

ACTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL – HYBRID MEETING NOTES FROM 16 OCTOBER 2024

Councillors Present: W Baldwin (Z), T Coxon (P), M Davies (P), S Edwards (Z), A Evans (Z) ,A Gallanders (Z), R Hardy (P), P Lloyd (P), B Martin (Z) , K Roberts (Chair) (P) and D Wallice (Z)

Others Present: Rhian Jones, Acton Community Agent

(P) Present in person

(Z) Attended via Zoom

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors H Hewitt & C Jarvis

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

3. COMMUNITY AGENT: Rhian Jones the newly appointed Acton Community Agent was in attendance and gave a short introduction and update on her work since her appointment and answered members' questions.

DECISION: Ms Jones was thanked for her attendance and the Clerk was asked to circulate her contact details to all members of the Council to enable them to make referrals from within their wards.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

1. COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2024

DECISION: Minutes were received and confirmed as a correct record.

PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION: To exclude the press and public from the Meeting during consideration of the next item of business only as it was 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. MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2024

DECISION: To receive and note the Minutes.

PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION: To re-admit the press and public for the remainder of the Meeting.

6. INFORMATION FROM 18 SEPTEMBER 2024 MINUTES:

1. Minute 58 i) Provision of additional litter bin capacity at Borrass Park Shops and at the Nine Acre Field:

NOTED: The Local Member Councillor A Gallanders had no updates to provide. The Clerk had been informed that due to the severe weather on the day of the meeting, no update could be provided but a response would be given as a matter of urgency.

2. Minute 58 ii) – Replacement Tommy Statue:

DECISION: To endorse the action taken by the Clerk under her delegated powers in consultation with the Chair, to make a Bacs payment so that the order for the replacement Tommy Statue could be actioned and to ensure the Statue is delivered and in situ at the RWF Memorial, Bodhyfryd for 10 November 2024 Remembrance Service.

3. Minute 61: Service Level Agreement Reporting: Citizens Advice Bureau – Acton Outreach Service

DECISION: The Chair was requested to contact Rhian Jones, Community Agent for her views on working with the Acton Outreach Service to encourage take-up of this Service from within the Acton Community.

4. Minute 66.2 Annual Plan Priorities- Christmas Lighting:

NOTED: Councillor Martin had not yet made any enquiries and the £4,500 cost reported by the Chair for providing Xmas lighting on 5 street lamps opposite the Garden Village shops on Chester Road was inappropriate at this time. The Chair was asked to provide more detailed information on the annual costs of installing, removing and storage costs of any Christmas lighting to a subsequent meeting.

7. PROCEDURAL MATTERS:

i) Section 116 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011: Co-Option To Fill Casual Vacancy Borras Park Ward:

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

ii) Additional Community Governor At Borras CP School:

DECISION: to confirm that Tom Pierce be re-appointed as the additional Community Governor at Borras Park CP School.

iii) Independent Remuneration Panel Wales – Draft Report For 2025/26:

DECISION –

1. to advise the Independent Remuneration Panel that the Council notes the content 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 2025 in respect of optional payments .
2. Any further Member observations should be forwarded to the Panel on an Individual basis.

iv) Service Level Agreement – Acton Park Ranger:

DECISION –

- i) to 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) to receive and note the interim seasonal report update for July to end of September 2024 provided by the previous Park Ranger;
- iii) to 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 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) to invite the newly appointed Park Ranger to attend the November 2024 meeting of the Council.

8. KEY ACTON ISSUES:

NOTED:

1. **Borras Albion Football Team** – a lease had now been signed to enable play on the Nine Acre Field
2. **Dean Road – Football Playing Field** – long-term strategy is being developed and further meetings taking place between Wrexham CBC, local members and the Developers.
3. **Complaints About Overgrown Hedge On Pavement At Borras Road And Car Parking At Various Primary Schools** – situation being monitored.
4. **Yellow Lines At Box Lane:** Now in-situ; Local Members ensuring Enforcement Officers are made aware of any infringements.

9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PROGRESSION OF ANNUAL REPORT PRIORITIES:

1. **Events At Acton Park - Christmas Meal For Ranger And Friends Of Acton Park:**

DECISION – Hannah Farnell, the former Park Ranger be asked to arrange a Christmas meal for the Acton Park volunteers, the cost to be met from the Chair’s Charity account
(Councillor T Coxon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter and left the meeting during the debate and voting on this item)

2. PROGRESS OF ANNUAL REPORT PRIORITIES: Financial Assistance/grants; Acton Park Play areas; Little Acton Community Centre; Christmas lighting/ celebrations.

i) Wreath For Remembrance Day Service: The Chair advised that he had ordered the wreath from local florist “Flowers in the Window” - the cost to be met from his charity account.

DECISION: to endorse the action taken by the Chair and the Clerk arrange for the payment to be made.

ii) Christmas Meal For Acton Community Residents

DECISION: The Chair makes further inquiries and report back to the next meeting on the costs and options for providing a Christmas Meal for Older Acton Residents at various venues in close proximity.

iii) LITTLE ACTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

NOTED: several local groups are now meeting there throughout the week

10. REPORT FROM CLERK:

1. CONSULTATIONS

i) Senedd Inquiry Into The Role, Governance And Accountability Of The Community And Town Council Sector

DECISION - 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.

ii) Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 – Publication Of Consultation Paper:

DECISION – Members to provide the Clerk with any comments they wish to include in the Council’s composite response for the November 2024 meeting of the Council.

iii) Consultation: Scrutiny Of The Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26:

DECISION – to make no comments.

11. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

DECISION – to approve the making of payments for October 2024 as set out in the schedule reported to the meeting; and

To note the payments received; and

To receive and note the second quarter accounts, bank reconciliation and progress against the 2024/25 Budget

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Case Number/ Address / Proposed Development	Decision
1. P/2024/1372 Parking and operation of 3 Private Hire Vehicles, 64 Huntsman’s Corner, Wrexham LL12 7UE	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.
2. P/2024/1400 Conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation, 5 Frances Avenue, Wrexham LL12 8BL	No Objections
3. P/2024/1409 Second storey side extension, 23 Park Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7AL	No Objections

4. **P/2024/1417** Erection of a dwelling,
The Old Filling Station, Borrass Park Road,
Wrexham

The Community Council objects to the application for the following reasons:

1. Concerns regarding vehicular access and pedestrian safety particularly given the size of the dwelling on a small plot;
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.