Council`s Annual Return	£1,050.00
Darryl Williams – Groundwork at the Cemetery	£16,880.00
Mr C A Route, Grounds Maintenance and Cemetery Work	£545.00
Encore Office Systems, Photocopying	£46.80
Councillor M Harriman – Travelling Expenses	£70.40

Mrs M Jones, Salary and Stationery
Maurice Paddock, Salary, including Travelling Expenses
HM Revenue and Customs, NI and Tax

NJC Rates
NJC Rates
PAYE Rates

It was agreed that payment of the invoice from Ellison Marketing for hosting of the Website be deferred for the time being, pending consideration of a revised Website.

Bank Mandate The Clerk of the Council reported on the need to update the Mandate with HSBC, the Council's Bankers, and asked all those present to complete prescribed Mandate Forms. ***It was resolved to complete the Mandate and for any two, out of the fourteen members, be authorised to sign cheques and orders for payment on behalf of the Community Council.***

77 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence that had been received and available for members was noted or otherwise dealt with as follows:-

Ms Lesley Griffiths, AM, had enquired about the possibility of attending one of the Community Council's meetings to discuss with her any concerns or issues the Council may have. ***It was agreed to ask Ms Griffiths to attend a meeting, but recommend that she avoids the December and January meetings.***

Wrexham Town & Community Council Forum – ***It was agreed that Councillor M Harriman should attend the next meeting at Wrexham on 4th December 2012 at 6.30 pm, and any other member who wished to attend should notify the Clerk of the Council in order that the necessary arrangements could be made.***

40th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Evening of Wrexham Area Civil Society on 23rd November 2012.

78 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at Gresford Memorial Hall on Thursday 6th December 2012 at 7.15 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR MRS P M LIGHTWOOD
PRESIDING CHAIRMAN**

Presiding Chairman.....

Date.....