

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 19 March 2019 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor	Kevin Roberts (Chair)	Councillor	P D Jones (Vice Chair)
	W Baldwin	"	Ms P Kidd
"	M Davies	"	P Lloyd
"	Ms S Edwards	"	G Lowe
"	Mrs A Evans	"	D Picken *
"	R Hardy	"	Mrs D Wallice
"	Ms S Hope *	"	Ms L Williams
"	Ms S Jarvis		1 vacancy

* Absent

Also Present:

North Wales Police PCSOs Sam Gostage and Steph Taylor
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

136 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In accordance with Standing Order No. 3e; it was noted that no Members of the Public residing within a ward of the Community Council had given notice to speak at this meeting.

137 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

- 1. Agenda item 10- Financial Assistance Application No 1: Borrass Park Albion Football Club – Germany Trip Easter 2019:** Councillor Ralph Hardy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item having submitted the application.
- 2. 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.

138 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19 February 2019 were received.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council held on 19 February 2019 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

139 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1. Minute 122.2 – Ffordd Garmonydd Play Area Maintenance under Service Level Agreement:** The Clerk advised that the matter of the weeds in the bark of the fenced Play area is being dealt with by the Playground Inspectors. The present position was noted.
- 2. Minute 128.2 - Drugs Dog Operation:** The Clerk in consultation with the Chair had arranged for a cheque to be issued last week for £100 to enable this Operation to commence.

RESOLVED – to endorse the action taken by the Clerk in Consultation with the Chair.

3. **Minute 130.1 – Councillor Vacancy Borrás Park Ward:** The Clerk confirmed that this casual vacancy, to be filled by co-option, had been advertised on 20 February, 2019. The closing date is 12 noon on 15 April 2019 and any applications submitted will be considered by the Council at its next meeting
4. **Minute 130.4 Appointment of Internal Auditor:** It was noted that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair will sign and submit the documentation shortly.
5. **Minute 132.4.1 & 133 Earmarked Saving for Play sufficiency:** It was noted that the £625 saving had now been transferred to the Council's earmarked reserves.
6. **Minute 132.4.2 Town & Community Council Forum:** It was noted that the March 2019 meeting had been cancelled and the next Forum meeting will be held in June 2019.

140 COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Monthly Policing and Operations Report from the Acton Community Police Officers was tabled at the meeting. There were no Police representatives present at this stage of the proceedings. The following matters were discussed: -

- How many dedicated PCSOs were allocated to the Acton Community?
- Anti-Social Behaviour at the Aran Road Play area by older Young people was discouraging its use by the younger children and their parents and nearby residents are also being abused if approaching the older young people. The Community Council was concerned at this behaviour given its commitment to fund and maintain this play area and wished to draw the situation to the attention of the Acton Community Policing team.
- Operation Bakings – reference was made to the roads being identified by Members for targeting as part of this Operations not being included. Some members referred to their participation out with the PCSOs for this Operation and their flexibility in where to carry out the speed checks.
- Community Policing – the Acton Community policing team appeared to be working reactively. The established value of Community Policing to address Anti-Social behaviour at an early stage and to reassure the more vulnerable residents was being diluted together with the opportunity for the Community to have regular contact with its Community Policing officers. In this connection, Members again referred to previous quarterly meetings held between the Police and the four Town Community Councils and their importance in maintaining communication, partnership and exchange of intelligence. The quarterly meetings despite previous assurances had not taken place recently. The Community Council was enabling positive work with the Acton Young people through its open access youth projects but any efforts should be combined to ensure the best possible outcomes.

RESOLVED – that in the absence of any Police representatives, that the Clerk write to the Wrexham Town Inspector Victor Powell to insist that the resumption of the quarterly meetings with representatives of the Community Council should be a priority to restore confidence in Partnership working together with providing an opportunity for information sharing about crime prevention in a secure forum. The existing PCSOs are commended for their service of the area on a day to day basis but the Community Council has concerns about them becoming more reactive and losing contact and cognisance with the Community as there are so few of them covering in the area.

141 KEY ACTON ISSUES

The Wrexham CBC Members reported verbally 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) as follows: -

1. **Former Groves School site:** Wrexham FC intends to move and develop its training ground to the playing fields of this site from the Nine Acre Field. The listed school building had been declared surplus to requirements by the Education Authority for primary and secondary school needs due

to the higher costs of making it fit for its 21st century purpose. Expressions of interest for alternate uses of the listed building were to be sought.

2. **Nine acre Playing Field and Open Space:** Expressions of interest were to be sought on developing part of this site for a Primary school and a full consultation would then follow with drop-in opportunities for local residents to address concerns such as the current open space deficit, the loss of open space, and impact on drainage if the site were to be developed.

The members were thanked for their update

142 PROCEDURAL MATTERS:

1. **Members of the Public wishing to ask questions at Council meetings:** A draft Advice note for the general public explaining this new provision was tabled at the meeting for consideration in accordance with the model Standing Orders approved by the Council at its meeting held on 19 February 2019.

RESOLVED – to adopt the Advice Note and it be circulated to all members of the public expressing a wish to ask questions and attend at Council meetings.

2. **Financial Regulations Nos 5,6 and 7- Banking arrangements, Instructions for the making of payments and payments of salaries:** The Clerk advised that following adoption of the revised Financial Regulations by the Community Council on 19 February 2019, it was now timely to review the Council's instructions under the above mentioned Financial Regulations and to authorise the submission of a Business Banking Application to the Council's bank HSBC for the Council's current account as there are increasing situations where the use of cheque payments is becoming more difficult which have recently included: -

i) Payroll Service Level Agreement with Shropshire Council - with effect from 1 April 2019, the present payment arrangements will cease as a result of changes due to installation of its new integrated HR, Payroll and Finance system and an alternate electronic Salary payment will be required subject to the instructions being signed by two members who are authorised bank signatories and any payments so made are reported to the Council in accordance with the Council's adopted Financial Regulations; and

ii) GDPR – Purchase of mass scanning & archiving of documents (Minute 108.3.i December 18 refers): The Clerk had obtained a short term quote from Curry's for the purchase of Scan snap IX500 at a cost of £411.78. However a cheque will not be accepted and an electronic payment in advance was required to complete the purchase and this cannot be completed until Internet Banking has been set up. The Clerk also reported that confirmation had been received from Vision ICT that the Council's website is GDPR compliant and the individual named "Councillor@actoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk" email addresses have been activated

RESOLVED - that the Clerk be authorised to submit a Business Internet Banking Application to HSBC as the Community Council's authorised Primary User, a Security Device be obtained and the signed instructions for the application be signed by the Clerk to the Council and any two of the four Councillors who are authorised bank signatories on the existing bank mandate and the payment limits for internet banking be as follows:

1. Overall Daily Payments Limit = £3,000

2. Daily BACS Payment Limit = £3,000

3. Daily Bill Payments Limit = £3,000

4. Daily CHAPS Payment Limit = £3,000

5. Daily International Payments Limit = £0

143 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed the two PCSO who had arrived at this stage of the proceedings having been delayed due to an Operational matter. The Clerk advised on the debate earlier in the meeting in their absence under agenda item 6 (Minute140 refers) and the Officers provided responses as follows:

- There are currently 3 PCSOs allocated to Acton and Rhosddu who patrol all of the community and there is at least one PCSO as a minimum every day. There is also the capability of calling in other Officers to assist if there are spikes in crime.

- The policing team had received no reports of the Anti-social behaviour at the Aran Road Play area but would now arrange for regular patrols to assess the situation
- The contact email for the Acton policing team will in future be included on the front page of the Monthly Policing report.

The Officers were thanked for their attendance.

144 CONSULTATION - PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CAPACITY AT BARKER'S LANE CP

Further to Minute 95.1 November 2018, Members were advised that Wrexham County Borough Council's Executive Board had considered a Post Consultation Report on 13 March 2019 and had determined to issue a statutory Notice for this proposal to increase the pupil numbers at Barkers Lane School by 105. The Consultation process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the School Organisation Code 2013. The current consultation period set out in the Notice had commenced on 14 March and ends on 11 April 2019. Members noted that the representations the Council had submitted by 12 December 2018, as part of the statutory process will not be counted as objections unless submitted during this Statutory Notice Period. The results of this further Consultation will be presented to Wrexham County Borough Council's Executive Board on 9 July 2019.

RESOLVED – to reaffirm and resubmit the previous observations and objections made in December 2018 and to submit further objections, observations and recommendations as the Community Council's response to this Consultation with a strong recommendation that they should be considered and endorsed as part of the Consultation outcomes:

“The Community Council has again considered the proposals contained in the refreshed Consultation Document and now submits further detailed objections as set out below to this proposal:

- 1. Impact on proposal on surrounding schools:** Contrary to the statement in the Consultation Document, the Community Council wishes to point out that its Governors at Acton Community School have confirmed that there is currently a shortfall of pupils and Teachers may be facing redundancy. The development of Barkers Lane School should not come at the expense of any other Grade A Primary School in the Acton Community or Town Centre;
- 2. Projected Growth within the Town Centre:** The survey of parental preferences and demand for school places in the Town Centre within the Consultation document does not demonstrate that such demographic growth and demand is from pupils that reside in the Borrass Park ward who would choose to attend the Barkers Lane English Medium School; nor that the proposal to increase the pupil numbers by 105 would address any substantial over-subscription from such parental preference and choices when compared to other nearby primary schools;
- 3. Potential Disadvantages**
 - 1. Health and Safety of Pupils accessing the School:** For those children who do reside nearby, their walk to Barkers Lane school from the nearby housing estate, particularly if emerging from the Sherwell Avenue direction to the School, will involve them having have to cross a heavily congested and potentially gridlocked Barkers Lane to walk along the pavement and then re-cross the road to access their School as there is no footpath along Barkers Lane between Sherwell Avenue and the School itself.
 - 2. Increased traffic:** Parental preferences in choosing Barkers Lane School for pupils who reside outside the immediate vicinity of the school will result in an increase of vehicles attempting to obtain access along Barkers Lane as pupils are dropped off and collected at the start and end of the School day. There will also be a knock on effect due to Barkers Lane being a no through road, necessitating double car journeys to drop children off and then a manoeuvre to double back and drive away from the school.
 - 3. Air pollution:** Concerns that the queuing and idling vehicles outside the school at peak times will add to the environmental impact and quality of air outside the School, particularly given its proximity to the Llanypwll link road and air pollution from high volumes and long queues of traffic during the rush hour at the Gresford Roundabout.

4. **Loss of open space:** The Acton Community already has a well-documented deficit of open space that would be exacerbated if School land is used for the additional building. Due to the Open space deficit, the Community Council is pressing for all schools in the Acton Community to make the grounds open access. “

145 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered the Clerk’s report concerning applications received for financial assistance. In accordance with the Council’s Policy, the annual £3,500 budget had been apportioned equally between each of the quarterly meetings. Members were reminded that Grants totalling £1,070.75 had already been made during 2018/19 and a sum of £2,429.25 remained unallocated. Members proceeded to determine the five applications received during the final quarter and whether to make any grants 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
6.Borrass Park Albion FC	Support towards the Club’s costs of participating on 39 th Twinning Easter trip to Germany	£400.00
7.Wrexham Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association	Sponsorship of a group of classes at the Annual Flower, Vegetable and Home produce Show	£50.00
8. Wales Air Ambulance Charity	Assistance towards operating this lifesaving service outside of daylight hours	£1,000.00
9. Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Sir Conwy	Assistance to support staging of the National Eisteddfod to be held 2-10 August 2019 on the outskirts of Llanrwst	£50.00
10. Family Friends for 5’s to 11’s	Assistance towards the costs of providing support for vulnerable families living in Wrexham	£900.00
Total		£2,400.00

(Councillor Ralph Hardy having previously declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the application from Borrass Park Albion FC being the applicant left the meeting taking no part in the discussion or voting on this item.)

146 REPORT FROM CLERK

The Clerk reported on correspondence and other information that has been received since the last meeting as follows:

Organisation	Details
1.Society of Local Council Clerks	<p>1.Joint Wales Conference: Invitation Email dated 6 March 2019 to attend the 7th Annual SLCC & OVW Conference to be held at Liberty Stadium Swansea on 15 May 2019 at an early bird cost of £90 (+vat)</p> <p>2. Welsh Regional Conference: .This event will be held on 20 June 2019 at Llandrindod Wells. The Early bird cost is £ 80 (+vat)</p> <p>RESOLVED – that the Clerk be authorised to book a place to attend both Conferences as part of her continued professional training and the delegate’s fees, travel/ accommodation costs and additional hours incurred by the Clerk attending the Conference be paid</p>
2.Jill Evans MEP / CND Cymru Chairperson	<p>No Underground Nuclear Waste Dump in Wales: Email dated 5 March 2019 advising the government is seeking a Welsh Community to “volunteer” to host an underground nuclear waste dump, officially described as a Geological Disposal Facility, to bury all the high-level nuclear waste from the UK’s nuclear weapons and nuclear power programmes. CND Cymru will keep a record of every community,</p>

	town, and county council that passes a motion not to volunteer to host such a dump. The list will be submitted by CND in response to the government's consultation. RESOLVED – to pass the following motion and state: “Acton Community Council confirms it will not volunteer to host an underground nuclear waste dump.”
3.Assembly Member Support , Welsh Government	External Audit arrangements: Email dated 11 March 2019, reporting on the findings of a survey of all Welsh Clerks on the BDO/Grant Thornton External Auditors currently contracted by the Wales Audit Office. Confirmation has now been received that the existing contract is to end and they will not be contracted to work for the Wales Audit Office from 2020 onwards. The external audits will be brought back in-house and carried out by the WAO Information noted

147 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members noted details of payments arranged and outstanding debtor or other payments as set out in the schedule below that now required authorisation:-

INTERNAL TRANSFERS: From the Deposit Account to replenish the Chair's Charity Account = £250.00; to the Current Account = £46,800 (to include £800 for Youth Club equipment costs); and transfer to the Moneymarket Account of the agreed earmarked reserve of £625.00 for Play Sufficiency projects.

BUDGET & OUTSTANDING INVOICES: The Clerk provided an update on progress against the Budget and the outstanding SLA and services invoices for 2018/19.

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved:-.

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAIL,	AMOUNT
79 Warrington Borough Council Cheque No 201925	Contribution towards costs of a Town Centre Drugs Dog Operation (Community Safety Partnership) Section 92 Police Act 1996	£100.00
80 Vision ICT Cheque No 201926	Website hosting and Backup support for May 2019 to April 2020 S55 Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013	£318.00 (VAT £53.00)
81. One Voice Wales Cheque No 201927	Training Module 10 – Charing Skills Cllr S Jarvis at Gresford on 28 February 2019 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£60.00
82.Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council Cheque No 201928	Clerks Expenses/ travel Costs for March 2019 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£42.08
83 Borrass Park Albion Football Club Cheque No 201929	Financial Assistance to support the twinning Exchange to Germany during Easter 2019 S137 Local Government Act 1972	£400.00
84.Wrexham Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Asscn Cheque No 2018930	Financial donation towards the costs of the Annual Open Flower, Vegetable and Home Produce show S137 Local Government Act 1972	£50.00
85. Wales Air Ambulance Cheque No 201931	Financial Assistance requested to costs of operating this service outside daylight hours S137 Local Government Act 1972	£1,000.00
86. Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Sir Conwy Cheque No 201932	Donation towards staging cost of 2018 National Eisteddfod to be held in in august 2019 in the outskirts of Llanrwst S137 Local Government Act 1972	£50.00
87. Family Friends for 5's to 11's Cheque No 201933	Donation towards providing support to disadvantaged families and their children in the Acton Community S137 Local Government Act 1972	£900 00

88 Councillor Philip Lloyd Cheque No 201934	Reimbursement of failed BACS Payment Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£120.00
89 Shropshire Council Cheque No 201935	Clerks Salary, office expenses & Councillors Expenses payments made in March 2019 paid by Shropshire Council in accordance with Minute 47 July 2017 to include SLA Payment & Pension Contributions direct to Clwyd LGPS Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	NJC Rates
90. Chair's Charity Account (Business Money Manager Account Transfer)	Replenish of Chair's Charity Account during 2018/19 S112 Local Government act 1972	£250.00
91. Wrexham CBC Cheque No 201936	Q4 Costs for Little Acton Community Centre S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£816.75 (no vat)
92. Wrexham CBC Cheque No 201937	SLA Q4 Payments for School Crossing Patrols x 3 in Acton Community S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£2,194.00 (no vat)
93 Charisma Trophies Cheque No 201938	Engraving of Badges for Chair's Chain of Office S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£18.00 (VAT = £3.00)

148 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:

1. P/2019/0103: 22 Burton Drive , Little Acton Wrexham - Single Storey side and rear extension
Decision: No observations to make
2. P/2019/0137: 71 Box Lane Wrexham - Two Storey Rear and single storey side extensions
Decision: No observations to make
3. P/2019/0194: 9 Kensington Grove, Wrexham - Application For Works To T21 Beech (Fagus Sylvatica) subject To Tree Preservation Order No. 167 – remove the 2 lowest limbs over the back garden to source – removing arching second branch over garden back to the first union – reduce the diagonal
Decision: To make no objection to this application subject to the Wrexham CBC Arboricultural Officer being satisfied the works are necessary to ensure the continued good health of the tress and all works are carried out under the direction and to the satisfactions of the Arboricultural officer
3. P/2019/0208: 11 Kendal Way Wrexham - Single Storey extensions to front and side/rear
Decision: No observations to make
4. P/2018/0211: 5 Ffordd Elwy Wrexham - Front Porch And Rear Lounge Extensions
Decision: No observation to make
5. P/2018/1014: 46 & 46a Chester Road Wrexham - Revised plans for this application to convert from HMO to Wellness Centre. (The Council objected to the original Application in December 2018 – the further comments now made are in response to the revised plans)
DECISION: The Council's previous objections are re-affirmed and it has noted the revisions to the application and that the property is in fact a pair of semi-detached properties being used as a single detached property. The Council has also noted the reduced business hours and welcomes the proposed improvements to the Highway access for this property.
However the Council strongly opposes the proposed commercial use of this detached property which if permitted will extend the commercial reach of the town centre into a well-established residential area affecting its character and that of the nearby conservation area.
6. TPO 282-2018 for the Law Courts & Police Headquarters Bodhyfryd, Wrexham :
Decision: to receive and note the Confirmation of this TPO as modified to include 1 No additional sycamore tree identified within schedule 1 of Model Order as T20.

(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 16th day of April 2019

Presiding Chair