

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT MARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2012

### Members Present

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

### Absences

Apologies were received from Councillors A B Edginton, Mrs P M Lightwood, and PCSO 2118 Wendy Harris and PCSO 2881 Poppy Hadfield-Jones and accepted.

### Declarations of Interest

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

### 362 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### 363 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Issues were mentioned in connection with traffic flows around the Church and dog fouling in Pant Lane. These should be raised at the next meeting of PACT

### 364 POLICE REPORT

The Crime Report for January 2012 from the police was discussed.

### 365 MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

#### **P/2011/0889 – Change of use of former closed quarry and woodland to public amenity area, Former Quarry and Woodland, Off Pant Lane, Gresford**

(Councillors A Bailey, M J Edwards and J L Jones declared personal and/or prejudicial interests in this application and left the room whilst it was discussed) Community Council agreed that press reports were wildly inaccurate. Members had a number of interests and opinions on this proposal but which were more pertinent to detailed discussions.

#### **Wrexham & District Citizens Advice Bureau**

A letter was considered from the Chief Executive of Wrexham CAB seeking a donation of £1,000 from Community Councils to help them to continue to provide services. (Councillor J L Jones declared a personal and/or prejudicial interests in this application and left the room whilst it was discussed)

***It was agreed to make a donation of £500.00, subject to the CAB supplying figures indicating how many people from the Community of Gresford were known to have made use of their services.***

#### **Costing of Play Schemes**

It was agreed to find out how many local children had attended the Scheme last year.

#### **Provision of CCTV Equipment**

The equipment was installed by the suppliers on the agreed date. However, difficulties with lighting had meant that the MUGA lights had to be left on twenty-four hours a day. It was

confirmed that the equipment was being monitored by Wrexham Community Safety Partnership and the laptop was stored at DSW's workshop in Sontley.

***In view of the lighting situation the Council asked the Play Areas Sub-Committee to discuss the arrangements.***

### **Oak Tree at the Junction of Chester Road and Clapper Lane**

It was noted that preparation of suitable designs was in progress.

### **366 VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Councillor A Bailey reported that Mrs Margaret Heaton would be making a presentation to IMAGE and others following upon the preliminary report commissioned from Groundwork Wrexham and Flintshire in 2008. The presentation would be held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00 pm at Gresford Trust Memorial Hall. All Members of the Community Council were invited.

### **367 GRESFORD POST OFFICE**

Councillor Mrs Blackmore submitted a letter she had received from Mrs S Bellamy of Gresford Post Office informing the Council that she had spent 2011 refurbishing the post office with the inclusion of a Community Meeting Room. Mrs Bellamy requested that the Community Council should adopt the Meeting Room by entering into an agreement with her for the future use of this room and pay her a small peppercorn rent. Mrs Bellamy would continue to be responsible for the insurance, maintenance and upkeep of the room.

***It was agreed that more information was needed and that Mrs Bellamy should be invited to the next meeting to discuss her suggestion.***

### **368 ALLOTMENTS**

Enquiries should be referred to the Secretary of the Gresford allotments. The Council agreed to try to establish the level of demand in the community for allotments.

### **369 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Applications for financial assistance were dealt with as follows

***The Council resolved to make grants to the following organisations in the amounts shown, respectively, viz:-***

Marie Curie Cancer Care – Flintshire & Wrexham - £150  
Advance Brighter Futures Wrexham - £50.00  
Mencap Cymru - £50.00  
Macmillan Cancer Support - £150.00  
Cruse Bereavement Care - £25.00  
North Wales Deaf Association - £50.00  
Home Start County Borough of Wrexham - £150.00  
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod - £100.00  
North Wales Association for Spina bifida & hydrocephalus - £50.00  
Wales Air Ambulance - £100.00  
Gresford Constitutional & Snooker Club - £500.00  
Gresford Village Bowling Club - £500.00

The application from Gresford Trust in respect of the proposed purchase of a projector

and screen in the region of £650.00 was deferred for further enquiries to be made;

The applications from the undermentioned organisations were noted

Gwersyllt Support Centre – Pupil Referral Unit

Wrexham Swimming Club

National Eisteddfod of Wales 2011, Wrexham

Victim Support

NSPCC

Urdd Gobaith Cymru, 2012, Caernarfon

Bopath Children's Therapy Centre

National Eisteddfod of Wales 2012, Vale of Glamorgan

Urdd Gobaith Cymru Flintshire & Wrexham

### 359 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received from the Head of Community Well-being and Development were available for Members and dealt with as follows:

P/2012/0022 – Single storey rear extension and re-roofing of existing garage, 9 Willow Drive, Marford – **No representations**

P/2012/0036 – Conversion of existing two storey three bedroom dwelling into two self contained two bedroom apartments, 22 Annefield Park, Gresford

**The Council was concerned that this may lead to over development in the area; lack of car parking space and possible noise nuisance for neighbours**

P/2012/0040 – Erection of new double garage, Gladwyn Lodge, Chester Road, Gresford

**The Council considered that the site lines for this development should be maintained and not built too near this very busy highway as it would obstruct the view of drivers leaving the adjoining property**

P/2012/0057 – Alterations to previously approved extension planning permission

P/2008/0935 Gladwyn Lodge, Chester Road, Gresford

**The Council considered that the materials to be used in the construction should be in keeping with the existing building**

P/2012/0063 – Remove 1 Sycamore tree and 1 sweet chestnut trunk (within a conservation area), Glanllyn, 12 High Street, Gresford

**The Council had no concerns provided that the work was monitored by Wrexham Council's Arboricultural Officer and only diseased trees and branches were removed**

P/2012/0070 – First floor extension above existing ground floor extension, 2 Pant Cottages, Turnpike Lane, Marford

**The Council considered this proposal should be sympathetic and in keeping with nearby property and the area generally**

### 360 FINANCE

**The following items were approved for payment**

Encore Office Systems, Black toner	£50.40
Wrexham CBC, Young People Service provision	£2,216.50
Digital Surveillance Wrexham, VAT on camera, video recorder and laptop	£750.20
Dee Valley Water plc, Water charges for cemetery	£2.82
Scottishpower, Unmetered Supplies	£649.90
Mr C A Route, Grass cutting and cemetery work	£545.00
Wrexham CBC, Quarterly lighting maintenance	£1,154.93
Wrexham CBC, Community lighting Repairs	£434.70

Mrs M Jones, Salary  
Maurice Paddock, Salary  
HM Revenue and Customs, NI and Tax  
Mr S A Pugh, Grave making

NJC Rates  
NJC Rates  
PAYE Rates  
£75.00

### 361 CORRESPONDENCE

Police Authority Launch of Estates Review – Details from One Voice Wales e-mailed to members on 6<sup>th</sup> January - ***The Council was disappointed to learn that the Police Station had been identified for closing in the next 12 years when suitable alternative accommodation becomes available as the Council considered that a police presence should be available in Gresford and would work with the police authority to achieve this.***

Wrexham Town and Community Councils Forum, Next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March

North Wales Police Community Councils Meeting, Next one at Wrexham Police Station, 16<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00 pm

Proposal to alter the date of local government elections in Wales from May 2016 to May 2017

***The Council was of the opinion that to alter the date would not be cost effective; the proliferation of elections would increase the apathy of voters and be confusing, whereas having more than one election on one day would increase the interests of the general public***

Marford Conservation Area: Consultation on Amendment to Boundary and Draft Conservation Area Character Assessment and Management Plan

***The Community Council had concerns about the proposal to exclude The Timbers, Springfield Lane from the conservation area and felt that it was more logical for the whole area of the Spinney to be included within the Conservation Area.***

The Lake, High Street - ***The Community Council would work with Welsh Water to resolve the difficulties with the sewerage and drainage system in High Street as it may affect the water levels in the lake. The council would also actively support the campaign to stop sewage pollution and reduce the number and types of articles being flushed down private and public toilets.***

**362 DATE, VENUE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING** It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at Gresford Memorial Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at 7.15 pm. It was also confirmed that having regard to the forthcoming local elections, the Annual Meeting fixed for 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 would now be held at Gresford Memorial Hall on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.15 pm.

**COUNCILLOR M HUGHES,  
CHAIRMAN**

Presiding Chairman.....

Date.....