

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 20 January 2015 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 *
	L Closs		Mrs C O'Toole
"	Miss J Dudley *	"	T Pierce *
"	Mrs A Evans	"	K Roberts
"	R Hardy	"	Mrs O Simm *
"	J A Kelly	"	Mrs B Smith
"	G Lowe	"	Mrs S Stanford

* Absent

Also Present:

PC Kerry Evans and PCSO Siwan Huws, North Wales Police

Dylan Hughes & Aaron Davies Wrexham County Borough Council

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

109 CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, Councillor Edmund Boylin presided over the meeting.

(Councillor Edmund Boylin in the Chair)

110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joyce Dudley, Ann O'Neill, Tom Pierce, James Richards and Olive Simm. Members were pleased to learn that Councillor Simm was now out of hospital and recovering at home.

111 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Anne Evans declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 9 - Frack Free Wrexham and Agenda Item 12 - Planning Applications being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee.

112 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was noted that Councillor Carole O'Toole's apologies had been given at the meeting but had not been recorded in the Minutes. Councillor Ralph Hardy advised that he had arrived after the meeting had started but was marked as absent in the Minutes.

RESOLVED – *that subject to the afore-mentioned corrections, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 16 December 2014 be received and confirmed as a correct record.*

113 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

- Minute 97.4: Training from Planning Aid Wales:** The Clerk advised that she was making arrangements for the Training on the Unitary Development Plan to be given in late February or sometime during March 2015. The present position was noted.
- Minute 102.9 Financial Assistance Shelter Cymru** – It was noted that the Clerk had received confirmation that the Council's request will be honoured and the Grant monies will be used in Wrexham.

3. **Minute 102.11 Financial Assistance Friends of Gresford Disaster Memorial** – It was noted that in combination with other fundraising, it was now possible for the works to commence. The present position was noted.
4. **Minute 103.3 Precept Requirements:** It was noted that the Clerk has received acknowledgement from Wrexham County Borough Council of the Community Council's £125,000 precept requirement for 2015/16. The present position was noted.

114 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair welcomed PC Kerry Evans and PCSO Siwan Huws 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 burglaries were down and the Christmas Drink Driving operation had seen a lower rate of positive tests. In terms of the Policing Team for Acton, PCSO Siwan Huws was now fully trained independent and PCSO Erin Shawcross will be office based until she goes on maternity leave.
2. **Dedicated Acton Community Safety Camera - Funding Streams:** Further to Minute 69.2 October 2014, PC Evans advised that she intends to clarify and reference information from Caia Park Community Council on its Community Safety Camera. Members will be kept updated. During the debate various issues surrounding Arson and Juvenile crime within Caia Park were mentioned. It was noted that current policing operations were resulting in successful charges and convictions. The CCTV cameras in Caia Park had been a valuable resource in assisting the Arson Reduction Team.
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.

In terms of future reporting, Members referred to the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the additional powers now in place for Community Support Officers to amongst other things issue fixed penalty notices as well as having a general power of seizure. Members asked the Police officers to compile a report on the impact and potential uses of this legislation to have an impact on Anti-Social Behaviour.

RESOLVED- that

1. ***the Police Officers be thanked for their attendance and report at the meeting;***
2. ***The Acton Policing Team compile a report on the additional Powers contained in the 2014 Policing Act and present it to a subsequent meeting of the Community Council.***

115 ACTON COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

In accordance with Minutes 97.3 and 103.2i December 2014, the Chair welcomed Mr Dylan Hughes who was attending this meeting to explain about progress on:

- Staffing Appointments;
- the two year review of the Service Level Agreement
- Provision of evidence of the work being undertaken towards ensuring that the Acton Community Resource Centre becomes self-financing.

Mr Hughes tabled a report setting out the Centre's Performance and Statistics for 2014/15 to date. Members were pleased to note the vastly improved performance compared to the previous four years. A schedule setting out the agreed outputs and outcomes from April 2014 to December 2014 and projected outcomes to March 2015 was received and noted. The report included statistics on the number of bookings, people attending training courses, activities to promote the Centre, Physical activity opportunities, promotion of the Welsh Culture and information on Weekly, Monthly and quarterly

bookings users. It was noted that additional expenditure had been incurred on additional drainage to the disabled car parking spaces and provision of handrails to the front entrance steps.

In terms of staffing for the Centre, a revised Resource Centre Manager's job description and internal advert to comply with redeployment requirements was due out by the end of January, 2015. The Interview Panel will be convened to shortlist and interview the applicants. In the meantime the Community Centres Officer, Mrs Lynn Williams is based at the Centre every Wednesday and Centre bookings are also taken via the Leisure and Libraries Office.

A breakdown of the operational costs and income for the 2014/15 year to date and the current year end forecast was received. The current forecast indicated a surplus of £18,959. However if the Community Council's contribution was reduced to £11,042 to reflect the surplus, this would result in a zero balance. Members proposed that any savings from this year's budgeted £30,000 payment in respect of this Service Level Agreement be ring-fenced to the Acton Community Resource Centre and earmarked within balances for future years to ensure the viability of the Centre.

Members expressed concerns about the lack of a permanent Management presence at the Community Resource Centre and referred to previous difficulties with holding the Management Committee meetings. The sooner the Manager was in post the better. Whilst the bookings had peaked in September 2014, they did appear to have gone down and reached a critical mass. It was important to have a full time manager in post to promote and encourage the maximum possible bookings. The current temporary arrangements are not providing a full time office support service for the Resource Centre. However Members recognised and commended the hard work of Mrs Lynn Williams and Mrs Mary Davies the Caretaker for the service they had been able to provide.

RESOLVED – that

- i) The report be accepted and Mr Dylan Hughes be thanked for his attendance and report;***
- ii) Any Savings from the budgeted £30,000 payment in respect of this Service Level Agreement be ring-fenced to the Acton Community Resource Centre and earmarked within balances for future years to ensure the viability of the Centre.***

116 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2014/15 FOR YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION IN ACTON: QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT ON DETACHED YOUTH WORK DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2014 TO DECEMBER 2014

The Chair extended a welcome to Mr Aaron Davies, Temporary Level 2 Youth Worker from the Wrexham Youth Service was in attendance to present the Acton Detached Youth Team summary report on all aspects of the Service during the third quarter. The report included information on activities such as the successful Acton Spooky Walk and the related planning and preparation projects together with attainment against the current Service Level Agreement targets. Over the period 64 youth work sessions were delivered and a total of 287 significant contacts made; other contacts were made that included brief interventions and unplanned meetings with young people. It was noted that detailed attendance figures were unavailable due to personnel changes. The Report included a copy of the programme of activity from January 2015 – April 2015 as designed by the temporary staff team and offering a wider menu of activities to appeal to a greater number of young people; the programme continues to offer the traditional street work approach however this is enhanced by more targeted/themed provision in the form of focused project work; offering young people accreditation and recognition for their efforts.

Arising from consideration of the report Members were consternated to learn that Mr. Davies would also be leaving the Service shortly. They referred to the turnaround of staff but recognised that staffing of this SLA is on a part time evening basis and there will be a turnover of staff; Members wished to ensure this managed in future to ensure there is no gap in provision. It was noted that the Youth Service was in the process of recruiting and inducting a new staff team to plan, deliver and enhance the existing provision. The recruitment process will follow the guidelines as set out by Wrexham County Borough Council. It was hoped to have new staff in place as soon as possible, until then, the Youth Service will continue to deliver the provision with existing staff.

Members also raised the following matters:

- How and where the Acton Detached Youth Service is publicised?
- The number of Young People being reached in Acton
- What is being done to identify and involve the hard to reach Young People?
- The difference between Youth Work and Detached Youth
- There should be firm dates for submitting quarterly and Annual reports
In future the Electronic Recording and submission of data should enable reporting to the Community Council in a useable form

The Chair thanked the Officer for this encouraging report.

RESOLVED – that the report be received and noted.

117 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 there were no further issues than those already raised with the Police Officers earlier in the meeting.

118 VARIATION OF AGENDA

The Chair advised that this item is being deferred at this stage of the proceedings and will be considered prior to Agenda Item 12 - Planning Applications.

119 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.Andrea Powell Grants & Programmes Manager Community Foundation In Wales	Wrexham Community Endowment Fund: Email dated 16 December 2014 advising that the annual deadline will be extended to 28 February 2015. The Fund is especially looking for applications to encourage, support and promote non-statutory educational attainment and lifelong learning, including early years. The fund is open to applicants also meeting the alternative objective to encourage, support and promote spiritual wellbeing and improve the lives of people with limited resources. Information noted
2.Groundwork North Wales	Online newsletters: Emails dated 6 and 12 January 2015 giving details of the latest news from Groundwork and that its website has been updated to include case studies and testimonials from 2014 Information noted
3.Local Government Finance & Public Service Performance Division, Welsh Government, Cardiff	“Section 137 Expenditure” Limit for 2015/16: Email received 5 January 2015 advising that the appropriate sum for the purposes of Section 137 (4) (a) of the Local Government act 1972 for Town and Community Councils in Wales for 2015-16 is £7.36 Information noted
4.Marie Russell Committee Officer Wrexham CBC	Town & Community Council Forum – 12 March 2015: Email dated 16 January 2015 inviting the Council to nominate two or three representatives to attend the next Forum meeting on Thursday 12 March 2015 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Wrexham. Any items of business should be submitted by no later than 24 February 2015. RESOLVED that subject to their availability Councillors Ralph Hardy and Tom Pierce be nominated to attend as the Council’s representatives.
5.Civic Support Office Wrexham CBC	Mayor’s Charity Evening – Saturday 7 March 2015 at 7:30pm: Letter dated 15 January 2015 advising of this Charity event. Tickets are £20.00 each to

Organisation	Details
	include hot buffet and Big Band Themed entertainment. Applications for tickets should be returned by 20 February, 2015. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. RESOLVED – that subject to his availability, the Chair and a guest attend the Charity evening as the Community Council’s representative.
6.One Voice Wales	Training for Councillors: Email dated 19 January 2015 advising of Training events in February 2015 including a Chairing Skills workshop at Bangor on Dee on 24 February 2015. RESOLVED – that the Chair be authorised to attend the Workshop to be held at Bangor on Dee on 24 February 2015 with the cost of £45 being met from the Training Budget
7.AVOW	Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January 2015: Email dated 20 January 2015 advising that a memorial event will be held in Ty Avow at 1:30pm on the day to Keep the Memory Alive. An earlier event will be held this Friday between 10-4 for the public to make a peace dove Information noted

120 ACCOUNTS 2014/15

Members received and considered details of the 3rd quarter bank reconciliation and payments received and those set out below that required authorisation:

Interest payments

HSBC Deposit account - Interest:	£ 27.54
HSBC Money market Call Account – interest	£ 40.43

Funds transfer on 15 January 2015:

Deposit account to Current account	£75,000.00
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3rd QUARTER END BANK RECONCILIATION:

HSBC Current Account	£ 20,574.33
HSBC Deposit Account	£ 150,369.95
HSBC Moneymarket Account	£ 32,081.12
[Chairman’s Charity Account]	[£ 506.21]

Balance as at 31 December 2013 **£203,025.40** (less £1,524.24 for 6 unpresented cheques by 31 December 2014 net balance of £201,501.16)

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved: -

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
52 Wrexham County Borough Council	2 nd Half Yearly instalment – SLA 2014/15: Inspection and maintenance of Play areas within the Community of Acton S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£1,557.00
53 Wrexham County Borough Council	1 st half Yearly instalment – SLA 2014/15: Acton Detached Youth Service Provision S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£10,845.50
54 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerk’s Expenses to 20 January 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£ 65.00
55 Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for January 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	NJC Rates
56. Wrexham County Borough Council	SLA School Crossing Patrols – Quarter 3 Payments S137 Local Government Act 1972	£2,625.00

121 FRACK FREE WREXHAM

The Community Council considered a request from the Frack Free Wrexham Campaign Group to pass a motion declaring the Community of Acton “Frack Free” and to call on Wrexham County Borough Council and the Welsh Government to do likewise. Members referred to the risks, the uncertainty of known benefits and the negatives for this type of extraction to produce a cheap fuel. It was noted that whilst cheaper fuel was attractive, its extraction should not put others at risk. Reference was made to the historical Coal and Quarry workings in the Acton area, the existing infrastructure and highways provisions and how the after effects of fossil fuel extraction and the resulting network of spent honeycomb tunnelling was still impacting on the Acton Community.

It was suggested that any decision to support this request or otherwise should be based on evidence and the Council being fully informed on the Pro and Anti Fracking evidence and viewpoints. Members proposed that further research was required to identify the most appropriate way of obtaining and hearing the differing viewpoints from Academics and spokespersons from other areas already subject to Fracking or similar.

RESOLVED – that until the Council is able to be fully informed, the request and proposed motion submitted by Frack Free Wrexham be noted.

(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)

122 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
1. P/2014/0888 Old School Site The Groves Penymaes Avenue Wrexham	Application For Outline Planning Permission For Erection Of Sports Hall And Teaching Facilities And External Works Incorporating Parking Facilities – All detailed matter reserved.	No objections
2. P/2014/0915 3 Camberley Drive, Wrexham	Outline Application For The Erection Of Detached Dwelling On Land Adjacent To 3 Camberley Drive - All Detailed Matters Reserved For Further Approval	The Community Council objects to this application as the proposed development is not in keeping with other properties in the neighbourhood. The building of a bungalow without adequate outdoor garden space will result in an overdevelopment of this plot of land. The Council considers that the proposed vehicular access onto Park Avenue will create road safety and highways issues
3. P/2014/0942 4 Warrenwood Road Wrexham	Alterations To Roof Of Existing Covered Link	No objections
4. P/2014/0951 1 Westminster Close Wrexham	Proposed Rear Extension	No objections

5. P/2014/0955 49 Goulbourne Avenue Wrexham	Removal Of Condition 01 Of Planning Permission P/2013/0763 To Allow 1 No. Taxi To Be Operated From The Premises Permanently	No comments to make
6. P/2014/0962 Borras Park Veterinary Surgery Rowallan 2 Borras Park Road Wrexham	Variation Of Condition No. 2 Of Planning Permission P/2014/0297 To Extend The Opening Hours To 0830 To 1830 Hours Monday To Friday	No objections
7. P/2014/0963 Land Adjacent To 82 Jeffreys Road Wrexham	Erection Of Two-Storey Apartment Block Containing 4 No. Two Bedroom Apartments With Associated Access And On Site Parking	The Council notes that there is an expired Planning consent for a single dwelling on this plot. The Community Council objects to this current application for 4 two bedroomed apartments as it considers this is an overdevelopment of this small plot of land. The extra volume of traffic that will be generated from this site if this application is granted will have an adverse highways and road safety impact on the junction of Jeffreys Road and Ffordd Alun. The Council also has concerns about the Community Safety implications for Park users and all age groups if the current open space around the public footpath is enclosed. The Community Council also has concerns about the existing trees on the plot and if permission is granted would wish for and works/ protection for the trees to be carried out under the direct supervision of the Council's Arboricultural Officer.

(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)

(Councillor Barbara Smith being an adjoining neighbour to the former Groves School application site declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item. She remained in the meeting but took no part in the consideration, discussion or voting on this planning application)

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

Chair