

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT MARFORD
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 1ST DECEMBER 2011**

Members Present

Councillors A C Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs J Dutton, A B Edginton, M J Edwards, M Harriman, M Hughes, J L Jones, Mrs S Layhe, M Pritchard and Mrs. B Watson, and R H Willis

In Attendance

PCSO Wendy Harris

Apology for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs M Lightwood and Mrs J MacDonald, and were accepted.

Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests. Councillors Bailey, Mrs Blackmore, Mrs Dutton, M J Edwards and J L Jones proposed to declare personal and/or prejudicial interests.

346 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2011 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

347 POLICE REPORT

Matters of concern were discussed, including crime statistics, issues raised at the last PACT meeting. It was noted that PCSO Jason Knowles had left for Flintshire and PS 2568 Rhian Hughes now had responsibilities for Gresford. Regarding two recent alleged incidents concerning the misuse of drugs, PCSO Wendy Harris agreed to obtain statistics by the next appropriate meeting.

348 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present

349 ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

P/2011/0741 – Erection of a 4 bedroom detached dwelling, Min y Dyffryn, The Green, Gresford Road, Gresford – (Councillor J L Jones declare a personal and/or prejudicial interests in this letter and left the room whilst it was discussed) – A copy letter from the applicant to the Planning Case Officer was received and noted.

Youth Shelter at the MUGA – Removal of the weather panels

This issue was fully discussed as incidents of anti social behaviour were continuing. The Zone Leader had informed the Clerk that the Detached Youth Workers had visited the Youth Shelter and spoken to the young people there at the time who were asked for their views and all would be disappointed if the panels were removed. Also, there was some anecdotal evidence of cannabis and tobacco smoking. The Detached Youth Workers would continue to visit the shelter. No reply had been received from the Territorial Police Inspector.

The Council decided

To wait for the installation of the CCTV equipment before making a decision on removal of the weather panels in order to assess the impact of the CCTV equipment;

To urge all residents to report incidents to the police via 999 or if they were less urgent the 101 telephone service; Councillor Layhe agreed to obtain leaflets and place them in the various notice Boards;

To repeat the Council's invitation to the Territorial Police Inspector for Wrexham North to attend the meeting on 2nd February 2012 to discuss these issues.

Provision of CCTV

It was noted that production of some of the equipment had been delayed due to the inclement weather in Thailand.

Oak Tree at the Junction of Chester Road and Clapper Lane

The Tree Carver was in discussion with students regarding the proposed design. No date had been given by which the designs would be submitted to the Community Council.

Gresford Shopping Centre – Personal Views and Complaint

In answer to a question from members the Clerk reported that he had replied to Mrs Massey and supplied the information requested.

350 REPORTS

Councillor M J Edwards reported on recent meeting regarding flood risks which was well attended.

Councillor Mrs Beryl Blackmore on the arrangements for the Christmas lunch on 13th December. The new Community Room at the Post Office was available for use by community groups. It was agreed that this should be discussed at a future meeting. Also, Councillor Blackmore had a small number of trees that could be planted at suitable locations including the cemetery and domestic gardens.

Councillor A Bailey reported on matters under consideration by IMAGE and Gresford Trust.

351 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received from the Chief Planning Officer were available for Members and dealt with as follows:

P/2011/0793 – Extension to rear of dwelling including family room, WC and Utility on ground floor, master bedroom, single, bedroom and shower room to upper floor in loft space with dormer window, 27 Stancliffe Avenue, Marford – **No representations**

P/2011/0822 – Extension to rear to provide breakfast area and sun lounge, 20 Springfield Court, Gresford – **No representations**

P/2011/0846 – Extend existing kitchen and pitched roof to align with existing flat roof extension, 53 Stancliffe Avenue, Marford – **No representations**

352 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:-

Denbighshire County Council, Play Area Sign	£120.00
Scottishpower plc, unmetered Supplies	£671.46
Maes y Pant Action Group, Financial Assistance	£330.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC Rates
P & W Grounds Maintenance Ltd., Quarterly Grounds Maintenance	£49.61

Mr C A Route, Grass cutting and cemetery work (Two months)	£1,090.00
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC Rates
HM Revenue and Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE Rates
Mr C Thomas, Repairs to three benches	£150.00

353 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence that had been received and available for members was noted or otherwise dealt with as follows:-

Application for Financial Assistance – Gresford Methodist Church (Councillor Mrs Blackmore declare personal and/or prejudicial interests in this letter and left the room whilst it was discussed) - ***The Council resolved to make a grant of financial assistance in the sum of £500.00 towards the cost of renovating the Methodist Church Hall floor.***

Application for Financial Assistance – Gresford Trust – (Councillors Mrs J Dutton and Andrew Bailey declare personal and/or prejudicial interests in this letter but a dispensation had been granted by the Standards Committee) - ***The Council resolved to make a grant of financial assistance to in the sum of £85.00 towards the cost of providing a supply of rock salt.***

Application for Financial Assistance – Maes y Pant Action Group (Councillors Andrew Bailey, M J Edwards and J L Jones declare personal and/or prejudicial interests in this letter and left the room whilst it was discussed) – ***It was resolved to provide the necessary third party funding up to a maximum of £2,248 should this be necessary to secure match funding from the Cory Environmental Trust to carry out planned work to Maes y Pant.***

Application for Financial Assistance – An application for funding from Mr Glyn Rogers, Warden of All Saints Church towards the cost of repairs to the heating system - The Clerk of the Council reported that there was some doubt in local government whether Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 could be relied upon as authority for the giving grants to All Saints Church. Section 8(1) (b) Local Government Act 1894 appeared not to allow works on 'property relating to affairs of the Church or any ecclesiastical charity', whereas, Section 137(3) permitted contributions to any charity in furtherance of its work in the UK. It could also be argued in Wales that the disestablishment of the Church in Wales meant that Section 8(1) (b) no longer applied. Seemingly, the 1894 Act may not have been repealed in its entirety. One Voice Wales had been approached for advice but their Officers were not too sure without consulting their Solicitors.

(Councillor M J Edwards declared personal and/or prejudicial interests in this letter and left the room whilst it was discussed)

The Council resolved to defer consideration of the application until confirmation could be obtained from the Diocesan Solicitors or Senior Bishop that Section 8 (1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1894 had been repealed or had no effect in Wales

Invitation to attend the Northern Marches Cymru Showcase Event at Gresford Memorial Hall on Thursday 8th December 11.30 am – 1.00 pm

Invitation to send a nominee to the Community Councils Meeting at Level 4 Briefing Room, Wrexham Police Station on Wednesday, 7th December at 2.00 pm to discuss the purpose of

Police Community Support Officers within the communities and strengthen the relationship of Community Councils and North Wales Police – Councillor Andrew Bailey indicated his willingness to attend and the attendance of the Clerk of the Council was authorised.

Local Elections 2012 – Open Evening for Prospective Candidates at the Guildhall, Wrexham on Monday, 23rd January 2012 at 6.30 pm. – A letter from Wrexham Council's Head of Corporate and Customer Services.

354 VENUE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Community Council would be held at Gresford Memorial Hall on 5th January 2012 at 7.15 pm for the limited purposes of determining the Budget for 2012 – 2013 and dealing with planning applications, finance matters and urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman.

**COUNCILLOR M HUGHES,
CHAIRMAN**

.....**Presiding Chairman**

.....**Date**