

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 21 July 2015 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor	L Closs (Chair)	Councillor	W Baldwin (Vice Chair)
"	E Boylin *	"	T Pierce
	Mrs A Evans		J Richards
"	R Hardy	"	K Roberts
"	J A Kelly	"	Mrs O Simm *
	G Lowe	"	Mrs B Smith
"	Mrs A O'Neill	"	Mrs S Stanford
"	Mrs C O'Toole *	"	1 vacancy

* Absent

Also Present:

PC Kerry Evans, North Wales Police
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Boylin, Mrs C O'Toole, and Mrs O Simm.

29 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made at this stage of the proceedings

30 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Clerk referred to Minute 21.3 Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum, 11 June 2015 and advised that after the words "Councillor Olive Simm had", the word "not" had been omitted.

RESOLVED – that the subject to the inclusion of the omitted word "not" in minute 21.3, the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 June 2015 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

31 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2015

1. **Minute 24: Financial Assistance to the Gate Hangs High Bowling Club:** The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received advising that without the financial assistance from the Community Council, the Club would have found it difficult to sustain itself financially beyond the end of the season.
2. **Minute 25.2- One Voice Wales Larger Councils Conference:** The Clerk reported on her attendance at this Conference on 8 July 2015 which had included a keynote speech by Mr Owen Watkin on the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and implementing major changes; Research into the future remuneration framework for Community and Town Councils; an Innovative Practice Session on the Community asset transfer of a Day Care Centre; Feedback on the Vision ICT Survey on the scale and use of IT and the Internet by local Councils across Wales; and a Workshop on changes to the Audit regime for Community and Town Councils. The Clerk had also used the services at the Vision ICT stand to update sections of the Community Council's website. The Clerk's attendance and report from this Conference was noted.

32 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair welcomed PC Kerry Evans who was attending the meeting on behalf of North Wales Police to report on the following matters:

1. **Acton Community Policing and Operations Report:** The monthly report tabled at the meeting provided breakdowns of relevant Crime and Incident statistics and an outline of the current Policing Operations in

the five Acton wards. In respect of Cold Calling, the Acton Policing team had successfully issued a number of tickets using the new Anti-Social Behaviour Powers previously reported to the Community Council. Enforcement following information and evidence gathering through Statements had resulted in a positive outcome in respect of recent incidents in the Dean Road area. In terms of current operations, Operation Gingerbread was targeting school security during the summer closures and the Garage Watch had sent a letter to every garage tenant reminding them that only a vehicle should be kept in their Council garage. No further reports of damage have been received since the letters were sent out. Garage Watch had also targeted Anti-Social Behaviour around the Council garages.

PC Evans indicated that advance planning was now taking place to organise another Halloween "Spooky Walk" and Community Christmas lunch (in conjunction with St John's Church Rhosnesni). She asked about availability of Financial Assistance from the Community Council and was advised that the Clerk would send her Financial Assistance application forms which, if submitted in time, could be considered with the second quarter grant applications at the September 2015 meeting of the Community Council.

Members were pleased to note that four new PCSOs were shortly to take up their roles and each would be trained in the use of the Community Speed Gun. The issue of speeding vehicles at Elm Grove and in both directions of Chester Road between the Acton Smithy and Glyndwr Road would be targeted with the Community speed gun.

2. **Policing Objectives** – It was noted that the progress against the Policing Priorities set at the meeting with North Wales Police and Acton Community Councillors in December 2014 had been covered in the Policing and Operations report.
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. PC Evans reported that she now considered that further evaluation of various operational issues arising from Community Safety Cameras situated in other areas was necessary and this matter should for the time being be left in abeyance. It was suggested that an update on this matter be placed on the November 2015 agenda for report by the Community Policing Team prior to the Community Council determining its budget and precepting requirements for 2016/17.

Members made reference to a recent case where PC Kerry Evans had worked to provide excellent support in respect of problems being experienced by a vulnerable Acton resident. Members thanked and congratulated PC Evans on a job well done.

RESOLVED- that the Police Officer be thanked for her attendance and report to the meeting.

33 WELSH GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY MEMBER

The Chair welcomed Lesley Griffiths AM who was in attendance at the meeting to discuss any concerns or issues that Members wish to raise with her. Ms Griffiths referred to her current Consultation Document "Protecting Community Assets". The Consultation ends on 11 September, 2015. A summary Document had been circulated with the agenda for Members' perusal. Ms Griffiths also gave a brief outline of current Welsh Assembly Government topical issues which included, the potential for up to 20% cuts to Ms Griffiths' Portfolio Budget, although Ms Griffiths had already requested her staff to identify a 10% budget cut; and Local Government Reform and the mixed views within the Welsh Assembly.

Members then raised various matters with Ms Griffiths as follows:-

- Local Government Reform, the lack of an overall consensus, and how the rationale of Area Boards versus localism and local ownership and focus for the Community can be reconciled. In response Ms Griffiths stressed the importance of Services being made sustainable with cost savings having to be demonstrated as feasible. Citing the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, she indicated that the Health Board was considered to be too big. However it was not an option to continue to provide existing services at current levels as that will not be able to be sustained in the long term within the budget restraints.
- The lack of coterminous boundaries for Local Government Health Fire and Police Authorities should be examined as part of the Local Government Reform process.

- A potential Benefit of the Localism Act was to keep Public Services local and use existing knowledge and skills base, pool resources and information to make the Services equitable and sustainable;
- The proposal to reduce the number of Local Authorities in Wales: The general public was mainly concerned with the provision and sustainability of the quality and level of Service they receive. They were not particularly bothered by whom or how their Services are provided, just that it is. Members indicated there should be no variances in the quality and amount of services received across Wales and any reform should provide and ensure opportunities for the sharing of best practice and collaboration between Authorities.
- Health Service and funding from Westminster: clarification was sought on the funding choices made by the Welsh Assembly such as free prescriptions, Specialist Service provision, availability of high level Cancer drugs and potential cuts to the Welsh Health Service. Ms Griffiths indicated that free prescriptions keep people out of hospital, Doctors contracts are not devolved and as Independent contractors to the Health Service it is difficult to redefine requirements for weekend working; Cancer drug spending was more per head in Wales and followed the NICE Guidelines and advice; The Welsh Assembly had reacted differently to England in terms of the treatment offered following the PIP Breast implant scare and in respect of the requirement to opt out of Organ Donation rather than opt in, as in England.
- The Challenge is to ensure Local Government is structured in such a way as to continue local democracy levels and any new funding to replace the Barnett Formula should be transparent and capable of being understood to be equitable so that Localism can be real. It was noted that current funding between North and South Wales was based on population density.

Ms Griffiths thanked the Community Councillors for a full and frank discussion and encouraged the Community Council to submit a response before the deadline, to the Protecting Community Assets Consultation. The Chair thanked Ms Griffiths for her attendance.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair prepare a response to the Protecting Community Assets Consultation and reflect the views referred to previously and in the debate with Lesley Griffiths.

34 KEY ACTON ISSUES

Wrexham County Borough Council Members advised that apart from the current Budget Saving regime, there were no other matters that had been recently considered by the County Borough Council that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton. (Minute 107 January 2011 refers).

RESOLVED – that the present position be noted.

35 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014/15

It was noted the External Auditor has approved and signed the Annual Return for the Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 and issued a Notice of Conclusion of Audit and a Public Notice will now be placed on public display in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED - to receive and note the External Auditor's letter confirming the Conclusion of Audit and the Clerk now take the necessary action in respect of issuing the Public Notice to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

36 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS:

- 1. Acton Community Play Areas at Aran Road and Ffordd Garmonydd, Wrexham:** The Annual Inspection Reports for 2015 had been circulated with the Agenda. Members noted that several low level risks had been identified in the Annual Reports. The current Service Level Agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council provided for the maintenance and inspection of these two playgrounds.
- 2. Acton Park Junior Play area –** This area is excluded from the existing Service Level Agreement until the expiration of the Grant condition in 2019. However several members referred to the condition of the grass underfoot in the play area being unfit for its purpose and the issue of Young People congregating in

the junior play area. It was suggested that collaboration to monitor the situation between the Seasonal Park Ranger, Acton Community Policing Team and Acton Detached Youth workers when out and about in the area may help to alleviate the issue of Young People congregating in the junior play area.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write on behalf of the Community Council to Martin Howarth WCBC:

- i. **Requesting confirmation that the minor low level risks identified in the Annual inspection reports have now been addressed; and**
 - ii. **Drawing attention to the Community Council's concerns about the recent congregation of Young People in the junior play area and the impact it was having on junior playground users and the fabric of the playground surfaces and to suggest that collaboration with the Acton Detached Youth Workers Acton Policing team and the Park Ranger to monitor the situation and encourage young people to leave the Junior Play area would help to alleviate the situation.**
3. **Acton Community Resource Centre:** Consideration was given to the figures for the outputs and outcomes (performance measures) for the Service from April 2015 to June 2015 as provided by the Acton Community Resource Centre Manager. This information was required as part of the Service Level Agreement. Members noted there were no comparative figures for previous years for the same period. It was noted that the Acton Community Resource Management Committee should be developing the business and there was a need for the Community Council to be involved in the development of Performance indicators and Comparators to develop and ensure the Resource Centre becomes self-funding. Members noted that the Service Level Agreement is subject to Review every two years.

RESOLVED – that the performance measures for the first quarter of 2015/16 be noted and the Community Council seek to develop Performance indicators and Comparators to ensure that the Acton Community Resource Centre becomes self-funding by the end of the existing Service Level Agreement in March 2023.

37 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.

38 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 and action taken
1.Nick Bennett Public Services Ombudsman for Wales	Annual Report 2014/15: Letter dated 25 June 2015 enclosing a copy of the Annual report laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 24 June 2015. <i>Information noted</i>
2.Chief Officer North Wales Community Health Council	Health Watchdog: response to concerns about patient care at Wrexham dementia ward: Email dated 2 July 2015 enclosing a press release responding to and challenging the news of investigation into allegations concerning the treatment and care of dementia patients in North Wales. A range of events/meetings is to be arranged from September 2015 onwards to collate views received about the quality of care provided by the health service in North Wales for submission to the Health Council. <i>Information noted.</i>
3.Society of Local Council Clerks	Conference for Wales - 17 September 2015: The Welsh SLCC roadshow agenda will include workshops about the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act; National Employment Advisory; Power to local people- The White Paper Consultation, Reforming Local Government in Wales; The new Code of Audit Practice and Statement of Practice and a discussion on recent changes in law and examination of how these changes impact on the powers, duties and procedures of community and town councils. The Welsh Roadshow will be held in Swansea on 17 September 2015 and costs £69 plus vat.

Organisation	Details and action taken
	RESOLVED – that the Clerk be authorised to attend this event as part of her continued professional training and the delegate’s fee, overnight accommodation (having regard to the early start time and location of the Conference), travel costs and additional hours incurred by the Clerk attending this one day Conference be paid
4.Engagement Support Coordinator Age Concern Cymru	Research with older people living with dementia and their carers: Email dated 24 June 2015 advising that until the end of September 2015, Age Cymru is working with the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales to research and record experiences of older people with dementia, their families and carers. Community Councillors were able to nominate participants if they wished to. <i>Information noted</i>
5.Local Government Democracy Division, Welsh Government	Statutory Guidance - Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Regulations 2015: Email dated 21 July 2015 advising that these Regulations will come into force on 1 October 2015. After this date Local Authorities (County and County Borough Councils; Community and Town Councils and National Park Authorities) must have regard to this guidance when considering the potential disposal of a playing field. <i>Information noted.</i>
6.Councillor Olive Simm Borras Park Ward	CASUAL COUNCILLOR VACANCY: Letter dated 21 July 2015 advising that due to ill health, Councillor Olive Simm was submitting her resignation as a Community Councillor. Members paid tribute to the long loyal service and valuable contribution given to the Acton Community by Councillor Simm. RESOLVED – Councillor Simm’s resignation be accepted and the Community Council’s thanks be conveyed to her for her long loyal service and valuable contribution to the Acton Community; and following the resignations of Councillors Joyce Dudley and Olive Simm, the Clerk be authorised to advertise the Notices of casual vacancies for the Borras Park Ward.

39 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that the Rialtas Business Alpha Accounting System had now been installed for the Community Council and she had recently undergone training in use of the software package. The new style accounting reports for Bank reconciliation and spend against the Annual budget to 30 June 2015 were considered at the meeting. Members also received details of payments received since the last report and outstanding debtor or other payments that required authorisation.

Resolved – that the following payments be approved: -

Voucher No; Payee	Details	Amount
14 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerks Expenses for July 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£155.55
15 UHY Hacker Young	Audit of Council’s 2014/15 Annual Return Accounts & Audit Regulation	£498.00 (inc £83.00 vat)
16 SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Renewal of Clerk’s Annual Membership fee from 1 July 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£167.00
17 Wrexham County Borough Council	2015/16 SLA Half Yearly instalment- Inspection & maintenance of play an the Acton Community area S19 Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1976	£1,656.50
18 Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	Alpha Financial Software; Alpha Set Up & training; Alpha Software Annual support – single user, Trainer’s mileage Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£789.06 (inc £131.51 vat)
19 Wrexham County	Clerks Salary and office expenses for July 2015 paid by the	NJC Rates

Borough Council	Council's Agent: Wrexham County Borough Council in accordance with Minute 99.1 December 2009 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	
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40 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered whether to make any comments on the following Planning Applications for development in the Community Council's area that has been received since the last meeting or that 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 set out below:-

Application No & Address	Details	Observations
* P/2015/0451: 6 Lisburne Grove Wrexham	Conversion of Integral Garage into additional living space and erection of new detached garage	No observations
* P/2015/0477: 18 Denbigh Close Wrexham	Continued Parking And Operation Of 2 No. Private Hire Vehicles On A Permanent Basis (Previously Granted Under Code No. P/2014/0080)	No Observations
* P/2015/0498: 2 Camberley Drive Wrexham	Erection Of Fence (In Retrospect)	No Observations
* P/2015/0534: 124 Chester Road Wrexham	Erection Of 6ft Fence (In Retrospect)	<i>No Observations</i>

Signed as a correct record this 15th day of September 2015

Chair