

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 22 July 2014 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor	J Richards (Standing Chair)	Councillor	E Boylin
"	W Baldwin	"	Mrs A O'Neill
"	Miss J Dudley *	"	Mrs C O'Toole *
"	Mrs A Evans	"	T Pierce *
"	R Evans	"	Mrs O Simm *
"	R Hardy	"	Mrs B Smith
"	J A Kelly	"	A Whitfield *
"	G Lowe		1 vacancy

* Absent

Also Present:

PCSO Gina Subacchi, North Wales Police

Delyth Pridding, Commissioning & Planning Officer, Adult Social Care, Wrexham CBC

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

33 STANDING CHAIR

Councillor J Richards, as Standing Chair, presided over the meeting.

(Councillor J Richards in the Chair)

34 SYMPATHY

Members were saddened by the recent death, after a short illness, of the Community Council's Chairman Councillor Ron Davies and they stood in silence as a token of their sympathy.

35 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Community Council noted there were several items on the agenda for this meeting that will require authorisation by either the Chair or Chair and a Vice Chair.

Councillor Edmund Boylin who had been Chairman of the Community Council for the 2013/14 Municipal year indicated that he would be prepared to stand as Vice Chair for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

RESOLVED - to confirm the appointment of Councillor James Richards as Chair of the Council and Councillor Edmund Boylin as the Vice Chair of the Council for the remainder of the 2014/15 Municipal Year

36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss Joyce Dudley, Mrs C O'Toole, Tom Pierce, Mrs Olive Simm and Andrew Whitfield.

37 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor J A Kelly declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 15 - Planning Applications being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee.

38 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Community Council held on 17 June 2014 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

39 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

1. Minute 24.3 - Additional Grass Cuts at Acton Park during 2014/15: The Clerk reported that Mr Martin Howorth had advised on 17 July 2014 that Wrexham CBC was continuing to cut the grass at Acton Park, with the current standard in terms of height being similar to last year. Mr Howorth considered it was not necessary for the Community Council to provide funding to bring a Contractor in as the Park grass doesn't need any extra cuts.

RESOLVED - that the current position be noted and the Community Council keeps a watching brief on the grass cutting situation in Acton Park and takes no further action at this time and the Clerk be instructed to advise the Friends of Acton Park accordingly.

2. Minute 24.4 - Community Safety Camera: The Clerk reported on an update given by Paul Jarvis of DSW CCTV that they were in discussion to work in conjunction with Wrexham Councils Highway Department and Amey, the street lighting contractor. Authorisation to mount the camera on a column would be granted by Wrexham CBC and installation of the socket and cherry picker use would be undertaken by Amey. DSW CCTV has requested accurate standard fixed prices for the installation of a socket to a standard lamp post and use of the cherry picker for installation and removal of the camera so that accurate costings can be given for the relocation of the cameras. Short term rentals of CCTV cameras are from £365 + vat per month for a minimum of two months. The long term rental options in this instance will cost more than the purchase price. The minimum requirements for a complete operational system would consist of the Community Safety Base Camera Unit, Laptop control unit and post mount clamp. This costs £4885.00 + vat but local councils were being offered a 5% discount on orders this year which brings the cost down to £4640.75 + vat. It was noted that DSW will contact the Clerk to the Council with the prices from the highways contractor as soon as they are known.

RESOLVED - that the information to date be noted and the September 2014 meeting consider the highways and other running costs of providing a Community Safety Camera before making any firm decisions together with any CCTV Safety Policy the Community Council and Acton Policing Team will need to adopt before purchasing or installing any cameras.

3. Minute 24.5 – Annual Accounts 2013/14: It was noted that following the recent death of Councillor Ron Davies, the Chair of the Community Council, it was now necessary for the Community Council to authorise Councillor James Richards as the Standing Chair of the Community Council to date and sign Section 3 of the Annual Return on behalf of the Community Council so that UHY Hacker Young can complete the Audit and issue a Notice of Conclusion of the Audit.

RESOLVED – that Councillor James Richards as Standing Chair of the Community Council be authorised to date and sign Section 3 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2014 on behalf of the Community Council.

4. JUNIOR PLAY AREA AT ACTON PARK: Further to Minute 10 May 2014, a response from Mr Martin Howorth, Parks, Countryside and Rights of Way Manager, Wrexham County Borough Council was received and noted. The Community Council would continue to monitor the situation.

5. DOG FOULING WORKING GROUP: The Notes from the first meeting of the Group held on 8 July 2014 were tabled at the meeting. Members referred to the importance of liaison with the Police, Enforcement Officers, health and local Citizens. The progress to date was noted.

40. PILOT COMMUNITY AGENT - ITEM DEFERRED FROM JUNE 2014

Further to Minute 27 June 2014, Delyth Pridding, Commissioning & Planning Officer, Adult Social Care, Wrexham County Borough Council was again in attendance at the meeting to explain about funding made available through the Welsh Government Intermediate Care Fund to support the pilot of a Community Agent scheme within four areas of Wrexham County Borough. The one year scheme will support older people to remain active and engaged within their communities. The Council's view on becoming involved with the Pilot, recruitment and managing the Community Agent for Acton had been sought. The details submitted with the original request had been recirculated with the agenda. It was noted that Caia Park

and Glyn Ceiriog Community Council's had agreed to be involved with the Pilot and arrangements were now being made for adverts to be displayed in suitable locations and for their Community Agent post to be filled. Rhos Community Council had also requested further information and was expected to take part in the Pilot. Members sought clarification on the following matters:-

- The cost to the Community Council of participating in the Pilot – It was noted that there was funding in place for the Community Agent's salary, basic equipment such as a mobile phone and other sundry items. Support would also be given by Delyth Pridding. The main resource implication to the Community Council would be in terms of time input of the Clerk and Councillors. Local Members were being perceived as being facilitators for the Pilot Scheme.
- The Badging of the Community Agent to ensure older people are not placed at risk. It was noted that the scheme would operate through a referrals process from GPs, Social Care and self-referral in some cases. There would be no cold calling.
- The duration of the Pilot should be at least twelve months and was there was any possibility of the scheme continuing into subsequent years? Members had concerns that resident's expectations could be raised if the Pilot Scheme is successful. Examples of continuing successful Pilot schemes were requested. It was noted that the Community Agent post would be funded for 16 hours per week for up to twelve months. An assessment of outcomes would be undertaken as part of the Pilot Scheme.
- The basis of the scheme was not new and local churches and Wrexham Together were already being good neighbours to older persons living independently in the Community. However not everyone will wish to access the services provided through the Churches.

It was noted that two Community Council representatives would be required to take part in the Interview process for the Community Agent post if the Council decides to take part in the Pilot Scheme.

RESOLVED – that:

- 1. The Community Council agrees in principle to take part in the Pilot Community Agent Scheme; and**
- 2. The Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair be given delegated authority to consider any further information received during the August recess and progress the Scheme with a view to appointing a Community Agent as soon as practicable.**

41. KEY ACTON ISSUES

WCBC Members advised on the following matters that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton. (Minute 107 January 2011 refers)

1. **Dog Fouling – Enforcement:** The possibility of this issue becoming one of the Community Council's Policing priorities had been referred to at a recent meeting with County Borough Councillors and the Police. However the existing three priorities would continue for the next three months. The current position was noted.
2. **Weed Controls/ Gully emptying:** Reference was made to the general untidy appearance of the whole Acton Community area and the danger of it becoming even worse with the area degenerating due to the reduced levels of Gully emptying and grass cutting, together with the amount of litter lying around and the proliferation of weeds in particular. It was felt that the situation was much worse than it ever had been before due to Environmental budget cutbacks, a reduction in the workforce and the strength of systematic weed killer available and the number of weeds being allowed to grow to maturity resulting in a very unkempt appearance.

RESOLVED – that the Chief Environmental Services Officer be requested to attend an early meeting of the Community Council to advise how the Community Council's concerns that have raised above will be addressed.

42. COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair welcomed PCSO Gina Subacchi who was attending the meeting on behalf of North Wales Police. The monthly report tabled at the meeting provided breakdowns of relevant Crime and Incident statistics

and the current live operations involving the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the five Acton wards. PCSO Subacchi reported on ongoing work in respect of the prevention and investigation of Theft of Hanging Baskets and Garden ornaments in the area. The high level of Maesydre Crime statistics reflected shoplifting and other crime at the ASDA Store that was situated in that ward. Members were concerned that the Policing Team should be involved in the prevention of Crime and not become involved in the internal security and protection within the Premises.

There being no further issues that members wished to raise, the Chair thanked PCSO Subacchi for her report and attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED The Clerk write to ASDA Head Office in Leeds expressing concerns about the level and effectiveness of the internal security in the Wrexham Store and the resource impact on the Acton Community policing team.

43. ITEMS PLACED ON THE AGENDA AT THE REQUEST OF MEMBERS

Members considered the following matters that had been included on the agenda at the request of the following members:

- 1. Environmental Action Day held in Maesydre area on Wednesday 14th May 2014 - contribution towards the cost of one skip:** Further to Minute 147 February 2013, Councillor Carole O Toole had requested in her absence that the Council consider making a contribution this year to the Environmental Action Day held in Maesydre as the match funding agreed for 2013/14 was not used. A copy of the invoice for the cost of the 2014 Action Day had been sent to the Clerk and a 50% contribution by the Community Council would be £225.43 (inc VAT). It was suggested that this contribution could be covered by the Community Council from the £1,000 Community Facilities budget.

RESOLVED To agree to provide match funding for the Environment Action Day in Maesydre in May 2014 and to make a contributions of £225.43 (inc vat) following receipt of an invoice in this amount

- 2. Access for the Disabled and Elderly at Acton Community Resource Centre:** This item was deferred until the next meeting as Councillor Joyce Dudley who wished to speak to this item was absent from the meeting.

44. CONSULTATIONS:

- 1. Reforming Local Government White Paper:** A Consultation Document was issued by the Welsh Government on 9 July 2014 responding to the Local Government aspects of the report of the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery. The White Paper sought views on whether the vision is the right one, and suggestions on how it could be further developed. Full details of this Consultation Document were available on the Welsh Government website and responses should be submitted by 1 October 2014.

RESOLVED - that any responses or comments that Members wish to make on this document be sent to the Clerk as soon as possible for collation into a response from the Community Council.

- 2. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 78 Appeal at: Part of Field West of Commonwood Farm and South of Borrass Road, Commonwood, Holt, Wrexham:** Details of this Appeal made to the Welsh Ministers in respect of the above mentioned site were received. As an interested party/neighbouring occupier, the Community Council could representations to the Planning Inspectorate on the “Comments on Case” Form within six weeks of the 1 July 2014 start date. The Community Council had previously invited representatives from DART energy to give a presentation about this application to its November 2013 meeting. This particular Planning Application had previously been noted by the Community Council. The Appeal was noted.

45. AUGUST RECESS ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED - that the Clerk to the Council in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Council be authorised to deal with any urgent issues that arise during the August recess.

46. 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
Margaret Griffiths Acting Public Services Ombudsman for Wales	Annual Report 2013/14: Letter dated 19 June 2014 enclosing a copy of the Annual report laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 18 June 2014. The letter also confirms that royal approval for Mr Nick Bennett's appointment as the new Public Services Ombudsman has been received. He will be taking up his appointment in August 2014. Information noted
John Savage, Chief Executive, Nightingale House Hospice	Annual Report for 2013: together with an undated letter advising that a reception will be held at the Hospice on Monday 1 September 2014 at 6pm where there will be an opportunity to hear plans for the 20 th anniversary and future development of the Hospice to ensure delivery of the best care possible to the Community. The Community Council has been invited to send a representative to the reception and a response has been requested as soon as possible. RESOLVED – that Councillor Miss Joyce Dudley be asked if she would like to attend this event on 1 September 2014 with her companion, and the Clerk advise the Hospice accordingly.
Bill, Policy &Project Team Local Government Department Welsh Government	Code of Practice on Workforce matters: Email dated 26 June 2014 enclosing a letter from the Minister for Local Government and Government Business regarding the Welsh Government issuing a revised Code of Practice on Workforce Matters, commonly known as the Two -Tier Code. The Code of Practice applies to Community Councils. The revised Code can be accessed on this Welsh Government website link Information noted

47. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members noted details of payments that had been received since the last meeting, together with the first quarter end bank reconciliation to 30 June 2014 and considered the payments now required for authorisation.

1. INTEREST PAYMENTS

HSBC Deposit account - Interest:	£ 20.01
HSBC Money market Call Account – interest	£ 31.13

2. 1st QUARTER END BANK RECONCILIATION:

HSBC Current Account	£ 9,583.51
HSBC Deposit Account	£ 101,977.22
HSBC Moneymarket Account	£ 32,081.12
[Chairman's Charity Account]	£ 531.21
Balance as at 30 June 2014	£ 143,641.85

(less 4 unpresented cheques amounting to £1,571.24 as at 30 June 2014 = net balance of £142,070.61)

Resolved – that the following payments be approved: -

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
17 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerk Expenses to 21 July 2014 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£ 103.78
18 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

48. 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).

RESOLVED: that the following observations be made on the applications below:-

Application No & Address	Details	Observations
* P/2014/0446: 156 Borrass Road Wrexham	First Floor Rear Extension And Works To Existing Garage To Include Reducing Height Of Roof.	No Observations
* P/2014/0449: 32 Richmond Road, Wrexham	Bay Window Extension	No Observations
* P/2014/0460: 4 Ffordd Tudno, Wrexham	Raising Height Of Roof To Provide Two Additional Bedrooms Together With Internal And External Alterations	No Observations
* P/2014/0468: 66 Rhosnesni Lane, Rhosnesni, Wrexham	Single-Storey Rear Extension	No Observations
* P/2014/0486: Roundabout Near Asda Bodhyfryd Wrexham	Display Of Sponsorship Signs (Renewal Of Planning Permissions P/2004/0628 & P/2010/0653)	No Observations

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

49. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following item 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.

50. CLERK TO THE COUNCIL – TRAINING:

The Chair reported on the terms of the Clerk's Contract of Employment in relation to Professional training and the time input for travel, attendance and reporting in respect of the following Conferences:

1. Joint SLCC/ One Voice Wales Conference at Llandudno on 15 May, 2014
2. Welsh Regional Conference of SLCC at Cwmbran on 4 June 2014

RESOLVED – To approve the payment of additional working hours as now referred to for approved training and development undertaken by the Clerk in accordance with her Contract of Employment.

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

Chair