

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 18 August 2020 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

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

* Absent

Also Present:

Mr Jon Stumpp, Niall Rooney, Andy Watson – Caia Park Partnership
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

195. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms E Doherty, Ms S Hope and Paul Jones.

RESOLVED – that the apologies be received and accepted.

196. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

1. Agenda item 12.7-Planning Application P/2020/0530 for 85 Ffordd Garmonydd

- i) Councillor Michael Pritchard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item being one of the applicants
- ii) Councillor William Baldwin declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as his daughter was one of the applicants

197. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Clerk indicated she had not received notice of any public questions.

198. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Remote Council meeting held on 18 August 2020 were received

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Remote Council meeting held on 18 August 2020 be received and confirmed as a correct record

199. INFORMATION FROM 18 AUGUST 2020 MINUTES:

1. **Minute 188.1- Acton Park Task & Finish Group:** It was noted that the Group had still not met. The Chair hopes to progress this shortly. The present position was noted
2. **Minute 188.2 -Ffordd Garmonydd Safety Surface:** It was noted that the Clerk was awaiting confirmation of when this work is to be completed

200. COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

Members were disappointed that there was no Monthly policing report submitted again for this month. It was noted that recently there had been technical difficulties in submitting the reports by the Acton Sector Policing Team. In the absence of a report there was one issue that members wished to raise in respect of an increase of speeding vehicles on Chester Road between Box Lane and Smithy Lane now that the 30mph flashing light has been removed.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk write on behalf of the Council to Wrexham Town Inspector Vic Powell expressing Members disappointment that the Monthly Acton Community Policing reports are not being submitted. Acton Community Council's Members feel it is very important that a dialogue is maintained given that Police Officers are unavailable to attend the Council's Remote meeting by Zoom. As a solution, the Community Council reminds Inspector Powell that a hard copy of the Monthly report can be left with the Clerk to forward on to Members.

201. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT –ACTON YOUTH WORK PROJECTS

The Chair welcomed representatives of the Caia Park Partnership who were in remote attendance. Further to Minute 155.ii) May 2020, the Council received and considered the Quarter 1 performance monitoring reports to 30 June 2020 based on the adapted operation of this Service Level Agreement provided by the Caia Park Partnership Youth Team. The report gave information and updates on the detached support given during the National Lockdown to the County's Covid 19 response and the existing and planned delivery of high quality youth work in respect of the Youth Work Projects for the 8 - 12 and the 13 – 18 Age Groups within the Acton Community:

During consideration of the Report the following matters were highlighted: -

- Several small groups had been encountered in Acton Park and on the Spider Field, and information had been given detailing lockdown measures, health advice and the need to adhere to the 2m social distancing rule.
- Session sheets had recorded numbers and locations where larger groups had been encountered and regular patrols around Acton Park had engaged and developed relationships with new contacts. It was hoped that over time the new contacts will engage with the club service when it re-opens or at planned outdoor sessions. During July 2020 reports of issues at Borrass Bog had resulted in the detached work being extended to include patrols to this vicinity within the route plans
- Social Media Platforms had been used during the lockdown to engage with young people to provide a series of daily/weekly challenges, picture quizzes via live Facebook broadcasts and a series of instructional "Cook Along" and "Make Along" videos. Health and Safety aspects, cost and affordability, and activity packs were prepared before each video was posted and the detached team dropped them off to the Young People who had requested them.
- The Team were looking at options to safely re-open the youth clubs but factors limiting this option included access to centres, social distancing measures, general health and safety of service users and staff wellbeing. The ever changing nature of the Pandemic does not presently provide assurances for staff to be confident that a safe service indoors can be offered yet. A restart plan is looking at extra staff and equipment that will be needed for individuals to have their own pool cues and table tennis bats for the duration of each session to limit cross contact and social distancing inside. The team were developing plans for a covered shelter/power/heat during the colder months of the year for the outside the centre. There were also transportation and storage issues to resolve as well.

Members thanked the Caia Park Partnership Officers for their reports and responses to questions. In particular the progress and achievements detailed in the report were pleasing to note given the difficult period during the Spring/summer lockdown. The Chair thanked the Officers for their attendance and report and again reminded them that the Community Council will continue to provide any support needed to ensure the success of the Youth Club.

RESOLVED –

- i) to accept the first quarter reports as now submitted in accordance with the Service Level Agreement and to recognize that the Covid-19 risk assessments carried out and the additional efforts and development of this Service by the Caia Park Partnership have ensured new models of delivery that have engaged really well with the Acton Community Young People during the National Lockdown period and in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic*
- ii) To agree the scope of the present Service Level Agreement be extended to encompass the emergency Detached Youth Work and other Covid 19 Measures put in place to enable the projects to be held outdoors in accordance with National and Welsh Government advice and guidance*
- iii) That the Vice Chair of the Council, in his capacity as Chair of the Management Committee make enquiries with the Manager of the Resource Centre about the possibility of allowing a mains extension cable to be plugged into the Centre for the purpose of enabling lighting for the Youth Service to provide some sort of socially distanced gathering / outreach work whilst the Centre is Covid closed and the Youth Club is unable to meet.*
- iv) A further monitoring report after the end of quarter three be submitted by the Caia Park Partnership to either the next Youth Committee meeting or the Council Meeting proposed for November 2020*

202. KEY ACTON ISSUES

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

1. The Council was now holding virtual meetings with limited business as the various Services open up
2. Karen Evans the new Head of Education at Wrexham CBC had been given a tour around various school development sites in the Acton Community including the Nine acre field, Borrass Park and Barkers Lane Schools and concerns had been raised with her about where all the pupils reside to attend these extended/new schools.
3. Uncertainty remained regarding the permanence of the Borrass Park Surgery closure in the Borrass Park School grounds

The present position was noted

203. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019/20 – CONCLUSION OF AUDIT BY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that by 30 September 2020, Acton Community Council must publish its accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 together with any certificate, opinion, or report issued, given or made by the Auditor General. The Clerk advised that nothing had been received from the External Auditor in respect of the External Audit of the Council’s Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.

RESOLVED - that in order to ensure compliance with the relevant Regulations by 30 September 2020, the Clerk make arrangements to issue a public notice and publish the Council’s accounting statements in the form of an annual return on the Council’s website and advise that the accounts are being published before the conclusion of the audit and that due to the impact of COVID-19, the Auditor General has not yet issued an audit opinion.

204. 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
1. One Voice Wales	<p>1. Notice of meeting of the Larger Councils Committee 14th October 2020. Circulation of email dated 19 August 2020 issuing notice of this meeting to be held remotely. Electronic invitation and papers will be sent out nearer to the date.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED that the Council be represented at this meeting by Councillor Thomas Stanford, subject to his availability</i></p>

	<p>2. Community & Town Councils loss of income funding: Email dated 19 August 2020 advising all Welsh Councils that all claims in respect of loss of income must relate to the period 1 April 2020 - 30 June 2020. This information will not apply to Acton Community Council: <i>Information noted</i></p> <p>3. Remote Training Dates: Email dated 26 August 2020 advising that arrangements were being made to provide webinar training to all Councils, using StarLeaf video conferencing. The Welsh Government was to provide two free places to the Chair of the Council or Finance Committee. Details of the training dates have now been circulated to Members RESOLVED that the Clerk and any Members who wish to attend this training be booked onto the relevant courses and the delegates fee of £30 per session be paid and reported back to the Council in due course</p> <p>4. Decarbonisation Newsletter-Awst/August 2020: Email dated 28 August 2020 circulating this newsletter. <i>Information noted</i></p> <p>5. Dyfed Powys Police - Scam Warnings - Microsoft Call/Phishing - Telltale signs that it's a scam: Emails dated 28 August 2020 & 1 September 2020 circulating details of these warnings to all Welsh Town and Community Councils <i>Information noted</i></p> <p>6. Support for the Heritage Sector in Wales: Email dated 7 September 2020 informing of the Welsh Government announcement of the Cultural Recovery Fund — an £18.5 million fund to support the Welsh cultural sector's recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme will launch on 14 September and close on 30 September 2020. An eligibility checker is available online <i>Information noted</i></p>
2.Keep Wales Tidy	<p>Autumn Clean Cymru - 11-27 September: Emails dated 20 August and 8 September 2020 advising the Autumn Clean Cymru will be a bit different from the usual clean-up campaigns so as to make sure everyone stays safe and well, individuals and households are being encouraged to clean-up the streets, parks or beaches on their doorstep.. Volunteers will need to register online before any event to comply with Covid 19 Regulations <i>Information noted</i></p>
3.Wrexham County Borough Council	<p>1. Traffic Regulation Orders: Email dated 24 August 2020 informing of proposed Traffic Regulation restrictions/orders within the Acton Community area, being advertised on the Wrexham Council website and in The Leader on Monday 24th August. Any support or objections to the proposals should be submitted via email to traffic@wrexham.gov.uk by 18 September 2020. <i>The information was welcomed and noted</i></p> <p>2. NW Police Warning of Doorstep Crime/Telephone Scams: Email dated 3 September 2020 circulating details of this warning <i>Information noted</i></p>
4.Planning Aid Wales	<p>Responding to Planning Applications -Online Training: Email dated 1 September 2020 advising an online training session is to be held on 30 September 6pm to 8pm at a cost of £30 per person. RESOLVED that Councillor Salli Edwards and any other member that wishes to attend be enrolled onto this training session and the £30 fee person be paid</p>
5.Play Wales	<p>1. Get the latest information from September's e-bulletin: Email dated 3 September 2020 providing an overview of what's new on the Play Wales website –news, consultations, funding and events. <i>Information noted</i></p> <p>2. Guidance – A play friendly school: Email dated 9 September 2020 informing of <i>Guidance for a whole school approach</i> that provides policy and practice related information to help school communities take a whole school approach to support children's right to play. It has been developed to respond to Estyn's <i>Healthy and happy – school impact on pupils' health and wellbeing</i> report, which notes the importance of school play and break times.</p>

4. Society of Local Council Clerks	Virtual National Conference 12 – 16 October 2020: The Clerk reported that this year’s Conference would not be residential due to the Covid 19 crisis. The format of this year’s conference will be to have remote individual sessions spaced across the whole of the week. The delegate fee is £25.00 plus vat RESOLVED – that the Clerk be authorised to attend this Conference and the delegates fee be met from the Clerk’s Training Budget
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205. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported the following payment had been received since 18 August 2020:

1. Current Account- VAT Refund for 2019/20 on 26 August 2020=£3,307.37

RESOLVED –To approve the payments to be made in September 2020 as set out in the schedule below:-

Voucher	Reference	Payee	Details	Amount
44	BACS ref 15.7.20	9 Acre Field Group	Financial Support towards professional costs to be incurred opposing proposals to build on the 9 Acre Field, Westminster Drive, Wrexham Power of Well-Being (SS 1-5 Local Government Act 2000)	£1,000.00
51.	BACS ref 19.9.20	Carole Roberts	Clerks Salary and office expenses for September 2020 calculated by the Council’s Agent: Shropshire County Council in accordance with Minute 47 July 2017 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per payroll schedule)
52.	BACS ref 20.9.20	Clwyd Pension Fund	Pension payments for September 2020 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
53.	BACS ref 21.9.20	HMRC	Payroll payments for September 2020 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
54.	Cheque No 202049	Carole Roberts	Clerks Expenses for September 2020 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£104.11 (VAT= £9.58)

206. 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:

<p>1.P/2020/0445/ Crown Buildings, 31Chester Street Wrexham/ / Refurbishment of Office Building and ground floor extension No comments to make</p>
<p>2.P/2020/0455/ 25 Kensington Grove Wrexham/ Works to protected sycamore (TPO WMBC No 167) The Community Council has no objection to the works proposed in this application provided that Wrexham County Borough Council’s Arboricultural Officer is satisfied they are essential to maintain the health of this protected tree and that any works are carried out under the direction and to the satisfaction of the Arboricultural Officer.</p>

3.P/2020/0475/ Borrass Park Community Primary School, Borrass Park Road Wrexham/ One Storey and Two Storey extensions refurbishment works and associated parking areas and outdoor recreation and games areas

The Community Council wishes to comment as follows on this application; however it should be noted that it has not had sight of the full documents for the travel plan, car park management plan, transport statement, the ecological appraisal and roost assessments.

The Community Council welcomes the proposal for a Welsh Medium Primary School but is of the opinion that the existing Borrass Park School site is a poor choice of location as this site was not built for this type of extension and concentration of pupils and vehicles. The Community Council has several concerns about the proposed works to the Junior school site in advance of the establishment of a Welsh Primary school on the existing Primary School site. Principally, these grave concerns are regarding Highways safety, Parking and the Environment. The effects of this application on the immediate environment should be addressed before any works are permitted to commence for the following reasons:-

1. There will be an adverse impact on existing traffic congestion in the vicinity of the school particularly as the Cherry Hill Drive, Norfolk Road, Mile Barn Road, Daleside Avenue and Hinsley Drive roads are already gridlocked at the start and end of the school day with the existing School arrangements. The parking and drop off proposals within the Application documents appear to do little to mitigate this given the additional volume of vehicles that will be passing the main entrances to the School when both English and Welsh sites are open. Adequate measures and provision should be in place before any changes can take place.
2. Environmental considerations: The queuing and volume of idling vehicles outside the school at peak times will add to the environmental impact, air pollution and a reduction in the quality of air outside the School. The proposed car park provision will reduce existing tree provision and green space within the School curtilage. The World Health Organisation has highlighted the importance of urban green spaces for health and indicated urban planners should ensure there is assessment and improvement to green space accessibility. Any development of the School site should not cause significant loss of habitats or population of species particularly as there is an established Eco Garden at the Primary School site and there must be a net benefit for biodiversity.
3. The road infrastructure does not have capacity for the additional traffic that will be generated as a result of siting a second 210 place school on this site. The Community Council is mindful of the 2017 road safety/usage risk assessments for the existing Borrass Park Schools and Dean Road junction with Borrass Park Road, which resulted in the Community Council funding two School Crossing Patrols at these locations. The 2017 Survey indicated 618 vehicles passed and 48 pedestrians crossed at the Junior School Site between 8.05 to 9.05am. In the afternoon there were 475 Vehicles and 112 Pedestrians using the Junior School crossing. The proposed Application will increase the 2017 Survey numbers and exacerbate the Health and Safety situation, despite the 20mph speed limit, due to the lack of on street parking, which will also impact on Emergency vehicle access during these times.
4. The current traffic calming provision on Borrass Park Road is not fit for purpose and impedes the traffic flow to and from the A5156 Llanypwll link road causing tailbacks and congestion through its length from Mile Barn Road/ Daleside Avenue to Caernarfon Road. It creates artificial queues and delays. There is also congestion around the Borrass Park Shops with parents using the parking spaces when dropping children off at the School. The traffic calming provision on Borrass Park Road should urgently be reviewed to identify improvements and any proposed changes arising from the Review to improve the safety and traffic flow should be carried out in advance of this extension to the School.

4.P/2020/0492/ 19 Larchwood Road Wrexham/ Erection of 6ft high boundary fence (in retrospect)

No comments to make

5. **P/2020/0497/ Barkers Lane CP School Barkers Lane, Wrexham/** Extension to existing school, refurbishment and internal remodelling, external works to form new area of car parking together with enhanced play areas and associated ancillary facilities.

The following comments be made:-

1.Highways, Health and Safety for Pupils accessing the School - consideration, management and mitigation of increased traffic flow:

The Community Council expresses grave concerns about the potential generation and increase in the traffic using Barkers Lane at the start and end of the School day and potential for further congestion due to this proposed extension to the size of the School.

It also has concerns for pupils who do reside nearby and walk to Barkers Lane school from the nearby housing estate, particularly if emerging from the Sherwell Avenue direction to the School; this 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.

The Community Council has grave concerns about the safety aspects of siting a new entrance and car parking for 45 staff on Lisburne Grove opposite a residential property on a bend and the potential for parents to try and use this entrance to drop off their children.

The Community Council is of the view that the ability of local roads to cope with the increased traffic flow to the School is a very concerning Health and Safety issue. It will require careful management and implementation of 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 by parents on the local estate roads.

2. Air pollution: The Community Council has further concerns that the queuing and idling vehicles outside the school at peak times will add to the environmental impact and reduction of the quality of air outside the School, particularly given its proximity to the Llanypwll link road and existing air pollution from high volumes and long queues of traffic during the rush hour at the Gresford Roundabout.

3. Loss of open space: The Acton Community already has a well-documented deficit of open space that would be exacerbated if the already limited School land is used for the additional building and a larger car park for staff. The Community Council has advocated that all schools in the Acton Community should enable their grounds to have open access for the Community to use.

6. **P/2020/0526/ Former Divisional Police Headquarters Bodhyfryd Wrexham /** Variation to conditions 2,4,5,15,16,and 17 of P/2019/0675 to allow for the redevelopment and occupation of the retail store prior to the drive through coffee shop

No comments to make

7. **P/2020/0530/ 85 Ffordd Garmonydd Wrexham/** Change of use of dining room to Hairdressing salon

No comments to make

Declarations of personal interest in respect of various Planning Applications were made as follows:

1. Planning Application No3. P/2020/0475 for Borrass Park Community Primary School, Borrass Park Road Wrexham

Councillor Mrs Anne Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item being an LEA Governor at the School

2. Planning Application No7. P/2020/0530 for 85 Ffordd Garmonydd, Wrexham

Councillor Michael Pritchard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item being one of the applicants

3. Planning Application No7. P/2020/0530 for 85 Ffordd Garmonydd, Wrexham

Councillor William Baldwin declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as his daughter is one of the applicants

Following their declarations, all three Members were placed electronically in a separate online waiting room whilst their applications were debated and determined and they were unable to take part in any of the discussion and voting thereon

207. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items 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.

208. VOLUNTEER WORK TO ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT AT JEFFREYS ROAD

Further to Minute 188.1 August 2020 the Chair and Councillor Debbie Wallice gave an update at the meeting. It was noted that the residents who had volunteered to paint the railings were awaiting a response from Wrexham County Borough Council (CBC) as owners of the fencing, to their request for repairs to be made to the bent and damaged railings before they start any painting work on this stretch of fencing. The purchase of the paint, together with the safety equipment and other supplies as identified in the risk assessment has been deferred until the position becomes clearer.

The Chair and Councillor Wallice have made informal contact with welders/fabricators/ metal workers to ascertain the extent of the works required before any painting can commence. The Clerk advised that the Plassey Blacksmith had not yet responded. However, a formal tender process will be required given the early indications of the costs involved in carrying out remedial repair works to the metal fencing. The Community Council whilst supportive of the residents was mindful of creating a precedent but discussed the feasibility of offering match funding towards any costs incurred by Wrexham CBC in repairing and reinstating this section of fencing at Jeffreys Road.

RESOLVED – that the Community Council write to Councillor David A Bithell advising:-

“that the long standing situation with the fencing along Jeffreys Road has resulted in further deterioration with the fence becoming an eyesore on the Community Streetscene. The Local Member, Councillor Debbie Wallice has pursued several options to improve the situation with Wrexham CBC Officers but to no avail. Wrexham CBC has previously indicated that it will cost approximately £59,000 to repair and reinstate the fence. The local Member and residents have now identified a much cheaper solution which involves breaking the work down into smaller parts and sections. Acton Community Council is prepared to come together with residents to enable them to paint the fence, once remedial works have been carried out.

An informal estimate of the costs of the remedial work for this section of fencing indicates it will cost in the region of £3,000 to £5,000. The Community Council strongly urges Councillor Bithell as the Lead Member for the Environment & Transport to meet Wrexham CBC’s responsibilities as owner of the fence and carry out the remedial work so that the Community Council can fund the volunteer residents who are prepared to paint this fence. This goodwill by the residents and the Community Council is evidence of Community Service in action and represents good value for money and more importantly will considerably improve the Community Streetscene and approach to one of the main entrances to Acton Park off Jeffreys Road in Wrexham.”

209. 2020-21 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

Members received a copy of a national circular and update published 26 August 2020 advising that the NJC for Local Government Services has agreed a 2.75% pay award and 1 days additional leave effective from 1st April 2020.

RESOLVED – to receive the Circular and arrangements be made for the 2.75% pay award to be implemented from 1 April 2020 with any arrears of pay to be made in the October 2020 payroll and the Chair to write and advise the Council’s Payroll Bureau accordingly.

Signed as a correct record this 20th day of October 2020

Presiding Chair