

Minutes of a Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 10 December 2013 at Acton Community Resource Centre, Off Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor	E Boylin (Chair)	Councillor	A Whitfield (Vice Chair) *
"	W Baldwin	"	G Lowe
"	R A Davies	"	Mrs A O'Neill
"	Miss J Dudley	"	Mrs C O'Toole
"	Mrs A Evans	"	T Pierce *
"	R Evans	"	J Richards
"	R Hardy	"	Mrs O Simm
"	J A Kelly		Mrs B Smith

* Absent

Also Present:

PCSO Gina Subacchi, North Wales Police
Mr N Hughes ,Member of the public
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

101 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Pierce and A Whitfield.

102 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor J A Kelly declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 13 - Planning Applications being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee.

103 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 19 November 2013 be received and confirmed as correct record.

104 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

There was no information to report from the Minutes.

105 KEY ISSUES - ACTON

WCBC Members advised that the budget and revenue savings consultation was ongoing and there were no new issues currently being considered by the County Borough Council that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton. (Minute 107 January 2011 refers.)

The present position was noted.

106 COMMUNITY FACILITIES - COUNCIL BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS:

Further to Minute 94 November 2013, the Council considered the financial and other support for Acton Community facilities that the Community Council wishes to provide for from 2014/15 onwards in the light of Wrexham County Borough Council's (WCBC) Executive Board decision on 12 November 2013 to approve in principle and subject to public consultation, a number of proposed revenue savings for 2014/15 including the

cessation of service or transfer to Community Councils of the following Community Facilities in the Acton area (WCBC Report HF/52/13 Appendix 1 refers): –

- Community Centres at Borrass Park and Little Acton
- Playgrounds at Aran Road, Ffordd Garmonydd, Acton Park (Junior & Senior)
- Bowling Green at Acton Park Wrexham
- School Crossing Patrols at Dean Road, Borrass Road and Box Lane, Wrexham

Members also reiterated that they had been bothered by Wrexham County Borough Council suggesting what and how it should precept for. Members were mindful that the working partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council should not disappear.

The Community Council also considered correspondence received since the last meeting from various Organisations in respect of the proposed budget reductions for Community Facilities from 1 April 2014 by WCBC. (Minutes 73 October 2013 and 94 November 2013 refers):

1. School Crossing Patrols

- i. Letter dated 19 November 2013 from Ian Lucas MP requesting clarification on the latest position in respect of the Community Council's decision in relation to school crossing patrols. The correspondence referred to in his letter was read out at the last meeting of the Community Council.
- ii. Letter dated 29 November 2013 from the Network & Infrastructure Manager, WCBC providing tabular information of the three risk assessments for the three School Crossing Patrol sites within the Acton Community. The Community Council has been requested to confirm formally by 31 December 2013 whether it is prepared to fund the three School Crossing Patrol Sites in its area.

2. Community Centres

Letter dated 21 November 2013 from Mr Lawrence Isted, Head of Community Well-being and Development, Wrexham County Borough Council enclosing a note summarising the staffing implications of transferring the service to Community Councils/ Community Groups.

RESOLVED - that the following action be taken:-

1 COMMUNITY CENTRES:

- i **To provide a sum of £7,500 in the 2014/15 estimates of income and expenditure to support the Barkers Lane Playgroup in its bid to take over the running of Little Acton Community Centre.**
- ii **no monies be set aside in 2014/15 for the Borrass Park Community Centre operational costs having regard to the Community Council's recommendation (Minute 73 October 2013 refers) that Wrexham County Borough Council's Education Department should take over the running of Borrass Park Community Centre, particularly as the main user of this Community Centre is Borrass Park Junior School.**
- iii **To receive and note the letter dated 21 November 2013 from Mr L Isted regarding the staffing implications of transferring any Community Facility services to Community Councils/ Community Groups.**

2. PLAY SPACES

- iv **To provide a sum of £10,000 under a new budget heading of Acton Play Provision in the 2014/15 estimates of income and expenditure. The provision to be flexible and not yet committed to any specific play spaces as Wrexham County Borough Council has not made its final decision on continuation of the four play spaces in Acton. Negotiations are expected to continue on Acton Play Provision until the end of March 2014. In the event of play space closures the sum may be used elsewhere within the Acton Community.**

3. BOWLING GREENS

- v **To note that the Cunliffe Bowling Club are negotiating with Wrexham County Borough Council to take over the running of the Acton Park Bowling Green facility from 2014/15. The Community**

Council will not include the suggested additional budget of £464 for 2014/15 towards the maintenance costs of the Acton Park Bowling Green. Instead the Community Council will wait for an appeal for a grant from the Club and the current Donations budget should be increased by £250 to £3,000 in the 2014/15 estimates of income and expenditure.

4. SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS

- vi To provide a sum of £10,500 under a new budget heading of School Crossing Patrols maintenance of provision in the 2014/15 estimates of income and expenditure. Acton Community Council having received and noted the relevant risk assessments considers it essential to have School Crossing Patrols at the three sites on Borrass Park Road, Box Lane and Dean Road and this new budget provision will provide £3,500 per crossing to Wrexham County Borough Council for it to maintain the existing School crossing Patrol provision within the Community of Acton.*
- vii Mr Ian Lucas MP be advised of the Community Council's decision to make additional provision within its budget to preserve the three School Crossing Patrols in the Acton Community.*
- viii The Clerk to the Council write to Mr L Isted by 31 December 2013 informing him of the Community Council's decisions in respect of its support or otherwise for the Community Facilities affected by the budget reduction proposals from 2014/15 onwards*

107 POLICING MATTERS - ACTON COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PCSO Gina Subacchi who was attending the meeting on behalf of North Wales Police. She tabled a copy of the Policing report for November 2013 providing a breakdown of the relevant statistics and the current live policing operations and intelligence gathering involving the Acton Neighbourhood Policing Team and she would answer any Members' questions arising.

Members were advised that the Acton PCSOs were being required to give 50% of their time to assist with Policing the Wrexham Town Centre during the Christmas period and would not be about as much within the Acton Community beat area. Members expressed dismay that despite previous assurances and the existence of the Service Level Agreement for Community Policing, the Acton Community Policing Team were again being taken from the area without any sort of advance notice or liaison with the Community Council. They also questioned the impact this redeployment of PCSOs would have on the incidence of Crime within Acton. Taking PCSOs out of their wards has a negative effect, particularly on the continuity of working relationship with residents and there is often a displacement of trouble hotspots from the town centre into the Acton wards.

During the debate the following matters were noted; attendances at Wednesday Policing Surgeries at Acton Community Resource Centre; the Community Christmas Lunch will be held on 17 December and the Pupils of Barkers Lane School had been cited as an exemplar School for their approach to highlighting pupil and road safety issues to drivers despite not having a School Crossing Patrol at the school.

The Chair thanked PCSO Subacchi for her report and attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to the Chief Constable and the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner expressing concerns and disappointment that the Acton Community PCSOs were again being used in the Town Centre without prior notice or consultation with the Community Council despite assurances to the contrary after the last time.

108 CONSULTATIONS

The following consultation papers were received and noted:-

- 1. Proposed Revocations and remaking of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005:** The Local Government Finance and Performance Division of the Welsh Government had issued a letter on 22 November 2013 seeking views by 3 January 2014, on any aspect of the draft regulations, including the amendments and the format of the consolidation. The regulations are likely to be in place and effective for the financial year 2013-14.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk collate and submit any observations provided by Members of the Council prior to 2 January 2014.

2. Consultation on the proposed amendment of the 1987 rules on Community Polls: Prior to the amendments contained in the 2011 Local Government Wales Measure, the provisions within the 1972 Local Government Act permitted a very small number of electors to call a meeting and trigger a poll. Such polls could prove costly with no obligation on the part of the principal or community council to abide by the outcome. The Welsh Minsters were consulting on the Parish and Community Meetings (Polls) Rules 1987 (“the 1987 rules”) with a view to amendment and focussing on requirements within the rules in relation to polling station facilities and opening times, poll notice periods and postal voting. The consultation commenced on 20 November 2013 and closes on 12 February 2014.

109 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

The Clerk submitted a report detailing four applications for financial assistance received since the June 2013 meeting. The Council’s Policy was to apportion the annual £2,750 budget equally between each of the quarterly meetings. Accordingly, there was a sum of £ 687.50 for allocation at the meeting. Members then proceeded to consider the three applications and whether the Council wished to make any grant to the applicants under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED – that the following Financial Assistance grants be made –

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| 1 | <i>Shelter Cymru– Financial Assistance towards the provision of housing advice services in Wrexham including free legal representation where necessary.</i> | <i>£100.00</i> |
| 2 | <i>North Wales Deaf Association - Assistance to support a wide range of services to people with hearing loss in the Acton Area</i> | <i>£50.00</i> |
| 3 | <i>Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru – Assistance towards the costs of staging the 2014 event in Carmarthenshire from 1-9 August 2014</i> | <i>£25.00</i> |
| 4. | <i>Bobath Children’s Therapy Centre, Wales – Assistance to provide extra therapists to enable the Charity to treat 500 children from all over Wales who have Cerebral Palsy</i> | <i>£50.00</i> |

110 ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2014/15 FINANCIAL YEAR:

- 1. Annual Investment Strategy 2014/15:** Further to Minute 28 ii) June 2011, Members reviewed the Acton Community Council Investments Policy for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process.

RESOLVED –

- i) To approve the Investment Strategy for Acton Community Council for the 2014/15 financial year as set out in the appendix to the report; and**
- ii) To continue to review the Acton Community Council Investments Policy each financial year as part of the budget setting process**
- 2. Service Level Agreement 2014/15 – Detached Youth Service Provision in Acton:** Members considered a letter dated 25 November 2013 from the Children and Young People Service at Wrexham County Borough Council confirming that the estimated costs for 2014/15 will remain at the current year’s SLA level of £21,691.00.

RESOLVED - that a holding letter be sent in response advising that the Community Council is unable to confirm the amount it will be providing for the 2014/15 Service Level Agreement as it is currently looking at all Expenditure carefully to ensure value for money, particularly in view of the additional financial burdens placed on the Community Council as a result of supporting Community Facilities affected by Wrexham County Borough Council’s budget reduction proposals from 2014/15 onwards. Confirmation on the amount for the 2014/15 SLA will be advised as soon as possible.

- 3. Precept Requirements for 2014/15:** The Chief Finance and Performance Officer, Wrexham County Borough Council had indicated that the Community Council's precept is required by 31 December 2013. The Acton Community Tax base for 2014/15 is 5791.

A schedule was considered setting out the Council's Draft budget and precept requirement taking into account current commitments, decisions made throughout the year together with new provisions that are required to fund the Community Facilities that the Community Council decided to support earlier in the meeting. (Minute 106 above refers). During consideration of the Budget, reference was made to the 2013/14 payments of the revenue and capital provisions for the Acton Community Resource Centre. Members expressed concerns that the Centre's Management Committee had yet to hold its first meeting despite the Constitution and membership of the Committee having been agreed and that the Centre Manager and Administrative Assistant posts had not yet been filled.

RESOLVED – that:-

- i) the Community Council's precept for the year 2014/15 be fixed at £125,000;*
- ii) An item be placed on the January 2014 meeting agenda to approve the final planned budget and estimated income and expenditure to the 2014/15 precept level of £125,000.*
- iii) To write to Mr Dylan Hughes, Leisure and Libraries Manager expressing concerns and requesting clarification about what is happening with completing the Centre refurbishment, appointing staff, holding the first Management Committee meeting and the arrangements for the official opening of the Acton Community Resource Centre. The Community Council wishes for these matters to be expedited urgently.*

111. REPORT FROM CLERK

Information and general correspondence that had been received and was available for members at the meeting was reported and dealt with as follows:

Organisation	Details and action taken
1.Play Wales	Play news and briefing from the national charity for play: A copy of the Newsletter (issue 41 Winter 2013) was available at the meeting for members perusal <i>Information noted</i>
2.Winston Roddick North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner	Police and Crime Plan – Second Call for Evidence: Email dated 9 December advising of the availability on the Commissioner's website of this consultation document and inviting the Community Council to submit its views by 10 January 2013 to inform the annual review of the Police and Crime Plan priorities to tackle Crime in North Wales. <i>Information noted</i>

112 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was reported that the final precept payment for 2013/14 had been received on 2 December, 2013. Members then received and considered details of payments that required authorisation.

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved: -

Voucher No; Payee	Details	Amount
37 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerks Expenses to 10 December 2013 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£ 67.00
38. Shelter Cymru	Assistance towards the provision of housing advice services in Wrexham including free legal representation where necessary Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£ 100.00
39. North Wales Deaf Association	Assistance to support a wide range of services to people with hearing loss in the Acton Area	£ 50.00

	Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	
40. Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru – Carmarthenshire 2014	Assistance towards the costs of staging the 2014 event in Carmarthenshire from 1-9 August 2014 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£ 25.00
41. Bobath Children’s Therapy Centre, Wales	Assistance to provide extra therapists to enable the Charity to treat 500 children from all over Wales who have Cerebral Palsy Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£ 50.00
42 Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for December 2013 paid by the Council’s Agent: Wrexham County Borough Council in accordance with Minute 99.1 December 2009 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	NJC Rates
43 Wrexham County Borough Council	Revenue Contribution to Acton Community Resource Centre 2013/14 S19 Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976	£30,000.00
44 Wrexham County Borough Council	Second and Final Capital Contribution to Acton Community Resource Centre 2013/14 S19 Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976	£36,492.00
45 Wrexham County Borough Council	Contribution to Operational Costs of Borrass Park Community Centre 2013/14 S19 Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976	£ 3,964.00
46 Wrexham County Borough Council	Contribution to Operational Costs of Little Acton Community Centre 2013/14 S19 Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976	£ 4,744.00

113 PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS

The Council considered whether to make any comments on the following Planning Applications for development in the Community Council’s area that had been received since the last meeting or that had been made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (to be determined by Wrexham County Borough Council). It was also noted that copies of recent planning decisions within the Acton area were available for perusal at the meeting.

RESOLVED - that the following observations be made on the applications set out below:-

Application No & Address	Details	Observations
1. P/2013/0660 Part of a field west of Commonwood Farm and South of, Borrass Road, Commonwood, LL13 9TF	Drilling of an Exploration Borehole (Requiring 24 Hour Operations) to remove a core of coal for sampling and site restoration following cessation of drilling operations. The drilling operations to take approximately 60 days and a maximum of 75 days	No comments.
2.P/2013/0791 18 Trident Way, Wrexham	Single storey Side Extension including conversion of garage	No objections.
3.P/2013/0792 5 Lawson Close, Wrexham	First floor extension	No objections.

(Councillor J Kelly being a Member of Wrexham County Borough Council’s Planning Committee declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item. He left the meeting during consideration of this item taking no part in the consideration, discussion or voting on any of the planning applications)

Signed as a correct record this 21st day of January 2014

Chair