

Minutes of the hybrid Meeting of Acton Community Council held Wednesday 16 October 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 C Jarvis *
"	T Coxon	"	P Lloyd
"	M Davies	"	Ms B Martin
"	Ms S Edwards	"	G Ozolins *
"	Mrs A Evans	"	Ms K Spiers *
"	A Gallanders	"	Ms D Wallice
"	Ms H Hewitt *		1 Vacancy

* Absent

Also Present:

Rhian Jones, Acton Community Agent

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

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms H Hewitt, and Ms C Jarvis (Maternity)

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

77. 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.

78. COMMUNITY AGENT

The Chair welcomed Rhian Jones, the newly appointed Acton Community Agent to the meeting. Ms Jones had already provided an update to Members on the work and induction she had received from the Rainbow Foundation and she gave examples of her initial involvement with the community groups and a brief outline of the Community Agent's role and purpose. Members referred to the importance of publicising this role and being able to make referrals from Residents.

RESOLVED – that

- i) Ms Jones be thanked for her Report and attendance at the Meeting.***
- ii) The Clerk circulate Ms Jones' contact details to all Members of the Council to enable them to make referrals from within their own wards.***

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

80. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. The Minutes of the hybrid Council Meeting held on the 18 September 2024 were received.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the hybrid Council Meeting held on the 18 September 2024 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the next item of business only 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.

2. The Confidential Minutes and recommendations from the Staffing Committee meeting held on 11 September 2024 were received.

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 11 September be received and noted.

PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the Press and Public be readmitted for the remainder of the meeting.

81. INFORMATION FROM 18 SEPTEMBER 2024 MINUTES

- MINUTE 58 i) PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL LITTER BIN CAPACITY AT BORRAS PARK SHOPS AND AT THE NINE ACRE FIELD:** Councillor Gallanders had not received any updates from Wrexham CBC. It was noted that the Clerk had contacted Wrexham CBC Chief Executive bringing the delayed actions to his attention and requesting an update. Due to severe weather no update could be provided for the Meeting. However, a response would be provided as a matter of urgency. The present position was noted.
- MINUTE 58 ii) REPLACEMENT TOMMY STATUE AT THE RWF MEMORIAL SITE:** The Clerk informed Members that the statue had been ordered and paid for via BACS under her delegated powers. The RBLI had kindly given a 10% discount to replace the vandalised statue.

RESOLVED – To endorse the action taken by the Clerk under her delegated powers in consultation with the Chair, to ensure the order for the replacement Tommy statue could be actioned and the Statue delivered and in situ at the RWF Memorial, Bodhyfryd for 10 November 2024 Remembrance Service.

- MINUTE 61 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – ACTON OUTREACH SERVICE:** The Clerk confirmed that she had circulated the information for Members to publicise on their Social Media. Members discussed the use of additional hours to contact elderly residents affected by the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Payment.

RESOLVED – that the Chair contact Rhian Jones, the Community Agent, for her views on working with the Acton Outreach Service to encourage take-up of this Service from within the Acton Community.

- MINUTE 66.2 ANNUAL PLAN PRIORITIES – CHRISTMAS LIGHTING:** Councillor Martin had yet to make enquiries with the Planning Officers regarding the positioning of Christmas Lights within the Maesydre Powerhouse. Members discussed the cost of £4500, reported by the Chair, for providing Christmas lighting on five streetlamps opposite the Garden Village shops on Chester Road. Members felt it was the wrong timing and inappropriate to proceed further. The Chair was asked to provide more detailed information on the full annual costs of installing, removing and storage costs of any Christmas lighting to a subsequent meeting. The present position was noted.

82. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The Clerk reported on the following procedural matters:

- SECTION 116 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011: CO-OPTION TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY AT BORRAS PARK WARD:** Members noted that there had been no response to the Public Notice/advertisement.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk be authorized to re-advertise this vacancy with a closing date of noon on Monday 9 December 2024, and to advise that anyone within the whole of the Acton Community can submit their names for co-option to fill this casual vacancy and any applications that are received be considered at the December 2024 Council meeting.

2. ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY GOVERNOR AT BORRAS CP SCHOOL: Members noted that the current term of office for this role had expired. The current Community Governor, Tom Pierce, had expressed an interest in continuing within the role.

RESOLVED – that

- i) Tom Pierce be re-appointed as the additional Community Governor at Borrass CP School; and***
- ii) The Clerk to the Governors for Borrass CP School be informed of this decision.***

3. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES – DRAFT REPORT FOR 2025/26: Members considered and noted the contents of this draft report for 2025/26.

RESOLVED –

- i) To advise the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales that the Council notes the contents of its draft report for 2025/26 and that there have been no changes made to payments within the various determinations affecting Town and Community Councils and the Council re-affirms its decision previously made under Minute 140.5 March 2024 in respect of optional payments.***
- ii) Any further Member observations should be forwarded to the Panel on an individual basis.***

4. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – ACTON PARK RANGER: Members noted that interviews had now taken place for the Acton Park Ranger position and, subject to checks, a candidate had been appointed. An interim seasonal report for July to end of September 2024 had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. The Council was disappointed to learn the Park had recently lost its Green Flag status.

RESOLVED – To

- i) note the interviews had now been held and the relevant checks were being carried out before confirming the appointment of a Park Ranger to fill the vacant post;***
- ii) receive and note the interim seasonal report update for July to end of September 2024 provided by the previous Park Ranger;***
- iii) note with disappointment that the natural aspect of the Park and its less formal setting may have contributed to the loss of its Green Flag status and to commend the hard work carried out by the former Ranger, the Angling Club and the Friends of Acton Park Group for their hard work and to ask Wrexham CBC what their formal plans are going forward to re-achieve Green Flag status; and***
- iv) invite the newly appointed Park Ranger to attend the November 2024 meeting of the Council.***

83. 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. Borrass Albion Football Team:** Members noted that Borrass Albion Football Team had now signed a lease to enable them to play on Nine Acre Field.
- 2. Dean Road – Football Playing Field:** Members raised concerns about Dean Road now that football teams were playing elsewhere. It was noted that a long-term Strategy is being developed and further meetings were taking place between Wrexham CBC, local Members and the Developers.
- 3. Complaints about Overgrown Hedge on pavement at Borrass Road and Car parking at various Primary Schools:** Members noted the complaints made by Residents and Wrexham CBC Members agreed to monitor the situation.

- 4. Yellows Lines at Box Lane:** It was reported the double yellow lines are now in situ on Box Lane. There are still some issues with people parking there. Local Wrexham CBC Members are ensuring Enforcement Officers are made aware of any infringements.

The present position was noted.

84. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRESSION OF ANNUAL REPORT PRIORITIES

- 1. EVENTS AT ACTON PARK:** Members discussed the provision of a Christmas Lunch for the Friends of Acton Park volunteers at the Cunliffe Public House by way of thanks for their hard work in the Park.

RESOLVED – that Hannah Farnell, the former Park Ranger, be asked to arrange a Christmas meal for the Friends of Acton Park Volunteers, with the cost to be met from the Chair’s Charity Account.

(Councillor T Coxon declared a personal and prejudicial interest at this stage of proceedings in respect of the Christmas Lunch for the Friends of Acton Park volunteers, as his wife is one of the volunteers. He withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon)

2. PROGRESS OF ANNUAL REPORT PRIORITIES

- i) WREATH FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE:** The Chair advised that he had ordered the wreath from a local florist, “Flowers in the Window”. The cost of the wreath to be met from the Chair’s Charity Account.

RESOLVED – To endorse the action taken by the Chair and that the Clerk arrange for the payment for the wreath to be made.

- ii) CHRISTMAS MEAL FOR ACTON COMMUNITY RESIDENTS:** Members discussed the provision of a Christmas meal for Acton Community Residents similar to that provided by Offa Community Council.

RESOLVED – that the Chair makes further inquiries and report back to the next meeting on the costs and options, from various venues in close proximity to the Acton Community, to enable a Christmas Meal for older Acton Community Residents to be held.

- iii) LITTLE ACTON COMMUNITY CENTRE:** It was noted that several local groups mainly supported by AVOW and the Community Agent are now meeting in the Centre throughout the week. The Task and Finish Group now need to meet to progress the Asset Transfer.

RESOLVED – the present position be noted

85. REPORT FROM CLERK

The Council received a report from the Clerk detailing Consultations and Correspondence and other information that has been received since the last meeting as follows:

Organisation	Details
CONSULTATIONS:	
1. One Voice Wales	<p>1. Senedd Inquiry into the role, governance and accountability of the Community and Town Council Sector: email dated 8 October 2024. One Voice Wales had asked Councils to submit their views by the 18 October 2024. Working documents detailing the issues were attached to the email.</p> <p>RESOLVED – The Clerk to prepare a response on the Council’s behalf based on concerns identified at the meeting regarding the capacity of officers to continue to absorb additional workload and resources available within the sector.</p> <p>2. Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 – Publication of Consultation Paper: email dated 20 September 2024 with a link to this consultation Implementing the</p>

	<p>Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 GOV.WALES The closing date for responses is 13 December 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED – that Members provide the Clerk with any comments they wish to include in the Council’s composite response for the November 2024 meeting of the Council.</p> <p>3. Consultation: Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26: email dated 23 September 2024. The Committees of the Welsh Parliament are seeking information to inform their scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26. Anyone wishing to contribute can do so by submitting a formal response to the consultation by 29 November 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED – to make no comments.</p>
2. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales	<p>Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Annual Report 2025-2026: email dated 4 October 2024 with a link to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: draft annual report 2025 to 2026 GOV.WALES (See decision contained in Minute 82.3 October 2024)</p>
CORRESPONDENCE	
3. AVOW	<p>1. AVOW AGM Announcement and Booking: email dated 18 September 2024 inviting attendance at the AVOW AGM.</p> <p>2. AVOW Members Mailout September 2024: email dated 30 September 2024 with the latest Members Mailout for September.</p> <p>3. AVOW AGM Agenda: email dated 3 October with their Agenda attached.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The above information noted</i></p>
4. One Voice Wales	<p>1. News from the Cost of Living Crisis Support Team: email dated 24 September 2024 with the Autumn Newsletter from the Cost of Living Crisis Support Team.</p> <p>2. Mentrau Iaith – Gwreiddiau Gwyllt Project: email dated 26 September with links and information about the Mentrau Iaith project – Gwreiddiau Gwyllt. This project aims to promote and expand the use of Welsh language terminology in biodiversity and ecology.</p> <p>3. Help to achieve a Guinness World Record: email dated 27 September 2024 with information on how to support this event on 10 October 2024.</p> <p>4. Invitation to Participate in the Rural Housing Action Guide for Wales Project Online Survey: email dated 2 October 2024. The deadline for responding to this survey is 11 October 2024.</p> <p>5. JOIN NOW - Next Pethau Bychain Meeting: email dated 8 October 2024. Pethau bychain is the One Voice Wales Nature Hwb for Community and Town Councils across Wales. Members are invited to register if they wish to attend any meetings.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The above information was noted</i></p>
5. Wrexham CBC	<p>1. Monthly event listing: email dated 25 September 2024 with the latest monthly events list.</p> <p>2. Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum - Future Dates: email dated 2 October 2024 with the dates of future meetings.</p> <p>3. What's On At Ty Pawb – October: email dated 3 October with events listings for Ty Pawb, Wrexham.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The above information noted</i></p>
6. Play Wales	<p>Play Wales publications Summer 2024: email dated 24 September containing links to the latest publications from Play Wales.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Information noted</i></p>
7. Planning Aid	<p>Latest news from Planning Aid Wales: email dated 26 September 2024 with</p>

Wales	the latest news from Planning Aid Wales.	<i>Information noted</i>
8. Llais Cymru	Emergency Care Survey: email dated 4 October 2024 providing a link to www.haveyoursayllaiscymru.com/how-was-your-emergency-care	<i>Information noted</i>

86. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported on Payments and bank charges made since 18 September 2024, and requested authorisation for outstanding debtor or other cheque, BACS and debit card payments as set out in the schedule below:

RESOLVED –

- i) To note the bank charges made and to approve the making of payments for October 2024 as set out in the schedule below; and***
- ii) To receive and note the second quarter accounts, bank reconciliations and progress against the 2024/25 Budget***

Voucher/Payment Ref & Payee	Details	Amount
75. BACS ref 47.10.24 Carole Roberts	Salary and office expenses for October 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)
76. BACS ref 48.10.24 Michelle Williams	Salary for October 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)
77. BACS ref 49.10.24 Clwyd Pension Fund	Pension payments for October 2024 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
78. BACS ref 50.10.24 HMRC	Payroll payments for October 2024 Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	(as per Payroll schedule)
79. BACS ref 51.10.24 Wrexham County Borough Council	Hire of Room at Acton CRC for Youth Committee on 31 July 2024 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£40.00 (Vat= £0.00)
80. BACS ref 52.10.24 Wrexham County Borough Council	Hire of Room at Acton CRC for Staffing Committee on 11 September 2024 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£40.00 (Vat= £0.00)
81. BACS ref 53.10.24 Caia Park Partnership Ltd	Q3 Sla Payment for Open Access Youth Service at Acton CRC S19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976	£7,162.61 (Vat= £0.00)
82. BACS ref: 54.10.24 Royal British Legion Industries Ltd	Unknown Tommy Statue for placement at RWF Memorial at Bodhyfryd S133 Local Government Act 1948	£191.50 (VAT=£31.92)
83. BACS ref 55.10.24 Viking Office Ltd	Office Stationery S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£265.25 (Vat= £44.21)
84. DC 8.10.24 Tesco Stores Ltd	Telephone Costs S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£15.00 (Vat= £0.00)
85. BACS ref 56.10.24 Carole Roberts	Clerk's Expenses for October 2024 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£15.00 (Vat= £0.00)
86. BACS ref 57.10.24 SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Themed Summit (Civility & Respect – 6 November 2024 S112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£78.00 (VAT=£13.00)
87. BACS ref 58.10.24 SLCC Enterprises Ltd	SLCC & OVW Joint Virtual Conference- Clerk S11 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£78.00 (VAT=£13.00)

88. BACS ref 59.10.24 SLCC Enterprises Ltd	SLCC & OVW Joint Virtual Conference- MW S11 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£78.00 (VAT=£13.00)
Chairs Charity Account -		
CCA6-24/25- Cheque No 100052 1 st Rhosnesni Scout	Reimbursement of Room Hire for Bingo Night S15 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£73.99 (VAT = £0.00).
CCA5-24/25- Cheque No 100053 Flowers in the Window	Wreath for Remembrance S15 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	£72.00 VAT = £12.00

87. 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:

Case Number/ Address & Proposed Development	Decision
1. P/2024/1372 Parking and operation of 3 Private Hire Vehicles, 64 Huntsmans Corner, Wrexham LL12 7UE	<i>The Council does not object to this application but would like to ensure that if granted it is restricted to the applicant only and not granted to the property itself.</i>
2. P/2024/1400 Conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation, 5 Frances Avenue, Wrexham LL12 8BL	<i>No observations</i>
3. P/2024/1409 Second storey side extension, 23 Park Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7AL	<i>No observations</i>
4. P/2024/1417 Erection of a dwelling, The Old Filling Station, Borrass Park Road, Wrexham	<i>The Community Council objects to the application for the following reasons:</i> <i>1. Concerns regarding vehicular access and pedestrian safety particularly given the size of the dwelling on a small plot;</i> <i>2. The access from the proposed driveway will emerge from besides 3 successful business units onto a very busy section of highway which is in close proximity to a traffic chicane and a local school.</i>

**Councillor Kevin Roberts
Chair**

Signed as a correct record this 20th day of November 2024

Presiding Chair