

Minutes of a Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 19 January 2016 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

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

* Absent

Also Present:

PSCO Danielle Peters , North Wales Police

Denise Nicholls, Lower Park Farm Cooperative, Commonwood, Holt

Mr N Hughes, Member of the Public

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Pearce.

108 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Councillor Philip Lloyd who was attending his first Council meeting following his co-option. The Chair also welcomed Councillor Edmund Boylin who had taken approved leave of absence during his wife's recent illness. Councillor Boylin thanked the Council for allowing his period of absence and was pleased to report his wife was responding well to her treatment.

109 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

110 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 December 2015 were received.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 15 December 2015 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

111 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Minute 101.5: Cunliffe Bowling Club - Enabling Grant Funding: The Clerk advised that she had received notification that the Bowling Club has been successful in attracting a £4,690 grant from the 'Together in Wrexham' Enabling Grant fund. As part of the Grant conditions, the Club has been made aware of their obligation to provide a report to the Community Council demonstrating that the monies have been expensed appropriately. The Community Council will be required to monitor this scheme and confirm it is satisfied that the Grant monies have been expensed appropriately.

RESOLVED - that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, congratulate and advise the Club of the Community Council's expectations in terms of interim updates and when the report should be made available.

112 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair advised that an apology and written update has been submitted by PC Kerry Evans. The Chair welcomed PCSO Danielle Peters who was observing the meeting to provide feedback to the Police on any matters raised. The Chair referred to an email from PC Evans providing a short update from the Police:

- The Monthly crime figures are down from last month in all areas except Burglary in Rhosnesni due a small amount of burglaries on the Fairways estate and two on the Goulbourne estate. Extra patrols have been organised and the local residents have set up a 'Facebook' page which is proving very helpful in gathering residents together to help keep an eye on the situation. PC Evans has met with Councillors Anne Evans and Len Closs to discuss the latest burglaries and residents' concerns. A public meeting will be held at Acton Community Resource Centre on Thursday 21 January at 7pm. Notices are being displayed in the local newspapers, local businesses, and any available notice boards and on the Council's website. All the local Councillors have been invited to this meeting and a good turnout is expected. The press have been asked to publicise the Public Meeting.
- Operation Twilight is still ongoing, encouraging people to put lights on when they are not home. A full leaflet drop has been carried out. Some significant arrests have been made by the local Burglary team and suspects have been bailed with very strict bail conditions on them. Evidence is being gathered in anticipation that successful charges will be made.
- The three new PCSO's are still undergoing training and doing very well. Some of them have been introduced to Councillors but a formal introduction will be done by PC Evans as soon as they join the team officially in early February 2016.
- The monthly crime figures although brief have been put together as a collated ward.
- It was noted that Inspector Paul Wycherley is no longer the Wrexham District Inspector and has been replaced by Acting Inspector Simon Kneale.

In response, Members thanked PC Evans for her report and her work in dealing with a dangerous driving situation that has been an issue over the last few months. Members then raised concerns about traffic failing to stop at the Zebra Crossing on Chester Road near to the Garden Village Shops and at the Traffic lights on the intersection of Chester Road/ Grove Road/ Penymaes Avenue. The Police were requested to monitor the situation. Reference was made to the recent burglaries on the Fairways estate and offenders' likelihood of using the footpath links from Bryn Estyn Road to gain access to properties. The potential to use a mobile CCTV camera to reassure residents was again raised. PCSO Peters indicated that captured images of persons entering the Estate would not be deemed sufficient evidence in Court, to place offenders at a burgled property. Members stressed the importance of a continued presence by PCSOs was the best way to reassure residents

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

113 LOWER PARK FARM CO-OPERATIVE - ANAEROBIC DIGESTER PLANT

The Chair welcomed Denise Nicholls a representative of the Co-operative. She gave a short presentation introducing the benefits on the Co-operative's renewable energy and highlighting:

- Lower Park Farm is the largest organic dairy farm in Wales and supplies milk through Calon Wen
- Lower Park Farm Co-operative has been established to enable the development of an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility on Lower Park Farm, Rossett. The Co-operative's Directors have a wealth of skills and experience in the sectors of renewable energy, engineering, agriculture, social enterprise and funding. They share a commitment to creating a project that delivers social, environmental and financial benefits to the community for decades to come.
- The AD process extracts energy in the form of methane gas from organic waste materials and farm animal manure and slurry. This energy is free, sustainable, and green. This unique technology holds a number of world patents and is the first in the world to be able to continuously process wastes which contain grit, sand and soil, making it ideal for application in a farm environment and enables a significant reduction of the carbon footprint in the production of our food.
- Since 2009 this plant has provided long-term evidence of the reliability and efficiency of the Fre-energy technology on a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year basis.

- The end product of the AD process is a nutrient rich digestate (organic fertilizer) with 80% less odour emissions than manure.
- The AD model is being trialled and supported around the Country through COWS Hub Ltd and is classed as the Gold Standard in the UK.
- The Co-operative is seeking Crowd Funding to develop purchase a 240kW Anaerobic Digestion plant at Lower Park Farm in Rossett, North Wales.

Following the presentation Ms Nicholls answered several questions including the use of organic waste from Kelloggs and Carden Park, reductions in landfill through use of the organic waste and the eligibility of the Project for Renewable Heat incentive; renewable energy and Feed-in tariff scheme.

RESOLVED - that MS Nicholls be thanked for her presentation and members of the Council contact the Lower Park Farm Co-operative direct if they wished to take up the offer of a Saturday morning guided tour of the Lower Park Farm premises.

114 ACTON CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU OUTREACH SERVICE

The Council considered the Monitoring Statistics as detailed in the Service Level Agreement for the Acton Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Service that is provided every Wednesday morning at the Acton Community Resource Centre. The report detailed the number of sessions, Clients, referrals to specialist debt or benefit help, debts recorded and maximised income from September 2014 to December 2015.

RESOLVED –that the Report be received and noted and the reports under this Service Level Agreement be submitted on a more regular basis.

115 KEY ACTON ISSUES

Wrexham County Borough Council Members advised that the current Budget Saving regime was continuing. In addition the following matter 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):

Former Groves High School - Reference was made to the recent decision by the Executive Board to approve the demolition of this former Girls Grammar School which is situated in the Acton Community. Members referred to the recent history of this building, including its use by several schools during their refurbishment. It was noted that the building had lain empty for several years and the former extension to the original building had already been demolished. It was noted that there had most recently been proposals for Coleg Cambria to take over the site as an extension of its Wrexham Yale College site. However despite the submission of several applications for planning permission (on which the Community Council had been consulted) this had now fallen through.

It was noted that the local Wrexham County Borough Council Member had been given very short notice of the opportunity to speak at the Executive Board prior to the decision being made to proceed to demolish the building. Members expressed grave concerns that the Executive Board decision has been taken with no consultation, notification or reference to the Community Council. It was recognised there is no obligation for the Community Council to be consulted. However at the very least, moral consideration should have been given to the Community Council with it being afforded the opportunity to represent the concerns it has received about the demolition of a landmark building in its area from local residents

RESOLVED – that the Community Council write to the Chief Executive of Wrexham CBC expressing its extreme disappointment that this contentious issue has been determined with such speed without any consultation or reference to the Community Council.

116 DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL

Further To Minute 100.2 December 2015 consideration was given to the Council's response to this Consultation for submission by 15 February 2016 deadline. It was noted that the Draft response had been formulated and prepared following a meeting with Councillors Len Closs, Bill Baldwin, Carole

O'Toole, James Richards and Sue Stanford. Members noted that the second sentence of the Community Council's response in Part 2 Question 2.1 will be deleted from the final response. It was also noted that Councillor Carole O'Toole and the Clerk would also be participating at the Welsh Government Community and Town Council Engagement event at Llandudno on Thursday 4 February 2016 being held to discuss the Draft Bill.

RESOLVED – that:-

- i. subject to the deletion of the second sentence in Part 2 Question 2.1, the draft response be approved and the Members concerned be thanked for their work in drafting the Councils response; and*
- ii. The final approved response be submitted after the Welsh Government's Engagement Event on 4 February 2016 and by the Consultation deadline of 15 February 2016 and*

117 REPORT FROM CLERK

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

Organisation	Details
1.Society of Local Council Clerks	Practioners Conference – 25+26 February 2016: Email dated 16 December 2015 notifying of this conference for Clerks being held at Stratford Upon Avon. The early bird rate until 22 January 2016 is £249 plus vat RESOLVED – that the Clerk be authorised to attend this two day Conference as part of her continued professional training and the delegate's fee, accommodation, travel costs and additional hours incurred by the Clerk attending this two day Conference be paid
2. Tracy Gilmartin One Voice Wales	1. New Year 2017 Honours List: Email dated 16 December 2015 enclosing citation forms and inviting honours nominations by no later than 29 January 2016. 2. Appointment of Vice Chair and Independent members to NHS Wales: Email dated 21 December 2015 enclosing an advert for several public appointments in Wales The closing date is 15 January 2015 3. Guide to taking part - The Queens's 90th Birthday Beacons: Email dated 8 January 2016 circulating this information to the Council and encouraging Community participation in the celebrations. The Chair canvassed members' views on the Council taking part in the Celebrations. Members indicated that the Council should consider approaches from local groups for financial assistance and respond accordingly. 4. First World War Partnership Day 2016: Email dated 11 January 2016 inviting the Council to be represented at this full day event to be held at Aberystwyth University MedRus Conference Centre on Thursday 28 January 2016. All Information noted
3.Colonel S J Cartwright OBE Commander Army Engagement Group	Evening Reception and Briefing by the Army Engagement Team: Letter dated 23 December 2015 enclosing an invitation for the Council to attend an evening reception to be held on Thursday 11 February 2016 at the Lion Quays Hotel and Spa with Brigadier MJ Gamble Commander of the Army in this region. The evening is aimed at promoting greater awareness and understanding of the Army. Information noted
4.Outreach Liaison Officer Assembly Communications National Assembly for Wales	Enterprise and Business Committee's Public meeting - 28 January 2016: Email dated 8 January 2016 advising that this meeting will be held at the Catrin Finch Centre, Glyndwr University from 9am to 2pm. Information noted

Organisation	Details
5.Yvonne Kelso Secretary, Commissioning & Planning , Wrexham CBC	Ageing Well CONSULTATION: Email dated 12 January 2016 referring to a Draft Strategy which is currently open for consultation and may be of interest to the Council. Any comments or feedback should arrive by 20 th January 2016. <i>Information noted</i>
6.Wrexham County Borough Council	1. "What is important to you?" – Consultation on the Council Plan: Email dated 15 January 2016 informing of this consultation that closes on 15 February 2016. Additionally a consultation event for Town and Community Councils is being held on Thursday 3 March 2016 between 6:00pm and 8:00pm at the Guildhall Wrexham. The event will also update on the result from the "Difficult Decisions" consultation. The Community Council has been asked to nominate 2 representatives to attend the event by 15 February 2016. <i>Information noted</i> 2. Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum – Thursday 17 March 2016 at 4:00pm: Email dated 15 January 2016 advising of the date for the next Forum meeting to be held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall Wrexham. The Council has been invited to nominate 2/3 representatives to attend the Forum and submit any important items of business for discussion at the Forum by no later than 25 February 2016. RESOLVED that the Council be represented at the Forum by Councillors Ralph Hardy and Carole O'Toole.
7.Local Government Finance Policy Division, Welsh Government, Cardiff	Section 137 Expenditure" Limit for 2016/17: Email received 18 January 2016 advising that the appropriate sum for the purposes of Section 137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Town and Community Councils in Wales for 2016-17 is £7.42 per elector. <i>Information noted</i>

118 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members considered details of interest payments received, progress against the Budget to the end of the third Quarter for 2015/16 and outstanding debtor or other payments. Copies of the Financial Statements for the Budget and Bank Reconciliation to 31 December 2015 were tabled and considered at the meeting.

RESOLVED – that

i. the progress against the 2015/16 budget be received and noted; and

ii. the following payments be approved: -

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
45. Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerks Expenses for January 2016 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£88.95
46. Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for January 2016 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

119 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
1. P/2015/0948 20 Ffordd Elan Wrexham	Ground Floor Extension and Internal Alterations	No observations
2. P/2016/0002 Cherry Hill Children's Day Nursery 91 Borrass Park Road, Wrexham	Retention and continued use of temporary nursery accommodation (previously granted under code P/2012/0469	No observations

Signed as a correct record this 16th day of February 2016

Chair