

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT
GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2014**

Members Present

Councillors Mrs S Cleaver, M J Edwards, G Frank-Keyes, M Harriman, Mrs J Holmes, Mrs J Macdonald, G Peake, M Perry, M L Roberts and Mrs B Watson.

Apologies

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs J Dutton and Mrs P M Lightwood

In Attendance

PCSO David Jones

Presiding Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman presided over the meeting

Welcome

The Council gave a warm welcome to Inspector Jackie Downes, who had recently been appointed to the Wrexham Rural Local Policing Team

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. Councillor M J Edwards indicated his intentions to declare personal and/or prejudicial interest at the appropriate time.

312 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2014 were received, approved and signed by the Presiding Chairman.

Arising from the observations of members, the Council reiterated its policy that only planning applications and urgent matters should be dealt with at the August meeting.

313 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public was present and indicated her intention to address the Community Council.

314 POLICE REPORT

Crime statistics for July and August were circulated, discussed, and questions answered. Arising from a question by one of the members, the Police Inspector agreed that the information relating to crime statistics would be compiled for annual review to enable the Council to compare trends. The Council was sorry to learn that PCSO Wendy Harris had left the police service, and it was agreed to send her the Council's best wishes.

The member of the public was invited to address the Community Council at this point in order that the police could hear her remarks. The Community Council's attention was called to the effectiveness of the pedestrian crossing and speed limits on the B5445. Seemingly, Laura Fisher, the daughter had recently experienced difficulties with traffic on the crossing.

The Police Inspector pointed out that this was a matter for the Highway Authority at this stage. As agreed at the Council meeting in July, the Clerk of the Council was instructed to seek an early meeting with senior officers of the Highway Authority and invite them to attend the next meeting of the Community Council.

315 ONGOING MATTERS

Youth Services

Arrangements would be made for the meeting with officers of the Youth Services.

Marford Community Centre

It was noted that the existing Management Committee would look after the Centre for the time being. Councillor M J Edwards reported that the Committee had received grant monies for the windows and therefore this would be refunded to the Community Council in due course.

Gresford & District Community Library

The library service continued to flourish.

Community Council Website

It was noted that there had been 3,364 unique visits and of these, 220 had occurred in one day.

7 Chester Road, Gresford

The problems remained and enforcement action seemed to be sadly lacking.

Cemetery Committee – Memorial Plaques

After discussion it was agreed to arrange an early meeting with the Stonemason on site to make progress in this matter.

Tendering Committee

It was reported that the Committee had met earlier this evening and full details would be circulated to members in time for the next meeting.

Street Lighting Column at Pistyll Hill, Marford

Scottishpower and Wrexham Council could carry out this work as follows:

- Install one 6m column with lantern/lamp and cabling - £511.71 plus VAT
- Reconnection of service with extraction in unmade ground - £623.88 plus VAT

This work was authorised to be carried out at these costs.

Carved Oak on the Traffic Island, Clapper Lane

The full plans relating to underground services had been received and passed to the Tree Carver and Contractor. Work would be carried out as soon as the Steel Bobbin had been manufactured and available for installation.

Draft Annual Return for the Year to 31st March 2014

The External Auditor had concluded the audit and public notice of thereof was being displayed.

Goal posts for Marford Play Area - Delivery was expected soon

Weight Restrictions Order on Springfield Lane/Bottom Road

The recent incident on Griffin Hill was being pursued by Councillor A Bailey and it was agreed that the Council should raise this when they meet representatives of the Highway Authority.

316 REPORTS

Councillor M J Edwards reported that membership of the Luncheon Club was decreasing; Maes-y-Pant were continuing the work but were appealing for friends of the project to subscribe £10 per annum as this should be seen as a community facility.

Councillor M Harriman reported that the White Paper on the Reform of Local Government in Wales was being discussed and would continue into the autumn of 2014.

Councillor Mrs S Cleaver commented that in view of the continuing financial crisis facing public authorities, there appeared to be a need to increase the effectiveness of the Community Council. It was therefore agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

Councillor Mrs J Holmes reported on the efforts of Gresford Trust with the Festival and expressed their thanks to the Community Council for their financial contribution. The Festival was a great success, despite the heavy torrential rain and the need to re-site some of the facilities; the application for funding to improve the kitchen facilities at the Hall had not been approved.

Councillors Mrs B Watson and G Frank-Keyes reported that IMAGE were continuing with their efforts to keep the village tidy and the lake in High Street was to be cleaned up this coming weekend; a needlepoint picture of All Saints Church was to be handed over soon.

317 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/2014/0567 – Prior Approval of Telecommunication Work – New single stack pole with antennas and dishes (15m high) to replace existing monopole and installation of new cabinets, Gresford Bank, Vicarage Lane, Gresford (previously considered by the Community Council on 3rd April 2014) – **No comments**

P/2014/0616 – Part single and part two-storey rear extension and single storey porch and garage extension to front of property, 18 Woodridge Avenue, Marford – **No comments**

318 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:

Mr S A Pugh, Gravemaking	£75.00
Mr C A Route, Grounds Maintenance and Cemetery work	£545.00
Scottishpower plc, Unmetered supplies	£859.86
P & W Contracting Ltd – Grounds maintenance	£59.53
Encore – Photocopying services	£39.60
UHY Hacker Young – Audit of the Annual Return	£450.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC rates
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC rates

319 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Wrexham Town and Community Council’s Forum – next meeting 18th September 2014 – No items for the Agenda

Erection of a Single-sided Neighbourhood Watch sign in the Marford Area – **Approved**

New pole bracket required at 10 The Green – Total cost £528.83 plus VAT – **Approved**

New pole bracket on Springfield Lane, Marford – Total cost £273.83 plus VAT – **Approved**

The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – the letter and consultation document from the Electoral Registration Officer was considered. The Community Council was of the opinion that only one polling place was required for the Electoral Division of Gresford East and West, and this should be at Gresford Memorial Hall as the car parking and access facilities were more suitable than those at Allington Hall; the Marford Community Centre should remain as the Polling Place for the Marford and Hoseley Electoral Division.

320 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting would be the on Thursday, 2nd October 2014 at 7.15 p.m. at Marford Community Centre.

**COUNCILLOR M PERRY
PRESIDING CHAIRMAN**

Presiding Chairman.....Date.....