

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 15 September 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 B Smith *
	G Lowe *	"	Mrs S Stanford
"	Mrs A O'Neill	"	2 vacancies
"	Mrs C O'Toole		

* Absent

Also Present:

PCSO Siwan Huws, North Wales Police
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Boylin, G Lowe, T Pierce and Mrs B Smith.

The Chair reported receipt of a letter dated 8 September 2015 from Councillor E Boylin requesting leave of absence from his Community Councillor role on Acton Community Council whilst he cares for his wife through her recently diagnosed illness. Members were very sorry to learn of Mrs Boylin's illness and asked the Clerk to convey their best wishes to both Councillor and Mrs Boylin during this difficult time.

RESOLVED – that In accordance with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Community Council approved the reason set out Councillor Boylin's letter dated 8 September as being a valid reason for his absence from Community Council meetings until 20 January 2016 and the Community Council will if necessary review the situation at its meeting to be held on Tuesday 19 January 2016.

42 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Carole O'Toole declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 8 as a member of her family sits on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

43 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the following Meetings were submitted:

1. Meeting of the Community Council held on 21 July 2015; and
2. Meeting of the Youth Committee held on 28 July 2015 together with an updated Quarter 1 report for 2015/16 and a report on the Acton Detached Youth Work provision's activities during the summer school holidays.

Members expressed disappointment on the level of engagement with young people detailed in the reports and questioned the mode of delivery for this service, its delivery capability and the sustainability of the present service. It was noted that the Youth Committee at its next meeting would be looking in detail at the mode of delivery, whether current needs were being met, based on the outputs presented and to give consideration to alternates and different approaches.

RESOLVED – that

1. ***the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 20 January 2015 be received and confirmed as a correct record; and***
2. ***the minutes of the Youth Committee held on 28 July 2015 be received and noted.***

44 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2015

1. **Minute 33: Protecting Community Assets :** The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Lesley Griffiths AM following her attendance at the meeting and a response on the Protecting Community Assets Consultation was submitted by the Consultation deadline. The present position was noted.
2. **Minute 35: Annual Accounts 2014/15:** It was noted that the Clerk had now taken the necessary action to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations. In respect of the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015, the Clerk advised that under Section 151 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales requires that Relevant authorities must arrange for the publication within the authority area of the remuneration received by its members and co-opted members. This information must be published and provided to the Panel no later than 30 September following the end of the year to which the payments relate. The information to be provided must detail the payments made by community and town councils to named members.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk by 30 September 2015 prepare, submit and publish a schedule listing each member and any remuneration received in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

(Councillor Carole O’Toole having a member of her family sit on the Independent Remuneration Panel declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item. She left the meeting taking no part in the consideration, discussion or voting on this matter.)

3. **Minute 36 – Service Level Agreements Acton Play Areas:** The Clerk reported that Mr Martin Howorth, Wrexham CBC had advised that the items identified in the annual inspection are low risk and are not considered worth spending Community Council money on carrying out improvements, unless specifically asked to do so. But obviously there would be a cost to the Community Council for the minor repairs to be carried out. Members indicated they would prefer for the Play areas to be kept in as good a condition as possible to prolong the life of the equipment, fencing and play surfaces and mitigate any risk.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk to the Council find out from Mr Howorth how much it would cost to carry out the low risk minor repairs and improvements identified in the Annual inspection reports.

45 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair welcomed PCSO Siwan Huws who was attending the meeting on behalf of North Wales Police to provide the Monthly Acton Community Policing and Operations Report. A new format monthly report was tabled at the meeting providing details of Priorities, Emerging Issues, good news Stories, the Crime Figure breakdowns in the five Acton wards and an outline of the current Policing Operations.

Members noted details of a successful case in the Dean Road/Holt Road area in respect of anti-social behaviour, continuing work in respect of cold calling and providing stickers to residents and Current Operations particularly in Acton Park.

It was noted that the quarterly policing objective setting meeting had been cancelled yesterday. The Chair questioned whether it would be more appropriate to have half or yearly meetings with the Town Inspector. Members requested that if possible it would be helpful to have an indication within the monthly report of comparisons up or down of the crime types.

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

46 COMMUNITY & RESOURCE CENTRES IN THE ACTON COMMUNITY

1. **Acton Community Resource Centre:** The Chair welcomed Mr Dylan Hughes who was in attendance to advise on the implications of Wrexham CBC Executive Board decision on 14 July 2015 to approve the principle of establishing a local NPDO/Trust to manage Library Services in Wrexham with articles of association that are sufficiently broad to allow other services to join the trust in the future. The portfolio of buildings and services under review includes the 10 libraries currently operated by the Library Service (Brynteg, Cefn Mawr, Chirk, Coedpoeth, Gwersyllt, Llay, Overton, Ruabon, Rhos and Wrexham) plus the mobile library, Homelink service and bibliographic services unit, together with Community resource centres which are managed by the Library Service. It was noted that the Council’s SLA for the Resource

Centre specifically states that the £30,000 pa paid by the Community Council will remain for the use of the Centre and not be re-allocated to any other general leisure or community centre budgets.

Mr Hughes advised that Acton Community Council was a key partner and the proposed non-profit distributing Charitable Trust would be independent of Wrexham County Borough Council with its own structure and governance arrangements though a Board of Trustees. He referred to the Management situation at the Acton CRC with Lynn Williams now being in post as Manager and to the increasing usage and block bookings for the Centre during the first quarter. Members raised the following matters:

- Transfer of the existing Management Committee arrangements and powers to the Board of Trustees
- What would the new role of the existing Management Committee be?
- Clarification about the Operational, Employment and Management Powers of the Trust
- Ring Fencing of the Acton Community Council Service Level Agreement and a preference to renew and review the current arrangements before transfer out from Wrexham CBC control to ensure best value for the residents of the five Acton Community wards
- Trust Operational Surpluses - how they will be used and be of benefit to the Acton CRC?
- The current staffing vacancies at the Centre should be filled before transfer to a Trust in accordance with the existing Service Level Agreement

RESOLVED – that Mr Hughes be requested to attend an early meeting of the Council to provide further detailed information on the issues now raised to ensure adequate consideration prior to setting the precept for 2016/17.

2. **Little Acton Community Centre:** Councillor Bill Baldwin updated the Community Council. It was noted that little progress had been made by the Voluntary Community Group to take over responsibility for the Little Acton Community Centre from 1 April 2016. A meeting of the Management Committee was planned for 16 September 2015. Mr Dylan Hughes stayed during consideration of this item. He advised there was currently no process for asset transfer but there was a draft policy being prepared to address how to support groups and set out options such as tenancy at will and arrangements for health and safety and water testing.

It was noted that the Community Council is funding up to £7,254 of the 2015/16 running costs to enable the Community Group to conclude taking over responsibility from Wrexham CBC by 31 March 2016. Members suggested that Mr Hughes should meet separately with Councillor Baldwin to take this matter forward. The Chair concluded that it was pleasing to note that Wrexham CBC was developing a process for Asset Transfer. The issues still to be addressed by this voluntary Group were to have a properly constituted body capable of agreement for transfer and letting a Tenancy for the Little Acton Community Centre and for any liability to be on a legal footing, including arrangements to meet any operational funding deficit.

The present position was noted.

47 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.

48 AUGUST RECESS MATTERS

Further to Minute 37 July 2015, a summary of the action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair on the following urgent matters during the August recess was received and noted:-

1. **Planning applications** for development or work to protected trees in the Community Council's area
2. **Payment of Accounts**
3. **Section 116 – Local government (Wales Measure) 2011 – Casual vacancies Borrass Park Ward – filling by co-option**
4. **Information received by the Clerk:**
 - i. Independent Remuneration Panel Survey – submission of response by Clerk
 - ii. Be Involved Be Proud and Be Tidy - September Clean-up campaign – noted due to limited resources of the Community Council

49 CONSULTATIONS

Members received details of the following consultation papers received during the August 2015 recess and considered whether to make any comments on them:

1. Wrexham County Borough Council: Tree and Woodland Strategy Consultation: Email dated 10 August 2015 inviting the Community Council to comment on this [new Strategy](#) by 30 September 2015. Feedback received will assist with identifying any improvements that can be made prior to the strategy being adopted by the Council.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk responds on the Council's behalf to this consultation incorporating the views previously expressed for the Local Development Plan and the iTree Survey from 2014.

2. Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. Email dated 17 August 2015 from Leighton Andrews AM drawing the Council's attention to this Consultation which **closes on 9 November 2015**. This consultation seeks views on the detail of the Draft Directions, including thoughts on council size and the ratio of electors for each elected member.

RESOLVED – that Members submit individual responses to this Consultation due to there being no overall consensus view point.

3 BBC Charter Review Consultation: Email dated 17 August 2015 from Elan Closs Stevens BBC National Trustee for Wales, advising the Trust is undertaking a programme of evidence gathering activities to feed into the Charter Review.

RESOLVED – that Members submit individual responses to this Consultation due to there being no overall consensus view point.

4 Temporary Changes to Women's and Maternity Services 2015: Email dated 17 August 2015 from North Wales Community Health Council drawing the Council's attention to this Consultation and confirming that the Health Council is keen to work with Community Councils in order to make sure that the people of North Wales have their say about proposals for temporary changes to Women's and Maternity services. The proposals were formally launched for public consultation by the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board on Monday 24 August 2015, and run until the 5 October 2015. Two Wrexham based Public meetings were held in the Memorial Hall, Bodhyfryd on Friday 11 September 2015.

Councillor Sue Stanford reported on her attendance at one of the Public Meetings and referred to operational implications due to the inability to attract permanent Doctors, use of locums, and Registration as a training facility. It was noted that Option 4 was the Health Board's preference. The Chair thanked Councillor Stanford for her report.

RESOLVED – that Members submit individual responses to this Consultation due to there being no overall view point.

5 Wrexham Council Strategic Equality Plan 2016-20 Consultation: Email dated 2 September 2015 from the Community Diversity Manager, Wrexham CBC drawing the Community Council's attention to this Consultation which closes on 9 October 2015. The consultation aims to find out the greatest inequalities facing Wrexham people –members of the public and colleagues. The results will inform the Equality Objectives for the next Strategic Equality Plans (2016-2020).

RESOLVED – that Members submit individual responses to this Consultation due to there being no overall view point

6 Shared Purpose Shared Future – Draft Statutory Guidance for the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Email dated 7 September 2015 enclosing a letter from the Welsh Government's Director for Local Government informing of this draft statutory guidance and inviting views on the draft content **by 16 November 2015**. The draft guidance is aimed at those community councils that will be subject to the duty to take reasonable steps to meet the objectives set out in a well-being plan.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk, Chair and Vice chair of the Council consider and prepare a submission on behalf of the Council.

7. Proposed changes to Planning Policy Wales Chapter 10 and Technical Advice Note 4: Retail Centre Development: Email dated 8 September 2015 advising that the Welsh Government is consulting on changes to national retail planning policy and guidance. The aim of the review is to update planning policy and

guidance so that it is in line with the Welsh Government objective to enhance the vitality, attractiveness and viability of established centres. The consultation runs until 26 November 2015.

RESOLVED – that the Consultation be noted.

50 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk submitted a report detailing two applications for financial assistance received since the June 2015 meeting. The Council's Policy is to apportion the annual £3,250 budget equally between each of the quarterly meetings. A further sum of £1500 from within the 2014/15 Financial Assistance budget has been carried forward for allocation into the 2015/16 financial year. This equates to £1187.50 per quarter for 2015/16. Members were reminded that Grants totalling £400 have been made so far during 2015/16. Members then proceeded to consider the two 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:–

Organisation	Details	Decision
1. Friends of Acton park	Assistance towards the purchase of secure storage units for the Group's equipment	£120.00
2. North Wales Police	Assistance with cost of planning, organising and delivering a Haunted Walk in Acton Park in October 2015.	£100.00

51 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 Huw Webb, Dementia Friendly Communities Co- ordinator, Colwyn Bay	Dementia Friendly Communities: Email dated 30 July offering to attend a Community Council meeting to explain about the creation of Dementia Friendly Communities, an initiative supported by the Welsh Government and how Community Councillors can become involved through the creation of a sub group in the area. RESOLVED – that Mr Webb attend the next meeting of the Council.
2 Local Government Welsh Democracy Division Welsh Government	Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper - Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People: Email dated 4 August 2015, advising that all responses received from this Consultation that ended on 28 April 2015 have now been considered and summarised. The responses will inform the second Local Government Bill scheduled to be published in draft in the Autumn 2015. Information noted.
3 Play Wales	Play work Standards Review: Email dated 11 August 2015 advising of two focus group events to be held in Wales to review some of the key changes to the National Occupational Standards in Play work. The North Wales event will be held on 5 October 2015 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Old School Lane Centre, Llandudno. Information noted
4 Planning Aid Wales	Planning Training Workshop for Community and Town Councillors: Email dated 19 August 2015 advising the Chirk Town Council will be hosting this workshop on 22 October 2015 at 6:30pm. The Community Council is invited to send a representative to attend. Information noted
5 Dave Hylands, Wrexham Poppy Appeal Organiser	Wrexham Poppy Appeal 2015: Letter dated 24 August 2015 inviting the Council to order its usual Poppy Wreath for laying at the Annual Remembrance Day Service to be held at the Bodhyfryd War Memorial on Sunday 8 November 2015 RESOLVED - that the Council purchase a Poppy Wreath for laying at the annual Service and a donation of £100.00 be made

Organisation	Details and action taken
6 Marie Russell, Wrexham CBC	Standards & Ethics Conference on 20 October 2015 in Cardiff: Email dated 26 August 2015 advising of this Conference. Community Councils will need to pay for any delegates they send to this Conference. <i>Information noted</i>
7 Marie Russell, Wrexham CBC	Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum – 15 October 2015 at 4:00pm: Email dated 27 August 2015 inviting the Community Council to send 2/3 representatives to the next Forum and to submit any important items of business by no later than 24 September 2015 <i>RESOLVED - that Councillor Ralph Hardy attend as the Council's representative.</i>
8 Daniel Jones AVOW	Relaunch of the Shopmobility Service in Wrexham on 17 September 2015: Email circulated to members of the Council by the Clerk on 27 August 2015 advising of an invitation to attend the launch. <i>Information noted</i>
9 Nightingale House Hospice	Thanksgiving Service – St Giles Church on Friday 11 September at 11am: Email circulated to members of the Council by the Clerk on 27 August 2015 advising of this invitation to attend the Thanksgiving Service. <i>Information noted</i>
10 Civic Support Officer Wrexham CBC	Mayor's Charity Dinner Dance – Friday 16 October 2015: Email dated 3 September 2015 advising of this event to take place at the Ramada Plaza on Friday 16 October at 7:30pm. <i>Information noted</i>
11 Friends of Acton Park	Seasonal Ranger Post in Acton Park: Email dated 7 September 2015 thanking the Community Council for funding the Seasonal Park Ranger Post in Acton Park over the last few months and indicating this has been the most successful summer in terms of work/ events at the Park. Members concurred with the Friends' Group and commented on how lovely the Park was looking.
12 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	PCC Community Awards – People's Award: Email dated 8 September 2015 inviting nominations for this award that highlights and honours individuals or community groups who have made strong contributions towards community safety and crime prevention. <i>Information noted</i>
13 Delyth Thomas Corp Communications North Wales Police	North Wales Police open Day – 19 September 2015: Email dated 9 September 2015 advising of this event which is to taking place at Police Headquarters Colwyn Bay between 11am and 4pm <i>Information noted</i>
14 One Voice Wales	Consultation Event Invitation – Public Sector Waste & resource Efficiency Plan: Email dated 11 September 2015 advising of two free events to collect views about this Plan aimed at achieving the goals of the Well-being Future Generations (Wales) Act. The North Wales event will be held in Llandudno on 6 October 2015 between 9:00am and 13:00pm. <i>Information noted</i>

52 VARIANCE IN AGENDA

The Chair having regard to the potential for exempt information to be debated under Agenda Item 12 and not wishing to unduly delay members of the press and public proposed that the following agenda items be brought forward and taken at this time:

3. Agenda Item 13: Payment of Accounts
4. Agenda item 14: Planning Applications

RESOLVED – that Agenda Items 13 and 14 be brought forward and taken at this time.

53 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received details of payments received since the last report and outstanding debtor or other payments that required authorisation. The Clerk reported that the following earmarked monies from 2014/15 will shortly be transferred to the relevant accounts:

1. £250 – replenish of Chairman's Charity Account
2. £18,958 – Ring Fenced reserve for Acton Community Resource Centre to Money Market call Account
3. £5,000 full Council Elections Set aside to Money Market call Account
4. £15,000 Playground Equipment Provision to Money Market call Account

Resolved – that the following payments be approved: -

Voucher No; Payee	Details	Amount
24 SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Delegate Fee – Welsh Regional Conference at Swansea on 17 September 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£82.80 (inc £13.80 vat)
25 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerks Expenses for September 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£63.52
26 Friends of Acton Park	Financial Assistance –Purchase of equipment Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£120.00
27.North Wales Police	Assistance with cost of planning, organising and delivering a Haunted Walk in Acton Park in October 2015. Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£100.00
28 Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath & Donation S137 Local Government Act 1972	£100.00
29 Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for September 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

26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council noted that no Planning Applications for development in the Community Council’s area have been received for consideration. The present position was noted.

27 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.

28 ITEM PLACED ON THE AGENDA AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCILLOR CAROLE O’TOOLE

Councillor Carole O’Toole proposed that as part of the debate for the Budget Setting Process for 2016/17 there should be a root and branch review of all current budget expenditure and continuation of Service Level Agreements, and consideration should be given to the changing nature of expectations of what the Community Council is expected to do. It is critical that the Council’s policies in respect of services to be provided are prioritised and enable the greatest benefit to the people of the Acton Community.

The Chair concurred that this is a watershed moment and the Community Council whilst being circumspect should agree and have a clearly defined framework and set of priorities in place to respond to any additional service or future funding requests made. It was also noted that any future spending plans should be considered in the context of the legislative Powers available to the Community Council.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk to the Council canvass members and arrange for a suitable date to be identified to hold a special meeting of the Community Council to consider Priorities, Spending Powers and current budget headings to inform the budget setting process for 2016/17.

Signed as a correct record this 20th day of October 2015

Chair