

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 20 October 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:

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Boylin and J A Kelly.

57 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following Declarations of Interest were made at this stage of the proceedings:

- Councillor Anne Evans declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7.1 being a Wrexham County Borough Council representative on the North Wales Fire Authority
- Councillor Geoff Lowe declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7.1 being a Wrexham County Borough Council representative on the North Wales Fire Authority.
- Councillor Carole O'Toole declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 7.2 as a member of her family sits on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

58 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council held on 15 September 2015 were received. It was noted that an incorrect date had been inserted in the resolution of Minute 41.1 and it should be 21 July 2015 and not 20 January 2015.

RESOLVED – that subject to the amendment of the date in Minute 40.1 as referred to above, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 15 September 2015 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

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

1. **Minute 44.3: Service Level Agreement Acton Play areas:** The Clerk advised that Mr Martin Howorth was arranging for costing estimates to be provided in respect of the work required to remedy the low risk items identified in the Annual inspection to be undertaken. It was noted that Gwersyllt Community Council had recently commissioned a painter to paint its play area equipment and the possibility of the Council using the painter be investigated.

RESOLVED –that the Clerk to the Council take the necessary steps to ensure the remedial minor works at the Aran Road and Ffordd Garmonydd Play areas as identified in the Annual Risk Assessment be carried out with the cost of such works being taken from the Earmarked Reserve for Playground provision.

2. **Minute 51.1: Dementia Friendly Communities:** It was noted that Mr Webb is currently away from work and arrangements for him to come and make his presentation to the Council will be made on his return.

3. **Minute 51.7: Wrexham Town & Community Council Forum 15 October 2015.** It was noted that the Council had not been represented at this meeting.
4. **Minute 55 – Special meeting to discuss budget.** – It was noted that this Special meeting had been arranged for Wednesday 28 October 2015 and would commence at 6:00pm.

60 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 Acton team are currently arranging a Policing Operation about awareness for residents to keep lights on when not at home to avoid evening burglaries.
- The team are updating the cold caller work carried out with the elderly residents, although reports of cold callers have dropped.
- In respect of approaches by Councillors asking PC Evans to arrange for speed cameras to be placed on certain roads where reports of speeding cars is causing problems for residents, whilst this is antisocial behaviour and dangerous, many PCSO's are not trained to use the speed camera and if trained they have to work with a Police Officer to do the actual stop as PCSOs do not have the power to stop the car or issue the ticket. PC Evans undertook to contact the Local Roads Policing Team to ask them to put the suggested roads on their list to visit. If they find that there is a need to visit on a regular basis then they will do so.
- PC Evans indicated she was happy for the Policing objective meetings to be held half yearly as the subjects are the same and if they need to change it can be discussed at the monthly Community Council meeting.
- In response to the Community Council's request for monthly comparisons up or down of the crime types, PC Evans advised that the monthly report format has been agreed by Wrexham County Borough Council and not by the Police so unfortunately this request is out of Police control.

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

61 PROCEDURAL MATTERS - CASUAL COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Further to Minute 38.6 July 2015 and in accordance with Section 116 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, consideration was given to the filling of the two casual vacancies in the Borrass Park Ward by co-option. The relevant Public Notices had been on display since 22 July 2015 and 2 September 2015 respectively with a submission date for expressions of interest being 13 October 2015. The Clerk confirmed that the Electoral Office had advised that in the event of insufficient candidates coming forward to fill the two Borrass Park Ward vacancies by Co-option, the Community Council may fill one vacancy by Co-option and re-advertise the remaining vacancy by Public Notice in accordance with Section 116 referred to above.

Members were advised that one Expression of Interest form had been received, submitted by Mr Gareth Dafydd Pearce who had been unavoidably delayed and was unable to give a presentation at the meeting. Members proceeded to consider Mr Pearce's application.

RESOLVED - that

- i. the Mr Gareth Dafydd Pearce of 17 Derwent Close, Acton Wrexham be co-opted as Member of the Community Council to fill one of the two casual vacancies for the Borrass Park Ward on the Council; and*
- ii. the Clerk to the Council arrange for the remaining casual vacancy for the Borrass Park Ward to be re-advertised by Public Notice in accordance with Section 116 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and any expressions of interest received be considered by the Community Council at its meeting to be held on 15 December 2015.*

62 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).

General reference was made to incidents of intimidating and challenging behaviour in the Acton area, leading to the distress of elderly residents as reported to previous meetings with the Police. In particular the housing of some difficult and anti-social individuals in areas accommodating a high proportion of elderly and vulnerable residents, and situations that have developed leading to significant levels of anxiety and concern amongst elderly residents, to the point where police involvement has become necessary. It was noted that there are difficulties associated with housing challenging tenants (not least because of the limited supply of appropriate dwellings) but Members questioned with some vigour the efficacy of placing such persons into properties in areas where there are high numbers of older and more vulnerable people.

Members were concerned that residents of long-standing within their familiar community and in the later stages of their lives, should not be subject to this kind of anti-social behaviour. Therefore tenants who have any kind of history of displaying anti-social behaviour or have the potential to behave in any way that has the effect of intimidating and arousing fear in vulnerable residents should not be housed in such areas.

RESOLVED – that the Community Council write to the Chief Executive of Wrexham County Borough Council inviting her or the relevant Senior Officer, to attend a future meeting of the Community Council to discuss the issue of the housing of difficult and anti-social individuals in areas accommodating a high proportion of elderly and vulnerable residents and to enable Wrexham County Borough Council to provide its view and response to this sensitive and far from straightforward issue.

63 ACTON PARK MATTERS - 2015 SEASONAL PARK RANGER

The report from the 2015 Acton Park Seasonal Ranger was received and considered. The report detailed the Ranger's general duties, extra duties including School visits, Park Surveys and the Dog Fouling Campaign together with a summary of Events held in the Park during the summer and suggestions for improvements to the Park area and other general comments. Members noted the concerns about lack of storage facilities for the Ranger but considered this temporary post funded through a Service Level Agreement with the Community Council had proved successful and worthwhile and should be continued and expanded if at all feasible.

RESOLVED – that the Seasonal Ranger's report be received and noted

64 CUNLIFFE BOWLING CLUB

The Council considered a request from the Cunliffe Bowling Club to support its application to Wrexham County Borough Council under the "Together in Wrexham – Enabling Grants" Scheme for assistance with the purchase of a new mower to replace the second hand mower the Club have been using since taking over responsibility for the Cunliffe Bowling Green. It was noted that the Enabling Grants Scheme was discussed at the Town and Community Council Forum on 15 October 2015. As part of the Enabling Grant process before submission, the application form requires the signature of the relevant Community Council Clerk.

RESOLVED – that the Community Council support the Cunliffe Bowling Club's application and the Clerk be authorised to sign the Enabling Grant Application Form on behalf of the Community Council

65 THE FAIRWAYS NOTICE BOARD

The Chair reported that the current Notice Board on the Fairways estate was installed by Holt Community Council when the Estate was in its area. Subsequently this Estate became part of Rhosnesni ward and the Notice Board key has been lost and the Board has fallen into a general state of disrepair with water ingress onto the display area. A locksmith has gained access to the Board but its frame is damaged and warped. A copy of the current meeting dates and Dog Fouling Campaign posters have been placed on display. However the Notice Board appears to be of limited interest to the local Community and the cost of repair or replacement must be considered in the context of the present austerity measures.

RESOLVED – that

- i. a Notice be placed on display in the Fairways Notice Board advising of a proposal to remove and not replace the Board and inviting comments or objections to the proposed action within one month; and***

- ii. *subject to there being no response received to the Notice from any residents of the Fairways, the Notice Board be removed.*

66 CONSULTATIONS

Consideration was given to the following consultation documents received since the last meeting and whether to make any comments on them:

1. **YOUR SERVICES YOUR CHOICES:** The North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on the Services to be provided in North Wales 2016/17 and Beyond is available online [here](#). The Closing date for receipt of responses is 1 December 2015.

RESOLVED – that the Consultation be noted but if individual Members feel strongly or have concerns about the proposals contained in the document they were encouraged to respond individually.

(Councillors Anne Evans and Geoff Lowe being Wrexham County Borough Council representatives on the North Wales Fire Authority declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item. They left the meeting taking no part in the consideration, discussion or voting on this matter.)

2. **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT - FEBRUARY 2016:** In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Panel's draft report was available online [here](#). Any representations about this report should be submitted by no later than **30 November 2015**. It was noted the report with permissive determinations will have effect for the financial year 2016/17. Section 10 of the Report refers specifically to Town & Community Councils, and [this separate flyer](#) summarises the changes proposed for this year.

RESOLVED:

- i. *To make no representations on the Draft Annual report as the proposed allowances for Town and Community Councils meet the Equalities agenda in terms of providing for carers with responsibilities that include adults as well as children; and*
- ii. *The Community Council at its Special meeting on 28 October 2015 consider the financial and budget implications of adopting any or all of the proposals within the draft Annual Report that will become effective from 1 April 2016.*

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

67 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 Mark Pritchard Council Leader Wrexham CBC	Wrexham County Borough Council – 'Difficult Decisions 2016-17': Email dated 16 September 2015 previously circulated to all members of the Council advising of this Budget Consultation and an event on 20 October 2015 at the Guildhall. The Closing date for responses to the Consultation is 27 October 2015. RESOLVED - that as there is no overall consensus, individual responses be submitted if Members wished to do so.
2 Wales Audit Office	External Audit arrangements: Annual Returns 2015-16; 2016-17; and 2018-19: Letter dated 24 September 2015 advising that Grant Thornton will become the appointed Auditor responsible for delivering the Audit of the Council's Annual Return for the next three years. In addition there will be changes to the audit fees for the 2015-16 accounts. Information was noted and will be included for consideration as part of the 2016/17 Budget setting process.

Organisation	Details and action taken
3 Lower Park Farm Cooperative	<p>Renewable Energy Cooperative: Email dated 18 September 2015 offering to attend a meeting of the Council to explain how the local community can benefit from this initiative.</p> <p>RESOLVED – that Clerk extend invite the Organisers to give a 15 minute presentation to the January 2016 Council meeting.</p>
4 Planning Policy unit Wrexham CBC	<p>Open Space Audit and Assessment: Email dated 18 September 2015 advising Consultants carrying out the work have produced settlement based maps reflecting information gathered on site visits to areas of Open Space in the County Borough. Comments on the accuracy of the information, and any additional comments in relation to the Open Spaces recorded in the Community Council area, were required by Friday 2 October. Due to the time constraint it had not been possible to respond- to the Audit and Assessment Information noted.</p>
5 Planning Aid Wales	<p>Planning Training Workshop: Email dated 22 September 2015 inviting the Council to attend this workshop being held at the Guildhall on 22 October 2015. Information noted.</p>
6 Lindy Jones Wrexham Include	<p>Wrexham Include: Email dated 23 September 2015 giving information about a floating support service for people aged 55+ living in the Borough of Wrexham. The project helps to support people to live independently in their home, typical issues supported include: threat of homelessness, accessing information on benefits / grants and feeling safe. The project has a tiered system enables access up to a maximum of 2 years. Information noted.</p>
7 Civic Support Officer Wrexham CBC	<p>Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 8 November 2015: Email dated 24 September 2015 extending an official invitation for the Community Council to send two representatives to the Service and to lay a wreath as part of the Service.</p> <p>RESOLVED – that the Chair & Vice Chair attend as representatives of the Council</p>
8 Minster for Public Services Welsh Government	<p>Preparing for Public Service Boards Conference 2015: Letter dated 23 September 2015 inviting the Council to attend the Public Services Board Conference on 26th November at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff.</p> <p>RESOLVED – that Councillor Carole O’Toole’s interest in attending as the Council’s representative be submitted subject to spaces still being available.</p>
9 Planning Policy Section Wrexham CBC	<p>Wrexham Town Centre Masterplan: Email dated 5 October 2015 advising that Wrexham County Borough Council is currently consulting until 13 November 2015 on this plan. The survey can be completed online by clicking here</p> <p>It was noted that individual responses can be made and the Chair is planning to respond to the Consultation.</p>
10 One Voice Wales	<p>Devolution Of Services Training: Email dated 14 October 2015 advising of this new training to take place on the evening of Wednesday 28 October in Mold. Information noted.</p>
11 William Powell AM	<p>Petition: Charging for Parking and the Relationship to High Streets and Their Success: Email dated 19 October 2015 advising of this petition which is gathering signatures until 30 October 2015. Information noted.</p>
12 Wrexham Area Civic Society	<p>In Focus – Issue 41 Autumn 2015: A copy of this publication was available for Members’ perusal at the meeting. Information noted.</p>
13 Clerk to Council	<p>Attendance at SLCC Conferences: The Clerk gave a brief summary of the workshops and seminars she had attended at the following Conferences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welsh Regional Conference at Swansea on 17 September 2015; and 2. Annual SLCC Conference at Hinckley Island Coventry from 15 to 17 October 2015- <p>The Information was noted and the Clerk was thanked for her attendance and report</p>

68 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members considered details of payments received, progress against the Budget to the end of the second Quarter for 2015/16 and outstanding debtor or other payments. A copy of the Financial Statements for the Budget and Bank Reconciliation to 30 September 2015 was 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
30 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerks Expenses for October 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£283.25
31 SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Delegate Fee – National Conference at Hinckley Island on 15-17 October 2015 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£432.00 (inc £13.80 vat)
32 Wrexham County Borough Council	1 st Payment under 2015/16 SLA Acton Detached Youth Service Section 19 Local Government Act (Misc Prov) 1976	£10845.50
33 Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for October 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

69 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following applications made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (to be determined by Wrexham County Borough Council):

Case Number/ Address	Proposed Development	Decision
P/2015/0712 77 Dean Road Wrexham	Variation Of Condition 4 of Planning Permission WRE 6/04201 Dated 23.06.1978 to allow works to various trees	To make no objections to the proposed works subject to the Council's Arboricultural Officer being satisfied that the minimum works necessary are to be undertaken under this application.
P/2015/0732 Acton Park Hotel, 110 Chester Road Wrexham	Rear Porch Extension	No Objections
P/2015/0734 32 Smithy Lane, Wrexham	Construction of New Vehicular Access	No Objections
P/2015/0745 3 Camberley Drive, Wrexham	Outline Application to erect 1 No. dwelling on land adjacent to 3 Camberley Drive	To object to this outline application on the grounds that the proposed development will not be in keeping with the Wrexham Town Character Area Guidelines for interwar Suburban areas in terms of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving and enhancing existing highway verges and street trees • Conserving low density of development and will result in over-development of the plot (Local Council Planning Guidance Note No 19 refers)

		<i>The proposed vehicular access from Park Avenue will create road safety and highways issues.</i>
P/2015/0753 20 Glen Avon Wrexham	Erection of Summerhouse in Rear Garden for use as Hairdressers by appointment only	<i>To object to this application for the following reasons:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the proposed Summerhouse will result in the overdevelopment of this plot in this residential area</i> • <i>the Summerhouse will have a detrimental visual impact and is in close proximity to neighbouring properties.</i>
P/2015/0754 17 Ffordd Tegid, Wrexham	Single Storey side and Rear Extension	No Objections
P/2015/0757 9 Turnberry Avenue, Wrexham	Single Storey Rear Extension	No Objections

70 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.

71 PENSIONS REGULATOR – AUTOMATIC ENROLMENT PROCESS

The Chair reported receipt of a notification from the Pensions Regulator on 18 September 2015 of the requirements the Council has to meet in order to comply with the Pensions Act 2008 which stipulates that every employer in the UK must put certain staff into a Pension scheme and contribute towards it. This is called automatic enrolment and the Community Council's final Pension Enrolment date is 1 July 2016. The Chair referred to the Pension Schemes available to the Council and the approximate £1,250 cost per scheme of obtaining an evaluation from the Actuaries for Admission to a scheme.

RESOLVED –

- i. to proceed to make arrangements to join a Pension Scheme by 1 April 2016;***
- ii. to approve expenditure in the sum of £1,250 to enable the Community Council to meet its obligations under the Pensions Automatic Enrolment Regulations and apply in the first instance to the Administrators of the Clwyd Local Government Pension Scheme to receive a quote (based on risk, length of time in scheme, age of Employees etc.) for the contribution rate and other short and long term costs of joining this Pension Scheme on 1 April 2016.; and***
- iii. that the Chair report back in due course on the quote received.***

Signed as a correct record this 17th day of November 2015

Chair