

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT ROFFT SCHOOL MARFORD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

### **Members Present**

Councillors A Bailey, M J Edwards, G Frank-Keyes, Mrs J Holmes, M L Roberts and Mrs B Watson.

### **Apologies**

Councillors Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs S Cleaver, Mrs J Dutton, M Harriman, Mrs M Lightwood, Mrs J MacDonald, G Peake, and M Perry

### **In Attendance**

PCSO Lisa Davies

### **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.

### **435 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Councillor M J Edwards presided over the meeting.

### **436 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### **437 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present.

### **438 POLICE REPORT**

The Crime Reports for July and August 2015 were received. Matters discussed included vandalism at the Memorial Hall, changes to the PCSO Policing Structure, review of speed limits and dog fouling.

### **439 ONGOING MATTERS**

#### **Marford Community Centre**

It was noted that the lease had now been signed. However, this evening`s meeting had to be re-arranged at extremely short notice to the Rofft School as the new Management Committee had double-booked the centre.

#### **Youth Services**

Arising from the Council`s earlier decision, a business case to fund additional Youth work in Gresford and Marford was received, proposing inter alia weekend residential experience for young people and Gresford Pier Education Young People`s Project. Members were extremely concerned at these proposals. The Council was advised that it appeared that the new Management Committee had reduced the use of the Community Centre to one evening per week.

Accordingly it was decided to seek clarification from the Advanced Practitioner as to the costings for the weekend residential experience, where they proposed to store any additional equipment and whether the proposals contained in the business case had been discussed with the new Management Committee of Marford Community Centre.

### **Gresford Library**

It was reported that the average monthly footfall continued around the 350 mark, and that the costs were being closely monitored.

### **Community Council's Website**

The website was very satisfactory and well received by other organisations in the Community.

### **7 Chester Road, Gresford**

The continuing misuse at this site and the flouting of planning rules and regulations was of extreme concern to members.

### **Road Traffic Sign, Old Wrexham Road**

The Contractor had estimated a cost of £1,000 plus VAT to repair the sign or prepare a sign using modern materials. He also invited the Community Council to visit his workshops to discuss the proposals in detail some time from mid October onwards at the convenience of the Community Council. Members agreed that three or four of them would take up this offer.

### **Village (Gresford) Car Parking**

Members commented on the continuing problem of parking in the Village and this item would be included on the agenda for the October meeting of the Community Council.

### **School Crossing Patrols near All Saints CP School, Gresford**

Details were received for a School Crossing Patrol at a current estimated cost of £3,695.00 subject to any pay increase currently being negotiated by the Local Government Employers. ***Accordingly, it was unanimously resolved to request a School Crossing Patrol at All Saints School, Gresford. The Community Council was prepared to fund this position for up to three years, subject to review, at an annual cost of £3,695, including on-costs but subject to any pay increase. The Council was prepared to participate in the recruitment process provided that at the end of the process the person chosen is employed by Wrexham County Borough Council.***

### **Japanese Knotweed in the Village**

The Council discussed the views of Wrexham Council and the National Environment Agency that no one was legally obliged to remove or control these plants, but anyone allowing Japanese Knotweed to grow on other people's property may be prosecuted for causing a private nuisance. It was noted that IMAGE would discuss the issue at its next meeting as the Community Council had no powers in this regard.

### **Gresford Cemetery – Update on Repairs to Unstable Memorials**

The Council was reminded that 158 headstones had been identified as unstable. 54 letters had been sent out, 5 of which had been returned and 9 repairs had been completed. It was also noted that if the Council undertook to repair all unstable headstones, the cost would be in the region of £10,000 - £12,000. ***The following were agreed:-***

- *To allow until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 for the remaining headstones to be made safe by their respective owners;*
- *To remind those who had not agreed to the repairs that any subsequent retesting would be at the owners` expense;*
- *That an estimate be obtained regarding laying flat the unstable headstones as an alternative to carrying out the works of repair.*

### **Annual Return and Basic Audit for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

The certification and approval notice by the External Auditor had been received and circulated to members. This concluded satisfactorily the audit for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Consultation on Protecting Community Assets**

The Welsh Government`s Consultation Document deferred from the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 was considered and completed by the Council.

### **440 UNUSED POSTS AND OTHER STREET FURNITURE**

This item had been included at the request of Councillor A Bailey as he proposed to ask Wrexham Council to remove any such posts which might be identified to him by members of the community.

### **441 REPORTS**

**Wrexham County Borough Council** - Councillor A Bailey and Councillor M Edwards reported on budget consultations, improvements to Council House Kitchens as it was Gresford Community`s turn towards the end of the current financial year.

**Maes-y-Pant** - It was reported that they were developing a five year plan, proposed to give permission for bees to be kept on their land and persistent dog fouling.

**IMAGE** - Matters discussed at the last meeting included planning for Gresford Festival, Japanese Knotweed and better ways of feeding the ducks on Gresford Lake.

**Gresford Trust** – It was reported that there had been a considerable amount of anti-social behaviour during the summer months culminating in a meeting with the Police; the Mayor had accepted an invitation to attend Gresford Festival at approximately 12.15 pm and many new groups were using the Memorial Hall.

### **442 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/2015/0633 – Single-Storey Rear Extension, 1 Pant Olwen, Gresford – **No comments**

P/2015/0641 – Erection of Fence and Wall (1.8m high) around the site of former 7 Chester Road, Gresford – The Council considered that the proposed fence and wall should be set back a minimum distance along the High Street frontage and on the corner with Chester Road of 2m or width of a footpath, whichever is the greater to allow pedestrians safe passage along these busy highways. The applicant should be advised that there was a trip hazard on High Street as the land did not knit evenly with adjoining footpath/highway. The Community Council was not satisfied that the materials proposed to be used in the construction of the fence and walls were in

keeping with the area. Any permission should be temporary and contain a condition to determine an early start on making the site compliant with the conditions attached to the planning permission granted on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013 reference P/2012/0350 which the applicant seems determined to flout. The permission should contain a condition to ensure the fence and walls were built as soon as reasonably practicable after permission was granted.

#### 443 FINANCE

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Scottishpower – Electricity Supply                                     | £860.75    |
| One Voice Wales – Conference, Exhibition and Annual Meeting            | £170.00    |
| Dee Valley Water Services – Water charges                              | £8.10      |
| Mr S Pugh – Grave making   | £500.00    |
|  | £225.00    |
| Mr C A Route – Grounds Maintenance                                     | £170.00    |
| Cemetery Maintenance   | £375.00    |
| Replacement Cheque   | £1,090.00  |
| Marford Community Group – Grant  | £1,367.39  |
| Encore Office Systems – Photocopying Services                          | £39.60     |
| Wrexham County Borough Council – Quarterly Street Lighting Maintenance | £2,170.15  |
| Quarterly Street Lighting Repairs                                      | £12.19     |
| P & W Contracting – Grounds Maintenance                                | £59.53     |
| UHY Hacker Young – Audit Work  | £528.00    |
| Mrs M Jones - Salary   | NJC rates  |
| Maurice Paddock - Salary   | NJC rates  |
| HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax                                       | PAYE rates |

#### 444 CORRESPONDENCE

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

**One Voice Wales 2015 Conference and AGM** – Councillor M Harriman and the Clerk of the Council were authorised to attend;

**Planning Training Workshop**, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 at Chirk – Councillor Mrs B Watson and any other Councillors who wished to attend were authorised to do so provided they supplied their names to the Clerk of the Council in good time;

**Millennium Sign at the Memorial Hall** – This sign had been removed by Councillor Mrs J Dutton for safe keeping pending appropriate repairs – The Council asked for details of the costs of the alternative means of repair and authorised the purchase of five litre Rustin’s Clear Decking Oil for preserving the sign and the oak bell

**Variation to Licensable Activity** – SPAR, 58 Chester Road, Gresford – Members were extremely concerned at the increased hours for the purchase and consumption of alcohol by the youths of the Village which may lead to anti-social behaviour and disturbances.

**445 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at 7.15 pm at Gresford Memorial Hall.

**COUNCILLOR M J EDWARDS  
PRESIDING CHAIRMAN**

Chairman.....

Date.....