

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at Acton Community Resource Centre, 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:

Mr Reg Herbert, Freelance Reporter

Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A Evans and Mrs A O'Neill.

48 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at this stage of the proceedings.

49 COMMUNITY FACILITIES: WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Community Council received a letter dated 30 August 2013 from Mr Lawrence Istead, Head of Community Wellbeing and Development, Wrexham County Borough Council advising that in the light of severe budget pressures, the Council's Executive Board is considering various funding and operational proposals as set out in three options from 2014/15 and beyond for the ongoing provision of the following Community facilities in the Acton Community:-

1. **Community Centres** – Borrass Park and Little Acton
2. **Play Areas** – Ffordd Garmonydd, Acton Park Senior, Acton Park Junior and Aran Road
3. **Public Conveniences** – none
4. **Bowling Greens** – Cunliffe Bowling Club
5. **School Crossing Patrols** - Borrass Park Road, Box Lane and Dean Road
6. **Street Lighting** – to be discussed further by members of Wrexham County Borough Council prior to communicating proposals to resolve anomalies in respect of charges for street lighting.

The Community Council, in common with the other Town and Community Councils within the County Borough, was requested to give careful consideration to taking over these facilities, fully funding them or identifying and aiding local management committees, voluntary associations or community groups to take them over. The Community Council's decision has been requested by 18 October, 2013 so that responses from all stakeholders can be reported to the County Borough Council's Committees and Executive Board from November.

The following matters were raised during the debate: -

- The financial information provided in the appendices to the letter were scant and insufficient for the Community Council to assess the full potential revenue and capital cost to it for each of the options for the various Community Facilities.
- Wrexham County Borough Council had not yet made a full decision and a debate on the three options was premature. Wrexham County Borough Council's fall-back position was also unknown, especially if not all of the other Community Councils choose to fund their Community Facilities.
- Before any view on the three options is given, further questions should be raised on the detailed financial information for the options, the future cost implications and statutory and legal requirements for providing these Community services.
- There should be greater clarity within the proposed options concerning the staffing, capacity, expertise requirements and the ability of the Community Council to assume responsibility.
- If Community Councils take over the Community facilities there is the potential for an additional administration oncost burden to be placed on Council Tax payers as the benefits and economies of scale of providing a central service will be lost.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk be instructed to arrange, as a matter of urgency, for a Wrexham Council Officer to attend a Special meeting of the Community Council to debate the three options set out in Mr Istead's letter.

Signed as a correct record this 17th day of September 2013

Chair