

Minutes of the Remote Annual Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor	Kevin Roberts (Chair)	Councillor	R Hardy (Vice Chair)
"	W Baldwin	"	P Lloyd
"	Mrs C Bettley	"	G Lowe
"	M Davies	"	M Pritchard
	MS E Doherty		T Stanford
"	Ms S Edwards	"	Mrs D Wallice
"	Mrs A Evans *	"	Ms L Williams
"	Ms S Hope *	"	1 vacancy

* Absent

Also Present:

Ms Rebecca Martin, Emma Owens and James Hobbley
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs A Evans and Ms S Hope.

RESOLVED – that the apology be received and accepted.

26. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Ralph Hardy declared a personal and prejudicial interest at this stage of the proceedings in respect of Agenda Item 6.3 – Complaint submitted on 4 November 2019 being the member referred to.

Councillor Lynne Williams declared a personal interested at this stage of the proceedings in respect of Agenda Item 6.3 – Complaint submitted on 4 November 2019 being one of the parties who had been involved

27. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

It was noted that the Clerk had not received Notice of any public questions as set out in Standing Order No. 3e.

28. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Remote Annual Council meeting that was adjourned on 15 December 2020 and reconvened on 16 December 2020 were received

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Remote Annual Meeting of the Council that was adjourned on 15 December 2020 and reconvened on 16 December 2020 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

29. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1. Minute 16. Financial Assistance:** The Clerk reported that letters of profuse thanks had been received from the majority of grant recipients. Members were reminded that local organisations and Clubs should be encouraged to submit applications for financial assistance by 8 March 2021. The Chair reported receipt of a letter from the Brownie Guider in Charge of 1st Acton Brownies informing of the

very serious and dire financial situation the long established 1st Acton Brownie Group has found itself in due to the Covid 19 Pandemic restrictions and the serious impact of the National Lockdowns on its fundraising activities. The Community Council noted that the Group is in serious danger of having to close down before the Council's next quarterly meeting to consider grant applications.

RESOLVED - to make an exceptional Grant of £1,000.00 to ensure the 1st Acton Brownies Group remains viable.

2. **Minute 22.2 Interactive Speed Sign:** Rhosddu Community Council had been notified of this decision and a response was awaited. In the meantime Councillor W Baldwin as local Member for Little Acton ward had approached Wrexham County Borough Council about the most appropriate location for the sign coming into the town centre from the Gresford Roundabout and had been advised that vicinity of the Acton Smithy was the most suitable location. The matter will be progressed once a response has been received from Rhosddu Community Council. The present position was noted.

30. MATTERS HELD OVER FROM THE LAST MEETING:

1. ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR - PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2021/22

Further to Minutes 17 & 18 December 2020, Members proceeded to determine the Council's Precept requirements taking into account current commitments, Service Level Agreements requirements, any new provisions that the Community Council wishes to support together with earmarked and other reserve requirements.

RESOLVED - to approve the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2021/22 as now set out before the Council and to confirm that the Community Council's precept requirement for the year 2021/22 be fixed at £169,000.00.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC:

RESOLVED - that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it is likely that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960.

(The Clerk left the meeting at this stage of the proceedings.)

3. COMPLAINT SUBMITTED ON 4 NOVEMBER 2019

Further to the recommendations made by the Staffing Committee on 8 December 2020 (Minute 9 December 2020 refers), Councillor Kevin Roberts reported on action he has taken as Chair of the Council in respect of a complaint submitted by the Clerk on 4 November 2019.

RESOLVED – that the Chair's Report and its recommendations be endorsed

(Councillor Ralph Hardy having previously declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item having been involved in the Complaint was placed in an electronic waiting room and took no part in the discussion or voting on this item.)

(Councillor Lynne Williams having previously declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item having been involved in this Complaint was placed in an electronic waiting room and took no part in the discussion or voting on this item.)

Councillors Hardy and Williams together with the Clerk to the Council were admitted back into the remote meeting once the above resolution had been passed and were advised of its content.

4. INCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC:

RESOLVED -that the press and public be re-admitted to the Meeting from the virtual waiting room for the remaining items of business on the agenda.

31. COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

1. Monthly Report: The Council received a Monthly Policing and Operations Report from the Acton Community Police Officers and noted that as the meeting was being held remotely via the Zoom platform there were no Police Officers in attendance. The Clerk referred to a statement from the Acton Policing Team regarding the following matters - an initiative to increase patrols around schools, the response to which had been very positive; commending Neighbourhood watch schemes and issuing a reminder that the Police are unable to monitor the various residential Facebook Groups and a reminder that the Acton Policing Sector can use Microsoft Teams but not the Zoom platform.

2. Wrexham Town Police Inspector: Members noted that Inspector Vic Powell has moved on to another role and Inspector Luke Hughes had sent an email dated 5 January 2021 by way of introduction.

RESOLVED – that the monthly Acton Community Policing report be received and noted and the changes to the Wrexham Town Police Inspector also be noted.

32. ACTON PARK TASK AND FINISH GROUP:

Further to Minute 236 November 2020, the Chair, Councillor Kevin Roberts, advised there was nothing to report at the moment, although metal benches costing approximately £2,000 were the preferred material for replacement of the damaged benches at Acton Park. It was anticipated that due to the Covid 19 Pandemic lockdown, this work will be concluded in conjunction with Wrexham County Borough Council's Parks and Environmental officers in March or April of 2021.

RESOLVED - that the cost of any replacement benches should be funded from the current 2020/21 budget underspend due to the Seasonal Acton Park Ranger post not being filled during 2020.

33. PROCEDURAL MATTERS - SECTION 116 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS & CASUAL COUNCILLOR VACANCY IN THE MAESYDRE WARD

Further to Minute 13.5) December 2020, the Clerk had received from three suitably qualified persons expressions of interest in putting their names forward for co-option to fill this vacancy by the noon deadline on 18 January 2021. Copies of each application had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members proceeded to consider the applications and invited each applicant in turn to give a short address to the meeting in support of their application. Members also asked questions of the Candidates and then proceeded to consider the filling of this vacancy by a show of hands.

RESOLVED –that

- i) Emma Owens of 12 Townsend Avenue Wrexham LL12 7UB be co-opted as a Member of the Community Council to fill the casual Councillor vacancy for the Maesydre Ward on the Council; and the Clerk makes arrangements with Emma Owens to sign the Declaration of Office for the Maesydre Ward observing the Covid 19 Social Distancing regulations; and***
- ii) The Clerk liaises with Councillor Emma Owens and makes arrangements for a Member Induction with her.***

34. KEY ACTON ISSUES

WCBC Members reported verbally on the following new or Key Issues being considered by the County Bough Council that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton:-

- Focus was on the importance of assisting to ensure the Covid 19 vaccine is distributed and given out as quickly as possible
- Maesydre ward vacancy: Councillor Mike Davies and other adjoining ward Councillors were trying to deal with as many issues as possible including overflowing litter bins that have been used to dispose of household waste
- Covid 19 had affected staffing levels for refuse collection rounds but missed households can report missed collections which can be cleared up in a few days of notification

- The Community Council has not been informed of plans to redevelop the TY Nos Night Shelter
- There was a telephone line to report discarded needles but local members will also report such incidences once advised
- Limited bus services were slowly being introduced between Wrexham, Chester, Llangollen and the Industrial estate

The present position was noted

35. ITEMS PLACED ON THE AGENDA AT THE REQUEST OF THE FOLLOWING COUNCILLORS:

1. COUNCILLOR ELINOR DOHERTY - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Members considered this discussion paper and decided what action if any to take. A draft questionnaire was circulated that will be used to start a conversation with Acton Community residents in all five wards using social media as public meetings are restricted due to Covid 19 lockdown restrictions. Members were also encouraged to share the final form amongst the whole Acton population. The completed forms will hopefully highlight issues by residents and the outcomes will be brought back to the Council for review.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Doherty be thanked for her work on bringing this initiative forward and the questionnaire be finalised in conjunction with the Clerk to the Council, Chair and Vice Chair and then circulated by social media with the assistance of other Community Councillors.

2. COUNCILLOR SALLI EDWARDS – COMMUNITY INITIATIVES BUDGET: Members considered a discussion paper submitted by Councillor Edwards to create a Community Initiatives Budget to be funded using future in year budget underspends together with her application for £10,000 from this fund to be ring fenced to improve and restore the state of the Powell Road Underpass which is owned by Wrexham County Borough Council and is the Highways Authority responsibility.

A lengthy debate ensued upon what action if any to take. Members noted that in respect of the Underpass, this was a long standing situation that has not been resolved despite previous attempts by the Authorities to do so and is not currently being addressed by Wrexham County Borough Council. Members were mindful that despite the Underpass not being in as safe and as good a condition as it should be, it is not in the Community Council’s ownership or its responsibility. The proposal submitted provided no evidence, risk assessment, survey information nor any indication from Wrexham County Borough Council as to its future planned maintenance to the Underpass or a commitment to do so now or in the future.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council advised Members the proposal to create a Community Initiatives fund within the Community Council’s spending plans had been discussed at several Council meetings (20 October 2020, Special Council on 3 November 2020 and 15 December 2020). The Clerk also cautioned Members that the Council had, earlier in the meeting, set its budget for 2021/22 and had determined its precept requirements for the 2021/22 Financial Year (Minute 30.1 January 2021 refers).

A proposition by Councillor S Edwards to allocate and ring fence a specific sum of £10,000 to improve and restore the Powell Road Underpass was lost.

RESOLVED -

- i) To Establish a budget heading entitled “Community initiatives Fund” subject to the outcomes of the Community Engagement initiative and the transfer of any financial year budget underspends up to a maximum of £30,000; and***
- ii) To decline the proposal submitted by Councillor S Edwards and not to proceed to take any action in respect of the proposed initiative for the Powell Road underpass.***

3. COUNCILLOR RALPH HARDY –ACTON RESOURCE CENTRE GARDEN: Councillor Hardy advised that he had submitted this letter from ChristChurch as they are the main users of the Centre. The letter sought support for two pilot initiatives to be facilitated by ChristChurch and to supplement the work of the Management Committee; namely, a Community Garden on land attached to the Centre and a “Friends of

ACRC". Both initiatives will depend on take up by ChristChurch and the Community. Wrexham County Borough Council as owner of the Centre and the land to be used for the Garden has strict risk assessment requirements before any of the initiatives can commence. Members referred to previous attempts at establishing a Community Garden at the Centre and in particular by the Acton Youth Club who may be willing to participate in this new initiative. It was noted that the Community Council may be requested to support the work of volunteers through its Public Liability Insurance policy. The Clerk advised of the strict daily monitoring and recording of volunteers that will be necessary if this is facilitated. Members welcomed the Garden initiative particularly as its benefits are aligned to Health and Wellbeing and Biodiversity principles.

RESOLVED – to support to the Acton Resource Centre Garden initiative and to provide public liability cover for volunteer work carried out under this initiative subject to compliance with strict Insurance Policy conditions and requirements.

4. COUNCILLOR GEOFF LOWE – SAVING LIVES IN WALES: An appeal has been made by Welsh Hearts to all County Councillors in Wales to consider using their individual annual Councillor Community Grant to provide a defibrillator in their ward. The Welsh Hearts Charity can provide £200 charity grants to assist with the £1,395 cost of providing a Defibrillator. Members expressed concerns about the security and safety of the units when in situation and noted it costs £100 extra to have a locked cabinet. Whilst training can be given; each defibrillator has clear instructions on use and will not work unless they are properly administered. It was unclear how many other defibrillators are already provided within the Acton Community. The Manager of the Acton Community Resource Centre is supportive of mounting a defibrillator on the Acton Community Resource Centre Building.

RESOLVED – to agree in principle to Acton Community Council providing funding from its Community Streetscene budget for a defibrillator to be purchased and mounted on the Acton Community Resource Centre building subject to more detailed information on other sources and suppliers of defibrillators being provided by Councillor R Hardy before proceeding further.

36. REPORT FROM CLERK

The Council received and noted a report from the Clerk detailing correspondence and other information that has been received since the last meeting as follows:

Organisation	Details
One Voice Wales	<p>1.Remote Training Sessions for January 2021: Email dated 5 January 2021 providing a list of the remote training sessions available for all Town and Community Councillors during January 2021</p> <p>2. Postponement of local government by-elections: Email dated 4 January 2021 setting out the latest update. This decision will affect the filling of the vacancy on Wrexham CBC for the Maesydre Ward.</p> <p>3. Cynnal Cymru Newsletter January 2021: Email dated 8 January 2021 circulating this newsletter from Sustain Wales</p> <p>4. Wrexham / Flint Area Committee Meeting: Email dated 18 January 2021 enclosing attached information for the meeting to be held on 26 January 2021</p> <p>5. Larger Councils Meeting dates for 2021: Email dated 19 January 2021 advising the following dates have been agreed for the meetings for this year. The meetings are held on a Wednesday and run from 10.30am to 1.00pm and will be held on a remote basis using Star Leaf Video Conferencing Software: 11th February, 28th April, 21st July and 20th October</p>
Planning Aid Wales	Live online network event: 8 February: Email dated 4 January 2021 informing of this event and training in the coming weeks
Play Wales	1.Places to play seminar 9 February 2021: Email dated 12 January 2021

	advising of the agenda for this free event 2. Manifesto for children's play in Wales: Email dated 18 January enclosing a copy of this newsletter
Wrexham County Borough Council	Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum - 21 January 2021 at 4pm: Email dated 15 January 2021 circulating the agenda and summary of the joint working workshop that was held on 19 November 2020.

37. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1. Payment of Accounts

The Clerk reported the Council's Money Market Account had received an Interest payment on 1 January 2021 of £7.37

RESOLVED –To approve the undermentioned payments to be made in January 2021 as set out below:

i) Payments made in January 2021 from the Chair's Charity Account - Ref: CCA2 20.21 £25.00 to BCUHB - Cardio Pulmonary /Medicine Department, Wrexham Maelor General Hospital in memory of the late husband of Councillor Anne Evans (Section 15 Local Government Act 1972)

ii). Current Account Payments:

Voucher	Reference	Payee	Details	Amount
94.	BACS ref 31.1.21	Carole Roberts	Clerks Salary and office expenses for January 2021 calculated by the Council's Agent: as per Minute 47 July 2017 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per payroll schedule)
95.	BACS ref 32.1.21	Clwyd Pension Fund	Pension payments for January 2021 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
96.	BACS ref 33.1.21	HMRC	Payroll payments for January 2021 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
97.	Cheque No 202080	Audit Wales	Audit of Accounts 2019/20 – External Audit Fee Section 21 Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004	£293.25 (vat=£0)
98.	Cheque No 202081	Shropshire Council	Q3 SLA Payment for Payroll Service Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£105.00 (vat= £17.50)
99.	Cheque No 202082	Wrexham County Borough Council	Q2 SLA Payment for School Crossing Patrols S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£3,180.67 (No vat)
100.	Cheque No 202083	Wrexham County Borough Council	2 nd Half Yearly instalment SLA Inspection and Maintenance of Play Areas in Acton S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions	£3,385.80 (vat=£564.30)
101.	Cheque No 202084	Caia Park Partnership	2020/21 SLA Q3 instalment- Youth Work 8-13 S19 Local Government (Misc Provision8s) Act 1976	£1,020.16 (No vat)
102.	Cheque No 202085	Caia Park Partnership	2020/21 SLA Q3 instalment- Youth Work 13-18 S19 Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1976	£1,020.16 (No vat)
103.	Cheque No 202086	One Voice Wales	Delegates fees for online Training during November 2020 for Clerk & Councillors E Doherty, R Hardy and C Bettley S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£120.00 (No vat)
104.	Cheque No	Carole Roberts	Clerks Expenses for January 2021 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£64.39 (VAT= £6.57)

	202087			
105.	Cheque No 202088	1 st Acton Brownies	Emergency Grant Payment to ensure Group's continued viability during Covid 19 Pandemic lockdown S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£1,000.00 (No vat)

2. Bank Reconciliation and progress against Budget

Members received and considered details of the third quarter Bank reconciliations and progress against the Budget.

RESOLVED –that the Quarter 3 2020/21 Financial Reports together with the Budget outturn and Bank Reconciliation be approved.

38. 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/2020/0815 71 Ffordd Garmonydd Wrexham Removal of oak Tree protected by Tree Preservation Order	The Council has noted in the application documents that there is damage being caused to the foundations of the domestic garage by the roots of this tree. The Community Council takes its duties under Section 6 Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 seriously and will promote biodiversity and resilience throughout the whole Community Area. A mature protected Oak tree such as the one in this application is essential to this aim of supporting biodiversity. However the Community Council will support the professional opinion of the Arboricultural Officer at Wrexham County Borough Council regarding the health of this protected tree and whether its removal is absolutely necessary. If the Arboricultural Officers recommends that the application should be approved, the Community Council asks that such removal is conditional on a replacement tree of equal amenity being planted in the next growing season to sustain and prevent displacement of the biodiversity in the vicinity of this protected Oak Tree.
2. P/2020/0836 11 Hinsley Drive Wrexham First Floor side Extension	No Objection

Councillor Kevin Roberts
Presiding Chair

Signed as a correct record this 16th day of February 2021

Chair