

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 17 December 2019 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

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

* Absent

Also Present:

Mrs Caroline Bettley

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

101. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Further to the acceptance of the resignation of Councillor Sharon Jarvis and the resultant vacancy for Vice Chair of the Council (Minute 98 November 2019 refers) consideration was given to the appointment of a Vice chair for the remainder of the Municipal year

RESOLVED – that Councillor Ralph Hardy be appointed as Vice Chair of the Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Pritchard, Debbie Wallice and Lynne Williams

103. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

Agenda Item 15-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.

104. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

105. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

- Minute 89.3 – Little Acton Community Centre Condition Survey** -The Clerk expected this to be completed by the end of the week and the report will be considered by the Task & Finish Group on 14 January 2020. The present position was noted
- Minute 90 -Off Road Bikers:** It was noted a response from the Police was awaited.
- Minute 96.1 – Passive Drugs Dog Operation:** The Clerk is awaiting the return of original cheque before taking any action.

106. COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

The Chair expressed disappointment that no Police representatives were in attendance. It was noted that the Monthly Policing and Operations Report from the Acton Community Police Officers had been circulated separately.

The Chair referred to reports he had received from the Friends of Acton Park expressing concerns about recent Antisocial behaviour in Acton Park and the nearby area by a minority of Young People during the evening and into the early hours of the night and several instances of damage to signs and park furniture. The Chair of the Friends Group had met with Pc Stuart Roberts to discuss her concerns. Members stated this behaviour is not acceptable and expressed serious concerns about Community Policing provision within Acton Park and Acton Community as a whole.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk write to the Wrexham Town Chief Inspector and express the Community Council’s very serious concerns about the Anti-Social Behaviour in Acton Park and to press for the matter to be addressed before it escalates any further.

107. PROCEDURAL MATTERS –

1. CASUAL COUNCILLOR BORRAS PARK WARD VACANCY. Only one suitably qualified person had expressed an interest in putting her name forward for co-option to fill this vacancy by the noon deadline on 16 December 2019. A copy of the application had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members proceeded to consider the application and invited the applicant to give a short address to the meeting in support of her application. Members then proceeded to consider the filling of this vacancy by a show of hands.

RESOLVED –that

- i) Unanimously, Mrs Caroline Bettley of 7 Smithy Lane, Wrexham, be co-opted as a Member of the Community Council to fill the casual Councillor vacancy for the Borrass Park Ward on the Council; and***
- ii) The Clerk arrange a Member Induction date for Councillor Caroline Bettley.***

2. SECTION 116 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 – CASUAL COUNCILLOR MAESYDRE WARD VACANCY

The Clerk advised that notification received on 17 December 2019 from the Returning Officer had confirmed that no Electors had requested an election and the Community Council must now proceed to fill this vacancy by co-option.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk proceed to advertise by Public Notice the Council’s intention to fill this Casual vacancy in the Acton Park ward through co-option and to have a closing date of 12 noon on 20 January 2020 to enable any nominations from eligible persons to be considered at the Community Council meeting to be held on 21 January 2020.

3.FILLING OF VACANCIES ON THE STAFFING COMMITTEE AND YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Further to Minute 98 November 2019 and consequent upon the resignation of Councillor Sharon Jarvis consideration was given to the filling the resulting vacancies on two Committees.

RESOLVED that Councillor Caroline Bettley be appointed as a Member of both the Staffing Committee and Youth Committee

4.ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 – S6 REPORT: Further to Minute 94, November 2019 a Draft Report circulated to members was considered and subject to the minor modifications referred to at the meeting was approved.

RESOLVED - that the Report as now agreed be signed by the Chair and Clerk on behalf of the Council and published on the Council’s website by the end of 2019 in order to meet the Council’s obligations under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

108. KEY ACTON ISSUES

WCBC Members reported verbally on new and 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)

Updates were given as follows:

1. Budget Meetings were now taking place following a small increase in the Welsh Government's Final Financial Settlement; and
2. Dean Road – the local member had met with the Leader of the Council regarding granting a twelve month licence to Borrass Park Albion YFC to use the Wrexham CBC owned land off Dean Road for a quarter of a pitch. The ensuing discussion made reference to legal advice, support sought from the Playing Fields in Wales; the ongoing deficit of green open space in the area..

RESOLVED – that

- i) following the recent General Election the new Member for Wrexham Sarah Atherton MP be invited to attend an early meeting to introduce herself; and***
- ii) the Council write to the Chief Executive of Wrexham County Borough Council advising that in respect of proposals for the Dean Road Playing Field, the Community Council is vehemently opposed to the loss of anything that takes away any existing amenity space from Children and exacerbates the existing green open space deficit in the Community of Acton.***

(Councillor Paul Jones abstained from voting on this resolution)

109. CONSULTATIONS

The following consultation papers received since the last meeting were considered by Members as follows:-

1. **Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill:** The Welsh Government deadline for receipt of comments on this Consultation is 3 January 2020. Detailed information had been circulated to Councillors.

RESOLVED -that Members respond individually to the Consultation.

2. **A More Equal Wales - Commencing the Socio-economic Duty:** The Welsh Government deadline for receipt of comments on this Consultation is 17 January 2020 - Detailed information had been circulated to Councillors.

RESOLVED -that Members respond individually to the Consultation.

3. **Shaping the Future of Wrexham Library Service:** Letter dated 20 November 2019 advising of the recent Consultation and seeking expressions of interest from Community Councils in funding and investigating a way to provide a local library service in communities that do not have them. It was noted that the mobile library service visits the Acton Community however it does not have the same needs as a rural community. However Members wished to have more detailed information on where and when the Mobile service is in Acton, the numbers of residents using it and proof that there is a need for the service in the Acton Community.

RESOLVED – to defer consideration of this matter until more detailed Acton Community specific information is provided by Wrexham County Borough Council.

110. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered the Clerk's report concerning applications received for financial assistance. In accordance with the revised Council Policy, the annual £3,750 budget had been apportioned equally between each of the quarterly meetings. Members were reminded that the new tiered grant criteria had become effective from 1 April 2019. Members proceeded to determine the three applications received during the third 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 Financial Assistance grant applications be determined as follows:–

Organisation	Details	Decision
8. Cunliffe Bowling Club	Financial support towards running costs of the Club	£200.00
9. Community Christmas Meal - St John's Church	Contribution towards the costs incurred in providing a Community Christmas meal on 3 December 2019	£300.00
10. Victim Support	Financial assistance towards costs of maintaining the 24/7 support helpline	£50.00
Total		£550.00

111. ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR

Further to the special meeting of the Council held on 5 November 2019, (Minute 84 refers) final consideration was given to all matters pertaining to the forecast expenditure to the end of 2019/20 and determination of the Council's income, expenditure, balances and precept requirements for the financial year 2020/21 as follows: -

1. Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21: Members reviewed the Acton Community Council Investments Policy for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process.

RESOLVED –

i. To approve the Investment Strategy for Acton Community Council for the 2020/21 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 2020/21: Members reviewed the Service Level Agreements for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process. Particular reference was made to the costings and options provided by Wrexham County Borough Council in respect of the weed problem at the Ffordd Garmonydd fenced play area. Members wishes to retain the three play areas owned by Wrexham CBC in the Acton Community but questioned whether the existing Service Level Agreements represent good value for money and the options for an independent Contractor to look at this service.

RESOLVED to confirm the necessary funding for existing and committed Service Level Agreements for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process as follows :-

- 1. Payroll Service: provided by Shropshire Council under a three year agreement from 2018**
- 2. Acton Resource Centre- Revenue Costs: Agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council under a ten year agreement from April 2013**
- 3. Seasonal Ranger Acton Park: Agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council under a three year agreement from 2018.**
- 4. CAB Acton Outreach Worker for Acton Community Advice Service provided under a three year agreement from April 2020**
- 5. Acton Playground Provision x3 the Community Council wishes to retain the provision but the Annual ongoing agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council to be reviewed and test the market to see if there are any independent contractors that could better deliver this service;**
- 6. School Crossing Patrols – Annual ongoing agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council**
- 7. Young Persons Projects: 8-13/14-18 year olds: provided by Caia Park Partnership under a one year agreement from April 2020**

3. Precept Requirements for 2020/21

The Chief Finance and Performance Officer, Wrexham County Borough Council has indicated that the Community Council's precept is required by 10 January 2020. The Acton Community Tax base for 2020/21 is 5716; a reduction of 4 from last year. The Council's Draft budget and precept requirement taking into account current commitments and any new provisions that the Community Council decides to support was tabled and considered at the meeting. During consideration of the Budget requirements, particular reference was made to making provision for:

- Members Remuneration/ Expenses in anticipation of requirements to be imposed by the independent Remuneration Panel
- Employers pay award costs
- Annual Subscription to include membership of One Voice Wales
- Audit Fees and provision for the impact of any additional work by the External Auditor
- Conference Fees and Training for Members
- Website and costs to be incurred updating, in line with the new accessibility regulations which are to be implemented In 2020.
- Maesydre Power House: Survey work and repair/maintenance costs
- Young Persons Youth Clubs, progressing the Play Sufficiency study recommendations in the Borrass Park ward and sponsorship options for Youth organisations in the Acton Community

4. General and Earmarked Reserves:

Consideration was given to the Council's Policy for ensuring prudence and smoothing out of known cyclical peaks in expenditure. In particular the Clerk advised on best practice recommended for the level of reserves the Council should hold in its general reserves indicated a minimum figure of 25% to a maximum of 100% of the Council's precept should be held in reserve balances at the end of the financial year.

Members debated existing earmarked balances and the merits of making further provision 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 having regard to the age and condition of the existing equipment. Recent advice had been received from the SLCC for a new provision of up to three months Salary costs to be earmarked for a locum Clerk

There is expected to be a call on the earmarked reserves for the approved works in respect of the Maesydre Power House. In addition there is ring fenced ear marked provision for Acton Community Resource Centre, Environmental Works, Youth Work Project Contingencies together with Grant Money holdings and the Play sufficiency project in Borrass Park. The projected un-earmarked General working balances to 31 March 2020 were within the best practice range and will also be kept under review.

RESOLVED – that

i) the Council's Policy in respect of General and Earmarked reserves shall be as set out below:

GENERAL RESERVES

The Community Council's policy on General Reserves shall be to ensure a minimum figure of 25% to a maximum figure of 100% of the Precept shall be held in reserve balances at the financial year end; and

EARMARKED RESERVES

In order to ensure prudence and smoothing out of known cyclical peaks in expenditure, the Council may, from time to time, allocate funds to one or more earmarked reserve(s), to be used for a future specified purpose.

ii) the following adjustments now be made to transfer from the Council's un-earmarked balances Deposit Account to the Council's ear marked balances Money Market Account to provide for:-

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|-----------|--|----------------------------|
| 1. | <i>Power House Reserve</i> | <i>+ £ 750.00</i> |
| 2. | <i>Playground equipment repairs and replacement</i> | <i>+ £ 4,686.00</i> |

3. *Locum Clerk costs*

+ £ 7,390.00

Total: +£12,826.00

iii) to approve the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2020/21 as now set out before the Council and confirm that the Community Council's precept requirement for the year 2020/21 be fixed at £169,000.00

112. REPORT FROM CLERK

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

Organisation	Details								
1.Play for Wales	Autumn 2019 Newsletter: A copy of this document has already been circulated electronically to members Information noted								
2.Local Government Finance & Workforce Partnerships Division, welsh Government	Section 137 spending limit for 2020/21: Letter dated November 2019 advising that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 for parish and town councils in England for 2020/21 is £8.32. Information noted								
3.Power for the People	Request to Support the Local Electricity Bill: Email dated 29 November 2019 seeking the Council's help and support for this Bill to empower local communities to sell locally clean generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply To defer this matter until clarification is received on whether this Bill applies to Wales								
4.Clerk to the Council	SLCC Clwyd Quarterly meeting at Corwen on 5 December 2019: The Clerk provided an update on her attendance and the following matters; had been discussed: Website Accessibility; the Launch of www.understandingwelshplaces.wales by Carnegie UK Trust and the Welsh Government & Charter Agreements								
5.Wrexham County Borough Council	Town & Community Council Forum : Email dated 4 December 2019 providing the following key dates for Future meetings of the Forum: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Date of Meeting</td> <td>Deadline for receipt of Agenda Items</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30 January 2020</td> <td>8 January 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 April 2020</td> <td>18 March 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23 July 2020</td> <td>1 July 2020</td> </tr> </table> RESOLVED – to request that an item be placed on the Agenda for 30 January 2020 meeting concerning the importance of early consultation and liaison with Community Councils on key and major issues being considered by Wrexham County Borough Council within their community area.	Date of Meeting	Deadline for receipt of Agenda Items	30 January 2020	8 January 2020	9 April 2020	18 March 2020	23 July 2020	1 July 2020
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30 January 2020	8 January 2020								
9 April 2020	18 March 2020								
23 July 2020	1 July 2020								

113. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members noted that the following payments had been received and that outstanding debtor or other payments as set out in the schedule provided required authorisation:-

1. Payments Received Final Precept payment 1 December 2018 = £48,333.33
2. Internal Transfers: from Deposit Account to replenish Current Account on 29 November 2018 = £48,000

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved:-.

VOUCHER NO & PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
79. Carole Roberts BACS ref 23.12.19	Clerks Salary and office expenses for December 2019 calculated by the Council's Agent: Shropshire County Council in accordance with Minute 47 July 2017	(as per payroll schedule)

	Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	
80.Clwyd Pension Fund BACS ref 24.12.19	Pension payments for December 2019 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
81. HMRC BACS ref 25.12.19	Payroll payments for December 2019 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
82.Rainfords Surveyors BACS ref 26.12.19	Condition Survey and Report for Little Acton Community Centre S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£800.00 (VAT=£0)
83.Rainfords Surveyors BACS ref 27.12.19	Building Survey and Report for Maesydre Power House S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£850.00 (VAT=£0)
84.Carole Roberts Cheque No 201994	Clerks Expenses for December 2019 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£ 122.15 (vat £12.79)
85. Cunliffe Bowling Club Cheque No 201995	Financial Assistance towards running costs S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£ 200.00
86. St Johns Church Rhosnesni Cheque No 201996	Financial Assistance towards cost of Community Meal on 3 December 2019 S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£ 300.00
87. North Wales Victim Support Cheque No 201997	Financial Assistance towards running costs S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£ 50.00

114. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered any comments it may wish to make on any 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/2019/0855 36 Chester Road Wrexham Change Of Use From Guest House To A Residential Care Home	No Objections to make
2.P/2019/0882 29 Ffordd Jarvis Wrexham Alterations And First Floor Side Extension Over Existing Garage / Passageway To Form Master Bedroom	No Objections to make
3.P/2019/0893 15 Windermere Road Acton Wrexham Single Storey Side Extension And Erection Of Replacement Garden Wall To Side	No Objections to make

(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 21st day of January 2020

Presiding Chair