

Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of Acton Community Council held Wednesday 24 January 2024 remotely via Zoom and at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham

Present:

Councillor	Kevin Roberts (Chair) *	Councillor	R Hardy (Vice Chair)
"	W Baldwin	"	Ms H Hewitt
"	Mrs C Bettley *	"	Ms C Jarvis
"	M Davies *	"	P Lloyd
"	Ms S Edwards	"	Ms B Martin
"	Mrs A Evans	"	Ms K Speirs
"	A Gallanders	"	Ms D Wallace
"	1 Vacancy	"	1 Vacancy

\* Absent

Also Present:

Mrs Carole Roberts & Mrs Michelle Williams Clerk & Administrative Assistant to the Council

## 111 PRESIDING CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair Councillor Ralph Hardy presided over the meeting (Councillor Ralph Hardy in the Chair)

## 112 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C Bettley, M Davies and K Roberts.

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

## 113. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting to make any representations as set out in Standing Order No. 3d.

## 114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 115. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the hybrid Council meeting held on the 13 December 2023 were received.

***RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the hybrid Council Meeting held on 13 December 2023 be received and confirmed as a correct record.***

## 116. INFORMATION FROM 13 DECEMBER 2023 MINUTES

Members noted that there were no matters to discuss from the 13 December 2023 minutes.

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Minute 101.3 S116 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 – CO-OPTION OF MEMBER TO FILL CASUAL COUNCILLOR VACANCY IN THE BORRAS PARK WARD:** Members noted that there had been no response to the Public Notice/advertisement.

**RESOLVED – the Clerk be instructed on her return to work to re advertise this vacancy with a closing date of noon on Monday 18 March 2024 and any applications received be considered at the Council meeting on to be held on 20 March 2024.**

**2. S116 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 – CASUAL VACANCY – ACTON CENTRAL WARD:** The Presiding Chair informed Members that Councillor Lizzie Balmain had tendered her resignation as Councillor for the Acton Central Ward with effect from the 22 January 2024. The Council accepted her resignation.

**RESOLVED - the Clerk on her return to work be requested to proceed to make the necessary arrangements to fill this casual vacancy by Election or Co-option and be authorised to issue the relevant Public Notice(s) .**

## **118. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk’s report on Payments received and bank charges made since 13 December 2023, was received together with a request for authorisation to replenish the Current Account from the Deposit Account to meet contractual payments - £40,000.00 and for outstanding debtor or other cheque, BACS and debit card payments as set out in the schedule below:

<b>Voucher/Payment Ref &amp; Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>JANUARY 2024</b>		
102. BACS ref 47.1.24 Carole Roberts	Clerks Salary and office expenses for January 2024 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)
103. BACS ref 48.1.24 Michelle Williams	Salary for January 2024 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)
104. BACS ref 49.1.24 Clwyd Pension Fund	Pension payments for January 2024 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
105. BACS ref 50.1.24 HMRC	Payroll payments for January 2024 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
106. Cheque No 202334 Carole Roberts	Clerks Expenses for January 2024 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£15.00 (VAT=£0.00)
107. DC 6.1.24 Currys	Printer ink & Power Cable Extension S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£224.98 (VAT= £37.50)
108. DC 7.1.24 Zoom	Zoom Subscription from 19 January 2024 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£15.59 (VAT= £2.60)
109. DC 8.1.24 Currys	Printer Ink- MW S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£79.99 (VAT= £13.33)
110. Cheque No 202335 Caia Park Partnership Ltd	Q4 Open Access Youth service Provision S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£6,915.46 ( VAT=£0.00)
111. Cheque No 202336 Wrexham County Borough Council	Final ½ Yearly SLA payment for 3x Acton Play areas’ maintenance & Inspections S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£3,514.80 ( VAT=£585.80)
112. Cheque No 202337 Wrexham County Borough Council	Q1 2023/24 SLA payment for School Crossing Patrols – less Credit note from 2022/23 S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£2,199.50 ( VAT=£0.00)
113. Cheque No 202338 Wrexham County Borough	Q2 2023/24 SLA payment for School Crossing Patrols S137 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£2,999.50 ( VAT=£0.00)

Council		
114. Cheque No 202339 Wrexham County Borough Council	Repaint & Fencing Repairs on Jeffries Road, Wrexham S 137 Local Government Act 172 as amended	£5,922.00 (VAT=£987.00)
115. DC 9.1.24 Tesco Stores Ltd	Phone and Stationery January 2024 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£25.50 (VAT= £1.75)

**RESOLVED – to approve the making of payments for January 2024 as set out in the schedule reported to the meeting; and to note the payments received; and to authorise the Clerk to replenish the Council’s Current Account with £40,000.00 to meet contractual and other known payments.**

### **119. ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk reported to Members the statutory requirements for setting the budget for 2024/25. Consideration was given to all matters pertaining to determination of the Council’s income, expenditure and balances for the financial year 2024/25 as follows:

#### **1. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2023/24**

Members reviewed the Acton Community Council Investments Policy for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process.

**RESOLVED – to approve the Investment Strategy for Acton Community Council for the 2024/25 financial year as set out in the appendix to the report.**

#### **2. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS 2024/25**

Members reviewed the Service Level Agreements for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process.

**RESOLVED – To confirm renewal of the necessary funding for existing and committed Service Level Agreements for the next financial year (2024/25) as part of the budget setting process as follows :-**

1. Payroll Service – Shropshire County Council (Continuation of Service - Year 1 of 3);
2. Caia Park Partnership Open Access Youth Work for 8-18 year olds – (1 year ongoing)
3. Seasonal Ranger Acton Park (Year 2 of 3) Note: Full time whole year position from 2024/25. A further sum of £500 has been requested to fund events planned in the Park through until Easter. NB The provision for events will be increased to £1900 from 2024/25.
4. CAB Acton Outreach Worker for Acton Community Advice Service (Year 2 of 3). The Council in March 2023 (Minute 153iv) agreed to make a further £3000 provision for up to 10 additional hours per month to cater for increased client numbers.
5. Acton Playground Provision (Annual ongoing)
6. School Crossing Patrols (Annual ongoing). The reduced costs in 2023/24 reflect the long term vacancies at Acton and Dean Road crossings.
8. Little Acton Community Centre - (Contribution Commitment to full costs incurred by Wrexham CBC subject to final report of Task & Finish Group and finalising lease with WCBC)
8. Pilot Play Development Rhosnesni/Little Acton – Annual ongoing being reviewed and monitored by the Youth Committee to ensure value for money and the scheme is located correctly.

#### **3. PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2024/25**

Members gave consideration to the Council’s Draft budget for 2024/25 that had been circulated prior to the meeting taking into account current commitments, projected expenditure to 31 March 2024, any new provisions that the Community Council has decided to support, inflation and earmarked and other reserve requirements.

Members noted the Council tax base for 2024/25 had slightly reduced and discussed the detailed budget requirements for 2024/25 totalling £262,680 together with the level to set the Community Council’s Precept based on this information and to ensure contractual commitments can be met.

In accordance with Standing Order 3.q at the request of the Vice Chair, a recorded vote was taken to show whether each Councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against a proposal to increase the Community Council's Precept for 2024/25 from £169,000 to £225,890. Voting was recorded as follows:

For the Proposal (6)

Councillor B Baldwin, Mrs A Evans, R Hardy, Ms C Jarvis, Mrs D Wallice, Ms K Speirs

Against the Proposal (5)

Councillor Ms S Edwards, A Gallanders, Ms H Hewitt, P Lloyd, Ms B Martin

**RESOLVED –:**

***i) that the Budget for 2024/25 as now presented be accepted.***

***ii) to confirm that the Community Council's precept requirement for the year 2024/25 shall be increased for the first time in four years from £169,000 and be fixed at £225,890.00.***

## **120. 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 the following observations be made on the applications as set out below:**

<b>Case Number/ Address &amp; Proposed Development</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1. <u>Planning Application P/2023/0883</u> - Dilys o/Valid From 11/12/2023 61 Borrass Road, Wrexham, LL12 7EN - demolition of existing garage and existing rear extension and erection of single storey rear extension to create granny annexe.	<b><i>No observations</i></b>
2. <u>Planning Application P/2024/0020</u> – Dilys o/Valid From 18/01/2024 Acton Park Primary School, Box Lane, Wrexham LL12 8BT prior notification for demolition of building.	<b><i>No observations</i></b>

***Councillor Ralph Hardy  
Presiding Chair***

**Signed as a correct record this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2024**

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**Presiding Chair**