

Minutes of a Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 15 December 2015 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

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

* Absent

Also Present:

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

93 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Boylin, R Hardy, G Pearce and T Pierce.

94 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this stage of the proceedings.

95 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 November 2015 were received.

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

96 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1. Minute 84.1: Acton Play areas:** The Clerk advised that a schedule detailing the £4,300 estimated costs for remedial works to the play areas had now been received from Wrexham CBC. The cost of the concrete pour works around the play equipment was noted.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk proceed to make the necessary arrangements for the works to be carried out as soon as practicable at an estimated cost of £4,300.00

- 2. Minute 87: Item for Agenda of Town & Community Council Forum meeting on 10 December 2015:** Councillor Carole O Toole and the Clerk gave an update on their attendance at the Forum meeting. It was noted that the Item requested by the Community Council in respect of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 would be placed on the Agenda of the next Forum meeting. Reference was made in particular to the potential for Community Growing funding for small amenity areas within the Acton Community. The Forum had also received information on the initial findings of the Wrexham CBC Budget Consultation and a presentation by Freedom Leisure on the proposed Trust for Wrexham's Leisure Centres to include Waterworld. The present position was noted.

97 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair advised that an apology has been submitted by PC Kerry Evans as no police representatives were available to attend the meeting. The Chair referred to an email providing the following update from the Police:

- The monthly figures have not altered from last month apart from two burglaries on the Goulbourne estate; these have been resourced, reassurance patrols have been carried out and an extensive leaflet drop completed.
- Complaints were still being received from residents who live near to a school about parents parking close to private driveways, on yellow lines and general inconsiderate parking. Arrangements were being made for a joint operation with the Council parking warden in early January 2016 to try an educational approach for parents hopefully with support from each school.
- Operation 'Twilight' aimed at encouraging residents to put lights on when they are not at home is still on-going.
- PC Kerry Evans and PCSO Louise Hughes attended the Borrás Co-Op store on Saturday 6 December and distributed about 300 security packs, purse bells and Christmas security leaflets to local residents who attended the store on that day.
- Seven new PCSO's have now started at Wrexham police station and after six weeks training three of them will be joining the Acton team in mid-January 2016.

In response Members requested clarification is given at the next meeting on whether the total number of PCSO's allocated to the Acton Community is four or five.

RESOLVED- that PC Evans' written update be received and noted.

98 PROCEDURAL MATTERS - CASUAL COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Further to Minute 61ii October 2015 and in accordance with Section 116 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, consideration was given to the filling of the remaining casual vacancy in the Borrás Park Ward by co-option. The relevant Public Notices had been on display since 21 October with a submission date for expressions of interest being 8 December 2015. Members were advised that one Expression of Interest form had been received, submitted by Mr. Philip John Lloyd, who was in attendance at the meeting and gave a short address in support of his application. Members proceeded to consider Mr Lloyd's application.

RESOLVED - that the Mr Philip John Lloyd of 30 Ffordd Jarvis, Acton Wrexham be co-opted as Member of the Community Council to fill the remaining casual vacancy for the Borrás Park Ward on the Council.

99 KEY ACTON ISSUES

Wrexham County Borough Council Members advised that the current Budget Saving regime was continuing. In addition the following matters had recently been considered by the County Borough Council that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton. (Minute 107 January 2011 refers):

1. Enhanced Enforcement Powers for Dog Fouling and Litter enforcement had been considered by the Executive Board. There was a need to keep a watch on the incidence of Dog Fouling outside Schools and local Shops.
2. Reference was made to traffic and parking congestion at various times of the day in several locations of the Acton Community. There had been a recent incident outside the Post Office on Dean Road where a lady had been hit by a car. There was no controlled crossing at this location and there were consequences for pedestrians as a result of the parking congestion outside the Post Office shop. There was a similar situation on Box Lane outside Acton School caused by lack of traffic management and parents should be encouraged to walk to school and not drive their children. Members suggested that there was a need for a site visit with traffic officers to assess the situation and develop a solution to the congestion.
3. Complaints had been received from residents about the Health Services they are receiving and in particular the unacceptable time span before patients obtain appointments to see their GP and for Blood testing at the Phlebotomy Service at Grove Road Wrexham.

RESOLVED – that

i) the Community Council write to Mr Darren Williams and Mr Darren Green at Wrexham CBC requesting them to arrange a site visit with the Local County Borough Council Members for Rhosnesni and Acton to review the traffic and parking congestion outside the Post Office on Dean Road and at Acton School on

Box Lane and seek to develop a solution to ease the situation at these locations. A copy of the letter also to be sent to the Lead member, Councillor David Bithell as well; and

ii) the Community Council write to the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board referring to the reported complaints about the delays in accessing GPs Surgery appointments and Blood testing, and seeking a response about the action the Health Board is taking to relieve the pressures on GP surgeries, accessibility to appointments and other Primary Care Services such as Blood and other testing in Wrexham. The correspondence should also be copied to the Local AM and MP and Community Health Council.

100 CONSULTATIONS

The following consultation papers received since the last meeting were considered and dealt with as follows:

- 1. Green Growth Wales – Options for Investment Support:** The National Assembly for Wales consultation inviting Community Council to comment by 29 January 2016 on options to accelerate investment in green growth projects.

RESOLVED – not to make a response to this Consultation

- 2. Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill:** This Bill sets out the Welsh Government's detailed proposals for the reform of local government. It includes consultation on the Welsh Government's preference for the future "map" of local government in Wales. The objective of the Draft Bill is to complete the programme of Local Authority mergers and set out a new and reformed legislative framework for Local Authority democracy, accountability, performance and elements of finance. It will also establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission. The closing date for responses is 15 February 2016.

RESOLVED – that Councillors Len Closs, Bill Baldwin, Carole O'Toole, James Richards and Sue Stanford meet before the next meeting to formulate a draft response in respect of the Community Council related aspects of the Bill on behalf of the Council and their recommendations be considered on 19 January 2016.

- 3. Public Health Outcomes Framework Consultation:** This Framework for Wales developed in the context of other strategies and frameworks seeks to improve the health of the people of Wales. In particular, it links to the national indicators for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which are currently undergoing consultation and development. The Consultation will include a series of Public Health Outcomes Framework events in Cardiff on 12th January, Llandudno on 18th January and Aberystwyth on 19th January 2016. The closing date for responses is 28 January 2016.

RESOLVED – not to make any comments on this Consultation.

- 4. Women's and Maternity Consultation: Update on Community Health Council's response.** Email dated 3 December 2015 from the North Wales Community Health Council publicising its response to this Consultation which closed on 20 November 2015. The present position was noted.

101 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk submitted a report detailing three applications for financial assistance received since the September 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 £720 have been made so far during 2015/16. Members then proceeded to consider the three 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
5. Cunliffe Bowling Club	Assistance towards the purchase of new mowing equipment	£400.00
6. Family Friends for 5's to 11's	Assistance with the cost of providing support to disadvantaged families in the Acton area	£500.00

Organisation	Details	Decision
7. Rhosnesni Residents Association	Assistance towards the Association's festive activities for its seniors and children.	£150.00
TOTAL		£1,050.00

(Councillor Anne Evans being the local member for the Rhosnesni Residents 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 application for financial assistance)

102 ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR

Further to Minutes 74 & 78 October 2015, Members proceeded to conclude consideration of matters pertaining to determination of the Council's income, expenditure and precept requirements for the financial year 2016/17.

1. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2016/17: Further to Minute 28 ii) June 2011, Members reviewed the Acton Community Council Investments Policy for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process. It was noted that options for higher interest bearing accounts would be kept under review for earmarked monies within the Council's budget that would not be required in the next financial year. The Council's Financial Regulations would also require review if any new investments were to be made.

RESOLVED –

- i. To approve the Investment Strategy for Acton Community Council for the 2016/17 financial year as set out in the appendix to the report; and***
- ii. To review the Acton Community Council Investments Policy each financial year as part of the budget setting process***

2. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS 2016/17:- The Council reviewed each of the existing Service Level Agreements (SLA) for the next financial year as part of its budget setting process. It was noted that approval in principle for each Agreement is required so a budget can be set for each item. The detailed SLAs can be signed off if required before the start of the 2016/17 financial year.

- 1. Acton Resource Centre- Revenue Costs:** Consideration was given to a copy of the Year 3 of 10 SLA Service Performance Measures to November 2015. Members were pleased to note the attainments in respect of the agreed Outputs and outcomes for the Service.
- 2. Seasonal Ranger Acton Park:** Members were very satisfied with the year on year success of this Service and in particular the benefits of employing the Ranger for a longer period to cover the summer months. The Community Council wishes for this Service to continue next year.
- 3. CAB Acton Outreach Worker for Acton Community Advice Service:** Members were satisfied that adequate provision was in place subject to there being regular Performance Reporting.
- 4. Acton Playground Provision:** Further to Minute 90 November 2014, earmarked provision is being made for recharges for the Replacement/repair of playground equipment from 2015/16 onwards. This Community facility has been funded since 1 April 2014 by the Community Council with all management, inspections and maintenance being carried out through a SLA with Wrexham County Borough Council. The Community Council is satisfied with the level of service received under this SLA for the Aran Road and Ffordd Garmonydd Playgrounds. The Community Council wishes to renew the Agreement and has previously noted that the Junior Play area at Acton Park is being maintained for another three years under the WREN Grant conditions.
- 5. School Crossing Patrols:** Provision has been made for Pay Award costs for the three Patrols at Dean Road, Borrass Park Road and Box Lane. This Community facility was taken over from WCBC from 1 April 2014 and the Community Council wishes to renew the Agreement to ensure the continuation of this important Service. It was noted that there will be savings in the current year due to difficulties in filling the vacancy for the Borrass Park School Crossing Patrol.
- 6. Little Acton Community Centre:** Consideration was given to a letter received from Mr Dylan Hughes, Wrexham County Borough Council setting out options for this Community Centre and requesting the Council's response by 31 December 2015. Members referred to the decision to fund the Centre's net

operating costs in 2015/16 for one year whilst Wrexham CBC continues to manage the Little Acton Community Centre and that a review of the Caretaking and cleaning routines at the Community Centre following the retirement of the Caretaker in August 2015 has seen the Community Group who wish to take over full operational control of the Centre undertaking the Caretaking and cleaning duties on a voluntary basis. The negotiation process between the Community Group and Wrexham CBC is very slow.

The Community Council does not wish to seek a formal transfer of this asset to itself on an extended lease at peppercorn rent nor would it wish to see the Community Centre building close if the Voluntary Group is able to take over operational control. It will therefore on the same basis as 2015/16, fund the net operational costs of the Little Acton Community Centre during 2016/17. It is expected that the net operating costs during 2016/17 will be significantly reduced as there are no caretaker staffing costs being incurred now. The Community Council also expects the protracted negotiations with the Community group and Wrexham CBC to be swiftly concluded and if not, by 31 March 2017 at the latest. Therefore budget provision will be made in 2016/17 to fund the reduced net operational costs of the Little Acton Community Centre whilst the negotiations with the Community Group who wish to take over the operation of the Centre are concluded.

RESOLVED – to continue to fund the six Service Level Agreements referred to above during 2016/17 and subject to there being no substantial change to the detail of each of the Annual agreements, the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair of the Council be authorised to approve and sign off each Service Level Agreement if appropriate on behalf of the Community Council.

3 PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2016/17: It was reported that the Chief Finance and Performance Officer, Wrexham County Borough Council has indicated that the Community Council's precept is required by 31 December 2015. The Acton Community Tax base for 2016/17 is 5763 and the Schedule of payments for next year's Precept was noted.

Consideration was given to the worked up Draft budget discussed at the Special Council meeting on 28 October 2015 and the precept requirements taking into account current commitments and any new provisions that the Community Council supports. During consideration of the Budget, particular reference was made to making provision for:

- Members Remuneration/ Expenses
- Employers Pension Costs as a result of Automatic Enrolment
- Legal / translation Costs
- Audit Fees
- Training for Members
- Community Streetscene and Environmental Projects within each ward
- Young Persons Projects (to be determined by the Youth Committee following cessation of the Detached Youth Outreach Service Level Agreement on 31 December 2015)
- Crime Prevention in wards as identified by the Acton Policing Team throughout the year

For prudence and to smooth out known cyclical peaks in expenditure, further provision will be made for year on year earmarking of balances for whole Council Election costs, insurance, revaluation and repair/maintenance of the Maesydre Power House, and contingency provision for the repair and replacement of equipment for Acton Playgrounds. In addition there is ring fenced ear marked provision for Acton Community Resource Centre Contingencies, to be reviewed if the Trust status proposal goes ahead by Wrexham CBC for its Libraries and Resource Centres. The un-earmarked working balances will also be kept under review. The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk were thanked for their work in producing the Estimates and Budgets.

RESOLVED – to approve the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2016/17 as now set out before the Council and confirm that the Community Council's precept requirement for the year 2016/17 be fixed at £125,000.

103 REPORT FROM CLERK

The Clerk reported on correspondence and other information received since the last meeting as follows:

Organisation	Details
1.Kerry Morris Business Support assistant Wrexham CBC	Play Sufficiency Assessment: Email dated 18 November 2015 advising that the WCBC Play Development Team are facilitating a consultation session between 6pm to 8pm on Thursday 7 January 2016 in Meeting Room 1 at the Guildhall Wrexham for Community Councils with particular focus around the support needed to work towards play sufficiency at a local level. RESOLVED – that Councillor A Evans attend the event as the Council's representative.
2.Online Watch (OWL) Messaging	Community Speedwatch Volunteer Recruiting Opportunities: An email dated 20 November 2015 from this Messaging service advising of this initiative has previously been circulated to all members of the Council for information. Information noted
3.Tracy Gilmartin One Voice Wales	1. Training Opportunities: Email dated 23 November 2015 advising of the forthcoming training sessions for Councillors being held in this area. 2. Transparency of Senior Remuneration in the Devolved Welsh Public Sector: Email dated 9 December 2015 drawing attention to a statement the Minister for Public Services has published. The Transparency Document can be viewed online here . Information noted
4.Sharon Owen, Welsh Hearts	Could Welsh Hearts Support your area?: Email dated 25 November 2015 informing of the work of this new and registered charity which has successfully placed 280 defibrillators in communities throughout Wales over the last year. Support or help at events was sought. All money raised in Wales is spent in Wales. The Charity's website can be viewed by clicking here RESOLVED - that information be sought on the cost and suitability of a defibrillator being provided by the Community council at the Acton Community Resource Centre.
5.Melanie Salisbury Partnerships Support Officer Wrexham CBC	Wrexham Honouring Our Veterans - Preserving their Memories: Email dated 26 November 2015 providing information about this project supported by Councillor David Griffiths Armed Forces Champion which to be launched at Wrexham Museum on Wednesday 27 January 2016 at 10am. RESOLVED - that the Council be represented by the Chair, Councillor Len Closs at the launch of this project.

104 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received details of the final precept payment received since the last report together with outstanding debtor or other payments that required authorisation.

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved: -

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
38 Wrexham County Borough Council	Combined invoice for:- Inspection & Maintenance of Play Areas in Acton Community Council Area October 2015 to March 2016 S19 Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1976 Provision of Park Ranger 2015 S19 Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1976	£7,054.15 (£1,656.50 plus vat) £4,221.96 plus VAT)
39 Wrexham County Borough Council	Running Costs of Little Acton Community Centre – June to September 2015 S19 Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1976	£3,377.03
40 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerks Expenses for December 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£ 96.50
41 Cunliffe Bowling Club	Assistance towards the purchase of a new Moving machine	£400.00

	S137 Local Government Act 1072	
42 Family Friends for 5's to 11's	Assistance towards supporting disadvantaged families in Acton S137 Local Government Act 1972	£500.00
43 Rhosnesni Residents Association	Assistance towards the Association's festive activities for its seniors and children S137 Local Government act 1972	£150.00
44 Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for December 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

105 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to any comments the Council may wish to make on the following applications 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:-

Case Number/ Address	Proposed Development	Decision
P/2015/0858 9 Monmouth Road Wrexham	Removal Of Conifer Trees / Hedging And Erection Of Timber Screen Fencing And Gate (In Retrospect)	The Community Council objects to this application which is obtrusive and out of character with other properties in the neighbourhood. The other properties in the vicinity are either open plan or have low level dwarf boundary walls only.
P/2015/0897 1 Merlin Road Wrexham	Alterations And Extensions To Dwelling	No observations
P/2015/0901 3 Maple Avenue Wrexham	Single Storey Rear Bedroom / Bathroom Extension	No observations
P/2015/0917 The Peoples Market Chester Street Wrexham	Consultation for Planning Application for development adjoining the Acton Community: Change Of Use To Incorporate A New Art Centre, Retail And Cafes Within The Existing Market, Ancillary Storage And Car Park Uses, External Alterations To Include New Glazed Openings On The South And East Facade, New Ventilation Grilles To Plant Rooms, New	The Community Council welcomes and endorses this application

Signed as a correct record this 19th day of January 2016

Chair