

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 13 December 2016 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

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

* Absent

Also Present:

PC Kerry Evans & PCSO Rachel Evans, North Wales Police
Mr Reg Herbert, Freelance Journalist
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

93 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Len Closs, Mrs Anne Evans, Ralph Hardy, Peter Jones, Geoff Lowe, Ann O'Neill, Tom Pierce, James Richards and Barbara Smith.

94 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Sue Stanford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 14: Planning Applications - No 8 Glyndwr Road, Wrexham

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

95 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Acton Community Council meeting held on 15 November 2016: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 November 2016 were received.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council held on 15 November 2016 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

2. Minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 14 November 2016

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Committee meeting held on 14 November 2016 be received and noted.

96 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

1. Minute 47 September 2016: Environmental Committee's recommendation for the provision of the wooden seating and a bench in the Little Acton ward: The Clerk reported that she had been in discussion with Mr Martin Howorth of Wrexham CBC and will now proceed to obtaining final costings for

this work within the £1,000 budget allocation for this ward and arrange for the works to be carried out as soon as practicable.

2. **Minute 48 September 2016: Memorial Tree in Acton Park:** The Clerk reported that Elton Watson Arboricultural Officer at Wrexham CBC had proposed that a semi mature Hungarian Oak would be the most suitable memorial tree. It was noted that three Hungarian Oaks were to be planted around the Park in the next few months and two locations had been proposed.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk proceed to make the necessary arrangements for the Community Council to fund one of the semi mature Hungarian oak trees to be planted in Acton Park, at a location selected by the Arboricultural Officer, during early 2017 as a Memorial tribute to former Councillors Brenda Price, Ron Davies, Joyce Dudley and Olive Simm.

3. **Minute 60.1 September 2016- Bus Service in Maesydre Ward:** The Clerk reported on further correspondence received from Ken Skates AM advising of the action and progress he had made in respect of this matter. In particular it was noted that additional revenue support is to be provided to North Wales Local Authorities to help restore bus services lost as a result of the demise of GHA Coaches. Mr Skates was also urging local authorities to make every effort to protect their funding for bus services.

Councillor O'Toole thanked the Community Council for its support and endeavours in respect of this issue.

4. **Minute 75 October 2016 Maesydre Power House - Licence extension and Repairs and maintenance:** The Clerk provided an update on progress in this matter. It was noted that the Chair had identified potential Community Benefits grant funding from Wrexham CBC to deflect the costs of providing scaffolding for the repair work. It was noted that monies have been earmarked in Reserves for this work.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk proceed to submit the request for Community Benefits funding towards the external repairs to the Maesydre Powerhouse.

5 **Minute 92.2 November 2016: Funding for the delivery of play work (Staffed Play) Provision:** It was noted that the response had been submitted and acknowledged but subsequently further correspondence has been received from the Wrexham Play development Co-ordinator.

RESOLVED - that Wrexham CBC be advised that the Community Council is not able within the timeframe requested to consider this request but will be prepared to consider this matter further in 2017 once more details about the provision of Youth Services from April 2017 is received.

97 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair welcomed PC Kerry Evans who was in attendance and provided an update on the Monthly Policing and Operations and highlighted the ongoing monitoring for incidences of Anti-Social Behaviour, Criminal Damage and Burglaries. Letters and Crime Prevention leaflets were being delivered to properties where the owners were obviously not in to encourage and signpost simple but effective crime prevention activity. PC Evans reported that eight new PCSOs were to start shortly. PC Evans referred to the key Policing priority of Speed reduction and advised that Speed Gun Training will be available to Members on Friday 16 December 2016 at 5.00pm in the Wrexham Police Station Bodhyfryd.

Members discussed concerns about the recent burglaries in the Rhosnesni ward and noted the proactive approach being taken by the Acton Policing team. It was noted that the monthly policing statistics will now be submitted electronically to the Clerk for circulation to Members and reference was made to some Members having difficulty in opening the pdf files.

The Chair thanked PC Evans for her attendance and report.

98 PROCEDURAL MATTERS – FULL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – MAY 2017

The Clerk reported that Wrexham County Borough Council has advised that a “Be a Councillor” event is to be held on Monday 30 January 2017 from 5pm at the Guildhall, Wrexham for all persons who may be

interested in standing at the next County Borough Council Elections to introduce them to the world of Local Government in advance of the elections. The event will be non-political.

The present position was noted.

99 KEY ACTON ISSUES

It was noted that apart from the ongoing Budget consultations there were no other matters to report upon that had recently been considered by the County Borough Council and may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton. (Minute 107 January 2011 refers). The present position was noted.

100 CONSULTATIONS & OTHER STATUTORY GUIDANCE

The Council considered details of the following Consultations and determined what responses if any, the Community Council should submit by the Consultation deadlines:-

1. **PROPOSED 20MPH ZONE POWELL ROAD:** The Council's views on this proposal were required by no later than 9 December 2016. It was noted that the Clerk had circulated this information to all Members of the Council and a response incorporating the responses received had been submitted by the Consultation deadline.
2. **WREXHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2013 - 2028) - ALTERNATIVE SITE REGISTER NOVEMBER 2016:** Notification from Wrexham County Borough Council that the new or alternative sites submitted by interested parties for consideration for inclusion in the next phase of plan preparation have now been compiled into a register that can be viewed on the LDP Consultation Portal: <http://wrexhamldp.wrexham.gov.uk/portal/as2016> .. It was noted that the **Council is not inviting representations on the alternative sites** as there is no statutory requirement to do so under the LDP regulations. There is however a duty for the Council to make the representations received during the Preferred Strategy consultation available as soon as reasonably practical following the end of the consultation. It was noted that two alternate sites on the Community Boundary may impact upon the Acton Community. The present position was noted.
3. **WREXHAM PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN:** Wrexham County Borough Council had sought the views of the Council at the start of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation on the following questions: Does the current rights of way network meet the present needs of the public? How can the rights of way network be improved or developed to make it more accessible for blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems? The Consultation period ends on 30 January 2017.
4. **HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT POLICING:** This Consultation on Policing Priorities – delivering a policing service for the whole of North Wales is concluding on 2 January 2017 with two further events planned in December 2016. An online survey was accessible [here](#).
5. **DRAFT WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP):** Wrexham County Borough Council's consultation on its draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for the next three years is now available on its website. The Consultation ends on 30 January 2016 Further details were available [here](#).

RESOLVED - that Members should respond individually to the above mentioned Consultations if they so wish.

101 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered the Clerk's report concerning the Council's Policy to apportion the annual £3,250 budget equally between each of the quarterly meetings. Members were reminded that Grants totalling £1,370.00 had already been made during 2016/17. Members then proceeded to consider three applications received during the present quarter 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
7. Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod	Requesting Financial assistance towards the substantial general running costs of this annual event	£100.00
8. Anglesey National Eisteddfod 2017	Requesting Financial support towards this annual festival which costs a total of £1.4m	£50.00
9. Wrexham Family Friends for 5's to 11's	Seeking a contribution towards the cost of supporting four families currently disadvantaged in the Acton Community	£500.00

102 ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR

Members gave consideration to matters pertaining to determination of the Council's income, expenditure and precept requirements for the financial year 2017/18.

1. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2017/18: 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 2017/18 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 2017/18:- 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 was required so a budget can be set for each item. The detailed SLAs will be signed off if required before the start of the 2017/18 financial year:-

1. **Acton Resource Centre- Revenue Costs:** Further to Minute 86, November 2016 It was noted that following consideration of the SLA Performance Measures and the second two year review of this ten year Service Level Agreement, the Community Council had agreed to continue to provide the sum of £30,000 per annum as set out in the existing Service Level Agreement over the next two years, with the third two year review to take place in September 2018.

2. **Seasonal Ranger Acton Park:** Members were very satisfied with the year on year success of this Service and in particular the benefits during 2016 of employing the Ranger for a longer period to cover the summer months. The Community Council wishes to continue this Service provision for 2017.

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. It was noted that the next Performance report was due to be submitted to the January 2017 meeting. The Clerk referred to previous three year service Level Agreements. Members were in agreement to enter into another three year agreement from 1 April 2017 subject to there being a break clause in place and regular timely performance monitoring reports to demonstrate the value for money of this Service.

4. **Acton Playground Provision:** Further to Minute 90 November 2014, earmarked provision for recharges for the Replacement/repair of playground equipment has been made from 2015/16 onwards. Since 1 April 2014, this Community facility has been funded by the Community Council with all management, inspections and maintenance being carried out through an 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. Having regard to the age and condition of the two playgrounds and the cost of replacement equipment it was proposed to increase this budget to continue to provide adequate earmarked provision for this future expenditure. 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 two years under the WREN Grant conditions. Members again expressed concerns about the adequacy of the surfacing safety of the Junior Play area in Acton Park.

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.

6. **Little Acton Community Centre:** Further to Minute 104, November 2016 an oral report was given by Councillor Bill Baldwin on behalf of the Community Group seeking to take over the running of this Community Centre. It was noted the Voluntary group was currently administering bookings and providing all caretaking resulting in a substantial saving on previous years' operating costs for this Community Centre. In particular Organisational changes at Wrexham CBC had resulted in the negotiation process between the Community Group and Wrexham CBC being very slow. However progress had been made at a recent meeting with Wrexham CBC officers enabling the following Project Plan to be agreed. Over the next 12 months the Little Acton Community Centre Group/Committee will :

- Conclude the Lease negotiations with WCBC;
- Consult with the Local Community on how the Centre should be used and how it is able to accommodate and compliment the over capacity of the Acton Community Resource Centre to provide for smaller bespoke Groups, particularly in the evenings;
- Investigate and obtain independent assessment on some of the aspects of the previous condition survey produced by Wrexham CBC;
- Work with Wrexham CBC and AVOW to identify the best legal status to be adopted for the Management of the Little Acton Community Centre;
- Compile marketing/publicity information for the Centre for a wider market in order to fill vacant time-slots and increase income potential; and
- Consider the merits of making an application to 'Together in Wrexham' and their Enabling Fund of £5,000 to enhance facilities in line with the Project Plan.

As part of the Project Plan, the Community Council was requested to undertake to provide three year funding for the Little Acton Community Centre Management Group/Committee as follows:-

YEAR 1 - £3,550

YEAR 2 - £2,500

YEAR 3 - £2,000

RESOLVED –

- i. to continue to fund the six Service Level Agreements referred to above during 2017/18 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.***
- ii. to agree and commit to the three year funding for the CAB Acton Outreach Worker for Acton Community Advice Service and the Little Acton Community Centre Management Group/ Committee.***

3 PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2017/18: 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 13 January 2016. The Acton Community Tax base for 2017/18 is 5768 and the Schedule of payments for next year's Precept was noted.

Consideration was given to a Draft budget prepared by the Clerk and Chief Financial Officer and the Council's 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 the provision for:

- Members Remuneration/ Expenses
- Employers Pension Costs as a result of Automatic Enrolment
- Audit Fees
- Training for Members particularly given the forthcoming full Council Elections in May 2017
- Community Streetscene and Environmental Projects within each ward
- Young Persons Projects being developed by the Youth Committee
- Crime Prevention opportunities in all wards as may be identified by the Acton Policing Team
- Earmarked reserves and General fund balances

For prudence and to smooth out known cyclical peaks in expenditure, further provision is being 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 respect of Playgrounds the earmarked provision was to be increased having regard to the age and condition of the existing equipment. There is expected to be a call on the earmarked reserves for the approved works in respect of the Maesydre Power House and for the full Council elections in 2017. In addition there is ring fenced earmarked provision for Acton Community Resource Centre Contingencies, this was not reviewed as the Trust status proposal by Wrexham CBC for its Libraries and Resource Centres had not proceeded. . The non-earmarked working balances will also be kept under review.

RESOLVED – to approve the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2017/18 as now set out before the Council and confirm that the Community Council’s precept requirement for the year 2017/18 be fixed at £125,000.

103 REPORT FROM CLERK

The Clerk reported on information and general correspondence that had been received and was available for members’ perusal at the meeting. Members considered and dealt with the correspondence as follows:

Organisation	Details and action taken
1.AVOW Wrexham	AVOW Christmas Reception: Email dated 25 November 2016 inviting a representative from the Council to attend this year’s reception being held on Friday 16 December 2016 from 12noon to 2pm at the Catrin Finch Centre Glyndwr University <i>Information noted</i>
2.SLCC	Practioners Conference – 23 & 24 February 2017: An email dated 2 December 2016 advising this Conference will be held in Kenilworth and the early bird booking for members before 19 January 2017 is £249 RESOLVED – that the Clerk be authorised to attend this event as part of her continued professional training and the delegate’s fee, travel costs and additional hours incurred by the Clerk preparing for and attending this two day Conference be paid
3.Wendy Bailey Wrexham CBC	Community Activity: Email dated 6 December 2016 advising that this respite service for people with learning disabilities, all sensory impairment and acquired brain injury now run activity drop in sessions every other Wednesday at Rhosddu Community Centre. Members were invited to look at this Service and its small Christmas Fayre being held on Wednesday 14 December 2016 between 11am and 3pm <i>Information noted</i>
4.Play Wales	Play News and Briefing for Autumn 2016: A copy of this document will be available at the meeting for Members perusal <i>Information noted</i>
5.North Wales Miners Trust	Open House at Bersham Colliery Engine House _ invitation to attend this event on Sunday 18 December 2016 <i>Information noted</i>

6. One Voice Wales	1. Consultation on Change of Name 2. National Development Framework for Wales Consultation and Engagement Events 3. Welsh Transport Appraisal <i>All Information noted</i>
7. Gaynor Coventry Wrexham CBC	Programme of Electoral Reviews between 2017 and 2012: Email advising of how to access information on these reviews <i>Information noted</i>
8. Dementia Friends	Notification of an Afternoon Tea at the Lemon Tree Wrexham on 12 January 2017 <i>Information noted</i>

104 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk provided details of payments received progress against the budget and requested authorisation for any outstanding debtor or other payments. It was noted that the final Precept Payment for 2016/17 of £41,666.67 had been received on 1 December 2016.

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved: -

Voucher No; Payee	Details	Amount
54 Flintshire County Council	Clwyd Pension Fund Actuarial Fee charged for calculation of contribution Rate and Admission to the Fund in April 2016 S112 Local Government act 1972 (as amended)	£900.00
55 Citizens Advice Bureaux, Wrexham	SLA Quarter 3 Payment for Acton Outreach Service S142 Local Government Act 1972	£1,536.54
56 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerks Expenses/ travel Costs for December 2016 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£ 72.48 (VAT= £4.66)
57 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod	Financial assistance towards the general running costs of this annual event Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£100.00
58 Anglesey National Eisteddfod 2017	Financial support towards this annual festival which costs a total of £1.4m Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£50.00
58 Wrexham Family Friends for 5's to 11's	Contribution towards the cost of supporting families currently disadvantaged in the Acton Community Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£500.00
60 Clwyd Pension Fund	Superannuation Payments for November 2016 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	As notified by Wrexham CBC Payroll section
61. Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for November 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 (as amended)	NJC Rates

59 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered whether to make any comments on the following Planning Applications for development in the Community Council's area that has been received since the last meeting or that had been 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:-

Application No & Address	Details	Observations
P/2016/1048 The Goulbourne, Borrass Park Road Wrexham	Residential development (9 No Detached Dwellings) and Construction Alteration to	The Community has concerns about the material increase in traffic of the proposed development given that the previous use

	Vehicular and Pedestrian access	as a Public House was mainly accessed by local residents on foot. The frontage of this site has an open aspect and is adjacent to Borrass Park Community School; the Community Council recommends that the principles of Safer Development are incorporated into any consent for this development.
P/2016/0414 18 Richmond Road Wrexham	Section 78 Appeal :Erection of Boundary fence and relocation of Garden shed (in retrospect)	Appeal information noted.
P/2016/1072 158A Chester Road Wrexham	Conversion of First Floor Flat into 2 No. Residential Units	The Community Council recommends that adequate provision is made for the staircase access to the two first floor residential units and there is sufficient parking places provided for the two residential units.
P/ 2016/1084 9 Glyndwr Road Wrexham	Two-Storey Side Extension	The Community Council has no observations to make on the application other than the potential impact of the external boundary wall on the Streetscene.

(Declaration of interest: Councillor Sue Stanford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the planning application submitted for 9 Glyndwr Road as she is an adjoining neighbour she then left the meeting during consideration of this item taking no part in the debate or voting on this matter.)

Signed as a correct record this 17th day of January 2017

Chair