

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD TRUST MEMORIAL HALL ON 1st November 2018

Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, J Holmes, M. J. Edwards, J. Dutton, R. Smith, B. Blackmore, M. Harriman ,A. Atkinson, M. Wilde, J. Hobbley

Chair: Councillor J. Holmes

Clerk: Serena Baxter

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors, M. Lightwood ,R. Gilmartin, S. Atherton, J. Blackmore

322. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

323. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Members were reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of any personal and or prejudicial interest on the form provided for this purpose for any item under discussion. Councillor Edwards declared an interest concerning a Planning item.

324. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no members of the public present

325. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 4th October 2018 were agreed as a true record. The Chair expressed her thanks to Councillors Blackmore and Atkinson for putting together the poppies for display around the village.

326. POLICE REPORT: PCSO S. Lawrence attended and gave the Police Report, highlighting instances of Anti-social Behaviour, theft and criminal damage in Marford and Gresford. In particular, PCSO Lawrence mentioned that a large group of youths had been dispersed on Halloween night. Where there had been instances of setting fire to items, perpetrators had been given a yellow card and made to do a fire brigade programme. There had been a further theft of lead from the Church roof. A discussion took place about security and that certain security measures are prevented due to the building's listed status. A discussion took place about OWL, possible alarms for the Church, and a roadshow of security items was suggested. A discussion took place about Community Agents : PCSO Lawrence stated they had been helpful in other areas supporting elderly victims of crime. PCSO Lawrence also confirmed that youths around the village were from surrounding villages and Wrexham.

327. FUTURE COUNCILLOR PROJECT LEAD POLICY REPORT : The Chair presented a further report on this matter as previously requested. The item was **AGREED** for adoption by the Community Council. Councillor Blackmore suggested the document be reviewed after six months to see if it is working. It was agreed that the document shall be reviewed at the Annual meeting of the Council. **Action: Clerk to place on agenda for Annual meeting.**

328. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **Parking near junction of Claypit Lane and Chester Road.** - No further update
- ii. **7 Chester Road:** It was again noted by Members that the land is currently for sale. Councillor Atkinson stated he is pursuing the matter of the land with WCBC.
- iii. **Clappers Lane:** Councillor Atkinson advised that he is meeting the officer from WCBC on site to discuss the matter of the drains and their condition.

- iv. **High Street, Gresford:** It was noted that the lines are now in place around the junction of the Trust road onto High Street. Councillor Atkinson advised that the next composite order concerns School Hill. A discussion took place about the road cushion on Clapper Lane. Councillor Atkinson stated that he has raised it and will continue to do so. Councillor Harriman mentioned ramps sited elsewhere with bevelled edges.
- v. **Pont Y Capel Lane.** The Clerk advised that she had sent the letter requesting a stop up of the road, to WCBC along with supporting evidence as requested. A response is awaited.

329. REPORT FROM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS GRESFORD AND MARFORD:

- i. **County Borough Councillor for Gresford-** Councillor Atkinson updated the Members on Wrexham County Council's budget settlement from Welsh Government, which had been poor. It was hoped that more money might be forthcoming after the Budget. Consultation is underway for people to have their say on the make-up of the Council's budget for next year. Councillor Blackmore expressed the view that in the area of childcare services money seems to be going to South Wales and little further north. Councillor Atkinson also highlighted the LDP which Wrexham Council will meet to discuss and vote on in the next month. Difficulties could arise with Planning matters and development if the current format is not voted through. Regarding Vicarage lane, an independent survey has been commissioned by the Action group. In Councillor Atkinson's view there is a need to be smart in terms of how to object to Planning proposals.
- ii. **County Borough Councillor for Marford-** There was no report from the Councillor for Marford and Hoseley. The item raised at the previous meeting, concerning the provision of a grit bin for Sunnyridge Avenue was discussed. It was noted that it is an unadopted road. Councillor Atkinson advised that it is difficult to obtain contributions to get it tarmacked, although the residents have tried. Councillor Edwards advised that wherever such a bin was to be placed it would need the owner's permission to site it there as the residents own the area in front of their houses. It was **AGREED** that the matter be passed back to Councillor Gilmartin to find out from Highways department how much such a bin would cost, together with the salt and an assurance that WCBC would fill it. Councillor Harriman raised a further point that the Community Council is not a Highway Authority, and the road is unadopted. He suggested that the Clerk be asked to contact WCBC to ask their advice. This was **AGREED: Action : Clerk to contact WCBC Highways.**

330. FINANCE COMMITTEE :

- i. The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 22nd October were noted. Councillor Edwards advised on the item concerning the Audit report received from Grant Thornton, reported to Council last month, and how that is to be responded to.
- ii. Councillor Edwards (Chair) presented a half yearly Financial Report prepared by the Clerk, detailing expenditure. Items discussed included the School Crossing Patrol, the Cemetery and the Lake legacy.
- iii. **GDPR :** Councillor Edwards advised that the Committee had considered and were recommending, that following the introduction of GDPR, the Clerk's role incorporates the requirements to have a Data Protection Officer. This would be subject to review on an annual basis. This was formally proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor Hobbley. **RESOLVED: The Clerk will act as the Council's Data Protection Officer within the existing role of Clerk, subject to review.**
- iv. **Standing Orders:** Councillor Edwards updated the Council that following the decision taken by Council to formally adopt the recent NALC model Standing orders, as amended to the previous Standing Orders, that Finance Committee had as requested looked at all

the amendments within the document and could find no reason not to adopt them. Therefore, there was no reason to review the previous Resolution to adopt them.

- v. **Scheme of Delegation:** Councillor Edwards presented the draft Scheme of Delegation, with a recommendation from Finance Committee that the document be adopted by Council as Policy . Councillor Hobbley proposed that it be adopted, and Councillor Dutton seconded the proposal. **RESOLVED. The Scheme of Delegation be adopted as policy.**
- vi. **Provision of Mobile phone contract:** The Chair advised of the need for a mobile phone for the use of the Clerk when undertaking Council business, as to date she has been using her own telephone line and not been compensated separately for the calls. In addition, the requirements of GDPR would seem to stipulate that the present arrangement of using a home telephone is not good practice. **RESOLVED: A mobile telephone contract in the name of Gresford Community Council, can be entered into for a mobile phone for the use by the Clerk for Council business.**

Item under Part II- Exclusion of the Press and Public: Recommendation following review of the Clerk's hours. Not for publication pursuant to the provisions of Sub-Section (4) of section 100A of Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

- vii. **Staffing matter.**

331. CEMETERY COMMITTEE

- i. The Minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on the 8th October 2018 were noted.
- ii. Approval for the removal of spoil: Councillor Bailey highlighted a matter that had previously been approved at Council in July 2018, concerning the removal of Spoil. An issue had been raised about the waste license of the contractor whose quotation had been approved. A further quotation had been obtained for the sum of £ 1100.00. The Contractor in question does hold a waste license. This was **APPROVED**.

- 332. LIGHTING MATTERS:** Approval required for the replacement of up to eight lighting columns. The Chair of the Lighting Committee and the Clerk highlighted the issue of the columns having been identified through a structural survey commissioned by WCBC, as being in need of urgent replacement, and subsequent discussions with WCBC and costs having being obtained. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hobbley and seconded by Councillor Wilde and **AGREED that the Lighting Committee have authority to spend up to £17k on commissioning the replacement of the several columns identified in the report.**

- 333. INSPECTION OF TREES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR A FULL SURVEY:** The Chair gave some background to the issue of why a tree survey might be needed and costs obtained by the Trust, and the Clerk presented a briefing note on the matter, following advice obtained from the Tree Officer at WCBC. Following discussion, it was agreed that the leases of Allington Park and the Cemetery should be reviewed to ensure that liability for tree management is determined. After a suggestion by Councillor Edwards , it was decided that Councillor Bailey shall be nominated to review the lease of the Cemetery and Allington Park. Councillor Harriman also suggested it was important to ask WCBC for their policy regarding Marford Play Area and management of trees. Councillor Atherton advised that a meeting is to take place shortly and this will be covered.

334. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)

- i. *P/2018/0869:* First Floor Extension over the existing utility room and new porch over existing front entrance door- Hillock Farm, Hillock Lane, Gresford, Wrexham. There were no objection raised.

- ii. P/2018/0848: Extension to existing agricultural unit to store hay and muck – Springfield Farm, Marford Hill, Marford, Wrexham . Councillor M.J. Edwards declared an interest and left the room for this item. Councillor Harriman raised an issue of possible effluent run off which the Rivers Authority would need to comment upon. Councillor Hobbley commented that it was agricultural and was making what was already there bigger. -There were no objections raised.
- iii. P/2018/0878: Application for works to Trees subject to Tree Preservation order WCBC No.82:- 2 No. Leylandii Cyprus- Removal of two trees to facilitate hedgerow planting. Cheverells, Hoseley Lane, Marford, Wrexham.:- Councillor Edwards rejoined the meeting. There were no objections to the proposal providing the advice of the Arboricultural Officer is followed.
- iv. P/2018/0887- Amended site layout and substitution of house types on plot Nos 22-33 Bryn Y Groes Chester Road Gresford, Wrexham.:- There were no objections raised.

Councillor Blackmore left the meeting.

335. FINANCE:

- i. The following items of expenditure were presented and **Approved**.

Date	Payment To	Reason	Cheque Number	Amount £
1.11.18	WCBC	Trade refuse charges Cemetery	202622	362.00
1.11.18	WCBC	Printing costs	202623	42.85
1.11.18	Ron Bentley	Printing costs	202624	133.08
1.11.18	Gresford Trust	Hire of room charges	202625	152.76
1.11.18	Encore Office Systems	Quarterly charges printer	202626	39.60
1.11.18	Scottish Power	Electricity supply to 30.9.18	202627	834.95
1.11.18	Northalls Ltd	Reissue of cheque lost- for fitting of gates at Allington Park	202628	756.00
1.11.18	N. Route	Grass cutting fees cemetery and Allington Park Sept.2018 and Oct. 2018	202629	1090.00
1.11.18	Michelle Jones	NJC Salary	202630	NJC
1.11.18	Serena Baxter	NJC Salary and reimbursements	202631	NJC
1.11.18	HMRC	Monthly amount due	202632	78.46

336. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- i. **Councillor Blackmore - Concern about Marford Hill and the lack of markings relating to speed.** The matter was discussed in Councillor Blackmore's absence. Councillor Harriman echoed the concerns raised, citing an example of speeding. It was agreed that the 40mph sign had been removed. The Clerk advised of comments from Councillor Gilmartin which he asked to be considered. Councillor Edwards suggested that an item for discussion be put on the next agenda concerning speed limit signs. A discussion took place about signage that had been put in Gwersyllt. Councillor Wilde

