

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 6th NOVEMBER 2014

Members Present

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs S Cleaver, Mrs J Dutton, M J Edwards, G Frank-Keyes, M Harriman, Mrs J Macdonald, Graham Peake, M Perry, M L Roberts and Mrs B Watson

Apologies

Councillors Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs J Holmes, and Mrs M Lightwood

In Attendance

PCSO Lisa Davies and Police Sergeant M McCloud

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. Councillors A Bailey, M J Edwards, Mrs J Dutton, M Harriman, Mrs J Macdonald, G Peake and M Perry indicated his intention to declare personal and/or prejudicial interest at the appropriate time.

331 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2014 were received, approved and signed by the Presiding Chairman.

332 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Five members of the public were present, one of whom indicated her intention to address the Council later.

333 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Council decided to vary the order of business to enable Mrs Bellamy to address the Council on the proposals for Gresford Post Office at this time.

334 GRESFORD POST OFFICE

Members of the Council praised the service received from the existing Post Office and expressed their concerns at its relocation to the Spar Shop across Chester Road.

335 POLICE REPORT

Crime statistics for September were circulated, discussed, and questions answered. It was reported that the residents of the Caravan Park, Old Wrexham Road had been offered alternative housing accommodation by the Housing Authorities. Members referred to the damage at the Memorial Hall over the half-term week; speeding along High Street, particularly near the Chip Shop and at the top of Marford Hill. At this latter point people were still ignoring the pedestrian crossing. The Police Sergeant indicated that as he was new to the Gresford location he would look into the issues. Comments were also made regarding the protest against the drilling proposals at Commonwood Farm. The Police had adopted a policy of not to interfere with a peaceful protest and were aware of traffic issues.

336 ONGOING MATTERS

Youth Services

It was reported that there was some improvement in the service at Marford Community Centre, but members expressed doubts about the Detached Youth Service, especially

during period of inclement weather. Accordingly it was decided to ask for a report from the Detached Youth Workers for the next meeting of the Community Council.

Marford Community Centre

An application for financial assistance was considered to assist the Management Committee as an interim measure due to the legal process taking longer than expected. ***It was resolved that a grant of £500 be made to Marford Community Centre Management Committee.***

Gresford & District Community Library

It was reported that Charitable Status had been granted and that the Coffee Morning was successful having raised over £500 towards running the Library. They were now looking to expand opening times.

Community Council Website

It was noted that there had been 3,672 unique visits. IMAGE had now launched their new Website and had published a report on the Drinking Fountain, following its restoration.

7 Chester Road, Gresford

Members discussed the condition and state of the site, which was an eyesore on the main road into the village and considered that pressure should be kept on the Planning Department to effect improvements. It was also decided to make Lesley Griffiths AM aware of the situation.

Cemetery Committee – Memorial Plaques

The draft Plaques had been considered by the Cemetery Committee and it was agreed to proceed with the installation of the two plaques. However, the question as to whether the word `community` should be with a capital `C` was discussed and it was proposed that it should with a capital `C`. It was also agreed that the word `honour` should be changed to `memory`. It was noted that the advertising of these plaques would commence shortly with notices in Essentials Newsletter and at the Cemetery.

Playgrounds

A letter had been received from Wrexham Council indicating that the Service Level Agreement (SLA) would increase by the rate of inflation. Accordingly the matter was referred to the Play Area Sub-Committee for further consideration.

Tendering Committee

The Terms of Reference of the Tendering Committee had now been prepared and the Council approved them with effect from this meeting.

Weight Restrictions Order on Springfield Lane/Bottom Road

Councillor A Bailey had arranged a meeting with officers of Wrexham Highways Department on 14th November 2014.

Financial Assistance – Future Applications

The application forms had been prepared and in order to clarify the position, it was agreed that there would be two forms, one for under and one for over £500. It was anticipated that the new procedure would commence as soon as possible, but the Council agreed that some relaxation of the procedure would have to be accepted for 2014/15.

337 REPORTS

Councillor M J Edwards reported that the applicant had now supplied Wrexham with all the information that Wrexham were seeking in connection with the proposed Prison; also that the Local Planning Authority was under increasing pressure to permit residential development on land outside the present settlement limits in view of a demand for housing within the County Borough. There would be a period of consultation on this, but the Council resolved to actively support sensitive housing development of Hoseley Hall, Marford.

Councillor A Bailey reported that Wrexham Council were reviewing public open spaces and the public were asked to submit details of their views to local councillors regarding any such land in their area.

Councillor Mrs J Dutton reported that repairs were required to the roof of the Memorial Hall and plans for the kitchen were having to be revised. She also reported that the carved bell had now been installed. Councillor Mrs J Dutton reported that she had attended the AGM of Gresford Church Handbell Ringers who had a very successful year and new hammers had been purchased.

Councillor Mrs S Cleaver reported that the work on the fountain should be completed next Monday; that the next village tidy-up was due to take place on 7th December 2014 and that a quiz would be held once again this December.

338 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

P/2014/0742 - Erection of Two 'dugout' Shelters Either Side of Existing Stand, Playing field Off High Street, Gresford (Councillors A Bailey, Mrs J Dutton, M J Edwards, G Peake, and M Perry declared personal and/or prejudicial interests in this application and left the meeting whilst it was discussed) – **No comments**

P/2014/0737 – Single-storey side extension to create additional living space, 4 Hawthorn Road, Marford – **No comments**

P/2014/0756 – Erection of replacement car port, Brooklands, 22 Wynnstay Lane, Marford – **No comments**

P/2014/0652 – Removal of Conditions No 3,4 & 5 relating to sustainable development as attached to Planning Permission code No P/2014/0242 for the Erection of Bungalow & Garage, Plot 18 Quarry Brow, Gresford (Councillors A Bailey and M J Edwards declared personal and/or prejudicial interests in this application and left the meeting whilst it was discussed) – **No comments**

P/2014/0701 – Amended Plans-Installation of No 2 side facing windows, The Paddock, Clappers Lane, Gresford – **No comments**

P/2014/0777 – Rear Single Storey Extension together with loft conversion and Dormer Windows, 35 Annfield Park, Gresford – **No comments**

P/2014/0796 – Fell to ground level 1 Atlas Cedar (T1) and replace with 2 Fastigiate Field Maple Trees (Tree protected by TPO WCBC No 4) Briar Patch, Sunnyridge Avenue, Marford – **No comments**

