

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 28 October 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

72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

73 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following Declaration of Interest was made at this stage of the proceedings:

- Councillor Carole O'Toole declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 3 Annual Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2016/17 Financial Year – New Expenditure, as a member of her family sits on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

74 ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR- GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Further to the decision contained in Minute 55 September 2015 the Chair reminded members that this special meeting had been convened to enable the Community Council to review its Priorities, Spending Powers and current budget headings to inform the budget setting process for 2016/17. A number of background papers had been circulated with the agenda to assist members in their deliberations, namely:

Current expenditure:

1. Extract of the Estimates and Precept Setting Minutes from 16 December 2014
2. Copy of the Clerk's Report on the Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16
3. Copy of the Draft Provisional estimates for 2015/16 submitted to 16 December 2014 Council meeting
4. SLCC Advice Note on What Can Local Council's Do?
5. SLCC Advice Note on Local Council Services and Powers
6. Welsh Government Letter dated 5 January 2015 advising of the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2015-16
7. Copy of the minutes of 13 September 2011 Special meeting of the Council concerning Strategic Priorities for the Medium Term
8. Copy of the July 2011 Thinker for Acton Community Local Priorities
9. Extract from July 2011 of Wrexham's Community Strategy and Local Service Board
10. Current Year Receipts and Payments by Budget Heading to 30 September 2015
11. Summary of Receipts and Payments to 30 September 2015
12. Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 September 2015

New Expenditure

1. Extract from 2016/17 Draft Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

(Members may also consider the cost implications of the New Audit Regime and Automatic Enrolment as notified by the Pensions Regulator)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Members proceeded to consider the present 2015/16 Budget's expenditure item by item to determine whether the present and other priorities in the coming year are the most cost effective way of spending the Precept and other monies to the best of the Council's ability; and whether within existing Powers and aspirations there is scope to use the monies differently. Under the first section of General Administration it was accepted there were certain mandatory items such as Employers costs, Insurance, Election and Audit Fees and Website costs. The other remaining items were optional but the Council wished to retain the existing items of expenditure for the time being but noted that it would be possible to review the Section 137 Budget having regard to the limits imposed by the Welsh Government under the Local Government act 1972.

At this stage in the proceedings the Chair proposed that the Minutes of the Youth Committee held on 27 October 2015 should be considered as an urgent item due to the potential impact on the remaining Budget considerations for 2016/17.

75 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the next 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.

76 URGENT ITEM

The Chairman considered that the following item of business should be dealt with as a matter of urgency as it would be unnecessarily delayed if held over to the next meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 2015

The Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee meeting held on 27 October 2015 were tabled.

The Community Council considered a recommendation from the Youth Committee that having considered the two quarter reports for 2015/16 it has grave concerns and dissatisfaction about the value for money, performance and effectiveness of the current Service Level Agreement to provide a Youth Project across the five Acton wards due to the lack of demonstrable improvement and sustainability of the Service. The current providers are failing to achieve the key Targets set out in the Service Level Agreement and build a recognisable service. The Youth Committee therefore recommended to the Community Council that notice be served in writing on Wrexham County Borough Council of an intention to invoke clause 5.1.1.1 of the 2015/16 Service Level Agreement and terminate the contract with effect from 31 December 2015.

RESOLVED – that

- i. ***the Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Committee held on 27 October 2015 be received; and***
- ii. ***to accept and approve the recommendation of the Youth Committee that Notice now be served in writing on Wrexham County Borough Council of an intention to invoke clause 5.1.1.1 of the 2015/16 Service Level Agreement to provide a Youth Project across the five Acton wards and terminate the contract with effect from 31 December 2015.***

77 PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting for the remaining business.

78 ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS, OTHER PROJECTS AND NEW EXPENDITURE

1. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS & OTHER PROJECTS

Members continued to consider the present year's budget expenditure item by item in respect of existing Service Level Agreements and Other Projects. Following the decision in Minute 76 above, reference was made to the potential to develop opportunities from ground level subject to sufficient demand from Young

People within the Acton Community and the wish to retain some monies in the budget to be able to do this. In respect of the remaining Service Level Agreements, Members endorsed the Services being provided as representing good value for money and a wish to continue with these Service Level Agreements.

In respect of Other Projects, the Community Council noted the issues around a Community Group taking over responsibility of the Little Acton Community Centre and maintaining its viability. The Council wished to consider updated running costs before providing financial support at a ceiling amount. It was proposed that the Community Streetscene Budget be increased to £5000 and extended to provide for environmental works in each of the five wards of the Community Council.

2. NEW EXPENDITURE

i. 2016/17 Draft Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel:

The Council considered each of the determinations contained within Section 10 of this draft report.

RESOLVED – that the decision set out below will apply to all Members of the Community Council from 1 April 2016 and is confirmed as being the Community Council’s determination in respect of the permissive powers contained in the Independent Remuneration Panel’s Draft report for 2016/17 which will become effective from 1 April 2016 and a relevant budget provision and heading of “Members Remuneration” should be included in the General Administration Section of the 2016/17 Budget:

- 1) Determination 45: Expenses and Costs up to £100 per member - Not to adopt this provision**
- 2) Determination 46: Senior Role Salaries – Not to adopt this provision**
- 3) Determination 47: Civic Allowance – Not to adopt this provision**
- 4) Determination 48: Reimbursement of Travel and Subsistence when undertaking approved duties: To adopt this provision subject to payments being the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:**
 - **45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.**
 - **25p per mile over 10,000 miles.**
 - **5p per passenger per mile – passenger supplement.**
 - **24p per mile for private motor cycles.**
 - **20p per mile for bicycles.**
- 5) Determination 49: Reimbursement of subsistence expenses for attending approved duties outside the area of the Council – to adopt this provision and pay the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:**
 - **£28 per day allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided.**
 - **£200 – London overnight.**
 - **£95 – elsewhere overnight.**
 - **£30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight.**
- 6) Determination 50: Attendance Allowance – Not to adopt this provision**
- 7) Determination 51: Financial loss Allowance – Not to adopt this provision**
- 8) Determination 52: Care Allowance – to adopt this provision to provide for reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.**

(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.)

ii. New Welsh Audit Regime: It was noted that the Community Council would now be charged for the hourly cost of undertaking the External Audit rather than by a fixed amount as in previous years.

RESOLVED - that the existing Audit budget be doubled in anticipation of increased costs as a result of the new charging structure

iii. **Automatic Enrolment:** further to Minute 71 October 2015 it was noted that a new provision would be required to meet the Council's obligations under the Pensions Act 2008

RESOLVED - that the Employers costs heading in General Administration be increased to reflect the new costs from 1 April 2016 onwards of meeting the Council's obligations under the Pensions Act 2008.

Members noted that in order to progress and develop the Budget for 2016/17 and to ascertain the Community Council's precept requirements it will now be necessary to obtain costings and work up the various budget requirements before determination.

RESOLVED that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Council update and prepare budget costings to reflect the debate at this meeting and present the Draft 2016/17 Budget proposals to an early meeting of the Community Council.

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

Chair