

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 17 March 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:

PC Kerry Evans & PCSO Siwan Huws, North Wales Police
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

138 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Roberts and Mrs O Simm.

139 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Anne Evans declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 11 - Planning Applications being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee.
Councillors W Baldwin, R Hardy and T Pierce declared personal interests in respect of Agenda Item 8 – Financial assistance being Members of the Borrass Park Albion Football Club.

140 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 17 February 2015 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

141 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

- 1 Minute 126.1 - Training from Planning Aid Wales:** It was noted that this training session will take place on 18 March 2015 at 6:30pm in the Training Room of the Acton Community Resource Centre. Councillor Carole O'Toole indicated that she was also intending to participate in the Training Session.
- 2 Minute 130.2 – Appointment of Internal Auditor:** The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor has advised that the Audit for 2014/15 will take place during the week 16 to 23 April 2015.
- 3 Minute 136 .5– Minutes of the Youth Committee:** The Clerk reported that the revisions to the Service Level Agreement had now been circulated via email and the comments received were reported orally at the meeting. It was noted that the mode of operation is a pilot project subject to review by the Youth Committee after 9 months with an option to revert to four nights project provision or cease the service altogether (or otherwise) for the following year.

RESOLVED – that subject to chair of the Youth Committee endorsing the Revised Service Level Agreement, the Clerk arrange for the revised Service Level Agreement to be signed off on behalf of the Community Council by the Chair and Clerk to the Council.

142 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. It was noted that violent crime recorded at the Police Station was reflected in the Acton Community Crime statistics. In respect of the query by a member at the last meeting of persons arrested for crimes in the Garden Village area the Police were unable to disclose as this would breach information. The PCSOs again 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.

A new Policing Operation was targeting Council Owned garages in the Acton Area. All tenants in the Acton area were to be contacted by the Acton policing team and provided with advice on locks and general security, a copy of the Shed security leaflet was also to be circulated to the tenants.

Further to Minute 127.3 February 2015, the Police officers indicated that they had been trying to make contact with the Organisers of the outdoor gym activities/boot camp around Acton Park. The Clerk also indicated that she had not yet been able to identify the Organisers. It was noted that Officers from Wrexham County Borough Council were also going to contact the Organisers as there were issues around running a business from Acton Park. The Police officers undertook to find out the Organiser's contact details and advise the Clerk accordingly.

Concerns about recent incidents at and around the vicinity of the Acton Community Resource Centre were raised. The Police officers indicated the action they were planning to take to help alleviate the situation. Members noted that security and supervision within the Resource Centre was a matter for the Centre's Management Committee to resolve and again stressed the importance of having permanent staffing in place at the Centre to meet the obligations set out in the Community Council's Service Level Agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council. The Community Council has shown a very substantial long term financial commitment to the Acton Community Resource Centre and expected this arrangement to be a partnership. However despite the Community Council's best efforts the staffing situation appears to be stymied.

- 2. Policing Objectives** –It was noted that the meeting with North Wales Police and Acton Community Councillors scheduled for 16 March 2015 was to be rearranged. Members were advised of progress against the three existing Policing Priorities of Burglary other than a Dwelling (BOTD); Speeding and Cold Calling.
- 3. 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
- 4. Powers of PCSOs – Schedule 10 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:** Further to Minute 114.2 January 2015, PC Evans tabled a report setting out the powers of PCSO as a result of further anti-social behaviour legislation. It was anticipated that the Anti-Social Behaviour powers would assist with the Acton Policing Team's objectives particularly in respect of Cold Calling. A copy of simple explanations of the new powers found from various websites was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED- that

- 1. the Police Officers be thanked for their attendance and reports at the meeting;**
- 2. the Clerk write on the Community Council's behalf to the Chief Executive of Wrexham County Borough Council expressing the Community Council's concerns about recent incidents within the Resource Centre and its dismay at the continued absence of a permanent staffing presence at the Acton Community Resource Centre despite the ten year Service Level Agreement having been in place for over two years and despite several previous assurances by Wrexham County Borough Council Officers, the recruitment process has still not been completed.**

143 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 the Waterworld Leisure facilities. A report was due shortly on the provision and funding of Post 16 Transport. There were several Consultations currently taking place including the new Local Development Plan, details were available on the Wrexham Gov UK website.

The present position was noted.

144 CONSULTATIONS

Members considered details about the following Consultations:-

- 1. Wrexham County Borough Council – What’s important to you?** This online survey had closed on Friday 20 February 2015. A report on attendance by Councillors Len Closs and Sue Stanford at an event for Community Councillors held on 24 February 2015 at the Guildhall was received. It was noted the main thrust of the event had been to welcome ideas about the reconfiguration of services and how to be cost effective without diminishing the Service provided.

RESOLVED – that Councillors Len Closs and Sue Stanford be thanked for their attendance and their report be received and noted

- 2. Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People:** Councillor Ralph Hardy reported on the discussion held at the Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum meeting on 12 March 2015. The Clerk had circulated a copy of a power-point presentation on the White Paper given at the Forum Meeting. The Chair encouraged Members to read the Consultation documents before the April 2015 Community Council meeting as the closing date for responses is 28 April 2015.

RESOLVED – to defer consideration of the White Paper until the next meeting to enable the Community Council to formulate any comments in response to the White Paper by the Consultation deadline of 28 April 2015.

- 3. Wrexham Local Development Plan:** The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Wrexham County Borough Council inviting views by Friday 10 April 2015 on its Consultation paper “Vision, Objectives, Strategic Growth and Spatial options”. It was noted that the Clerk had circulated a copy of a power-point presentation on Wrexham Local Development Plan circulated at the Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum Meeting on 12 March 2015. Members also noted that Planning Aid Wales will be providing a Bespoke Training Workshop on the Local development Plan on 18 March 2015.

During the debate, reference was made to the importance of having adequate infrastructure in place to ensure the impact on the Acton Community of any new proposals within the Plan will be minimal; particularly in respect of provision of facilities to ensure adequate GPs, Hospital and School capacity. It was important to ensure within the Wrexham Industrial landscape there is provision for long term well paid jobs for residents, especially Young People. However this should be balanced in the Public Interest through the retention of open green spaces and other general amenities to ensure a pleasant local environment for residents.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk submits the Council’s response taking into account the comments made above by the Council and any other matters that may arise from the Planning Training session on 18 March 2015.

- 4. Flintshire Local Development Plan – Candidate Sites Register and General update:** Consideration was given to a letter received dated 27 February 2015 from Flintshire County Council advising of a delay in publication of the Register of Candidate Sites owing to the high number of Candidate sites submitted. A six week consultation exercise as part of the process for preparing the Flintshire Local Development Plan commenced on 9 March 2015 and ends on 10 April 2015. The letter was noted.

145 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk submitted a report detailing five applications for financial assistance received since the December 2014 meeting. The Council’s Policy was to apportion its annual £3,000 budget equally between each of the

quarterly meetings. A further sum of £285 from within the 2013/14 Financial Assistance budget has been carried forward for allocation into the 2014/15 financial year. This equates to £821.25 per quarter for 2014/15. It was noted that to date grants totalling £ 1,235.00 had been made during 2014/15. A sum of £2,050 remained in the budget. Members then proceeded to consider the applications and whether the Council wished to make any grant to the applicants under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED – that the following Financial Assistance grants be made and having regard to the anticipated future demands on this budget, the remaining £1,500 be carried forward in to the 2015/16 financial year:-

Organisation	Details	Decision
1. Urdd National Eisteddfod	Financial assistance to support the costs of staging the 2015 Urdd National Eisteddfod to be held in Caerphilly.	£50.00
2. Borrass Park Albion YFC	Financial assistance towards the costs of children from single parent families taking part in 35 th exchange of football and friendship with TUS Plettenburg, Germany	£250.00
3. Wrexham Allotment and Leisure gardeners Association	Request for £50 donation to sponsor a group of classes at the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show	£50.00
4. Family Friends for 5's to 11's	Assistance to continue to support disadvantaged Wrexham Families suffering from stress by providing emotional and practical support through trained volunteers	£100.00
5. Home Start County Borough of Wrexham	Assistance towards supporting new and existing vulnerable young families and their volunteers living in the Acton area of the County.	£100.00

(Councillors Bill Baldwin, Ralph Hardy and Tom Pierce being members of the Borrass Park Albion YFC Committee declared personal interests in this item. They remained in the meeting but took no part in the voting of this application.)

146 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. Aled Davies Head of Regulatory Department, Gwynedd County Council	North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan: Email dated 19 February 2015 advising that following Consultation on the draft Plan, the six local authorities have now submitted their plan to the Minister for Economy Science and Transport in line with the Welsh Government guidance. The Plan can be viewed online by clicking here Information noted
2. Margaret Wilkinson Head of the Planning for Real Unit (part of the Accord Housing Group.)	Wrexham County Borough Council: Town Centre Master Plan Workshop: An email dated 25 February 2015 inviting the Council to send representatives to a Workshop on 11 March 2015 at Coleg Cambria Grove Park Campus had been circulated electronically to canvass Members' interest. Councillors Len Closs and Sue Stanford had attended the Workshop and reported back to the Council. Information noted
3. Pensions Regulator	Workplace Pensions – Notice of 1 July 2016 Staging date: Letter dated February 2015 advising that every employer with at least one member of staff must automatically enrol those eligible into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it. The staging date for Acton Community Council is 1 July 2016. The Council must nominate a contact to receive a series of communications about the new legal duties by 31 March 2015. RESOLVED that the Clerk to the Council be nominated as the Councils contact and regular updates be provided as information is received.

4. Play Wales	Spring 2015 Newsletter – Play for Wales: The latest play news and briefing from the national charity for play will be available at the meeting for members' perusal Information noted
5. Wendi Huggett Training Officer, One Voice Wales	Training for Community Councils during March 2015: Email dated 4 March 2015 advising of two training sessions for "Understanding the Law" and "Introduction to Community engagement" being held in Mold on 19 March and Bangor on Dee on 24 March 2015. RESOLVED – that the information be noted and any Members that are available to attend contact the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

147 ACCOUNTS 2014/15

Members noted no payments had been made to the Council since the last meeting and received details of payments that required authorisation and other that were ant.

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved: -

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
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
61 Vision ICT	Webhosting & Backup support for May 2015 to April 2016 S55 Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013	£300.00 (VAT £50.00)
62 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerk's Expenses for February 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£176.00
63. Urdd National Eisteddfod	Financial assistance to support the costs of staging the 2015 Urdd National Eisteddfod to be held in Caerphilly. Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£50.00
64. Borrass Park Albion YFC	Financial assistance for costs of children from single parent families taking part in 35 th exchange of football and friendship with TUS Plettenburg, Germany Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£250.00
65. Wrexham Allotment and Leisure gardeners Association	Request for £50 donation to sponsor a group of classes at the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£50.00
66. Family Friends for 5's to 11's	Assistance to continue to support disadvantaged Wrexham Families suffering from stress by providing emotional & practical support through trained volunteers Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£100.00
67. Home Start County Borough of Wrexham	Assistance towards supporting new and existing vulnerable young families and their volunteers living in the Acton area of the County. Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£100.00
68. Planning Aid Wales	Bespoke Training Workshop on the Local development Plan held on 18 March 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£400.00
69 Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for March 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
70 Wrexham County Borough Council	School Crossing Patrols Q4 payments for Acton Park School; and Dean Road Roundabout. Payment for January 2015 only for Borrass Park Infants & Junior Schools. S137 Local Government Act 1972	£1,970.00

148 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/2015/0075 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)

149 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.

150 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Chair referred to the Clerk's attendance at the Society of Local Council Clerks' Practitioners Conference held at Stratford upon Avon on 5 & 6 March 2016 and the additional training hours accrued. The Clerk gave a verbal report on the workshops and training sessions she had attended together with the preparatory work undertaken at the Conference for implementation of the Alpha Financial Management Software with effect from the 2015/16 Financial Year to mitigate risk as identified in her Annual Appraisal in January 2015.

RESOLVED –that Clerk's report be noted and the additional hours now referred to be paid to the Clerk in accordance with her contract of employment.

Signed as a correct record this 21st day of April 2014

Chairman