

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 20 July 2021

Present:

Councillor	Kevin Roberts (Chair)	Councillor	R Hardy (Vice Chair)
"	W Baldwin	"	P Lloyd
"	Mrs C Bettley	"	G Lowe
"	M Davies	"	Ms E Owens
"	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:

Councillor Becca Martin, Maesydre Ward Wrexham CBC, Sgt Kelly Lewis, NW Police
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Doherty (Holidays); A Evans (Holidays) S Hope (Holidays); M Pritchard; T Stanford and L Williams.

RESOLVED – that the apologies and reasons for absence be received and accepted.

35. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made at this stage of the proceedings:-

36. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

37. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes from 16 June 2021 Remote meeting were received.

RESOLVED that subject to the addition of the following words at the end of Minute 30.ii):

"apart from Application No.3 that is made under SS1.5 Local Government Act 2000 (General Power of Wellbeing)"

the Minutes of the Remote Council Meeting held on 16 June 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record:

38. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

1. Minute 29 Community Engagement:

- i) Newsletter – ***RESOLVED - to proceed to publish the 1st Newsletter that has been circulated to all members taking into account any comments received by Tuesday 3 August 2021.***

ii) **Proposed Swan memorial:** The Chair reported upon an approach made to him by two young local blacksmiths Ollie and Harvey Roberts who are seventh generation blacksmiths. Initially he had suggested that they fabricate a statue for the middle of the lake in Acton Park. However they had proposals to fabricate a memorial at the Little Acton Smithy Gardens at the junction of Chester Road and Smithy Lane.

RESOLVED - to approve a contribution for the fabrication of a memorial or artwork up to the value of £750.00 to the 2 young local Blacksmiths from Acton in recognition of their Achievement from the Council's General Reserve Fund. The Memorial once completed to be included in the Environmental renewal scheme proposed at the Little Acton Smithy Garden/Pond area.

iii) **Bouquet gifts of Flowers:**

RESOLVED – The Clerk be requested to make arrangements with Vivid Floral Design to send flower bouquets to the two part time caretakers at Acton CRC in recognition of their efforts during the Covid pandemic lockdowns at the Resource Centre and to Councillor Mrs A Evans in recognition of her recent landmark birthday.

iv) **Landmark Milestones:** The Chair advised that he intended to recognise landmark milestone life events such as Golden Weddings and 100th Birthdays achieved by Acton Community residents. It was noted that such recognition was reliant on the Chair being advised of such events by the families or friends through nomination direct to him. Such recognition costs to be met from the Chair's Charity account.

RESOLVED - to endorse the action proposed by the Chair.

2. **Minute 30 Financial Assistance:** It was noted letters of thanks had been received from the recipients.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk be authorised in consultation with the Chair to proceed to meet with the Welsh Ambulance Service representatives to identify suitable locations to place a defibrillator in each of the four other wards of the Acton Community and to make arrangements for their purchase and installation during 2021/22 Financial Year– the costs of such purchases to be made under the General Power of Well Being.

3. **Minute 31.3 Additional Community Governor – Barkers Lane School:** Consideration was given to this deferred matter from the June 2021 meeting.

Resolved that:

- i) **this Community Governor Vacancy be filled by the nomination of Councillor Caroline Bettley to the role; and**
- ii) **the Clerk write to former Community Councillor J Kelly expressing the Community Council's thanks and gratitude for his long term commitment and service to the School as a Community Governor.**

39. COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

Members noted that Sgt Kelly Lewis, NW Police had technical difficulties and had been logged out of the remote meeting before this item was discussed.

The monthly report provided by the PCSOs on Crime issues and Trends in each of the five Acton Community Wards was received and considered. The Report also referred to the planned E-Scooter awareness week from 17 to 24 July 2021 and the rolling out of the North Wales Community Alert scheme; a free two way messaging scheme.

RESOLVED – that the monthly Acton Community Policing report and update be received and noted.

40. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. August Recess Arrangements:

RESOLVED - that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council be authorised to deal with any urgent matters that arise during the August 2021 recess and report back in September 2021 on any actions and delegated decisions taken.

2. SLA Matters

i) **Annual Inspection reports** - The reports for the following play areas were received and noted. No urgent action was required and the risks highlighted were identified as low risk:-

1. Aran Road
2. Acton Park Junior
3. Ffordd Llewelyn

ii) **Aran Road Repairs to Safety Surface** – The Clerk reported upon urgent action taken by Wrexham County Borough Council in response to damage to the soft pour safety surfacing at the Aran Road Play area.

RESOLVED - to endorse the prompt actions taken by Wrexham CBC to ensure the continued safety of play area users and to pay the £87.17 invoice once received for carrying out the emergency repairs.

41. 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:-

Historical and Recent Flooding in the Acton Community: Several Councillors referred to the recent heavy rain and subsequent flash flooding events in the Acton Community, particularly at Warrenwood Road where residents are being temporarily rehoused for several months; Daleside Avenue, Borrass Park Road; the Holt Road from the Dean Road playing field to Birkdale Road, Rhosnesni Lane properties that are close to the 9 Acre Recreation Ground, Smithy Lane at its junction with Chester Road and the Goulbourne estate in Rhosnesni with numerous roads being particularly affected during heavy rain. Members advised that several as yet unproductive Meetings have been held with Dwr Cymru, Wrexham County Borough Council, Sarah Atherton MP, and Network Sewerage - Welsh Water.

RESOLVED - that the Clerk write on behalf of the Community Council to the Chief Executive of Wrexham CBC and Councillor David A Bithell Lead Member for the Environment and Transport expressing concerns and requesting that prompt and timely action is taken to prevent further occurrences of such flooding.

42. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2020/21 – EXTERNAL AUDIT

Further to Minute 26 June 2021, the Clerk confirmed that she had arranged to meet with the Chair later in the week to sign off the papers required for submission to the External Auditor. The relevant public Notices were now on display advertising Electors' Rights to Inspect the Accounts for the Year ended 31 March 2021 between 20 August 2021 and 17 September 2021 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, and confirming that the Local Government Electors have the right to question the Auditor General about the Accounts on 20 September 2021.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk's update on progress be noted.

43. CONSULTATIONS

Members considered the detail of the following Consultations and determined what response if any, the Community Council wishes to submit by the relevant deadlines:

1. Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Note "Planning For Dark Night Skies":

RESOLVED - that members submit individual responses to this Consultation

2. Eligible Community Councils (General Power Of Competence) (Qualifications Of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations:

RESOLVED - that members submit individual responses to this Consultation

44. ITEM PLACED ON AGENDA AT REQUEST OF COUNCILLOR E DOHERTY – PLANTING PROPOSAL

Councillor E Doherty’s paper on this planting proposal was received and considered by Members.

RESOLVED - that the 2 proposals set out in Councillor Doherty’s paper be endorsed and the Community Council authorised the Clerk in consultation with the Chair to proceed to liaise with Incredible Edible and to make progress to implement the proposals, the cost of such expenditure to be met from the Environmental/ Community Streetscene budget.

45. 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.Caia Park Community Council	CLWYD PENSION FUND: Email dated 25 June 2021 advising that Caia Park Community Council are part of the Local Govt. Pension Scheme administered by Clwyd Pension Fund. At the community council meeting in June 2021 , its Members resolved as follows and had invited the Council to consider passing a similar resolution to support climate change. Similar motions have been agreed by some other principal authorities and larger community council within Wales i) Inform the Clwyd Pension Fund of our request that they rapidly disinvest in carbon fuel producing companies. ii) Seek to join with other Councils and public bodies in Wales in achieving unanimity across the country in the campaign for rapid disinvestment by our Pension Fund holders in carbon emitting fuel companies. iii) Encourage the residents in Caia Park, wherever possible to use their influence to similarly request that their own pension providers disinvest in carbon fuel companies. RESOLVED - To respond and advise that the Acton Community Councillors do not wish to make such a resolution.
2.One Voice Wales	1. JULY 2021 - REMOTE TRAINING SESSIONS –Email circulated 2 July 2021 for information to all One Voice Wales Members 2. INTRODUCTION RACHEL CARTER LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE OFFICER — Email dated 21 June 2021 circulated for information to all One Voice Wales Members All Information Noted

46. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported on payments received since 16 June 2021 The Interest Payments received for the Deposit and Money Market accounts as follows were noted:

Deposit Account 3 June 2021 - £3.25 & Money Market Call Account 30 June 2021 - £8.12

Authorisation was requested for :-

1. The outstanding debtor or other cheque and BACS payments as set out in the schedule below
2. A replenish of £45,000 for the Current Account from Deposit Account to ensure known outgoings until 30 September 2021 can be met.
3. The first quarter bank reconciliation and accounts together with progress against the budget as presented for consideration by the Community Council.

RESOLVED –

i) To approve the payments to be made in July 2021 as set out in the schedule below:-

Payments Made in July 2021				
Voucher No	Reference	Payee	Details	Amount
30.	BACS ref 10.7.21	Carole Roberts	Clerks Salary & office expenses for July 2021 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)
31.	BACS ref 11.7.21	Clwyd Pension Fund	Pension payments for July 2021 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
32.	BACS ref 12.7.21	HMRC	Payroll payments for July 2021 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
33.	Cheque No 202129	Carole Roberts	Clerks Expenses for July 2021 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£101.21 (Vat= £14.48)
34.	Cheque No 202130	Caia Park Partnership Ltd	Q2 SLA payment for 2021/22 for Acton Open Access Youth Service Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£6,008.10 (Vat= £0.00)
35.	Cheque No 202131	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	Alpha Software Annual Support & Maintenance Licence – single user S112 local Government act 1972 (as amended)	£148.80 (VAT = £24.60)
36.	Cheque No 202132	Society of Local Council Clerks	Renewal of Clerks Membership for 2021/22 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£208.00 (VAT = £0.00)
37.	Cheque No 202133	Wrexham & District Citizens Advice Bureaux	2021/22 SLA Q1 payment for Acton Outreach service S142 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£1,630.47 (VAT= £0)
38.	Cheque No 202134	Wrexham & District Citizens Advice Bureaux	2021/22 SLA Q2 payment for Acton Outreach service S142 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£1,630.47 (VAT= £0)
39.	Cheque No 202135	TMW Traffic Control Systems	Provision of Mains Powered Mini 300 Road Sign for Chester Road S72(1)(b) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984	£2,450.65 (VAT= £408.45)
40.	Cheque No 202136	Welsh Ambulance Service (Awyr Las)	Supply of Defibrillator/ Training for Acton Community Resource Centre SS.1-5 Local Government Act 2000 (General power of Wellbeing)	£1,499.58 (VAT=£249.93)
41.	Cheque No 202137	Wrexham County Borough Council	Repairs to Aran Road Play area S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£87.17 (VAT= £14.53)

ii) The Interest payments now reported be noted;

- iii) *The Clerk was authorised to arrange for the transfer of £45,000.00 from the Council's Deposit Account to its Current account to ensure it has sufficient credit to meet known outgoings until 30 September 2021; and*
- iv) *The first quarter bank reconciliation and accounts together with progress against the budget to be received and noted.*

47. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following matters and applications within the Acton Community area that had been made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (to be determined by Wrexham County Borough Council):

RESOLVED - that

- i) *the following observations be made on the applications as set out below:*

Case Number/ Address Proposed Development	Decision
1.Planning Application P/2021/0593 - Valid From 11/06/2021: 24 Gredington Close, Wrexham, LL13 9DQ - Lawful development certificate for proposed single storey rear extension	No observations
2.Planning Application P/2021/0607 - Valid From 17/06/2021: The Goulbourne, Borrass Park Road, Wrexham, LL12 7TF - non-material amendment to planning permission p/2016/1048 to allow for removal of trees -	No objections subject to the protected trees on this site being safeguarded if any of the other trees are granted permission to be removed
3. Planning Application P/2021/0638 - Valid From 29/06/2021: 226, Chester Road, Wrexham, LL12 8DT - lawful development certificate for proposed side dormer extension.	No observations
4. Planning Application P/2021/0652 - Valid From 05/07/2021: Rhosnesni High School, Rhosnesni Lane, Rhosnesni, Wrexham, LL13 9ET - erection of floodlights	No observations
5. Planning Application P/2021/0680 - Valid From 07/07/2021: Nine Acre Playing Field, Westminster Drive, Wrexham, LL12 7AT - outline application for primary school (appearance, landscaping and scale reserved) -	The Community Council reiterates the objections and comments it made on 7 August 2020 at the pre-planning stage. (Copy letter to be attached-ref 183.2/20/CR) It has noted the responses and commentary within the Pre-Application Consultation report that accompanies the application but considers that all the objections and concerns the Community Council has already raised are valid and have still not been addressed. The Community Council also wishes to add objections and further concerns about:- 1. Flooding: The outline planning application differs from the pre-planning application in that the proposed school building will use approximately 40% of the green space on the Nine Acre Field. As previously stated there will be loss of permeable open space through the proposed development and this will be

	<p>exacerbated as the pre-planning proposed woodland area has been removed from the Outline Application. There are existing drainage issues with lying water during periods of heavy rain along Chester Road, Lawson Road, Rhosnesni Lane and The Beeches. There should be sustainable drainage systems developed to alleviate these problems and ensure that no new or existing drainage issues are created or exacerbated for nearby land lying lower than the nine acre field</p> <p>In particular this objection references the existing problems of how the immediate drainage in the vicinity of the 9 Acre site deals with rainwater drainage, there is one side of the 9 acre field site in particular that is often waterlogged for several months of the year. Within Wrexham County Borough Council's own Flood Risk Management Plan 2016 - 2021 for the Acton Community it concludes in 7.2.1.1:</p> <p><i>"Review of the flood maps for Acton clearly identify that surface water flooding of residential properties is the significant concern for this community. The area is heavily urbanised, with limited areas of significant open space to minimise the impacts of higher intensity rainfall events that will inevitably increase the likelihood of surface water flooding. Historically flooding incidents have resulted as a result of intense rainfall events overloading the existing drainage infrastructure, the vast majority of which is below ground via highway or sewer drainage system or culverted watercourses. With climate change expected to bring increased occurrence of intense, shorter duration rainfall, existing drainage systems will be put under increased pressure, with an expected increase in the occurrence of surface water flooding within the community".</i></p> <p>2. There will be a detrimental impact on the surrounding Highway as a result of the proposed two new access roads</p>
--	--

- ii) A letter be sent by the Clerk on behalf of the Community Council to the Chief Executive of Wrexham County Borough Council requesting that despite the current Planning applications under consideration, the 9 Acre field and site should continue to be maintained by Wrexham County Borough Council and not allowed to become unkempt and fall into disarray given that it is located on one of the main approaches into the Town Centre.**

48. EXCLUSION OF 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.

49. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES 15 June 2021 :

1. Minute 23 ii) .4 - Job Evaluation Exercise: The Clerk reported that at a meeting with Councillors M Pritchard and Ms E Owen on 17 June 2021 they had received and opened the Quotations received for this work. It was noted that one of the invitees had declined to quote for this work. Tender Evaluation marking criteria had been used. The Clerk reported that the meeting had

accepted Mr Gwilym Rippon's quote at the price now reported to include additional work to assist with the review of the Community Council's administrative functions; and to confirm whether there is a clear need for the creation of an administrative support post for the Clerk & RFO.

RESOLVED :-

- i) to endorse the acceptance of Mr Rippon's Quote as reported ; and***
- ii) to endorse the recommendation of Councillors Pritchard and Owens that in future anything that needs to go to tender needs to be managed by the Clerk in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and follow the process and preparation of tender documents to ensure all required information is provided to enable an informed decision to be made.***

2. Minute 24.2 - Potential Breach of the Acton Community Council's Code of Conduct: The Chair confirmed that he had submitted this Complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales on 16 June 2021 (ref: 202101767). The Ombudsman had subsequently advised the Chair that in view of the decision of the Information Commissioner that there had been a breach of data and a note should be kept on file, he did not intend to investigate this Complaint further.

RESOLVED – that the outcome be noted and the Chair provide the Clerk to the Council with a copy of the Ombudsman's decision to be held on file.

50. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION

Further to Minute 219 November 2020 the Clerk reported receipt of an update from the legal team at Wrexham County Borough Council.

Resolved - that the update be noted

51. SLA ACTON COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Further to Minute 216 October 2020, the Clerk reported receipt of information from Mrs Lynn Williams, Acton Community Resource Centre Manager about arrangements for the review and examination of options for the Community Council to continue funding the Resource Centre from March 2023 onwards when the current ten year Service Level Agreement ends

It was noted that the Annual Council in May 2021 [Minute 9.7.1) refers] had appointed a Committee to undertake this work and Mrs Williams will be invited to attend one of its meetings in due course. The Clerk discussed a proposed timetable for this Review during 2022 and suggested various factors and external legal advice that should be obtained and considered as part of the process.

RESOLVED – to agree the timeline now discussed and the Clerk be authorised at the appropriate time to obtain strong external legal advice to protect the Council's position and liabilities in any further long term agreement that may be entered into with Wrexham County Borough Council.

***Councillor Kevin Roberts
Chair***

Signed as a correct record this 21ST day of September 2021

Presiding Chair