

Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of Acton Community Council held on Tuesday 18 April 2023 remotely via Zoom and at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor Kevin Roberts (Chair)

“ W Baldwin *

“ Ms L Balmain *

“ Mrs. C Bettley *

“ M Davies

“ R Davies

“ Ms S Edwards

“ Mrs. A Evans

Councillor R Hardy (Vice Chair)

“ A Gallanders *

“ Ms H Hewitt

“ Ms C Jarvis

“ P Lloyd

“ Ms. B Martin

“ Mrs. D Wallice *

1 Vacancy

* Absent

Also Present:

Mrs. Carole Roberts & Mrs. Michelle Williams, Acton Community Council

164. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W Baldwin, Ms L Balmain, Mrs. C Bettley (sickness), A Gallanders and Mrs. D Wallice (technical difficulties)

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

165. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Phil Lloyd declared a non prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 10.1 Items placed on the Agenda at the request of Members due to being a Governor of Acton School

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

166. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

167. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the remote Council Meeting held on 21 March 2023 were received. It was noted that on Minute 162.i) Administration Assistant Post the word “further” should be deleted after “subject to a” and before “satisfactory six month appraisal review”

RESOLVED – that subject to the amendment now put forward, the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 March 2023 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

168. INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES

- CORE OBJECTIVES & PRIORITIES FROM 2023/24 ONWARDS:** The Chair acknowledged Councillor Balmain’s absence and invited Members to discuss options for the Workshop. The full Council Term objectives were desirable and laudable but owing to the size of the Community Council, the view was that the recently adopted Annual Report and its key objectives should be progressed

through an action tracker.

RESOLVED – that

- i) *In view of the short time scale since completion of the 2021/22 Annual Report, to roll it forward to 2022/2023 to enable Councillors to do further work to achieve its objectives;*
 - ii) *A workshop be held in February 2024 to review the Annual Report and prepare objectives for the 2024/25 Annual Report*
 - iii) *The Council's thanks be passed on to Councillor Balmain for her hard work on this project.*
2. **MINUTE 153 - ACTON OUTREACH ADVICE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT:** The Clerk gave an update confirming the option for an additional 10 hours per month at £25 per hour had now been incorporated within the Service Level Agreement at an additional cost of £3,000pa. The present position was noted.
3. **MINUTE 154.1 -SECTION 116 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 – CASUAL VACANCY BORRAS PARK WARD:** The Clerk informed Members that a Notice of Co-option for the casual vacancy in the Borrass Park Ward had been published on the Acton Community Council website. Any nominations from eligible persons will be considered at the Annual Community Council Meeting on 16 May 2023. If no nominations are received then the Notice of Co-option must be re-advertised.
4. **MINUTE 154.4 -COMMUNITY AGENT PROJECT:** The Clerk informed Members that she had emailed Steve Latham-White for an update on the Project and was still awaiting a response. As no response had been received for this meeting, it was proposed that the second part of this resolution now be implemented and the Clerk will on behalf of the Community Council send a letter for consideration by the Safeguarding, Communities and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee/Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee on 10 May 2023 setting out the Council's deliberations and position in respect of participating in this Project.
5. **MINUTE 163 -MAESYDRE POWERHOUSE:** The Clerk had received the professional fee proposal for the provision of professional services for all aspects of surveying, tender specification, tendering, Contract Management and supervision of the repairs and work required to the Maesydre Powerhouse Building. The fee proposal had exceeded the limit set at the Council Meeting in March 2023 and the Clerk had consulted with the Chair and Vice-Chair on the proposal.

RESOLVED – to endorse the action taken by the Clerk in consulting with the Chair and Vice Chair and to proceed to engage the Contractor to carry out the professional works detailed and ensure the Maesydre Powerhouse is kept in good condition and state of repair to minimise identified Risk for the Community Council.

169. COMMUNITY POLICING MATTERS

It was noted that no Police Officers were present at the meeting. Members received details about a Policing Operation set out in a Press Link on 4 April 2023 on a Domestic Abuse initiative. It was noted that the Council had already asked for release of monthly domestic abuse incidences and no information had been forthcoming.

RESOLVED –

- i) *To send another request for the Domestic Abuse statistics to the Police; and*
- ii) *If a response is not received then the Clerk, with the assistance of Councillor Salli Edwards, consider drafting and submitting a specific Freedom of Information request.*

170. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022/23

The Clerk presented the Year End Bank Reconciliation and spending progress against the 2022/23

Budget. Members noted the end of year General Fund and other cumulative balances were £247,195.98 some £36,737 less than the end of 2020/21. The Earmarked balances following the review in December 2022 had a net in year decrease of £20,192. It was noted the accounts will be submitted to the Council's Internal Auditor on a date to be determined in May 2023 and Audit Wales; the External Auditor has given notice that it was yet to determine when it will undertake the Annual Return and Basic Audit. Members proceeded to thank the Clerk for all her hard work on producing and keeping the Council's Accounts, it was thanks to this hard work that the Council had always passed the Auditors' inspections without any issues.

RESOLVED – that the quarter 4 bank reconciliation and accounts together with the full year expenditure and progress against the Budget to be received and noted.

171. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 1. EASTER EGG TRAIL ACTON PARK:** The Chair updated Members on the success of the Easter Egg Trail. It was a very well attended event, helped by the good weather. It was suggested that a thank you card and suitable gift be purchased for the Ranger.
- 2. PEACE STATUE:** It was confirmed by Members that, subject to planning permission, the Peace Statue would be unveiled on Tuesday 2 May 2023 at 11.30am. It was noted the children from Acton Park School were also to be invited to participate.

RESOLVED – that

- i) a thank you card and suitable gift be purchased and given to the Acton Park Ranger from the Chair's Charity Fund; and***
- ii) Councillor Jarvis contact John and Tamsin Evans, the Peace Run Coordinators in Wales to confirm if the unveiling of the Peace Statue is to be a public event.***

172. KEY ACTON ISSUES

WCBC Members reported verbally on any new or key issues being considered by the County Borough Council that may affect the whole or part of the Community of Acton as follows:

- 1. WREXHAM CBC OFFICER RESPONSE TIMES:** Members discussed the delay in Wrexham CBC Officers responding to their communications. Members felt that this was now becoming professionally embarrassing for Acton Community Council and had the potential to bring the Community Council into disrepute due to lack of progress.

RESOLVED – to write:

- i) to Aled Pugh-Jones seeking progress and an update regarding the relocation of the Community Council's CCTV Camera; and***
- ii) to Ian Bancroft, the Chief Executive of Wrexham CBC, bringing to his attention to the delays being experienced by the Community Council and its Councillors due to the lack of responses when communicating with Wrexham CBC Officers in respect various initiatives such as the relocation of the CCTV camera, participating in the Community Agent project, repair and restoration of metal fencing at Jeffreys Road and other Streetscene matters.***

- 2. WREXHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN:** It was noted that this was to be considered by Wrexham CBC at a special meeting on 19 April 2023

173. ITEMS PLACED ON THE AGENDA AT THE REQUEST OF MEMBERS

- 1. Councillor Phillip Lloyd: 100 year centenary anniversary of Acton County Primary School:** Councillor Lloyd drew attention to the events that are being planned on a date yet to be confirmed to celebrate this anniversary for present and former pupils and the Community to remember and celebrate the School. Councillor Lloyd referencing this landmark Anniversary requested consideration of a donation from the Community Council to support the Celebrations.

RESOLVED – that a donation of up to £1,000 be made to Acton CP School from the Chair’s Charity Account to assist with celebrating this event.

(Councillor Philip Lloyd having earlier declared a personal non prejudicial interest in this item being a Community Governor at the School, remained in the meeting and presented this item to the Council) .

2. Councillor Becca Martin:

- i) **Proposal for an Events Committee:** - to work with the Acton Park Ranger to build and create events for the local Community in Acton Park and other Open and Green Spaces, that would bring in funds that could be ringfenced for Acton Park.
- ii) **Contribution to the cost of skip hire on WCBC environmental days:** Request so that all residents and not just Council Tenants are able to use the skips on Environmental clean-up Days. The Clerk confirmed that Acton Community Council had passed a resolution previously agreeing to pay 50% of the cost of the skip hire on the environmental days.

RESOLVED – that

- i) ***the formation of an Events Committee be deferred until the Annual Council Meeting on 16 May 2023 when all the other Committees and Task and Finish Groups Membership and Terms of Reference will be reviewed and refreshed; and***
- ii) ***to reiterate a previous standing Council resolution that Acton Community Council is prepared to meet 50% of the skip hire cost on future Environmental Clean up days subject to being invoiced after each event.***

3. Councillor Andy Gallanders - Nine Acre Playing Field: In the absence of Councillor Gallanders, Councillors Hewitt and Martin raised this matter on his behalf. A lengthy debate considered the viability of this site and referenced unknown costs and liabilities particularly in respect of grounds maintenance, the need for there to be a draw to the Field, and the full financial case, precept implications and other consequences/implications of the Nine Acre Field becoming an Open access field as stated by Wrexham CBC.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk write to Wrexham CBC, on behalf of Members and Residents, requesting an update, following the previous commitment by Wrexham CBC to open up the field as a Public Park as to what the intended public use is and its intentions and future plans.

174. REPORT FROM CLERK

The Council received and noted a report from the Clerk detailing correspondence /other information that has been received since the last meeting.

RESOLVED – that

- i) ***the undermentioned correspondence be received and noted***
- ii) ***the Clerk continue to send correspondence direct to Members and raise any items that require further discussion at the next Council Meeting***

Organisation	Details
1. One Voice Wales	Consultation - Penn Review response (Local Authority Ethical Standards Framework and Code of Conduct): email dated 30 March 2023 with this link to the consultation Recommendations of the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework (Richard Penn report) GOV.WALES Information noted
1. Audit Wales	Audit Wales – March Newsletter: email dated 31 March 2023 with the latest newsletter attached. Information noted
2. AVOW	AVOW – Emergency First Aid Training: email dated 31 March 2023 with the latest training dates. Information noted
3. Awel Y Mor	Awel Y Mor – Newsletter: email dated 31 March with their latest newsletter. Information noted

4. One Voice Wales	<p>1. Written Statement on Electoral Reform: email dated 31 March 2023 with a ministerial letter and a written statement on Electoral Reform. <i>Information noted</i></p> <p>2. Vacancy -- Public Appointments: email dated 31 March 2023 with details of the latest advertisements for public appointments in Wales <i>Information noted</i></p> <p>3. New Grants for Coedtiroedd Bach: email dated 3 April 2023 with information on Coetiroedd Bach. It's an element of the National Forest being funded and developed by the government. <i>Information noted</i></p>
5. Office of Sarah Atherton MP	<p>1. Blue Spaces Fund for Wales Now Accepting Applications: email dated 27 March 2023 with details of the fund and a link https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/latest-news/blue-spaces-wales-mannau-glas-cymru-call-for-expressions-of-interest/</p> <p>2. Hubbub Announces Further Community Fridge Hub Grants: email dated 3 April 2023 with details of further grants. <i>Information noted</i></p>
6. Planning Aid Wales	<p>Latest news from Planning Aid Wales: email dated 6 April 2023 with the latest Newsletter from Planning Aid Wales <i>Information noted</i></p>
7. Play Wales	<p>Playday 2023 - the theme is ...: Email dated 4 April 2023 with more information on this year's National Day for Play. <i>Information noted</i></p>
8. Glyndwr University	<p>Wrexham and Flintshire Green Health and Social Prescribing Event – New date: email dated 14 April 2023 with a re-arranged date of the 15 May 2023 for this event. <i>Information noted</i></p>
9. Caia Park Partnership	<p>Job Vacancies-Youth Team: email dated 13 April 2023 with details of part-time Youth Worker vacancies on a relief basis <i>Information noted</i></p>

175. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported on payments received and bank charges and fees levied since the last meeting and sought authorisation for the Payments and other transactions to be made in April 2023.

RESOLVED

- i) To note the Interest payment receipts and the bank charges and fees to be levied on the Council's Bank Accounts;***
- ii) To confirm authorization for the Clerk/RFO to transfer £30,000 from the Deposit Account to replenish the Current Account; and***
- iii) To approve the payments to made in January 2023 as set out in the schedule below:-***

Voucher/Payment Ref & Payee	Details	Amount
1. No cheque. ref Wrexham County Borough Council	Business Rates Demand 2023/24 – Maesydre Power House: Valuer 1475 (Below Min Value)	£0.00
2. BACS ref 1.4.23 Carole Roberts	Clerks Salary and office expenses for April 2023 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)
3. BACS ref 2.4.23 Michelle Williams	Salary for April 2023 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)
4. BACS ref 3.4.23 Clwyd Pension Fund	Pension payments for April 2023 plus £560 deficit Recovery Amount for 2023/26 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
5. BACS ref 4.4.23 HMRC	Payroll payments for April 2023 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)

6. Cheque No 202288 Zurich Municipal	Policy Renewal YLL2720431173 Section 112 + S140 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£1283.83 (Vat= £0)
7. Cheque No 202289 Carole Roberts	Clerks Expenses for April 2023 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£103.08 (Vat= £4.53)

176. PLANNING RELATED MATTERS AND 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 the following observations be made on the applications as set out below.

<i>Case Number/Address Proposed Development</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Planning Application P/2023/0123 - Dilys o/Valid From 01/03/2023 9 Ffordd Aled, Wrexham, LL12 7PP Estyniad unllawr l ochr yr eiddo / single storey side extension	<i>No observations</i>

***Councillor Kevin Roberts
Chair***

Signed as a correct record this 16 day of May 2023

Presiding Chair