

Minutes of the Meeting of Acton Community Council held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 21 September 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
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Stanford

RESOLVED – that the apologies be received and accepted.

53. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

54. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

55. THANKS

Councillor Anne Evans thanked Members for the beautiful flowers sent to her recently with messages from the Council.

56. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

i) **Council Meeting:** The Minutes from 20 July 2021 Remote meeting were received.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Remote Council Meeting held on 20 July 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record

ii) **Youth Committee:** The Minutes and recommendations from the Remote Youth Committee Meeting held on 27 July 2021 were received and the recommendation set out below was accepted.

RESOLVED – to accept the following recommendation:

“that any savings made to the costs of the 2021/22 Service Level Agreement for the Acton Youth Work Project as result of savings for room hire costs be used to purchase additional equipment for the Youth Club and to fund the provision of travel opportunities to address the skills shortage

identified by this Youth Work Project to enable Young People to be confident and proficient in using public transport.”

iii) **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

1. Staffing Committee: The Minutes and recommendations from the Remote Staffing Committee Meeting held on 8 September 2021 were received. The Council noted the Committee’s decision to pass Mr Rippon’s Report up to the Council for consideration and determination of its recommendations in view of a divergence of the Committee’s views and in fairness to the Clerk. There was a lengthy debate on how best to proceed to make progress and conclude and implement this Evaluation and Review work.

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Remote Staffing Committee Meeting held on 8 September 2021 be received and a Special meeting of the Council be arranged as soon as practicable to discuss Mr Rippon’s Report, its findings and recommendations contained therein and its implementation to conclude the External Job Evaluation and Review of the Administrative Function of the Council.

2. RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that the press and public be admitted back into the Meeting at this stage of the proceedings.

57. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

1. Minute 30.3 – Community Defibrillator for the Fairways estate: The Clerk reported that this equipment had been installed on 3 September 2021 and the Community Council had again been thanked for their financial support.

2. Community Engagement: The Chair gave an update on various Community Engagement matters which the Council endorsed. They included:

1. Recent Events in Acton park including a history trail and the siting of the completed young Blacksmiths’ fish statue in Acton Park lake
2. Arranging for replacement Goal Posts for a local group of Young People
3. Publicity for the appreciation Flowers presented to the Caretakers of the Acton Community Resource Centre.
4. The case of a 98 year old victim of burglary at Camberley Drive, Wrexham. It was noted the Chair was in agreement for a £100 donation to be made from his charity account towards a Hamper and Gift Vouchers for the victim. This will be arranged in conjunction with County Councillor Beccy Martin

RESOLVED – that the Chair makes a donation of £100 from his charity account to purchase gift vouchers for this elderly burglary victim

5. Borrass Park Shops Planters – Incredible edible will be planting up the containers in mid-October and the Erlas Victorian Garden will be providing some of the plants.
6. Proposed Swan memorial: The young local blacksmiths are now working on this piece of work using donated horseshoes. It will be sited at the Little Acton Smithy Gardens at the junction of Chester Road and Smithy Lane once completed
7. Facebook Page – good feedback is being received and there were plans to publish and include information on the history of Acton

8. Newsletter – this will be released during September 2021 and a final proof version will be circulated following the meeting. It was intended to start with a small circulation and review responses before developing this any further.

58. AUGUST RECESS MATTERS

A summary of the action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair on the following urgent matters during the August recess was received:-

1. Replacement Benches in Acton Park
2. Purchase of Community Defibrillators for the Acton Community Wards
3. Cyber Awareness Course with SLCC for the Clerk
4. Extension of the 2021 Seasonal Park Ranger SLA to 31 March 2022
5. Operation Blue instinct

It was noted that details of the Payment of Accounts and Planning applications for developments or work to protected trees in the Community Council's area had been included on the September 2021 agenda for reporting purposes.

RESOLVED to endorse the actions, as reported above, taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair during the August recess under delegated powers (Minute 40.1 July 2021 refers)

59. COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

- i. **Monthly Policing and Operations Report:** 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 other news and PCSO activities relating to safer roads campaign, cold caller leaflet drops, Operation Blue instinct and the regular drop ins at the Grove Guest House

Councillor Geoff Lowe left the meeting at this stage of the proceedings.

2. **Acton Park Lighting:** Consideration was given to a request from PCSO Tom Jones for the Community Council to seek funding for solar lighting in Acton Park. Councillor Mike Pritchard undertook to approach Brymbo Community Council to find out costings and information on their recently installed scheme.
3. **Wrexham Cunliffe Bowls Club – request for to assist with funding for CCTV:** Consideration was given to a request from PCSO Daniel Whitfield for a donation towards purchasing CCTV in the vicinity of the Cunliffe Bowls Club. It was noted that the Club were welcome to submit an application for financial assistance (as they have done on several occasions previously) to be considered at the next quarter meeting. It was unclear whether the Bowls Club or Acton Policing Team was requesting funding for this CCTV. The Chair indicated that he would approach Councillor Geoff Lowe as the local County Borough Council ward member and ask him to follow this matter up.

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

60. PROCEDURAL MATTERS - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT BY 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer advised of her interaction with the External Auditor and that she had not yet received notification of the conclusion of the Audit. The notification will be reported to next meeting of the Council following its receipt.

The present position was noted.

61. KEY ACTON ISSUES

It was noted there were no new or Key Issues being considered by the County Bough Council that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton. However, Councillor Mike Davies did give feedback on the outcomes of recent planning applications for footway lighting at Rhosnesni High School and large scale planning proposals off the Holt Road/ Bryn Estyn Lane.

62. ACTON PARK PROPOSED NEW SENIOR PLAY AREA AND OUTDOOR GYM

The Chair reported that together with the Clerk, he had met at Acton Park with Carla Hinde, Landscape Officer from Wrexham County Borough Council during August 2021 to discuss the possibility of establishing a new Senior play area and an external outdoor gym for older children and adults in the Park. A piece of land within the Park had initially been identified for the site subject to the necessary assessments. It was noted that the land used will remain the responsibility of Wrexham County Borough Council and it will defend any Public or insurance liability for the existing Junior Play area (which is still under Grant conditions and cannot be moved) and the proposed Senior Play area, as the landowner. The County Borough Council has indicated it will impose certain conditions to any consent and require formal undertakings from the Community Council before this matter is progressed further. Members suggested the Community Council should be able to seek funding outside the Precept for this outdoor Play provision. However there was money in earmarked balance if match funding is required. Consideration was also given to the condition of the other two Play areas in Acton, the age of existing equipment and how dilapidated they are becoming.

The early indication in a response to the Community Council's proposal is that Wrexham County Borough Council have no issues with it in principal but will need Acton Community Council to provide written confirmation as to its agreement to meet any future maintenance costs. Further developmental work will now be needed to calculate sequencing, to ensure the Community Council, residents and school pupils' have input into the design including provision for creative play; the process and eligibility for Grant funding; drawing up an impression of what is wanted; sourcing Grant applications and other funding streams; planning requirements; liaison with Wrexham County Borough Council and ensuring arrangements are in place for it to carry out the necessary Public Consultations and procurement to ensure the completed project is compliant with any national standards .

RESOLVED –

- i. to agree in principle to proceed to develop this proposal for a new Senior Play area and outdoor Gym scheme in Acton Park in conjunction with Wrexham County Borough Council***
- ii. to confirm to Wrexham County Borough Council that Acton Community Council will be prepared to commit to the future maintenance and inspection costs for the new play area once complete; and***
- iii. that Wrexham County Borough Council be requested to provide written confirmation of its agreeance to this proposed scheme in order to support any grant bids that the Community Council may choose to submit.***

63. 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 but the limits and spending levels had been relaxed for 2021/22. Members proceeded to determine the three applications received during the second quarter and whether to make any grants to the applicants under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or under the General Power of Well Being.

RESOLVED – that the Financial Assistance grant applications be determined as follows:–

Organisation	Details	Decision
5. K2 Explorer Scout Unit	S137 Financial support towards replacement and purchase of Water Safety equipment for Kayaking and Canoeing	£500.00
6. Acton Park Community Angling Club	S137 Financial support towards the purchase of equipment to improve water quality and oxygen content in the lake at Acton park	£400.00
7. 9 Acre Campaign Group	SS1-5 General Power of Wellbeing: assistance towards the cost of professional advice from Traffic and Planning Consultants	£1,400.00
TOTALS	S137 SS1-5 General power of Well Being	£ 900.00 £1,400.00.

(Councillor Lynne Williams declared at this stage of the proceedings that she had a personal and prejudicial interest in Application 7 above being a Volunteer with the 9 Acre Campaign Group. She then left the meeting taking no part in the discussion or voting on this application)

64. 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.Independent Remuneration Panel	1. Review of the Remuneration Framework for Community and Town Councils: Email dated 30 July 2021 inviting comments on this consultation and proposals of the remuneration framework for Community and Town Councils. This information was circulated to all members of the Council but no comments were received. Accordingly no formal response was submitted by 27 August 2021 deadline
2.One Voice Wales	<p>1. Update Of The Guide To Taking Part In The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons 2nd June 2022: Email circulated on 2 August 2021 to all members of One Voice Wales</p> <p>2. Briefing Note: for Community and Town Councils- Multi-location meetings: Email circulated on 4 August 2021 to all members of One Voice Wales</p> <p>3. Updated guidance in support of the 2016 Model Code of Conduct: Email circulated 17 August 2021 to all Members of One Voice Wales. This information together with the existing Code of Conduct has been sent separately to all members of the Council. <i>The present position was noted</i></p> <p>4. Local places for Nature funding for larger councils: Email circulated on 18 August 2021 to all members of One Voice Wales</p> <p>5. INNOVATIVE PRACTICE CONFERENCE – WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2021: Email circulated on 19 August 2021 to all members of One Voice Wales. The Vice Chair will be attending this Conference on behalf of the Council at a cost of £40.00 and will give a brief report on his attendance to the next meeting.</p> <p>6. September 2021 – Training Sessions: Email circulated on 23 August 2021 to all members of One Voice Wales. A copy has been sent to all members of the Council.</p>

Organisation	Details
	<p>7. Consultation on local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation: Email circulated on 25 August 2021 to all members of One Voice Wales. A copy has been sent to all members of the Council.</p> <p>8. Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers final publication: Email dated 31 August 2021 advising that this is now available digitally at the following link: Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers final publication</p> <p>9. Electoral Reform Newsletter August 2021: Email circulated on 31 August 2021 to all members of One Voice Wales</p> <p>10. Using national milestones and indicators to measure our Nation's progress - Early notification: Email dated 1 September 2021 circulated to all members of One Voice Wales. This consultation on ‘Shaping Wales’ Future: Using national milestones and indicators to measure our nation’s progress – details Proposals for setting the first wave of national milestones for Wales and seeking views on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national indicators”. The consultation will close on 26 October 2021</p> <p>11. Welsh Public Sector Asbestos Management Assurance Process (WAMAP) Questionnaire: Email circulated to all members of One Voice Wales</p> <p>12. SAVE THE DATE 3.11.21 Welsh Government Tax Conference: Email dated 9 September 2021 circulated to all members of One Voice Wales</p> <p>13. Older People's Commissioner's Newsletter: Email dated 13 September 2021 providing links as follows: Cymraeg: https://www.olderpeoplewales.com/cy/Publications/pub-story/21-09-10/Newsletter_September_2021.aspx English: https://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/Publications/pub-story/21-09-10/Newsletter_September_2021.aspx</p>
3.Welsh Government	<p>Draft Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021 and draft Local Elections (Communities) (Wales) Rules 2021: Email dated 12 August 2021 circulated to all Town & Community Council’s in Wales</p>
4.Kate Jackson Acton Resident	<p>Acton Park: Various Issues and suggestions: Email correspondence commencing 12 August 2021 detail of which have been circulated separately to all members of the Council. Members noted that Mrs Jackson has also raised her concerns with Wrexham CBC as the owner and operator of the park. The Clerk’s interim response was noted and the Chair and Councillor Salli Edwards offered to meet with Ms Jackson with the Park Ranger to talk about what the Community Council is already providing or funding within Acton Park. <i>The present position was noted</i></p>
5.Sarah Atherton MP	<p>1.Meeting with Sarah and Acton Community Council: Email dated 25 August 2021: This meeting took place on 14 September 2021 and all members of the Council were invited to attend remotely via Zoom</p> <p>2. International Tree Foundation Accepting Applications for 2021 Planting Season: Email dated 1 September 2021 informing of this matter</p> <p>3. Funding for Local Projects in Wales that Connect Communities with Heritage: Email dated 15 September 2021 providing information about this funding</p>
6.Boundary Commission For Wales	<p>Initial Proposals Published: Email dated 8 September 2021 informing the Commission’s report containing initial proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales has been published. The report and related maps were available on the Commission’s website here: https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/page/2023-parliamentary-review-initial-proposals Representations about the initial proposals should be made by 3 November through the online consultation portal: bcw-reviews.org.uk, by emailing</p>

Organisation	Details
	bcw@boundaries.wales, or through the post to Boundary Commission for Wales, Hastings House, Cardiff, CF24 0BL.
7.RBL SHOP	Preparation for Remembrance 2021: Email dated 9 September 2021 inviting the Acton Community to join the hundreds of others across the country in displaying a Tommy . It was noted the Council had already purchased and installed a Tommy at the RWF Memorial on Bodhyfryd. Resolved to note the invitation and the Clerk be authorised to place an order with Vivid Floral Design for a Poppy wreath similar to that laid at the RWF Memorial last year
8.Jess Ellison , The Wallich	Conflict Resolution Service - The Wallich: Email dated 15 September 2021 providing a brief overview of this service and eligibility criteria:

65. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported receipt of a Vat Repayment of £2,287.91 to the Council's Current Account and 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 the Chairman's Charity Account from the Deposit Account.

RESOLVED –

- i) To approve the following payments made in August and September 2021 as set out in the schedule below:-**

Payments Made in August 2021				
42.	BACS ref 13.8.21	Carole Roberts	Clerks Salary & office expenses for August 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)
43.	BACS ref 14.8.21	Clwyd Pension Fund	Pension payments for August 2021 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
44.	BACS ref 15.8.21	HMRC	Payroll payments for August 2021 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
45.	Cheque No 202139	One Voice Wales	Conference Fee - Innovative Practice -22 September 2021 – Cllr Hardy S112 local Government act 1972 (as amended)	£40.00 (VAT = £0)
46.	Cheque No 202140	Came & Company	Cyber Insurance Policy 5365508 renewal to 27/8/22 Section 112 & S140 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£369.20 (VAT = £0)
47.	Cheque No 202141	Wrexham County Borough Council	Q1 costs for Little Acton Community Centre Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£374.00 (VAT = £0)
48.	Cheque No 202142	Carole Roberts	Clerks Expenses for August 2021 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£186.77 (Vat= £25.97)

Payments Made in September 2021				
49.	BACS ref 16.9.21	Carole Roberts	Clerks Salary & office expenses for September 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)
50.	BACS ref 17.9.21	Clwyd Pension Fund	Pension payments for September 2021 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
51.	BACS ref 18.9.21	HMRC	Payroll payments for September 2021 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
52.	BACS ref 19.9.21	Shropshire Council	Payroll SLA Costs for 2021/22 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£438.00 (VAT= £73.00)
53.	Cheque No 202143	Welsh Ambulance Service (Awyr Las)	Supply of 4xDefibrillator equipment/Training for Acton Community Wards SS.1-5 Local Government Act 2000 (General power of Wellbeing)	£6,224.40 (Vat= £1,037.40)
54.	Cheque No 202144	Tomos Hughes	Supply of 4x Zoll AED D Padz for Defibrillators SS.1-5 Local Government Act 2000 (General power of Wellbeing)	£353.24 (VAT= £0)
55.	Cheque No 202145	Carole Roberts	Clerks Expenses for September 2021 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£116.33 (Vat= £12.73)
56.	Cheque No 202146	G J Rippon	Consultants Fee for carrying out Job Evaluation S112 Local Government Act 1972(as amended)	£300.00 (VAT=£0)
57.	Cheque No 202147	One Voice Wales	August Training Fees for Councillor C Bettley S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£60.00 (VAT=£0)
58.	Cheque No 202148	K2 Explorer Scout Unit	Grant/ Donation S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£500.00
59.	Cheque No 202149	Acton Park Angling Club	Grant/Donation S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£400.00
60.	Cheque No 202150	9 Acre Campaign Group	Financial Support towards additional professional costs incurred opposing proposals to build on the 9 Acre Field, Westminster Drive, Wrexham SS.1-5 Local Government Act 2000 (General power of Wellbeing)	£1,400.00
Chair's Charity Account				
1.CCA1 /21-22	Cheque No 100032	Carole Roberts	Reimbursement: purchase of Gift Vouchers for elderly Maesydre Resident S15 Local Government Act 1972(as amended)	£100.00

2.CCA2 /21-22	Cheque No 100032	Vivid Floral design	Appreciation flowers S15 Local Government Act 1972(as amended)	£90.00
------------------	---------------------	------------------------	--	--------

ii) The Clerk was authorised to arrange for the transfer of £1,000.00 from the Council's Deposit Account to replenish the Chair's Charity account.

66. 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/ Development	Address & Proposed	Decision
1.Planning Application P/2021/0836 Valid From 20/08/2021	The Goulbourne, Borrass Park Road, Wrexham, LL12 7TF: variation of conditions 6 and 7 of planning permission p/2018/0935 to remove trees and replace with hedge planting	The Council welcomes the removal of the low value conifer hedging/trees to the perimeter of the site. However the Developer should ensure that the protected trees on this site continue to be safeguarded and the proposed hedging to the frontage should include a mixed range of semi mature species to improve the biodiversity of this site.
2.Planning Application P/2021/0843 Valid From 25/08/2021	15 Ffordd Hooson, Wrexham, LL12 7LS: parking and operation of 1 private hire taxi vehicle	The Council does not object to this application but would like to ensure that if granted it is restricted to the applicant only and not granted to the property itself. The Community Council does not object to this application as long as no nuisance is caused to nearby residents and roads users
3.Planning Application P/2021/0872 - Valid From 01/09/2021	Asda Superstore, Holt Road, Bodhyfryd, Wrexham, LL13 8HL: Advertisement consent for 18 signs	No objections
4.Planning Application P/2021/0877 - Valid From 03/09/2021	91 Oak Drive, Wrexham, LL12 7NL: Single storey rear extension	No objections to this application
5.Planning Application P/2021/0883 - Valid From 07/09/2021	19 Larchwood Road, Wrexham, LL12 7SG: Erection of fence (in retrospect)	No observations
6.Planning Application P/2021/0880 - Valid From 08/09/2021	12 Craig Way, Wrexham, LL12 7NU: Lawful development certificate for proposed single storey rear extension	No observations
7. Planning Application P/2021/0894 - Valid From 13/09/2021	130 Herbert Jennings Avenue, Acton, Wrexham, LL12 7YD two storey side extension and single storey rear extension	No observations

67. EXCLUSION OF 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.*

68. LAND AT HOLT ROAD WREXHAM

The Clerk reported upon correspondence received on 2 September 2021. It was noted that a Village Green application had been submitted for this land and the Council would require detailed information upon costs and available finance, commitment, timescale and other options now discussed,

RESOLVED *to express an interest in principle subject to having access to the land in question as now discussed and the Clerk be authorised at the appropriate time to obtain strong external legal advice to protect the Council's position and identify any liabilities contained in any long term agreement that may be entered into with the party now discussed.*

Councillor Kevin Roberts, Chair

Signed as a correct record this 19th day of October 2021

Presiding Chair