

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 20 November 2018 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor	Kevin Roberts (Chair)	Councillor	P D Jones (Vice Chair)
	W Baldwin	"	P Lloyd
"	M Davies	"	G Lowe
"	Mrs A Evans	"	D Picken *
"	R Hardy	"	Mrs D Wallice
"	Ms S Hope *	"	Ms L Williams
"	Ms S Jarvis	"	
"	Ms P Kidd	"	2 vacancies

* Absent

Also Present:

North Wales police : Inspector Vic Powell and PCSO Michael Bell

Homestart: Jill Morris and Sue Glover

Play Development Wrexham CBC: Jay Davies & Mike Barclay

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sian Hope, and Darren Picken.

It was noted that Councillors Anne Evans and Paul Jones had been delayed at a previous meeting but were expected to attend this meeting. A quorum was present and the meeting proceeded.

86 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

Agenda item 13- Planning Applications Councillor Paul Jones declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee.

87 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Council meetings:

1. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 October 2018 were received.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council held on 16 October 2018 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

2. The Minutes of the Special meeting of the Council held on 6 November 2018 were received.

RESOLVED – that

i) subject to the final resolution of Minute 84.2.ii) on the last page being amended to read 2.c) instead of 2.b), the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Community Council held on 6 November 2018 be received and confirmed as a correct record.; and

ii) to endorse the decision to set up a Task and Finish Group to investigate, collate information and Report its findings back to the Community Council before the current funding commitment ends on the issues that were raised in Minute 84.2 c) concerning the potential asset transfer of the Little Acton Community Centre from Wrexham County Borough Council to the small Voluntary Group currently running it or to the Community Council itself.

(Having regard to some members still being delayed and not in attendance at this stage of the proceedings it was proposed that the Membership of the Task and Finish Group may consist of the Chair and Vice Chair together with Councillors Bill Baldwin, Anne Evans or Ralph Hardy, Philip Lloyd and Lynne Williams; subject to ascertaining the availability of Councillors Anne Evans and Paul Jones.)

3. Committee Meeting:

The Minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 30 October 2018 were received and consideration given to the recommendations contained in Minute 14.1.ii and 14.2.ii) & iii)

RESOLVED – that

i) The Minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 30 October 2018 be accepted; and

ii) the Youth Committee's recommendations be endorsed as follows:-

- 1. to approve the Community Council investing in the Youth Club up to a sum of £800 to enable the purchase of folding Pool Table and Table Tennis Tables and ancillary equipment for use by both the 8-13 and 14-18 young people attending the Youth Clubs;**
- 2. to give authorisation for the approximate £400 cost of the coach for the bigger residential style trip to be met from the 8-13 Youth Work Funding if the 14-18 project does not have sufficient funds; and**
- 3. the Service Level Agreements for both Youth Work Projects for 8-13 and 14-18 year olds be continued and extended to 31 March 2020.**

88 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

1. Minute 72.2 - Acton Park Play Ground surfacing: The Chair reported on a site visit he had held with the Vice Chair and Clerk and Mr Martin Howorth, the Parks, Countryside and Rights of Way Officer and Carla Hughes from Wrexham County Borough Council on 15 November 2018. The Play facility itself was great but the surfaces were “natural” and “unkempt” and whilst in keeping with the Park setting, the Community Council’s concerns regarding costs that may be incurred to remedy the surfacing, slope and drainage issues once it takes the facility over in April 2019 had not been allayed. However there was a dilemma to be addressed as the Play area may be removed if the Community Council does not take over the funding for this play area when the Grant funding ends. A straw poll of parents using the Play area had indicated the concerns were genuine for parents of children using the facility. It was noted a final decision would have to be made on this issue when setting the precept for 2019/20.

89 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair welcomed Wrexham Town Inspector Vic Powell who was attending his first Council meeting following his recent promotion. He gave a perspective from a Police viewpoint and referred to ongoing work at Community Level and behind the scenes to meet the challenges ahead. He set out the present context of a reduced PCSO Neighbourhood team and the increased challenge and importance of ensuring the remaining PCSOs were making contact with the Community. It was proposed to meet with Chairs and Clerks to the Town Community Councils twice a year to discuss the arrangements in place and issues of concern.

The Police Incident Report and update to 14 November 2018 had been included in the agenda pack and a brief explanation was given by the about current trends, other Operational News and PCSO activities. Members welcomed the speeding Operation planned for the end of the month. The PCSOs contact telephone numbers will be circulated to all Members of the Council and it was noted there was a dedicated Acton Policing team email address of: ActonSectorWrexham@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

The Chair thanked the Police Officers for their attendance and report.

90 HOMESTART WREXHAM

In accordance with Minute 28.2 June 2018, the Chair welcomed Jill Morris Treasurer/ Trustee and Sue Glover Chair of Homestart. They gave a short presentation on how this service spent the £300 grant awarded to it for the benefit of residents in the Acton Community. In particular they referred to the six week in depth course to give volunteers an induction and training to provide support, advice and friendship to families and parents. The Freedom Programme for partners subject to Domestic Abuse was also outlined. Homestart is

based at the Salvation Army premises and more families are now dealing with mental health issues, a number of families use English as a second language and need support but in other areas families struggle and their need is masked. Referrals are made through GPs, Community Organisations and Social Services. Homestart has been working with 110 families or 62 adults and 245 children. Over the 25 years Homestart has been working in the area, it has developed the ethos of enabling families in need to receive preventative support and providing family learning and links groups. The funding for Homestart relies on Grant funding and it has recently obtained Children in Need and Henry Smith Foundation Funding so it is able to continue supporting all families referred to it. Some of the parents and children helped by Homestart are becoming volunteers themselves and now have the confidence to give back to the Communities they have lived in.

Members referred to the incredible work Homestart is doing and recognized it is vital to the wider community with the cost of funding Volunteers being an investment and saving in the long term. The Chair thanked the Homestart Volunteers for their presentation and for the work they do and they then left the meeting.

(Councillors Anne Evans and Paul Jones arrived and Councillors Bill Baldwin and Debbie Wallice left the meeting during the next presentation)

91 BORRAS PARK PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

Further to Minute 72.3 October 2018, Mr Mike Barclay and Jay Davies for the Play Development Team were welcomed by the Chair. They presented their Report and conclusions of the Play sufficiency Assessment in the Borrass Park ward to the Council. A copy of the presentation had been circulated to members.

The Report set out the benefits of play; methodology used; challenges during the assessment; demographics, a mapping of out of school activities, results of the Play sufficiency Satisfaction Survey; research with Children in Barkers Lane School focussing on Timetabling and time/space for play, barriers and improvements; research with parents . The spatial audit had identified that there a very few traffic free routes or footpaths in the ward creating reluctance by parents to allow their children to cross busy roads unaccompanied.

The presence of “No Ball games” signs discouraged play; the proposed development of Barkers Lane School should ensure there is no impact on children’s space for play both in and out of school and recommended children should have access to parts of the school grounds outside of school hours. Acton Park play area is not adequate for the demand placed on it and the Park would benefit from better play facilities on the Borrass Park side but this is dependent on Wrexham CBC securing external grant funding. The Assessment made five recommendations but members noted it did not provide costings or give advice on what external help is available as the Community Council does not have the capacity or expertise to undertake any implementation work particularly as most of the land referred to in the recommendations is in the ownership of Wrexham CBC or in private ownership.

It was noted that Wrexham CBC had signed a Play Pledge for Children’s Play but Austerity measures had impacted on its ability to implement this pledge. The findings of the Play Assessment relied on Wrexham CBC being proactive and considering how to mitigate risk elements and nominate unused informal space in close proximity to where the children wish to play and develop opportunities in consultation with the whole community including the elderly as had been achieved for the scheme at the Ffordd Garmonydd play area. It was recognized that the density of development in the Borrass Park Ward has resulted in little or no space for the provision of formal play. The Year 5 school children were not aware of the Wednesday evening Youth Projects at the Resource Centre and communication of existing provision was important to ensure reach to all Young people.

RESOLVED – that the Play Development Team be thanked for the report and a representative from the Wrexham CBC Play and Youth Support Team be requested to attend the next Youth Committee meeting to provide advice on how the Play Assessment recommendations can be progressed and financed given the Community Council’s lack of ownership of land in the Borrass Park Ward.

92 TASK & FINISH GROUP – LITTLE ACTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSET TRANSFER

Members referred to the decision earlier in the meeting regarding establishment and membership of this Task & Finish Group (Minute 87.1.ii refers) and to the fact that Councillors Anne Evans and Paul Jones were now in attendance and the work of the Group should commence as soon as practicable. They were asked about their availability to sit on this Group. Councillor Paul Jones indicated that due to his County Borough Council workload in the New Year he would not be available to sit on this Group. Councillor Anne Evans indicated she would be available and Councillor Ralph Hardy indicated that he would stand aside.

RESOLVED - that the Membership of the Task and Finish Group shall consist of the Chair, Councillor Kevin Roberts together with Councillors Bill Baldwin, Anne Evans, Philip Lloyd and Lynne Williams

93 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **CASUAL COUNCILLOR MAESYDRE WARD VACANCY:** The Clerk reported that no electors had come forward to call an election during the Public Notice Period and the Returning Officer had now advised that the Community Council must proceed to fill this vacancy by co-option.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk now proceeds to advertise by Public notice the Council's intention to fill this Casual vacancy in the Maesydre ward through co-option and to have a closing date of 12 noon on 14 January 2019 to enable any nominations from eligible person to be considered at the Community Council meeting to be held on 15 January 2019.

2. **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR BASIL PRITCHARD – ACTON CENTRAL WARD:** The Clerk reported on the resignation submitted by Councillor Basil Pritchard.

RESOLVED:

- i) to accept the Resignation from Councillor Basil Pritchard and to thank him for his contribution to the Acton Community; and**
- ii) the Clerk to be authorised to make arrangements to advertise by Public Notice the Council's intention to fill this casual vacancy and the right for ten electors from the ward to call an election.**

94 KEY ACTON ISSUES

Wrexham CBC Members reported as follows on new or Key Issues being considered by the County Borough Council that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton. (Item placed on the agenda in accordance with the decision contained in Minute 107 January 2011 :-

1. Local Development Plan – this would be considered at the Council meeting to be held on 22 November 2018
2. The Local Government Funding Settlement for 2019/20 was lower than expected and it will be difficult to deliver services with the outlook for Wrexham CBC funding and cuts continuing to be bleak ;
3. Boundary Commission Review Consultation – it was expected that Community Councils will keep the same boundaries, however ward sizes were to be reviewed,
4. Groves High School: A task and Finish group was to look at this situation and Councillor Paul Jones would give updates and further information as it becomes available.

The County Borough Councillors were thanked for their updates.

95 CONSULTATIONS & OTHER STATUTORY GUIDANCE

Members considered the following Consultations/ Statements and determined what responses if any, the Community Council wishes to submit by the relevant deadlines:

1. **BARKERS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL PROPOSAL TO PERMANENTLY INCREASE THE SCHOOL CAPACITY TO 315 PUPILS:** This Wrexham County Borough Council [consultation document](#) set out information on the proposal to increase the pupil numbers at this School by 105. The Consultation process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the School Organisation Code 2013. The consultation period runs from

18 October 2018 to 12 December 2018. Wrexham County Borough Council has recognised the importance of all views being taken into account before a decision is made.

RESOLVED – that the following observations and recommendations be submitted as the Acton Community Council response to this Consultation with a strong recommendation that they should be considered and endorsed as part of the Consultation outcomes:

“Acton Community Council at its November 2018 meeting has received a Presentation from the Play Development Team about the findings of a Play Sufficiency Assessment that has recently been carried out in the Borrass Park Ward. The Play Pledge already made by Wrexham County Borough Council to undertake improvements to Children’s play was referenced by the Team. The Play Assessment has identified a Play Deficit in the vicinity of the Barkers Lane Primary School.

The Community Council strongly **recommends** to Wrexham County Borough Council that in carrying out its Play Pledge and as part of this Consultation, it gives serious consideration to enabling “Open Access” to the School grounds outside school hours to ensure safe play for the children who reside in the Borrass Park ward, and to enable improved access for Children to the public realm.

- Some of the detail in the Consultation document is challenged, particularly the statement that Acton Park Primary School has no capacity.
- The Community Council expresses grave concerns about the potential to increase traffic using Barkers Lane at the start and end of the School day and the resulting congestion if this proposal to increase pupil numbers goes ahead.
- The road serving the School is not a “through road” and is quite narrow at certain points. It is anticipated that greater congestion and potential gridlock on a daily basis will result due to the increased number of parents choosing to use cars when dropping off/ picking up their children and having to turn around and return past the School creating unavoidable double journeys past the School at these times.

The Community Council is of the view that the ability of Local Roads to cope with increased traffic flow if the proposed increase goes ahead is a very concerning Health and Safety issue which, will require careful management and active regular enforcement of parking restrictions close to the School to ensure that the safety of children is paramount and to ensure nearby residents on the adjoining estate will not be inconvenienced due to overflow parking on the local estate roads.”

2. **DIFFICULT DECISIONS BUDGET CONSULTATION FOR 2019-20:** It was noted that Wrexham CBC is seeking views until 28 November 2018 on its proposals to create savings and generate income by an online survey [Difficult Decisions 2019-20](#). It was noted a consultation event consisting of a presentation of the Council’s budget proposals for 2019-20, along with a chance to discuss the proposals with Lead Members will be held at the Guildhall on Thursday 28 November 2018 at 5.30pm.

RESOLVED – that:

1. **Members be encouraged to respond individually to the Consultation; and**
2. **the following comments be made on behalf of the Community Council:-**
 - i. **There is increasing use by the Local Authority of Community Asset Transfers to save money. However the outcome of such Transfers must be a sustainable solution where there is a strategic approach to work and collaborate with partners such as Acton Community Council to enable asset transfers. It is important that Wrexham County Borough Council works with its Communities to develop their capacity and skills to be able to take on and manage the asset in the future. Voluntary Community Groups often require ongoing support from their local authority following transfer. Acton Community Council’s experience has been to receive a “take it or lose it” approach from Wrexham County Borough Council and has lost a community Facility from within Acton Park due to this approach. The Community Council should be considered an equal partner and recognition made that income as well as liabilities for a community asset should be transferred across. It is important to have sufficient lead in to any proposed Community Asset transfer to allow for financial and other**

resource planning as the Community Council has to raise any additional monies required through its precept and is subject to its own Audit regime to ensure sound financial planning. This view is endorsed by the Wales Audit Office; and

- ii. *In respect of the playing fields adjacent to the Spider Park and St Johns Field in Acton which has been granted an Owain Glyndwr Field in Trust status, there should be a central register so that there is no ambiguity as to the status and protection granted for this and similar land.*

3. LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES - REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH INITIAL CONSULTATION PERIOD: It was reported that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales are conducting a review of Electoral Arrangements for the Wrexham County Borough. The initial consultation ends on **7 January 2019**. The proposal document can be [viewed here](#)

RESOLVED – that the Community Council note the initial Consultation and awaits the outcome of this initial Consultation period when firmer proposals will have been drafted that may or may not affect the Acton Community boundary and its wards.

96 REPORT FROM CLERK

The Clerk reported on correspondence and other information that has been received since the last meeting. Details attached.

Organisation	Details
1.Wrexham CBC	Variation to Licensable activity under the Licensing Act 2003 – Asda Holt Road, Wrexham LL13 8HL: Notification of this application was received on 23 October 2018 and circulated to all members of the Council as the closing date for representations was 16 November 2018. The present position was noted
2.Wrexham Area Civic Society	Newsletter Issue 47 Autumn 2018: A copy of this document was available at the meeting for members’ perusal.
3.Nightingale House Hospice	Newsletter Autumn/ Winter 18: A copy of this document was available at the meeting for members’ perusal
4.Welsh Hearts	Defibrillator Appeal for Wrexham Town and Community Councils: Email dated 28 October 2018 indicating a wish to work with the Town and Community Councils in an attempt to make sure that there plenty of functional public access defibrillators available at all times within your area. Information has also been requested on whether there are defibrillators in our community so that Welsh Hearts can update its own and the Welsh Ambulance service records. RESOLVED to look at this suggestion in the new year
5.Mrs Audrey Nicholas	Provision of Dog Poo bags: Letter dated 14 November 2018 advising that Marchwiell Community Council supplies Poo Bags to its residents and Acton Community Council do not. Members referred to previous Dog Fouling Awareness Campaigns the Community Council had held and the difficulty and the cost and logistics of providing a regular supply of the bags for dog owners. Reference was also made to the legal requirement for dog owners to have the means on them to clean up after their dogs when in a public place. RESOLVED that the Clerk write and thank Mrs Nicholas for providing the information and advise her that the Community Council does not have the resources to provide this service over the much larger Acton Community.

97 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members noted no payments had been received and that outstanding debtor or other payments as set out in the schedule below required authorisation

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved:-.

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
47. Caia Park Partnership Ltd Cheque no 201893	SLA Acton Youth Work Project – 8to 13yo Q3 Payments S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)	£2,912.46 (VAT =£0)
48. Caia Park Partnership Ltd Cheque no 201894	SLA Acton Youth Work Pilot Project – 14-18yo Q3 Payments S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)	£3,049.95 (VAT =£0)
49 SLCC Enterprises Cheque no 201895	Reference books for Clerk to the Council S112 local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£127.99 (VAT=£0)
50. Wrexham County Borough Council Cheque no 201896	SLA Acton School Crossing Patrols x3 Q2 Payments S112 local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£3,291.00 (VAT =£0)
51. Wrexham County Borough Council Cheque no 201897	Q2 Running Costs contribution for Little Acton Community Centre S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)	£1,546.65 (VAT =£0)
52. Carole Roberts Cheque no 201898	Clerks Expenses for November 2018 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£ 117.00 (VAT =£15.33)
53 Wrexham CBC Cheque no 201899	SLA Costs for 2017 Seasonal Park Ranger at Acton Park S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£5,949.61 (vat= £961.60)
54 Shropshire County Council Cheque no 201900	Clerks Salary and office expenses for November 2018 paid by the Council's Agent: Shropshire County Council in accordance with Minute 47 July 2017 to include SLA Payment +Pension Contributions direct to the Clwyd LGPS Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	NJC Rates

98 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered any comments it wished 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 as set out below:

Case Number/ Address & Proposed Development	Decision
1.P/2018/0893 17 Glyndwr Road Wrexham - Removal Of Existing Conservatory To Form Pitched Roof Rear Extension	No Objection
2.P/2018/0893 22 The Triangle Wrexham - Application For Works To Trees Subject To Tree Preservation Order Wcbc No. 64:- T1 Mature Oak - Lightly Reduce Crown By 1 - 2 Metres To Reduce Risk Of Branch Failure And To Maintain The Tree's Current Size And Remove Deadwood From Within Crown	The Community Council has no objections provided the proposed works to these protected trees are considered by Wrexham County Borough Council's Arboricultural Officer to be essential and necessary to ensure the best and continuing good health of the Trees referred to in this application and all works to the Protected Trees are carried out under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the Council's Tree Officer.
3.P/2018/0920 36 Hawkstone Way Wrexham - Erection Of Garage	No Objection

<p>4.P/2018/0935 The Goulbourne Borrass Park Road Wrexham - Application For Variation Of Condition 13 Imposed Under Planning Permission P/2016/1048 To Allow Surface Water Drainage To Be Partially Disposed Of In The Public Sewer Network.</p>	<p>The Community Council objects to the proposed removal of the original Planning Permission's Condition No.13 and strongly recommends that having regard to the topography of the site and the surrounding lower lying properties and open space off Ansell Road/Birkdale Road Wrexham it is retained to ensure there are no issues around drainage capacity, the potential for flooding (particularly during storm events) and subsequent blockage.</p> <p>This development should not create additional run-off compared with the previous single building development. The final re-development scheme for this land at the former Goulbourne Public House should aim to reduce and manage run-off and minimize the consequences of storm and other exceptional events.</p>
--	---

(Councillor Paul Jones having previously declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee left the meeting taking no part in the discussion or voting on this item.)

Signed as a correct record this 18th day of December 2018

Chair