

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 21 April 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 Dara Taylor, North Wales Police
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

151 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Evans, Geoff Lowe, Tom Pierce, Olive Simm and Barbara Smith.

The Clerk reported that under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act') if a member of a local Authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months, from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority or as a representative of the authority on an Outside Body, s/he shall unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority. The Council noted that Councillor Olive Simm, Borrass Park ward, has recently had a long stay in hospital and is recuperating at home whilst waiting for further treatment. As a result she has not attended a Council meeting, since 21 October 2014.

RESOLVED - to approve Councillor Olive Simm's recent hospital admission, recuperation and pending treatment as a valid reason for her continued absence from Community Council meetings.

152 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at this stage of the proceedings.

153 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

154 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

- Minute 142.1 – Parking Gym/ Boot Camp around Acton Park:** It was noted the Council's concerns and request for more considerate parking by attendees had now been sent to the organiser via email.
- Minute 142.2 – Staffing and Security issues at Acton Community Resource Centre:** The Chief Executive of Wrexham County Borough Council was now looking into this issue and will respond in more detail in due course. The present position was noted.
- Minute 144.3 – Wrexham Local Development Plan:** It was noted that the Council's response had been submitted before the Consultation deadline.
- Minute 146.3 – Workplace Pensions – Nominated Contact:** It was noted that the Council had responded before 31 March 2015 deadline.

155 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair welcomed PCSO Siwan Huws and Dara Taylor 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 and in particular the method of collecting and recording crimes such as violence with injury and common assault. The PCSOs reported on progress of the Policing Operation targeting Council Owned garages in the Acton Area.

Reference was made to recent Police notices placed at the entrance to the Fairways estate from Bryn Estyn Lane regarding recent fires/ arson and queried whether the request for information related to recent incidents in the Caia Park area. The Officers indicated they would investigate and report back to the next meeting.

2. **Policing Objectives** – An update on the re-arranged date for this quarterly meeting with North Wales Police and Acton Community Councillors will be provided at the next meeting.
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

RESOLVED- that the Police Officers be thanked for their attendance and reports at the meeting.

156 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 including the budget cuts had been referred to a previous meetings

The present position was noted.

157 CONSULTATION - REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE

Further to Minute 144.2, March 2015 consideration was given to formulating the Community Council's response to this White Paper as the Consultation deadline is 28 April 2015. It was noted that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation given at the Town and Community Council Forum on 12 March 2015 has been circulated to members together with an electronic copy of the consultation documents and response questionnaire. The Chair encouraged all members of the Council to submit individual responses to the Consultation. It was recognised that there was not an overall consensus as the document was vast with many elements and options. The Council focussed its consideration on the implications and importance of any options being achievable and workable for Town and Community Councils. During the debate the following comments were made:-

1. Any mergers of Town and Community Councils and formation of Area Boards should not be based on size and population alone but have regard to the urban or rural aspects and natural community links of the area(s) under consideration to ensure community cohesion and true representation;
2. The performance and key measures proposed will have implications for the level of staffing required to monitor and collate information and undertake the day to day administration of a larger Council. Presently many smaller community councils have a part time clerk and no other administrative support;
3. The workload of Town and Community Councillors for larger merged Councils will be such that the "voluntary and unpaid" aspect of their Councillors' service will not be possible and will change the nature of Community Councils. Acton Community Council believes that this is currently one of its strengths and

enables strong local connections. Acton Community Council would wish this volunteering aspect to continue and not to lose local autonomy;

4. There is merit in County Borough Council Members being Community Councillors in their area as their breadth of experience and understanding of wider issues proves invaluable to the Council;
5. Acton Community Council has five wards and works for the benefit of the whole Community rather than on an individual ward basis and considers this approach to be exemplary; and
6. The £200,000 minimum precept requirement is high, whilst the merger of town Community Councils is feasible, the size of area to be created in rural areas may result in the loss of the very "local" nature that is trying to be achieved.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council, submit a response by the Consultation deadline of 28 April 2015 taking into account the comments made above by the Council and copies of the response be circulated for information to the Society for Local Council Clerks and to Mr Reg Herbert.

158 CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF PAYROLL SERVICE FOR 2015/16

Members were advised that the Service Level Agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council to providing the Community Council's Payroll Service during 2015/16 was now due. A review of existing providers of this service had been undertaken by Wrexham County Borough Council and the cost of the 2015/16 Payroll Service had been reduced.

RESOLVED - To approve the renewal of the existing Agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council and the Chair and Clerk to the Council be authorised to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Council.

159 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014/15

The Clerk submitted a detailed report prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, issued under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 containing:

- the annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015;
- a supporting statement highlighting significant variances;
- A Governance/ Risk assessment report for 2015.

Members were reminded that the Accounts and Audit Regulations and Capital Finance and Accounting Regulations in Wales had introduced key changes for Community and Town Councils in respect of accounts completion requirements from 2011/12 with the certification and approval process for the annual returns/accounts being earlier.

It was noted that the Accounts books and records for 2014/15 Financial year would now be submitted to the Internal Auditor on 30 April 2015. The Internal Auditor's report would be submitted to the next meeting. In respect of the External Audit, the External Auditor appointed by the Welsh Assembly Government (UHY Hacker Young) has given notice that they will undertake the Annual Return and Basic Audit on 31 May 2015. The relevant statutory notices were now on public display and available on the Council's website.

Members noted details of the variance and underspend on the 2014/15 Budgets for General Administration, Elections, Community Centres Capital, Revenue and operational funding, the Seasonal Ranger at Acton Park, repairs provision for the Maesydre Power House, new spending in respect of the Community Facilities for Play provision and School Crossing Patrols. It was noted in particular that as no invoices had been received during 2014/15, there was an underspend of up to £37,250 for the budgeted revenue payments for the Acton Community Resource Centre Service Level Agreement and for contributions to the operational cost of the Little Acton Community Centre. In addition the final capital payment for the refurbishment of the Acton Community Resource Centre had been made in 2013/14 inflating that year's spending. Members referred to Paragraph 20.6 of Appendix 3 to the report not reflecting the measurement of the Clerk's Performance through an Annual Appraisal and indicated that reference should be included to this performance measure that is reported to the Council

RESOLVED –

- i) *To approve the Statement of Accounts for the Year ended 31 March 2015 together with the Supporting Statement and the Annual Risk Assessment required under the Audit and Accounts Regulations and the Chair and Clerk be authorised to sign off the Statement of Accounts for submission to the Internal Auditor;*
- ii) *That subject to the substitution of the following wording in Paragraph 20.6, consideration of the report as contained in Appendix 3 be accepted as the formal Risk Assessment for 2015:*
“20.6: The Council has no formal external Performance Measurement requirements but does measure its Clerk’s performance each year through an appraisal by the Chair and Vice Chair that is considered by the full Council.”
- iii) *That in relation to the key risks, these be identified as relating to the Community Council’s assets, bank accounts, internal financial controls and insurance cover for statutory and other purposes;*
- iv) *That to minimise risk, a review and refresh of the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be carried out as soon as practicable; and*
- v) *That the arrangements highlighted in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 and paragraphs 19.1 to 19.14 in Appendix 3 be accepted as having taken all the appropriate steps to minimise risks in conjunction with the documented Internal Financial Controls.*

160 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.Chief Executive Kidney Wales Foundation	WALK FOR LIFE – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2015: Information letter about this national event aimed at raising awareness and supporting kidney disease and renal failure was available for Members’ perusal at the meeting. <i>Information noted</i>
2.Civic Support Officer, Wrexham CBC	ANNUAL MEETING OF WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL: Letter dated 19 March 2015 inviting a Community Council representative to attend the Annual Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 19 May 2015 at 5:30pm at the Guildhall, Wrexham. The invitation was noted as five members of the Community Council would already be attending in their capacity as County Borough Councillors. Reference was also made to Minute 130.1 February 2015 and the proposal to mark and recognise the twenty nine year Service given by former Councillor Joyce Dudley to the Acton Community. The Council also wished to recognise the thirty year Service given by Councillor Olive Simm. RESOLVED – that 1.the Clerk make arrangements for a short reception before the Community Council’s Annual meeting on 19 May 2015 to mark and recognise the public service given to Acton Community Council and the Community by Joyce Dudley and Councillor Olive Simm; and 2. Approval be given for a cheque in the sum of £150 to be drawn from the Chairman’s Charity account for presentation in Joyce Dudley’s name to the Guide Dogs for the Blind and Councillor Olive Simm be requested to nominate a Charity that she wished to receive a further £150 donation in her name to recognise her thirty years’ service to Acton Community Council.
3.Wrexham Civic Society	In Focus Newsletter Issue 40 Spring 2015: A copy of this document was noted.

4. Local Government Democracy, Diversity and Remuneration Team, Welsh Government	<p>1. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BYELAWS (WALES) ACT 2012 – COMING INTO FORCE: Email dated 26 March 2015 advising that the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 will be fully commenced on 31 March 2015. Further information will be provided shortly. <i>Information noted</i></p> <p>2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEMOCRACY) (WALES) ACT 2013 (COMMENCEMENT NO. 2) ORDER 2015: Email dated 10 April 2015 advising that the 2013 Act, had introduced various provisions connected with local government. The Order commences sections 55-58, 68 and 69 of the 2013 Act with effect from 1 May 2015. This included requirements for :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and Town Councils to publish Information electronically (in addition to existing publication requirements). Statutory guidance is available on http://gov.wales/?skip=1&lang=en • Registers of Members’ Interests: Amendments/ revisions will be made to the Model Code of Conduct to clarify interpretation of the 2013 Act provisions • Joint Standards Committees: Section 68 of the 2013 Act amends the duty on a relevant authority in section 53 of the 2000 Act to establish a Standards Committee, so that two or more authorities may establish a joint standards committee • Referral of Misconduct Cases / Dispensation Applications: Sections 73 and 81 of the 2000 Act provide powers for the Welsh Ministers to make regulations for matters relating to an alleged breach of the Code of and circumstances in which standards committees may grant a dispensation to a member with a prejudicial interest. <p><i>Information noted</i></p>
5. Groundwork North Wales	GROUNDWORK NORTH WALES NEWS APRIL 2015: An Email dated 9 April 2015 enclosing Groundwork North Wales latest offers and events was noted.
6. Aileen Walters The Co-operative Group	WREXHAM MATTERS - NEW NEWSLETTER FOR WREXHAM TOWN CENTRE: Email dated 9 April 2015 providing a link to this newsletter was noted
7. One Voice Wales	ONE VOICE WALES LARGER COUNCILS CONFERENCE 8TH JULY 2015: An Email dated 13 April 2015 about this event to be held at the Royal Welsh Showground at a cost of £55.00 for non OVW members was noted.
8. Society of Local Council Clerks	SLCC AND OVW JOINT CONFERENCE: Email dated 13 April 2014 advising of this Conference that will focus on ‘Community Governance - The Future’ and be held at Llandrindod Wells on Thursday 14 May 2015. The cost is £69.00 plus VAT. It was noted that the Clerk was required to collect the Internal Audit papers and report on this date and would be unable to attend. <i>Information noted</i>

161 ACCOUNTS 2015/16

Members noted that the following payments had been received:

1. £25.19 Interest – HSBC Business Money Manager (Deposit) account – 6 March 2015
2. £41,666.67 1st Precept Payment 2015/16 – Wrexham CBC – 1 April 2015

Members also received details of payments that required authorisation. It was also noted that invoices requesting payments from 2014/15 for the Acton Community Resource Centre Service Level Agreement payments and the Operational costs for 2014/15 for the Little Acton Community Centre were still awaited.

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved: -

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
1 Wrexham County Borough Council	NDR Demand for Maesydre Power House for the period 1/4/15 to 31/3/16 – Note demand for RV of 1475 = £710.95 but as RV is below Minimum Value no payment is required S124(1)(b) Local Government Act 1972	£0.00

2 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerk's expenses for April 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£ 74.73
3. Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for April 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

162 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 78 APPEAL AT 3 CAMBERLEY DRIVE, WREXHAM; PLANNING REFERENCE: P/2014/0915; - OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF DETACHED DWELLING ON LAND ADJACENT TO 3 CAMBERLEY DRIVE; ALL DETAILED MATTERS RESERVED FOR FURTHER APPROVAL

Further to Minute 122 January 2015, the Clerk reported that an appeal has been made to the Welsh Ministers in respect of this Planning Application that was refused by Wrexham County Borough Council on 30 January 2015. The appeal will be decided on the basis of written representations received by 30 April 2015.

The Community Council was reminded that it had objected to this planning application as the proposed development is not in keeping with other properties in the neighbourhood. The Council felt that the building of a bungalow without adequate outdoor garden space will result in an overdevelopment of this plot of land. The Council also considered that the proposed vehicular access onto Park Avenue will create road safety and highways issues.

RESOLVED – to reaffirm the Council's objection and the comments it has previously submitted in respect of this planning application

163 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following Planning Applications for development in the Community Council's area received since the last meeting 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 set out below:-

<i>Case Number/ Address & Proposed Development</i>	<i>Decision</i>
1. P/2015/0217 Land adjacent to 82 Jeffreys Road, Wrexham - Erection of Two Storey Apartment Block Containing 2 No One bedroom and 2 No Two Bedroom apartments with associated access and on Site parking	The Council objects to this application for the following reasons: 1. The proposed building is an overdevelopment of a green open space and will impact on the visual amenity of the neighbourhood and an entrance into Acton Park; 2. The proposal to enclose the existing public footpath with a 1.8m high fence will have Community Safety implications for Park users of all age groups as there is currently open space adjoining the public footpath; 3. The extra volume of traffic that will be generated from the completed development will have an adverse highways and road safety impact on the junction of Jeffreys Road and Ffordd Alun; 4. The Council considers the existing Stone Boundary wall is of visual amenity to the Streetscene and should be retained at its present height; 5. The footprint of the proposed building is very close to the existing root spread of the large sycamore tree to the front of the plot. If permission is granted, new tree planting and any works and protection for the existing trees should be carried out under the direct supervision of the Council's Arboricultural Officer.

Case Number/ Address & Proposed Development	Decision
2. P/2015/0218 Co-op Store 34 Borrass Park Road Wrexham Installation Of Replacement Refrigeration Plant And Ac, Acoustic Screen, New Warehouse Doors And Some Windows And Redecorations	No objections
3. P/2015/0239 57 Frances Avenue Wrexham Two-Storey Extension	No objections

Signed as a correct record this 19th day of May 2015

Chairman