

**Minutes of a Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 15 October 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 Euan Brown, Mr Gary Millen and Mr Claude Voelker Dart Energy  
Mr Eryl Jones & Mr Merfyn Jones, Cunliffe Bowling Club  
Ms B Bennett, Change Wrexham for our Future  
Mr N Hughes, Member of the public  
Mrs Carole Roberts, Clerk to the Council

## 88 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs C O'Toole

## 89 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor J A Kelly declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 6 - Community Presentation by representatives of Dart Energy Europe and a personal and non-prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item 11 - Planning Applications being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee.

## 90 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

***RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 15 October 2013 be received and confirmed as correct record.***

## 91 INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

- 1. Minute 83.7 – Community Footway Lighting:** It was noted that this observation had been included within the Community Council's response to Mr L Isted concerning the proposed budget reductions for Community facilities.

## 92 KEY ISSUES - ACTON

WCBC Members advised that 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.

### **93 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION: PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF DART ENERGY (EUROPE)**

The Chair extended a welcome to Euan Brown, Gary Millen & Claude Voelker representatives of DART Energy Europe who were in attendance to give an overview and a short presentation on Coal Bed methane extraction and the company's current planning application No P/2013/0660 for the drilling of an exploration bore hole (requiring 24 hour operations) to remove a core of coal for sampling and site restoration following cessation of drilling operations. It was noted that the operations were expected to take 60 days and a maximum of 75 days at part of a field west of Commonwood Farm and south of Borrass Road Commonwood, LL13 9TF. The presentation highlighted the following matters:

- The Company had been issued with Petroleum Exploration development Licences (PEDLs 147,185, 186, 187, 188, 189) by the Government and was undertaking an Exploratory drilling Programme in the Chester and Wrexham Area.
- The Coal bed methane extraction process
- The current application was not for a Hydraulic Fracturing process.
- In respect of PEDL 187, there would not be any drilling to the area of the former Gresford Colliery workings which had been specifically excluded from the licence. The current planning application was purely for exploration and evaluation and would not involve the pumping of any water into or out of the exploratory site.
- Water based drilling fluids would be used as part of the exploration process and a short video was shown of the drilling process as set out in the current planning application.
- The site would be abandoned in accordance with good industry practice and a dedicated peace barrier comprising of an acoustic panel screen would be placed around the site to control any noise being emitted from the site.

Members of the Community Council then raised various questions with the Dart Energy representatives including

- Assuming the Company finds what it is looking for, what will happen next? It was noted that other exploratory test wells had already been drilled in the area and others would be drilled over the next few years. The next phase would then be a test phase to drill in vertical and horizontal pairs to extract gas and assess the gas flow and flow rates;
- How many of the Company's existing 40 wells were in the UK? There were 36 wells in the UK and 4 in Poland;
- What amount of gas reserves was Dart Energy expecting to find? The Company would prefer to find enough reserves for a well to be economically viable for a 15-25 year lifespan. The assessment of the drilled core from the proposed test drill site and any potential resources would inform any future incremental decisions;
- If successful and coal bed methane Gas is to be extracted, how would the extracted Gas be fed into a Gas Compressor Station? The site selection would have resource, surface and urban sensitivity filters applied but could involve pipe infrastructure;
- Reassurance about the measures to be put in place for the temporary drilling of a Bore Hole so there is not any night disturbance, noise or dust emissions from the test drilling site. Members expressed concerns about the effect of low frequency sound emissions from the twenty four hour drilling process;
- Whether any chemicals would be used in the process that may contaminate the water table or local water sources and what guarantees were there that no water contamination from the process would be capable of entering the water table? ;
- Whether there would be any risk of a methane explosion from the test site or a coal bed methane gas well. It was noted that this had not been an issue in the Company's experience; and
- What are the negatives and positives of this application to the immediate Community? It was noted that there would be some disruption on site set up, with lorry movements and servicing the site.

The Community would benefit from the use of local services for Civil Contracting, laundry, food, accommodation, portable water etc. From previous experience expenditure of £250,000 was likely to be incurred in a 50km radius of the site.

The Chair concluded by thanking the representatives of Dart Energy (Europe) for their attendance and presentation.

*(Councillor J A Kelly declared a personal interest in respect of this item being a member of Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Committee. He remained in the meeting as an observer taking no part in the discussion.)*

#### **94 COMMUNITY FACILITIES - COUNCIL BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Further to Minute 73 October 2013, The Council considered the following correspondence received since the last meeting of the Community Council from various Organisations in respect of the proposed budget reductions for Community Facilities from 1 April 2014 by Wrexham County Borough Council:

- 1 Letter dated 29 October from Mr John Bradbury, Head of Environment, Wrexham County Borough Council responding to the Community Council's letter dated 16 October, 2013
- 2 Copy of a letter dated 31 October 2013 from Mr Eryl Jones, Secretary of the Cunliffe Arms Bowling Club to Mr John Bradbury, Head of Environment, Wrexham County Borough Council regarding the future maintenance and management of the Cunliffe Bowling Green.
- 3 Letter dated 1 November 2013 from Mr Lawrence Isted, Head of Community Well-being and Development, Wrexham County Borough Council asking the Community Council to consider setting a precept for 2014/15 to cover the cost of those facilities which the Community Council wish the Council to retain or intend to take over itself. Appended to the letter is a summary of the costs to continue running the Community Facilities in 2014/15.
- 4 Letter dated 12 November 2013 from John Gallanders, Chief Officer of AVOW inviting representatives from all Community Councils to attend a meeting on 4 December 2013 at 6:30pm in Ty AVOW, Wrexham to discuss the proposed cuts and how AVOW can support the Community.

A letter received by several Members from Mrs Angela Roberts was read out at the meeting regarding the parking issues outside Acton School on Box Lane. It was noted that Parking Enforcement was a County Borough Council matter and the PCSOs had no statutory powers to issue tickets. Members were very supportive of the service provided by school crossing patrols but the outcome of risk assessments and the statutory need for crossing patrols by the County Borough Council was still awaited before the Community Council will make any final decision on providing any funding for this service.

In respect of the Cunliffe Bowling Green, the Council was pleased to note that the Club members were considering taking over responsibility for the maintenance of the green. Mr Jones from the Club addressed the meeting and referred to the success of the 80 member strong Club's teams and its provision of toilet, disabled facilities and refreshments from the pavilion, together with Holiday Clubs for children. The landlord of the Cunliffe Public House supported the Club through permitting Club members to use his car park. Mr Jones requested any assistance possible from the Community Council to help in keeping the Club open. The Council was supportive of the Bowling Club taking over the running of the Green in principle and the retention of this Community facility. The funding for this and all Community Services would have to be reviewed on an annual basis. It was envisaged that the Club would be able to ask for a grant as and when needed in line with other local clubs and societies.

**RESOLVED - that the following action be taken:-**

- 1 **To note the letter from Mr John Bradbury dated 29 October and take no further action until the detailed financial and other information requested by the Community Council has been received;**
- 2 **To confirm support in principle to the Cunliffe Bowling Club if they do take over the maintenance of the Cunliffe Bowling Green and to review any financial support on a yearly basis and the Club be**

*advised that they are also eligible to apply for a small grant from the Community Council on the same basis as any other Clubs or organisations in the area;*

- 3 *Mr L Isted be advised that the Community Council is insulted and takes great exception to his letter dated 1 November 2013 suggesting how and what it should precept for. The Community Council is still waiting for a full and detailed response to its letter dated 16 October, 2013 in respect of the budget reduction proposals for Community facilities from 2014/15 onwards; and*
- 4 *A copy of the letter from AVOW regarding its meeting on 4 December be copied to the Barkers Lane Playgroup for information as it is considering taking over the running of the Little Acton Community Centre.*

## 95 POLICING MATTERS - ACTON COMMUNITY POLICING

The PCSO advised that Members would be circulated with a copy of the Policing report for October 2013 providing a breakdown of the relevant statistics and the current live policing operations involving the Acton Neighbourhood Policing Team and she would be available after the meeting to answer any Members' questions arising. Members had no specific issues they wished to raise with the Officer and the Chair thanked PCSO Subacchi for her attendance at the meeting.

## 96 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 AVOW Wrexham	<b>Make A Difference Extravaganza Concert:</b> Email dated 21 October advising of a Concert being held on Friday 22 November at the William Aston Hall, Glyndwr University starting at 7:00pm <i>Information noted</i>
2 Regional Network Manager Post Office Ltd	<b>Decision on Public Consultation in respect of Rhosnesni Post Office, Dean Road, Wrexham:</b> Letter dated 22 October 2013 advising that after careful consideration the proposed move of Rhosnesni Post Office will not proceed and the branch will continue to operate from its existing location for the time being. <i>Information noted</i>
3 One Voice Wales	1. <b>Isolated Communities – letter to Mobile operators:</b> Email dated 23 October enclosing correspondence between One Voice Wales and the Mobile Operators Association demonstrating the usefulness of One Voice Wales acting on behalf of member councils. <i>Information noted</i> 2. <b>Training Programme 2014:</b> Email dated 25 October notifying of the new courses and additional training modules available and suggesting that the Council's Annual Training Budget be increased to take advantage of these training opportunities. <i>Information noted</i>
4 Nick Roe, Secretary Wrexham Area Civic Society	1. <b>Wrexham Area Civic Society Awards 2013:</b> Email dated 4 November advising the Acton Community Resource Centre has received a Commendation in the category Restoration or Refurbishment of an Existing Building, in the 2013 Wrexham Area Civic Society Awards. The Chair of the Council will be attending the Awards Evening on Friday 22 November 2013, at Gresford Memorial Hall. <i>Information noted</i> 2. <b>In Focus – Autumn 2013:</b> A copy of this document from the Civic Society was available for perusal at the meeting. <i>Information noted</i>
5 Society of Local Council Clerks	<b>Practitioners Conference – 28 February / 1 March at East Midlands:</b> Email dated 7 November 2013 advising of this Conference that is almost exclusively run in breakout groups with emphasis on discussion and understanding. The two day inclusive delegate cost is £220. Topics will include, Quotes Contracts and Tenders; Youth Councils and repeal of Section 150 – Electronic payments

Organisation	Details and action taken
	and digital engagement. <b>RESOLVED – that the Clerk be authorised to attend this Conference as part of her ongoing training and the Clerk proceed to reserve a delegate place at a cost of £220.</b>
6 Mr M Owen, head of Finance , Wrexham CBC	<b>Precept Payment Schedule and Tax Base 2014/15:</b> Letter dated 8 November, 2013 advising the Council’s tax base for 2014/15 is 5791 and requesting notification of the Council’s precept requirements by 31 December 2013. <i>Information noted</i>
7 Clerk to Gresford Community Council	<b>Office of Mayor:</b> Letter dated 11 November to the Leader of Wrexham, CBC and copied to all Community Councils in Wrexham, advising that Gresford Community Council has resolved that in recognition of the Funding Crisis facing Wrexham County Borough Council for 2014/15 and beyond, it calls on the County Borough Council to withdraw all dedicated funding towards the Office of Mayor save for that paid by way of special responsibility allowances to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor after the current financial year until such time as the economic climate improves and such funding once again becomes justifiable <i>Information noted</i>
8 Corporate and Customer Services Department Wrexham CBC	<b>Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum meeting – Thursday 12 December 2013 at 6:00pm:</b> Email dated 15 November inviting the Community Council to nominate 2/3 representatives to attend this meeting and to submit any important items of business for discussion at the Forum by no later than 27 November 2013. <b>RESOLVED that the Council be represented at the meeting by Councillors Ray Evans and Ralph Hardy.</b>
9 Angela Hawkesford Contractor Services Department , NHS Wales	<b>1.Application by Boots UK ltd for inclusion on the Pharmaceutical List at unit 1 Plas Coch Retail Park, Plas Coch Road, Wrexham, LL12 2BA:</b> Letter dated 15 November advising of the decision that the application was considered desirable in order to secure adequate pharmaceutical services in the neighbourhood and the application has been approved <b>2. Application by Mr Usman Shabbir for Preliminary Consent for inclusion in the Pharmaceutical list at Chester Road, Wrexham:</b> Letter dated 15 November advising that as a result of preliminary consent in the vicinity of King Street/ Lord Street, Wrexham being approved, this additional application was considered neither necessary or desirable in order to secure adequate pharmaceutical services and the application was refused <i>Information noted</i>

## 97 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members received and considered details of payments that required authorisation.

**RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved: -**

Voucher No; Payee	Details	Amount
34 Wrexham CBC	Contribution: Acton Park Seasonal Ranger for summer 2013 S19 Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976	£ 4,328.70 (ex VAT)
35 Carole Roberts Clerk to the Council	Clerks Expenses to 18 November 2013 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972	£ 104.30
36 Wrexham County Borough Council	Clerks Salary and office expenses for November 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

## 98 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
P/2013/0708 Barkers Lane CP School, Barkers Lane , Wrexham	Installation of Storage unit	The Council has no objection to the application.
P/2013/0710 15 Garden Court, Wrexham	Erection of Double Garage and associated external works	No objections.
P/2013/0124 Family Centre, 44 Dean Road, Wrexham	Installation of storage container (amended plan)	The Council has noted the change in the design for this storage unit from the original application. It does have some reservations about the location of the container on the Car Park and the potential impact on space during weekend use by local youth football clubs and would prefer for the car park space to be retained but it does not wish to object to the application.
P/2013/0763 49 Goulbourne Avenue, Wrexham	Parking And Operation Of 1 No. Taxi	The Community Council is unaware of any complaints regarding this use and notes that the taxi use described within the application is for social service and school transport contracts only with no phone work or walk in trade. On this basis, the Community Council has no objection to the application.

*(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)*

## 99 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.**

## 100 ANNUAL REVIEW – CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Chair reported on the Annual Review of the Clerk in accordance with Minute 34 June 2013 and provided clarification on the issues raised at the last meeting. (Minute 87 October 2013 refers)

**RESOLVED – that**

- 1.) *The Clerk's Salary be increased to Spinal Column point 24 with immediate effect, the grading be reviewed annually as part of the Clerk's Annual Review and to approve the virement of monies from the Community Council's un-year marked balances to fund the planned overspend in the current financial year;*
- 2.) *The payment of 22 training hours is made in the Clerk's December 2013 salary in respect of her participation at the Society of Local Council Clerk's Welsh Regional Conference at Llandudno on 18 September 2013 and attendance/reporting on the SLCC Branch Secretaries National Meeting on 13 November, 2013 at Stratford upon Avon.*
- 3.) *Arrangements for the necessary budget provision and alterations to the Council's Payroll Service Level Agreement to be made to ensure the Community Council is compliant with the automatic roll out of the Government's Workplace Pension scheme.*

(The Clerk to the Council left the meeting and was not present during consideration of this item.)

**Signed as a correct record this 10th day of December 2013**

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**Chair**