

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 at Little Acton Community Centre, The Green, Little 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:

Lauren, Benjamin, Huw and Philip Edwards, and Olivia and Rachel (Young residents from the Little Acton Community)

Jay Davies, Wrexham County Borough Council - Play Development Team

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

117 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Len Closs, Geoff Lowe and Mrs Sue Stanford. The Clerk reported that the Vice Chair, Councillor Len Closs was currently recovering at home after a recent hospital admission.

118 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

119 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Acton Community Council meeting held on 17 January 2017: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 January 2017 were received.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council held on 17 January 2017 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

2. Minutes of the Environmental Committee Meeting held on 25 January 2017: The minutes and recommendations of this meeting were received.

RESOLVED – that

i) the following recommendations of the Environment Committee meeting held on 25 January 2017 be endorsed and accepted:

- 1. that a sum of £250 from the 2016/17 Acton Ward Environmental Budget be spent to assist the Friends of Acton Park with the costs associated with the purchase of the specialist wildflower seeds to be planted on Tapley Avenue and at the edges of the Car Park;**
- 2. that the Council agrees in principle to setting a priority to improve the Acton Community street scene and the appearance of the area through providing funding from the Community Streetscene budget to undertake repainting and refurbishment of the older street lamps in the Maesydre and Rhosnesni wards initially, subject to the Community Council not taking**

over responsibility and insurance obligations for any of the street lights and Wrexham County Borough Council giving its consent for these works to be carried out;

- 3. That a Survey of the number and condition of the Street Lights in the Maesydre and Rhosnesni wards be carried out and the findings reported back to the Environmental Committee to assist with determination of a programme for the most equitable and cost effect way of carrying out improvements to the appearance of the area, subject to the relevant consents and confirmations referred to in recommendation 2. above being received; and*
- 4. that having regard to the initial scoping work and delays in obtaining the costing for Environmental Schemes in the Acton Community, any underspent Budget in 2016/17 be set aside as earmarked funds to be used in addition to the £5,000 budget provision in 2017/18 for Environmental works in each of the five wards.*

ii) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held on 25 January 2017 be noted.

- 3. Minutes of the Youth Committee held on 31 January 2017:** The minutes and recommendations of this meeting were received. It was noted that as the Vice Chair is indisposed, the first eight week Service Level Agreement for Pilot Detached Youth work effective from 6 February 2017, had been signed on the Community Council's behalf by the Clerk and Chair to the Community Council together with the Chair of the Youth Committee.

RESOLVED – that

i) the following recommendations of the Youth Committee meeting held on 31 January 2017 be accepted and endorsed:

- 1. To note and endorse the action taken by the Youth Committee in respect of accepting the detail, £1,068.31 cost and reporting requirements of the Service Level Agreement for the two month Detached Youth Work Pilot Project to commence on 6 February 2017 and that in accordance with the Community Council's decision on 13 December 2016 (Minutes 102.3 and 109.3 refers), the Youth Committee has proceeded immediately to enter into this Service Level Agreement with the Caia Park Partnership with the Clerk to the Council together with the Chair of the Youth Committee and Chair of the Community Council signing the Agreement on behalf of the Community Council;*
- 2. that the £8,931.69 underspent monies in the 2016/17 Budget be set aside as earmarked funds to be used in addition to the £10,000 budget provision in 2017/18, as a contribution towards the costs of the Youth Provision Pilot Project and to provide for any equipment, storage, Information Technology or other costs associated with the Project; and*
- 3. that the Youth Committee has considered and is satisfied as to the £6,301.90 half year cost and Service Provider requirements within the second Pilot Project to provide one session of Youth Work per week and the Council endorses and gives approval for the Community Council to enter into this Service Level Agreement with the Caia Park Partnership from 1 April 2017 and the Youth Committee be tasked with receiving the quality and evidence reports as set out in the Agreement.*

ii) on behalf of the Community Council, the Clerk to the Council together with the Chair of the Youth Committee and Chair of the Community Council now sign the Service Level Agreement to enable the Youth Provision Pilot Project to commence on 1 April 2017; and

iii) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Committee meeting held on 25 January 2017 be noted.

120 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

- 1. Minute 102.2i) and ii) December 2016: Service Level Agreements:** The Clerk advised that as the Vice Chair is indisposed and to ensure the Service Level Agreements are in place for 1 April 2017, they had now been signed off on the Community Council's behalf, by the Clerk and Chair to the Community Council. **RESOLVED - that the action taken be endorsed.**

121 VARIATION OF AGENDA

Having regard to there being no Police Officers in attendance and the Young People present, it was **RESOLVED -to vary the agenda and take Agenda Item 6 - Ffordd Garmonydd Play area at this stage in the proceedings.**

122 FFORDD GARMONYDD PLAY AREA

The Chair welcomed representatives of the Young People from the Little Acton area who had asked to address the meeting to talk about the process they have gone through with the Wrexham Play Development Team for possible upgrading improvements to the Ffordd Garmonydd play area and open space to cater for older children in addition to the toddlers facilities already provided. The Young People in consultation with the Wrexham County Borough Council Play development Team have discussed the types of activities they enjoy, what they can and cannot do, the cost of equipment and options for a longer phased scheme to include a balance between natural features and man-made equipment. Designs had now been prepared incorporating the most popular common features and the Young People asked for the Community Council's support in making these a reality.

Mr Jay Davies for WCBC Play Development team confirmed an information gathering workshop with Carla Hughes Landscape Officer at Wrexham CBC had been held and tabled a copy of the process and design information for a proposed expansion of the Ffordd Garmonydd Play area. It was noted that some of the trees referred to on the Plan had already been planted.

Members sought clarification on various aspects of the Design and Consultation which included:-

- Was there sufficient space to play football? It was noted there would only be one goalpost and the Young people were already setting goal posts with jumpers and bicycles. This approach would result in less wear and tear to the grassed area.
- The type of consultation with neighbouring property owners and the potential for noise nuisance. Jay Davies indicated he was to go around door knocking to inform neighbours of the Young people's plans
- Would there be any impact to the toddlers using the fenced playground area? It was noted that each age group would generally use the space at differing times.
- The Council's commitment to Play areas and the engagement of the children

Mr Davies advised that a short term Wrexham Play Sufficiency Grants Programme 2017 is being set up in response to the Welsh Government recently making some funding available to support children's play and specifically the Welsh Play Sufficiency Duty. The purpose of the programme is to improve children's (including teenager's) opportunities for play with the aim of helping to secure sufficient opportunities for play across Wrexham. The grants programme is open to any organisations or groups working with or in support of children and their play in Wrexham. Applications can be made for up to £5,000 and due to the short time-scales and pressure to spend this funding by 31 March 2017, applications will be assessed by the WCBC Play Development Team on a first come, first served basis.

The Parents in attendance at the meeting thanks the Council on behalf of the children for its openness and willingness to listen and interact with them.

RESOLVED –

- To thank and congratulate the Young People in attendance for their work and presentations at the meeting;***
- To endorse the proposed scheme for the development and expansion of the Ffordd Garmonydd Play area as tabled at the meeting; and***
- To support the Young People in their efforts and the Clerk in consultation with the Chair submit an application for the short term Play Sufficiency Grant to secure an improvement in the opportunity for play***

123 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

Members were advised that PC Kerry Evans in her absence had submitted a brief email update report together with an apology that due to work commitments the Acton Community Policing team were unable to attend the meeting.

The update confirmed that PC Evans had spoken with the speed gun trainer who is happy to attend one of the next meetings to discuss this with members. PC Evans undertook to come back to the Community Council with this as soon as it is arranged. Reassurances were also given that the Police are working very hard to provide reassurance to residents following the recent Robberies and due to significant arrests made in the last couple of days this has been excellent work. Burglary figures are dramatically down but there was still need to remind residents to put some lights on when they are out.

Members during the ensuing debate referred to congestion caused by the pick-up of bus passengers, speeding and other risk issues around the traffic calming chicane at the entrance to the Shops on Borrás Park Road, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day. Members suggested that Wrexham County Borough Council's Highways team should carry out a traffic and highways safety survey at this location and a report on the outcome be presented to a future meeting of the Community Council with the relevant Senior Highways and Police Officers in attendance to provide advice on how to alleviate and improve the present situation. In the context of this discussion Members also made reference to the policing objective meetings previously held with the Police on a quarterly basis and the merits of resurrecting them.

RESOLVED – that

i) The Clerk to the Council write to Inspector Paul Wycherley to impress how valuable the previous Policing objective meetings were to the Council and to seek his view on resuming the quarterly meetings to discuss progress on policing objectives with the Community Council's representatives; and

ii) The Clerk to the Council request the relevant Highways officers to carry out a traffic and highways safety survey around the traffic calming chicane at the entrance to the Shops on Borrás Park Road and a report on the outcome be presented to a future meeting of the Community Council with the relevant Senior Highways and Police Officers in attendance to provide advice on measures that may alleviate and improve the present situation.

124 KEY ACTON ISSUES

It was noted that apart from the ongoing Budget consultations the following matter 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).

1. Local members were holding meetings with Virgin Media to discuss the disruption and mess from the Broadband cable laying and seeking to ensure a high standard of reinstatement for the pavements.

The present position was noted.

125 PROCEDURAL MATTERS: APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Council's arrangements were reviewed to ensure the Independent Internal Audit testing during 2017/18 for the 2016/17 Financial Year end and in year Internal audit Services met the requirements as set out by the Audit Commission for Wales and the current Accounts and Audit Regulations. It was noted that the Council should review and appoint its internal auditor each year. Guidance states that internal audit must not influence the direction or extent of the review however it is good practice to seek their input. The Clerk advised that the existing Internal Auditor had confirmed that there are no changes to the terms of engagement from last year - there will still be one annual audit conducted after the year end between April and June at a date agreed with the Council. There will be one annual audit report issued which will also follow up issues raised in the previous year.

RESOLVED - that the matters now reported to the Council for the renewal of the current arrangements with JDH Business Services Limited concerning the provision of an internal audit service, be accepted and a letter of engagement detailing the Internal Audit Plan for 2017/18 as reported to the meeting, be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and forwarded to the JDH Business Services Limited.

126 CONSULTATIONS & OTHER STATUTORY GUIDANCE

It was reported that the following consultation paper had been received since the last meeting and Members debated whether to make any comments:

White Paper ‘Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed’: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mr Mark Drakeford AM, on 31 January 2017 launched this [White Paper consultation](#). The closing date for responses is 11 April 2017. It reflects a number of ideas and challenges which were highlighted during a range of recent engagement events he held with stakeholders on the thinking around how Local Government in Wales can best be delivered in the future. The proposals:

- set out arrangements for regional working
- strengthen the role of councils and councillors
- provide the framework for future voluntary mergers
- detail the role of community councils.
- Changes to reform Elections and Voting system arrangements

RESOLVED – that Members peruse the content of the White Paper and a separate item be included on the Agenda for the next meeting to enable the Council to give consideration and have the opportunity to prepare a more detailed response to this important Consultation document for submission by the 11 April 2017 deadline; and that in the meantime to ensure consistency, the Clerk circulate to Members of the Council, a copy of the Council’s submission in response to the previous draft Local Government (Wales) Bill.

127 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.Tracey Haines Governor Advisory Officer Wrexham CBC	Vacancy for an Additional Community Governor on the governing body of Alexandra C.P. School: Email dated 18 January 2017 advising of this Vacancy to be appointed by the Community Council. The Governing Body has asked the Community Council to nominate a suitable person for this position which will commence with immediate effect RESOLVED - that Councillor Philip Lloyd be endorsed by the Community Council as a suitable person for the position of Additional Community Governor at Alexandra Primary School.
2.Project Support Officer Cadwyn Clywd	Red Telephone Regeneration Project: Email received 30 January 2017 advising the Wrexham Local Action Group have approved this LEADER project that aims to fund the identification, preservation and unique uses for the remaining red K6 Gilbert Scott telephone kiosks. Information noted.
4.Lyn Cadwallader Chief Executive One Voice Wales	1. Membership of One Voice Wales: Letter dated 4 February 2017 advising Councils who have not been in membership of One Voice Wales for the last three years will be given a one off 50% reduction for this year. The letter detailed the Representational and Lobbying role of One Voice Wales, its development of services such as legal advice, consultancy, HR advice and representation at Industrial Tribunals. It was noted that the Membership fee to this Council will be £1,686 or £843 with the 50% reduction based on 5763 chargeable dwellings @£0.292. Information noted. 2. One Voice Wales/SLCC Joint Event – 12 July 2017: Email dated 20 February 2017 advising of this event to be held on 12 July, 2017 in Ewloe, Flintshire. The key topics will be enhancing the capacity and capability of the sector, devolution of services and finance/accountability. The cost of the event is £69 per person plus VAT 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 event be paid.

3.Darren Williams Environment and Planning Wrexham CBC	Spring Clean Cymru event 1-5 March 2017: Letter dated 3 February 2017 advising of this Tidy Wales event and the Environment Department will be supporting it through a series of proactive work by the Street Cleansing Team to collect bagged waste collected during the event. <i>Information noted.</i>
5.Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod	Complimentary Tickets: Letter dated 6 February 2017 advising of the option for the Council to claim two complimentary tickets to either the Thursday night concert or any of the daytime competitions. There is also an option to purchase tickets for the additional concerts being held during the 70 th Anniversary Eisteddfod. RESOLVED – that Councillor Philip Lloyd and his guest attend the Eisteddfod as the Council’s representative.
6.Marie Russell Wrexham CBC	Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum – Thursday 16 March 2017 at 4:00pm: Email dated 9 February 2017 inviting the Council to send 2/3 representatives to this meeting to be held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Wrexham. If the Council wishes to submit an item for discussion it should be submitted by 28 February 2017. RESOLVED - that Councillors W Baldwin, R Hardy and P Lloyd attend on the Forum as the Council’s representatives and to request that if not already included on the agenda, the White Paper ‘Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed’ should be discussed at the meeting.

128 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk provided details of payments received, known and projected payments to the year end and the need to transfer of monies between the Council’s Bank Accounts to meet those requirements. The Clerk also reported that Earmarked monies including those referred to earlier in the meeting will need to be transferred to the Council’s separate Money market account.

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved: -

Voucher No; Payee	Details	AMOUNT
67 SLCC	Practitioners Conference Fee – 23 & 24 February 2017 at Kenilworth S112 Local Government act 1972 (as amended)	£272.20 (VAT= £23.20)
68 Caia Park Partnership Ltd, Wrexham	SLA Payment for February 2017-March 2017 for Detached Youth Work Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)Act 1976	£1,068.31
69 Wrexham County Borough Council	SLA Q3 Payment for 2016/17 School Crossing Patrols S137 Local Government act 1972 (as amended)	£2,799.00
70. Wrexham County Borough Council	SLA 2 nd Instalment to 31 March 2017 for Acton Community Resource Centre Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)Act 1976	£15,000.00
71. Wrexham County Borough Council	Q3 Costs to 31 December 2016 for Little Acton Community Centre Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)Act 1976	£80.25
72 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerks Expenses/ travel Costs for February 2017 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£77.20 (VAT= £0.00)
73. Wrexham & District Citizens Advice Bureaux	SLA Q4 Payment to 31 March 2017 for Acton Outreach service S142 Local Government act 1972 (as amended)	£1,536.54
74. Friends of Acton Park	Grant towards the cost of Wildflower Planting at Tapley Avenue, Wrexham Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)Act 1976	£250.00

75 Clwyd Pension Fund	Superannuation Payments for February 2017 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	As notified by Wrexham CBC Payroll section
76. Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary & office expenses for February 2017 paid by the Council's Agent Wrexham County Borough Council (Minute 99.1 December 2009 refers) Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	NJC Rates

129 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). Members also expressed deep concerns about the lack of co-ordination, processes and procedures currently in place for Telecommunications Masts applications.

RESOLVED - that

i). the following observations be made on the applications set out below:-

Application No & Address	Details	Observations
1.P/2017/0032 14 Camberley Drive Wrexham	Rear Extension And Erection Of Garage	No objections
2.P/2017/0036 188 Chester Road Wrexham	Erection Of Fence On Top Of Existing Stone Wall (In Retrospect)	The Community Council objects to the fencing as it is out of keeping with the area.
3.P/2017/0061 Waterworld Bodhyfryd Wrexham	Closure Of Existing Entrance And Extension To Provide New Entrance / Draught Lobby	No Objection
4.P/2017/0082 51 Mile Barn Road Wrexham	Rear Conservatory Extension	No Objection
5.P/2017/0087 Telecommunications Mast Borras Park Road Wrexham	Erection Of 12.5 Metre High Monopole, Associated Cabinet And Development (Replacing Previous 11.9 Metre High Monopole) (In Retrospect)	The Community Council strongly objects to this application as the height of the pole is unsightly and visually intrusive in this location.
6.P/2017/0088 10 Huntsman's Corner Wrexham	Single-Storey Kitchen Extension	No objections
7.P/2017/00100 25 Huntsman's Corner Wrexham	Single-Storey Side, Rear And Front Extensions To Dwellings	No Objections

ii) The Clerk write on the Community Council's behalf to the Chief Planning officer expressing the Community Council's deep concerns about the processes and procedures currently in place for Telecommunications Masts applications and the apparent lack of co-ordination in keeping an overview of the number of Masts in place and their visual impact on the localities they are situated.

Signed as a correct record this 21st day of March 2017

Chair