

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 17 February 2015 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor	J Richards (Chair)	Councillor	E Boylin (Vice Chair) *
"	W Baldwin	"	Mrs C O'Toole *
	L Closs		T Pierce
"	Mrs A Evans	"	K Roberts
"	R Hardy	"	Mrs O Simm *
"	J A Kelly	"	Mrs B Smith
"	G Lowe	"	Mrs S Stanford
"	Mrs A O'Neill	"	1 vacancy

* Absent

Also Present:

PCSOs Siwan Huws and Erin Shawcross, North Wales Police
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Edmund Boylin, Carole O'Toole and Olive Simm. Members were pleased to learn that Councillor Simm was now out of hospital and recovering at home.

124 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Anne Evans declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 12 - Planning Applications being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee.

125 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 20 January 2015 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

126 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

- 1. Minute 113.1 - Training from Planning Aid Wales:** It was noted that this training session will be held on Wednesday 18 March 2015 in the Training Room of Acton Community Resource Centre. Councillors Anne Evans, Ann O'Neill, James Richards, Barbara Smith and Sue Stanford indicated that they wished to attend. Members were requested to advise the Clerk as soon as possible if they wished to attend the Training. In the event of spaces remaining available, they be offered to Members from the other three Town Community Councils.
- 2. Minute 119.4 – Town & Community Council Forum on 12 March 2015:** It was noted that Councillor Ralph Hardy will be attending and an item will be included on the Agenda about the White paper "Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People". Councillor Hardy would bring back a report on this.
- 3. Minute 119.5 – Mayor's Charity Evening:** It was noted that the Chair is not available to attend this event.
- 4. Minute 119.6 – Training for Councillors:** It was noted that the Chair is not available to attend this Training event at Bangor On Dee
- 5. Minute 121 – Frack Free Wrexham:** The Chair reported that Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Natural Resources had recently announced that the Welsh Assembly Government is imposing a 'moratorium' on fracking in Wales and will be writing to all local planning authorities requiring them to inform him of any applications to test drill or frack. The present position was noted.

127 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair welcomed PCSOs Siwan Huws and Erin Shawcross who were attending the meeting on behalf of North Wales Police. They gave an update on behalf of the Acton Community Policing Team as follows:

1. **Monthly Policing and Operations Report:** The monthly report was tabled at the meeting. It provided breakdowns of relevant Crime and Incident statistics and the current live operations involving the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the five Acton wards. Each Ward's notable statistics were explained in detail. Members noted in particular that victim based Crime was showing a lower rate each month. Domestic burglary rates were down and two persons had been remanded in respect of a recent burglary at Elm Grove. The PCSOs repeated advice being given to local residents to stop opportunist theft. If away during the early evening twilight hours to ensure their homes appear occupied by leaving lights and a television on and blinds closed.
2. **Dedicated Acton Community Safety Camera - Funding Streams:** Further to Minute 69.2 October 2014, it was noted that this item had been included on the agenda to keep Members updated and there was presently nothing further to report
3. **Policing Objectives** –Progress was noted against the three Policing Priorities set at the meeting with North Wales Police and Acton Community Councillors on 15 December 2014. Members were reminded that the priorities were Burglary other than a Dwelling (BOTD); Speeding and Cold Calling.
4. **Powers of PCSOs – Schedule 10 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:** Further to Minute 114.2 January 2015, it was noted that this item had been included on the agenda so that Members can be kept updated and there was nothing yet to report. Members sought clarification on Police powers in respect of non-resident cars being parked on road and blocking access to residential properties. Members were concerned this was becoming a particular issue for properties in the vicinity of the Resource Centre and Park due to the success and increasing numbers taking part in the outdoor gym activities/ boot camp around Acton Park.

RESOLVED- that

1. *the Police Officers be thanked for their attendance and report at the meeting;*
2. *the Clerk write to the Chief Superintendent congratulating the Acton Community Policing Team for the support the Community Council receives from them; and*
3. *the Clerk write on the Community Council's behalf to the Organisers of the gym/ boot camp activities held in Acton on a Tuesday and Thursday welcoming the use of Acton Park for this successful activity but advising of the Council's concerns about the indiscriminate parking and to request those taking part in the activities to be considerate and courteous to local residents by parking their cars away from driveways and keeping access for local residents clear.*

128 WELSH GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY MEMBER

The Chair reported that Lesley Griffiths AM had been called to Cardiff at short notice as part of her Ministerial duties. Her attendance at the Community Council meeting had been postponed until another convenient date in her diary.

129 KEY ACTON ISSUES

Wrexham County Borough Council Members were given the opportunity to report verbally on new or Key Issues being considered by the County Borough Council that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton. (Item placed on the agenda in accordance with the decision contained in Minute 107 January 2011). It was noted that the majority of issues had already raised with the Police Officers earlier in the meeting.

The County Borough Council members referred to the ongoing budgetary problems and consideration being given to the creation of a Library Trust for Wrexham and the Safeguarding of Leisure facilities in dual use within the Community. Reference was made to the swimming pool and training facilities at Ysgol Rhosnesni and the importance of exercise facilities being available to young people. An example being Borrass Park Albion Football Club using School and University Sports facilities to train up to 250 young

people over several sessions each week. Recognition was given to the equal importance of retaining libraries and school sports facilities as a curricular resource. The present position was noted.

130 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- 1. Casual Councillor Vacancy:** The Chair advised that he had received a letter notifying him of the resignation of Councillor Joyce Dudley a member for the Borrass Park ward. Members indicated a wish to mark her retirement in some small way as recognition and tribute to the twenty nine year Service given by Councillor Dudley to the Acton Community and to the Maesydre and Borrass Park wards in particular. The Council then proceeded to consider the filling of the resultant vacancy in the Borrass Park ward and the placing of Notices in accordance with the Local Election (Parish and Communities) Amendment Rules 1987 and the Local Government Wales Measure 2011.

RESOLVED- that:

- 1. Councillor Dudley's resignation as a Member of the Acton Community Council be accepted; and**
- 2. the Clerk to the Council be authorised to commence the process of placing and advertising Notices of vacancy for the Borrass Park Ward to fill this vacancy in accordance with the statutory requirements.**

2 Appointment of Internal Auditor: The Council's arrangements for Independent Internal Audit testing during 2015/16 as specified by the Audit Commission for Wales and the current Accounts and Audit Regulations were reviewed. It was noted that the Council should review and appoint its internal auditor each year. A draft letter of appointment was read out at the meeting. Members also noted that the Budgetary monitoring process will be a thematic review on the Annual Return for next year.

RESOLVED - That the letter of engagement as reported to the Council, for the renewal of the current arrangements with JDH Business Services Limited, concerning internal audit, be accepted and signed by the Chairman and Clerk and forwarded to the Auditor.

131 CONSULTATIONS

Members considered details about the following Consultations:-

- 1. Inquiry into Consideration of Powers - Public Service Ombudsman:** The Clerk summarised the key points of the proposed amendments and extension of powers. It was noted that the Consultation period closes on 20 March 2015.

RESOLVED – that no comments are made by the Council but instead Members submit their responses individually.

- 2. Wrexham County Borough Council – What's important to you?** Councillor Hugh Jones, Lead Member for Communities, Collaboration and Partnerships. Wrexham County Borough Council had advised that following the recent 'Difficult Decisions' budget consultation, the Council wishes to continue speaking to the residents of Wrexham to understand what's important and ensure that the services offered are the best for meeting needs. This online survey will close on Friday 20 February 2015. It was noted all Community Councils have been invited to attend an event for Community Councillors on 24 February 2015 from 6-8pm in the Guildhall.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Len Closs attend the event on 24 February, 2015 on behalf of the Council and report thereon to the next meeting.

- 3. Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People:** This White Paper sets out the Welsh Government's vision for the future of Local Government which is more inclusive, accountable and shares power and responsibility with the communities it serves. The Clerk highlighted proposals to introduce Area Boards and Chapter 4 of the White Paper entitled "Connecting to Communities" detailed proposals for Community Governance; to raise ambition and build capacity and capability for Community Councils. It was noted the proposals for Community Governance will have implications for the way services and functions are carried out within communities and, in turn, for the way such services are funded. The closing date for responses is 28 April 2015. It was noted that the White Paper

will be included for discussion on the agenda of the Town and Community Council Forum meeting to be held at the Guildhall on 12 March, 2015.

RESOLVED – to defer consideration of the White Paper until the next meeting to enable the Council to gather further information from the Town and Community Council Forum meeting and to consider the White Paper in greater detail before formulating any comments in response by the Consultation deadline of 28 April 2015.

132 REPORT FROM CLERK

Information and general correspondence that had been received and was available for members at the meeting was reported and dealt with as follows:

Organisation	Details
1.Gill Pritchard, Friends of Acton Park	AGM Report and latest nature report: Email dated 30 January 2015 giving details of this information. Copies were available at the meeting for Members' perusal. Information noted
2.The Play Officers North Wales Group	Park Life Conference -Wednesday 25th March 2015 - 9.30 to 15.30 at Furnace Farm, Tal-y-cafn, Conwy, LL28 5RP: Email dated 3 February 2015 advising of this conference aimed at promoting better design, developing and maintaining places for children's play with a particular focus on parks and other designated, unstaffed, play areas. Information noted
3.One Voice Wales	Membership of One Voice Wales for 2015-16: Letter dated 3 February 2015 advising that Councils who have not been in membership of One Voice Wales for the last three years will be given a one off 50% reduction. A letter summarising the work and current developments and support offered by One Voice Wales was noted. The cost of Annual membership is £1,598 or £799 with the 50% reduction applied. Information noted
4.Lynn Williams Wrexham County Borough Council	Annual General Meeting of Acton Community Resource Centre Management Committee: Notification has been received of this meeting to be held on Thursday 12 March 2015 at 6:00pm in the Crèche Room of the Acton Community Resource Centre. Information noted
5.Aled Roberts AM	Review of Trunk Road Speed limits: Further to Minute 76.3 October 2015, A letter dated 3 February 2015 was received from Aled Roberts detailing representations he had made about lack of consultation with local communities away from trunk roads. The actions which the Welsh Government intends following the review will be included in a database on the Welsh Government website. Information noted

133 ACCOUNTS 2014/15

Members noted no payments had been made to the Council and received details of payments that required authorisation.

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved: -

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
CCA2-14/15 Carole Roberts - Clerk to the Council	Reimbursement for purchase of Get Well Flowers for Councillor O Simm on leaving hospital S15 Local Government Act 1972	£12.00
56 Wrexham County Borough Council	School Crossing Patrols Q3 payments for Acton Park School; Borras Park Infants & Junior School; Dean Road Roundabout S137 Local Government Act 1972	£2,625.00

57 Wrexham County Borough Council	2 nd half Yearly instalment – SLA 2014/15: Acton Detached Youth Service Provision S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£10,845.50
58 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerk's Expenses for February 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£ 77.00
59 Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for February 2015 paid by the Council's Agent: Wrexham County Borough Council in accordance with Minute 99.1 December 2009 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	NJC Rates
60 SLCC Enterprises Ltd	SLCC Practitioners Conference Fee for Clerk's attendance on 5&6 March 2015 at Stratford Upon Avon. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£282.00

134 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered whether it wished to make any comments on the following Planning Applications for development in the Community Council's area that had been received since the last meeting and had been made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (to be determined by Wrexham County Borough Council).

Case Number/ Address	Proposed Development	Decision
P/2015/0073 Little Oak lodge, 90 Dean Road, Wrexham	Remove 1 Silver Birch (T2) and replace with 1 Keolreutaria Paniculata – Tree protected by TPO WMBC No.99	The Council notes the content of the 2013 iTree Survey carried out by Forest Research in conjunction with Natural Resources Wales on the urban trees in Wrexham. In particular Silver Birch are one of the three most common trees in urban Wrexham. The proposed replacement tree will increase the diversity of species and on that basis the Community Council has no object to this application.
P/2015/0074 24 and 26 Park Avenue, Wrexham	Crown Raise by 15 metres over school grounds only 1 Sycamore (T23) and 1 Ash (T22) – Trees protected by TPO WMBC No 21	The Council notes this application has been submitted by the Senior Tree Officer of Wrexham CBC and will improve safety to the perimeter of the school grounds. The Community Council has no objection to this application provided the works are carried out under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the Wrexham CBC Arboricultural officer
P/2015/0075 4 Turner Close, Goulbourne Park, Wrexham	Porch/ Toilet Extension to front of house	No objection

(Councillor Anne Evans being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item. She left the meeting taking no part in the consideration, discussion or voting on any of the planning applications)

135 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - *that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items of business as it is likely that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960.*

136 MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10 February 2015 were received. The Council considered details of the ongoing negotiations in respect of the review of terms and the staffing implications for a Pilot scheme to be included within the 2015/16 Service Level Agreement for provision of a Detached Youth Work Project in Acton.

RESOLVED – *that the recommendations of the Youth Committee be endorsed as follows:-*

1. *The Youth Committee be tasked with developing the 2015/16 and future Service Level Agreements for the provision of a Youth Project across the five Acton Community Wards to ensure they are fit for purpose and reflect the requirements of the Community Council and current best practice;*
2. *The Youth Committee also be tasked with receiving and monitoring the Youth Service's Quarterly Service Level Agreement reports and any other performance monitoring reports provided by the Youth Service, to ensure the Service Specification is being met and the Agreement represents good value for money;*
3. *The Youth Committee should immediately bring any concerns about the performance or effectiveness of the Service Level Agreement to the attention of the full Council;*
4. *The full Council should receive and consider the Annual Report in respect of this Service Level Agreement; and*
5. *The proposed revisions to the 2015/16 Service Level Agreement be circulated via email to all Members of the Youth Committee for comment, and if deemed necessary, the Clerk to the Council be authorised to obtain independent legal advice to ensure the interests of the Community Council are protected prior to the Service Level Agreement being signed off.*

137 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL – PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

The Chair gave a verbal report on the outcome of the Clerk's Appraisal and Performance Review.

RESOLVED – *that:*

- i. *The Chair and Vice Chair be thanked for their hard work in completing and reporting on the Clerk's Performance Review and Appraisal;*
- ii. *The Clerk to the Council position be re-graded to LC2 (below the substantive range) and with effect from 1 April 2015, the Clerk be placed on SCP 28;*
- iii. *The Clerk's job description be amended to include reference to responsibility for the Council's website and overview of the Council's Service Level Agreements with Wrexham County Borough Council , the Citizens Advice Bureau and any other organisations; and*
- iv. *The Clerk's Annual Appraisal be carried out by the Chair and Vice Chair in December/ January each year.*

Signed as a correct record this 17th day of March 2015

Chair