

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 18 November 2014 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor	J Richards (Chair)	Councillor	E Boylin (Vice Chair)
"	W Baldwin	"	Mrs A O'Neill
"	Miss J Dudley	"	Mrs C O'Toole
"	Mrs A Evans	"	T Pierce
"	R Hardy *	"	Mrs O Simm *
"	J A Kelly	"	Mrs B Smith
"	G Lowe	"	
"			3 vacancies

* Absent

Also Present:

PC Kerry Evans and PCSOs Lewis Davies and Simon Griffiths, North Wales Police

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

80 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ralph Hardy and Olive Simm. Members were sorry to learn that Councillor Simm was in hospital and asked that their best wishes be conveyed to her.

81 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Anne Evans declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 14 - Planning Applications being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee.

82 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 21 October 2014 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

83 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Minute 69.3: Community Agent Pilot Scheme:** In respect of the funding matter referred to previously, Delyth Pridding has confirmed that the Community Agent scheme will be funded until 2016; in that time possible savings in other areas of work will be examined to continue to fund the Community agent scheme. She had also been contacted by Rhosddu Community Council who has expressed an interest in taking part in the Pilot Scheme and combining the 16 hour post to create a 32 hour post across two Community council areas.

Whilst the Community Council has already advertised unsuccessfully to fill a 16 hour post within Acton, Members expressed an interest in combining with either Rhosddu or Caia Park Community Councils. However the supervision aspect of a combined post was raised together with the importance of clear written parameters and the need for a clear indication to be given by Wrexham County Borough Council on the level of support that it would provide. Members were mindful and concerned that as the Clerk is employed on a part time basis, whether there is any capacity within her contractual hours to absorb additional responsibilities and meet the standards detailed in the Service Specification of the Grant Funding Agreement

RESOLVED – that clarification be sought from Delyth Pridding on the issues now raised before proceeding or committing any further to this Scheme.

2. **Minute 69.4: Access for the disabled and elderly at Acton Community Resource Centre:** The Clerk reported that a further reminder had been sent to Mr Dylan Hughes with the Chief Executive and

Management Committee members being copied into the correspondence. However a response was still awaited. The present position was noted.

3. **Minute 69.6 Acton Community Resource Centre SLA Review arrangements:** The Clerk read out Dylan Hughes' response to the matters the Community Council has raised with him. It was noted that he will give this project due priority and ensure that more regular and timely information as determined in the SLA will be provided. Members also received and noted details of bookings at the Acton Community Resource Centre during the past 4 years which demonstrated a significant increase in the number of hires since its refurbishment. In respect of the reporting arrangements and staff position MR Hughes undertook to deal with this matter with the urgency required now. The next meeting of the Management Committee will be held on Monday 8 December at which a full report on the use of the Centre will be tabled and then made available to the Community Council. In respect of the staffing position the appointment of a Centre manager as expected by the Community Council, Mr Hughes undertook to have this Post advertised by the end of November 2014.

During discussion of this additional information, Members referred to the request for an extra-ordinary meeting of the Management Committee that had not been organised; the position of Chair of the Management Committee was vacant following the death of Councillor Ron Davies in June 2014, and the Community Council would be appointing a new Management Committee representative at its December 2014 meeting.

RESOLVED - that the outstanding information in respect of SLA reporting for the Acton Community Resource Centre be reported to the next Council meeting to be held on 16 December 2014 together with the date for the first two year review of the SLA.

4. **Minute 73.1 Planning Aid – Training at Acton Community Resource Centre:** The Clerk gave an update on correspondence and confirmed that the estimated cost of providing this training would be between £300 and £400, for which provision had already been made in the Council's Training budget.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk:-

1. **proceed with the necessary arrangements to hold an evening training session in the Spring of 2015 on either the local Development Plan or Material considerations for commenting on Planning Applications;** and
2. **advise Planning Aid Wales that Acton Community Council would be prepared in principle to host a Regional Training Event.**

84. COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

1. The Chair welcomed PC Kerry Evans and PCSOs Lewis Davies and Simon Griffiths who were attending the meeting on behalf of North Wales Police and gave an update from the Acton Community Police Officers in respect of the following Policing matters:

- 1) **Monthly Policing and Operations Report:** The monthly report was tabled at the meeting and provided breakdowns of relevant Crime and Incident statistics and the current live operations involving the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the five Acton wards. Particular reference was made to speeding on Smithy Lane and that the new PCSO was Speed Camera trained. The St John's Church Community Christmas meal would be held on 17 December 2014. Members indicated there was no reason why as in previous years the application for funding to be considered at the December 2014 meeting of the Community Council would not be supported. It was noted there had recently been a spate of garage thefts and a Policing Operation was addressing this. The Spooky Walk had been a great success with approximately 100 attendees and good feedback.
- 2) **Dedicated Acton Community Safety Camera - Funding Streams** Further to Minute 69.2 October 2014 PC Kerry Evans reported on enquiries made regarding the criteria for accessing payments from the Proceeds of Crime fund. It was noted that the Purchase of a Community Safety Camera may be eligible. However applications could be submitted only twice a year and the next submission date was 1 May 2015.

RESOLVED- that the Community Council formally support the submission by the Acton Policing team of an application for a dedicated Acton Community Safety Camera to the Proceeds of Crime Fund on 1 May 2015.

- 3) **Policing Objectives** – Members noted the progress to date and consideration was given to the three existing Policing Priorities of Speeding, Burglary other than Dwellings and Cold Calling and whether to change the existing priorities at the meeting to be held with North Wales Police and Acton Community Chair/Vice Chair and the five Wrexham County Borough Councillors on Monday 15 December 2014. Members indicated that they would prefer for more work to be completed in respect of the existing priorities.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their report and attendance at the meeting.

85. WEED CONTROL, GULLY EMPTYING, GRASS CUTTING AND LITTER

The Chair welcomed Mr Paul Fairclough Area Street Scene Manager and Mr Malcolm Hughes Area Supervisor, Wrexham County Borough Council who were attending the meeting to advise how the issues of weed control, gully emptying, grass cutting and litter raised by the Community Council are being addressed (Minute 41.2 July 2014 refers). The structure and geographical coverage of the North Area team was noted. During the debate the following matters were discussed: -

- **Dog Fouling Enforcement Action:** The Wrexham North Team was responsible only for play areas and School playing fields in the Council Borough Council's ownership. The Licensing Enforcement Officers were working with Community Councils and where sufficient evidence could be produced successful prosecutions had been made. Areas where there had been particular problems included the Dean Road Playing Field 9 in the ownership of Glyndwr university) and Rhosnesni Spider Park, The Mount and Alleyways on the Maesydre Housing Estate.
- **Gulley Emptying / Litter Picking:** The late Autumn had caused problems this year on Oak Drive, The Beeches, Chester Road and Jeffreys Road. There was a schedule of works but visual assessments and areas with flooding potential were Emptied or swept sooner where possible. There was a dedicated sweeper for the Acton area. Specific reference was made to rubbish and general building waste being left by garages in Central Avenue. Rubbish collected was inspected for anything that would identify the person(s) who had dumped it.
- **Weed killing:** The mild winter has exacerbated the problem of weed growth. The weed spraying programme targeted built up areas and housing estates. The ability to weed spray was dictated by favourable weather conditions and the effectiveness of safe chemical that could now only be used. There had also been a lot of equipment breakdowns this summer resulting in having to manually trim and clear some areas.
- **Potholes/ Resurfacing:** This cash limited programme had enabled works on Barkers Lane and resurfacing of part of the bus route at the entrance to Mile Barn Road. Members referred to other roads that were treated with patched pothole filling and the repair breaking down much faster than resurfacing works.

The Chair thanked the Officers for attending the meeting and responding to the concerns of the Community Council.

86. YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT ON DETACHED YOUTH WORK PROVISION DURING THE PERIOD JULY 2014 TO SEPTEMBER 2014

The Wrexham Youth Service representatives Julia Francis and Aaron Davies attended the meeting and were welcomed by the Chair. Julia Francis presented the second quarter monitoring report to 30 September 2014 on the Acton Detached Youth Work Project. The report included information on activities and attainment against the current Service Level Agreement targets with the Community Council, including:

- Opportunities from an organised Summer Programme, including sessions at Acton Community Resource Centre and accredited Outdoor events at Trevor Rocks, Pandyr Rocks, Canoeing on the Montgomery Canal and Bala Lake and Bush Craft at the Nantyr Centre.
- The Team's participation with the Play Day on Llwyn Isaf.

- Quarterly outputs relating to contacts made, monthly attendance, total number of sessions delivered, attendance and number of individual young people registered with the project, trips/ activities or events;
- Good news and Case studies and comments from Young People.
- Aaron Davies who would be taking over from Julia Francis had been involved in the Funky Dragon and would be mapping and producing more promotional information for Young People in the Acton Community about where the Detached Youth Workers could be found on weekday evenings

Members were sorry to learn that Julia Francis will be leaving the Youth Service at the end of November 2014 after ten years of service. All Members of the Council extended their best wishes to Ms Francis for her next life venture. They also placed on record their thanks and appreciation for all her hard work and support in making a real difference to the Young People of Acton through the Detached Youth Work carried out in the Acton Community.

RESOLVED -to receive and note the second quarter Report for 2014/15 as now submitted and as required under the Service Level Agreement.

87. PROCEDURAL MATTERS - CASUAL COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Further to Minute 71, October 2014, consideration was given to the filling of the following vacancies by co-option:

Little Acton	2 vacancies
Acton Central	1 Vacancy

Members had received brief resumes provided by the four qualifying candidates whose expressions of interest were made to the Clerk by the relevant date in accordance with Section 116 of the Local (Wales) Measure 2011. Three of the candidates were present at the meeting and they each in turn spoke for a few minutes about themselves. In respect of the other candidate, Mr Christopher Revill who had given his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting, the Clerk read out his application form. Members then proceeded to vote by show of hands.

RESOLVED - that

i) the following persons be co-opted as Members of the Community Council to fill the current casual vacancies on the Council:

LITTLE ACTON WARD:

- 1. Kevin Roberts 6 Horsley Drive, Little Acton, Wrexham LL12 8BE***
- 2. Sue Stanford, 7 Glyndwr Road, Wrexham, LL12 8DE***

ACTON CENTRAL WARD:

- 1. Leonard Closs, 20 Turnberry Avenue, Wrexham LL13 9GG; and***

ii) Mr Christopher Revill be thanked for the interest he has shown in becoming a Co-opted member of the Community Council.

88. KEY ACTON ISSUES

WCBC Members reported verbally on any new or Key Issues being considered by the County Borough Council that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton. (Item on the agenda as per Minute 107 January 2011) It was noted that the main issue was the continuing pressures to reduce the Budget

89. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE LEVEL OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES PROVIDED IN NORTH WALES 2015-16 AND BEYOND

The details for this Consultation seeking views about the sort of services that the public expects and the ability and three options for the Fire Authority to meet demand for services with dwindling budgets were considered. It was noted the deadline for completing the online survey is 9th January 2015. The

Authority will consider its future plans in light of the Consultation responses received and publish the final 2015-16 Improvement Plan on its website by 31st March 2015.

RESOLVED – that the Consultation be noted and Members respond individually if they so wish.

(Councillors Anne Evans and Geoff Lowe being Wrexham County Borough Council representatives on the North Wales Fire Authority declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item. They remained in the meeting but took no part in the consideration, discussion or voting on this matter)

90. COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

1. **MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PLAY AREAS:** Further to Minute 165.3 April 2014 which approved a Service Level Agreement for 2014/15 with Wrexham County Borough Council for the Inspection and Maintenance regime of the Ffordd Garmonydd, Aran Road and Acton Park Junior Play areas situated in the Acton Community Area. Members considered a letter dated 23 October 2014 from the Head of Housing, Public Protection and Environment, Wrexham County Borough Council requesting by 1 December 2014 what the Community Council's intentions were for 2015/16 in respect of these play areas. It was noted that from 2015/16 it would be necessary to recharge the costs of repairs and replacement part must comply with Manufacturers specifications to maintain the validity of the Kite mark.
2. **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE –** Further to Minute 165.4 April 2014 which approved a Service Level Agreement for 2014/15 with Wrexham County Borough Council to continue the School Crossing Patrols in the Acton Community at Dean Road, Borrass Park Road and Box Lane. Members considered a letter dated 6 November 2014 from the Head of Housing, Public Protection and Environment, Wrexham County Borough Council requesting by 1 December 2014 what the Community Council's intentions were for 2015/16 in respect of maintaining the provision of School crossing patrol Services in its area. It was noted that the expected Pay Award would impact on the cost of this service but no accurate costings could be provided until all sides have reached agreement.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk advise the Head of Housing, Public Protection and Environment, Wrexham County Borough Council by 1 December 2014, that whilst the 2015/16 Budget has not yet been agreed, the Community Council on the basis of the information now provided, does agree in Principle to continue for 2015/16 to fund through Service Level Agreements:

- 1) **the management, maintenance and repairs to the the Ffordd Garmonydd, Aran Road and Acton Park Junior Play areas; and**
- 2) **the provision of the School Crossing Patrols in the Acton Community at Dean Road, Borrass Park Road and Box Lane.**

91. 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. Democratic and Registration Services Manager, Wrexham County Borough Council	Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum – 11 December 2014 at 6:00pm: Email dated 29 October 2014 inviting the Community Council to send 2/3 Representatives to attend the next meeting of the Forum and to submit any important items of business for inclusion on the agenda by no later than 21 November 2014. RESOLVED – that subject to availability, Councillors Ralph Hardy and Tom Pierce attend the Forum as the Council's Representatives
2. Maralyn Gorringe; 01992 503129	Wrexham Mobility Access Roadshow -22nd November 2014: Email dated 4 November 2014 informing of this community orientated event taking place

ORGANISATION	DETAILS
	from 11am to 4pm at the Wrexham Volkswagen car showroom in the Rhosddu Industrial Estate, Rhosrobin, Wrexham LL11 4YL to provide advice for disabled motorists. The Wrexham's Carers Service will advise about everyday living aids, exercise equipment, relaxation regimes, a working lift, neuro-rehabilitation technology, functional electrical stimulation and specialist computer games for visitors <i>Information noted</i>
3.Lynn Williams Community Centres Officer	Nigh Out Scheme - Dickens of an Evening: Email dated 5 November 2014 advising of a Christmas Show/play being organised for Acton Community Resource Centre on Saturday 22 November 2014. Limelight Productions will be producing this event which will be funded by the Night Out Scheme and WCBC. <i>Information noted</i>
4.Serena Baxter, Principal Housing Services Manager, Wrexham CBC	Count of Rough Sleepers in the area: Email dated 10 November 2014 advising that during week commencing 17th November, Wrexham CBC will be undertaking as directed by Welsh Government, a count of rough sleepers in the area. Currently a mapping exercise is being undertaken of all areas in the borough where rough sleeping might have been taking place. The Council's help has been requested to help with the accuracy of the count. The Definition of a rough sleeper is: people bedded down in the open air or else in another location not designed for human habitation- stairwells, car parks etc.) RESOLVED – that any Members who are aware of any location in the Acton Community where rough sleeping may have been taking place to advise Serena Baxter by 21 November 2014
5.Delyth Thomas Jones, Marketing & Community Engagement Officer, North Wales Police,	1. Your Community Your Choice: Email dated 11 November 2014 referring to a press release outlining the 'Your Community Your Choice' campaign. The Council has been asked to promote this within the community. 2. Emergency Services Carol Service: this will take place on Monday 8 December at Bangor Cathedral at 7:30pm. Posters will soon be available but there is a warm welcome to everybody. The collection this year will be given to the 'Awyr Las' charity. <i>Information noted</i>
6.Wrexham area Civic Society	In Focus – Issue 39 Autumn 2014: A copy of this publication will be available for members' perusal at the meeting. Topics dealt with include Coal mining in North Wales; Town Centre matters; Heroes and gentlemen All – book review; 2014 Award nominations <i>Information noted</i>

92. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received and considered details of payments received as set out below that required authorisation.

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

None

PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION

Voucher no & Payee	Details	Amount
36 Charisma Trophies	Engraving 2013/14 Side Bar for Chairman's Badge S112 Local Government Act 1972	£9.50
37 Wrexham County Borough Council	School Crossing Patrols Q2 payments for Acton Park School; Borrass Park Infants & Junior School; Dean Road Roundabout S137 Local Government Act 1972	£2,625.00
38 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerk's Expenses for November 2014 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£ 98.16

39 Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for July 2014 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
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93. 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/2014/0767 11 Kensington Grove Wrexham	Single-Storey Rear Extension	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)

Signed as a correct record this 16th day of December 2014

Chair