

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD METHODIST CHURCH HALL ON 4th April 2019

Members Present

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

Chair: Councillor J. Holmes.

Clerk: Serena Baxter.

Apologies given and accepted: Councillor. R. Smith.

405. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

406. 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 Atkinson stated he would declare an interest in regard to the Planning proposals to be considered under item 15, as a number of the applicants were customers of his business. Councillor Dutton advised she would declare an interest under item 7/v.

407. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no Members of the Public or Press present.

408. POLICE REPORT: PCSO. Lawrence attended the meeting and gave information on crimes for the area during the month of March. These included three reports at Gresford, one of cold calling and one of a bike being taken. It appears that one group of youths were responsible. There had also been a case of fraud. In Marford there had been one disturbance caused by youths, one instance of shoplifting and one instance of a burglary at a dwelling which was empty. The crime reports were discussed, in particular the issues around cold calling on vulnerable persons. PCSO Lawrence also gave out a contact information for anyone who is known to need support for example following a bereavement. PCSO Lawrence was thanked for her report and left the meeting. **Action: The Crime Report to be circulated out to all Councillors by the Clerk.**

409. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: It was noted that under Minute 388, there should be the addition of the Minutes going to Chair first and then circulated to all Councillors for comment. **Action: Clerk to amend.** The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 7th March 2019 were otherwise **Agreed as a true record.**

410. MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: The Clerk circulated a table of actions and progress since the last meeting, as previously requested to be introduced. Comments were made to amend the table and agenda which the Clerk will put in place for the next and future meetings. The items on the table were discussed and updates given. The Clerk advised of assurances received concerning the recently installed all-inclusive roundabout at Allington Park. Councillor Atkinson highlighted positive feedback obtained from parents of those using the inclusive roundabout. Concerning lines to be renewed at Gresford Roundabout, Councillor Atkinson advised he is assured this work is to take place in the near future. This would include the lines outside the village shops. Councillor Bailey enquired about the potholes and yellow lines urgently needed on Pant Lane.

411. ONGOING MATTERS

- i. **Parking near the junction of Claypit Lane and Chester Road.** - It was noted that the yellow lines are now in place. Concern was expressed that the parking issues may have moved to Chester Road, and could be an issue when there are events on in the Church Hall . It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas as it has now been resolved.

- ii. **7 Chester Road:** Councillor Atkinson advised that he had raised the matter again with WCBC.
 - iii. **Clappers Lane flooding:** The Clerk advised of a recent response received from the MP Ian Lucas who attached a response received from Wrexham Council. The response was noted. A discussion took place and suggestions were forwarded as to how the matter might be progressed. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write a letter on behalf of the Community Council, to WCBC, highlighting the matter and lack of progress, and asking for a copy of their schedule of works in connection with this matter, together with associated costs, and a list of approved contractors from whom quotes might be obtained. The Clerk will also check to see whether the Community Council has any powers in this regard since it concerns the Highway. Once this information is received, the Council will consider whether it wishes to obtain quotes from approved contractors to try to resolve the matter itself. **Action: Clerk.**
 - iv. **High Street, Gresford:** The Clerk reported that WCBC in response had asked about the location of the traffic survey to take place. Councillor Atkinson advised that this information should be known and he would get back in touch with the Highways Manager to clarify. **Action: Councillor Atkinson.**
 - v. **Pont Y Capel Lane.** The Clerk advised on a response she had received from WCBC; and the two options suggested by the Highways Manager as a way forward to resolve the matter. Councillor Dutton declared an interest as adjoining landowner, and remained for the discussion to give background information, but took no part in the decision that was reached by the Council. The options suggested were the Stopping up Order which the Council had previously considered, which could involve the Community Council in some cost, as yet unknown. Alternatively, a Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which would be paid for by WCBC, and ongoing maintenance of the lane remaining the responsibility of WCBC. Access would be available to adjoining landowners, and those with maintenance interests such as British Rail, and to pedestrians. The merits of both options were discussed and a proposal was made by Councillor Wilde to proceed with requesting the TRO, which was seconded by Councillor Harriman. It was therefore **RESOLVED to proceed with the request to WCBC for a TRO. Action: Clerk to make request to Highways Manager.**
 - vi. **Marford Play Area:** Concerns were expressed that no maintenance work appeared to have been carried out to the hedge and it is now bird nesting season. It was however noted that parts of the hedge are encroaching around the seat areas and onto the footpath and these will need to be attended to. It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact WCBC and ask for their urgent attention, and follow up in writing. Action: Clerk.**
412. **VACANCY GRESFORD EAST WARD:** The Clerk advised that the Electoral Department of WCBC, had since the last meeting of the Community Council, undertaken the procedure of notifying the electorate via a Notice of Election, with a closing date of 3rd April 2019. The candidate previously put forward for election had been uncontested, therefore no actual election is required to take place, and the new Councillor for Gresford East Ward will be Mr Keith Hobbley. This was noted.
413. **CLERK UPDATE ON FORWARD WORK FOR THE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION (AS PER SLCC MEETING):** The Clerk advised the Council of upcoming matters for the new Council Year that had been suggested by the SLCC conference. These are Planning Arrangements for the deaths of prominent public figures, and for a review of Council website, in accordance with The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. These items were **noted**. Councillor Harriman expressed a view on whether the matter of response to death of prominent persons should be a matter for the Community Council or not, and the Chair suggested that the review of the website should be undertaken by a task group. It was **RESOLVED** that the item concerning the death of prominent figures be considered by the General Amenities Committee, and a task group be set up in due course to look at the review

of the website arrangements. **Action: Clerk to Agenda and arrange task group, after the Annual meeting.**

- 414. APPROVAL SOUGHT FOR EXPENDITURE OF £300 TO REVALUE THE LAND FOR THE ALLOTMENTS:** The Chair gave an overview of the situation to date and the request from the Allotment task group to have the valuation originally obtained by the Allotment Association, reviewed by the same company to see if it still applied given the length of time that had elapsed. A price had been received and had been responded to, to ask if the price could be reduced. This price had now been received and Council's approval was sought for the expenditure of £300 for the report. The Clerk then advised that just that day a letter had been received from the Valuers, stating that they had undertaken the review, although they had not as yet been formally asked to proceed. Nevertheless, a valuation of the land had been made, as previously and for this an invoice had been received for £360, the £60 being VAT. **It was RESOLVED to approve the expenditure.**
- 415. APPROVAL SOUGHT FOR EXPENDITURE OF £630 TO UNDERTAKE PITCH MAINTENANCE AT ALLINGTON PARK:** Councillor Atherton advised the meeting of the circumstances and proposed the need for this expenditure, and also advised on the reason why the work to maintain and upgrade the pitch would need to be done in two parts. Concern was expressed at the current state of the area and the fact that the work may be wasted if there is a spell of hot weather. The Clerk and the Chair advised that the quotation had been obtained with the help of Gresford Trust because of their maintenance work on their land and the difficulties experienced in obtaining specialist work on pitch areas, hence only one quote had been received but the work was acknowledged to be urgently required. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bailey and it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the expenditure. **Action: Clerk to contact the company.**
- 416. GRESFORD HEALTH CENTRE ONGOING MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:** The Clerk mentioned letters she had forwarded from Lesley Griffiths AM, and circulated copies of a letter received from BCUHB in response to items raised by the Community Council in a Freedom of Information request. Councillor Edwards advised that Friends of Alyn Family Doctors had ceased operating. A discussion took place about the contents of the letter. Councillor Holmes advised that it seems the problems referred to with the building had not been addressed. Councillor Atkinson updated on the meeting he had held with the AM and MP. A discussion took place about Alyn Family Doctors and the proposed Patient Engagement Group, of which Councillor Harriman advised there was still no mention on the website of the practice. Councillor Dutton advised on the issue of GP registration across England and Wales, and this was discussed. It was **AGREED that a letter shall be sent to the AM and MP highlighting this issue and asking them to take it forward.** Councillor Edwards expressed his personal views on the removal of GP sessions at the Gresford Health Centre, and advised that he is most concerned about the lack of signage on the roundabout at Llay. The following was **RESOLVED: A letter to be sent to the AM and MP raising concerns about the time and process involved in GP registration between England and Wales. A letter to be sent to Alyn Family Doctors, BCUHB, and separately to the AM, mentioning that it is both Gresford and Marford communities that are affected. This letter to mention concerns about the growth of these communities and the increasing delays in patients being able to obtain an appointment. To express concerns about the involvement of the Patients Engagement group, and the fact that it has not been publicised, and asking that they do not put in an application to alter provision from the Gresford Health Centre until the group has had a chance to meet and communicate with the practice and BCUHB.** **Action: Clerk to draft letter.**
- 417. TRAFFIC SURVEY MARFORD HILL- COUNCILLOR GILMARTIN:** Councillor Gilmartin advised that he has passed all information obtained from the survey to North Wales police. He will prepare a narrative and forward the figures on to other Councillors. He suggested that the Police Officer in charge could be invited to a future meeting for discussion. Councillor Holmes raised an issue concerning the condition of tarmac at points on the hill which is dangerous for cyclists. **Action: Councillor Gilmartin**

418. REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT GRESFORD AND UPGRADE OF THE CROSSING AT MARFORD HILL: The Clerk advised of the response received from WCBC in response to the letter sent. In regard to both requests for siting of a crossing and the upgrade of the existing crossing, traffic surveys would need to be carried out and this would carry a cost. Once the surveys had been carried out it would then be a matter of waiting for the work to be prioritised. A discussion took place on this. Councillor Atkinson proposed waiting to see what came from the survey and request concerning High Street. Councillor B. Blackmore highlighted concerns expressed by parents of pupils of Rofft school. Councillor Edwards suggested it is worth going back to the Council to ask about their criteria. The Chair highlighted the importance of advising residents to report near misses on 101. It was **RESOLVED that the two Borough Councillors request from WCBC the criteria that is used to prioritise crossings from the data obtained from traffic surveys and to consider this at a future meeting. Action: Borough Councillors to enquire regarding data/ criteria. Clerk to Agenda this item for Council meeting in June.**

419. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED): Councillor Atkinson expressed an interest for these items and took no part in the discussions.

- i. *P/2019/0222*.: Rear sun lounge extension with balcony over and front porch extension: Lark Rise 20 Wynnstay Lane, Marford, Wrexham. **No objections were raised.**
- ii. *P/2019/0219*: Single-storey link extension between main house and existing annex and new garage extension: Tethers End Village Walks, Marford, Wrexham. **No objections were raised.**
- iii. *P/2019/0203*: Extensions and alterations to dwelling :47 Annefield Park, Gresford, Wrexham. **No objections were raised.**
- iv. *P/2019/0217*: Change of use to dog daycare and holistic therapy centre: Former ROC Office Unit 1, Borrass Road, Borrass, Wrexham. **No objections were raised.**
- v. *P/2019/0189*: Construction of timber framed building for use as classrooms: Homestead Nursery, Old Wrexham Road, Gresford, Wrexham. **No objections were raised.**
- vi. *P/2019/0223*: Single-storey extension to rear with new roof over rear of garage: 59 Bodwyn Crescent, Gresford, Wrexham. **No objections were raised.**

420. FINANCE:

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

Date	Payment To	Reason	Amount
EXPENDITURE			
4.4.19	Serena Baxter	NJC Salary, allowances and reimbursements	
4.4.19	Michelle Jones	NJC Salary	
4.4.19	HMRC	Monthly payment due	
4.4.19	WCBC	Quarterly Maintenance fee to end December 2018	2139.19
4.4.19	WCBC	Lighting Repair charges to end December 2018	807.80
4.4.19	NJW Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting Invoice March	432.00
4.4.19	Harrison Design Development Ltd	Invoice for fees for initial assessment and meeting	586.20
4.4.19	WCBC	School Crossing Patrol fees	1097.00
4.4.19	SR Electrical and security	installation of CCTV.	2096.64
4.4.19	Scottish Power	Invoice for Monthly Electricity supply Lighting	768.37

4.4.19	One Voice Wales	Invoice for Training Place March	80.00
4.4.19	WCBC	Invoice for annual rates at Cemetery	670.65
4.4.19	Gresford Trust	Hire of rooms	81.25
11.4.19	M Jones	Reimbursement of laptop expenditure	495.94
INCOME			
1.4.19	WCBC	Precept income	29666.67
3.4.19	HMRC	VAT Claim income	8912.76

- ii. **FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT FOR THE END OF MARCH 2019:** The Clerk presented the financial position statement to the end of the Financial Year, and this was **Accepted**.

421. REPORT FROM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS GRESFORD AND MARFORD: Councillor Gilmartin had no report to make. Councillor Atkinson advised that a recent litter pick carried out had been successful. He further reported on progress regarding the Vicarage Lane development campaign, contacts with Alyn Family Doctors, and Reporting on potholes.

422. REPORTS: TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- ii. **Chair's Report:** The Chair circulated a written report, thanking the Clerk and Councillors for their help during the year, acknowledging that it has been a busy year and a lot has been achieved by the Council
- iii. **Gresford Trust:** A report was received from Gresford Trust, highlighting work that has been undertaken to trees along Chester road, and the use of the Trust's facilities by different groups and forthcoming priorities for the Trust.
- iv. **IMAGE:** A report was received from Councillor Bailey on behalf of IMAGE, highlighting progress with duck feeding publicity, work to encourage Bees and Trees and the Scarecrow trail for 2019.
- v. **Maes Y Pant:** A report was received from Councillor Edwards on behalf of Maes y Pant, highlighting improvements made for wheelchair and pushchair users, a new carving, progress with the dog control area, and the annual meeting of Friends of Maes y Pant on the 2nd April, and Coffee morning and plant sale on the 18th May.
- vi. **Community Speedwatch:** Councillor Atkinson advised that the Community Speed Camera had been used on a few occasions by himself and Councillor Gilmartin. Councillor Edwards reminded that two is the absolute minimum required to operate the camera and asked if Councillor Atkinson would advise the other members of the speed watch group of future dates and times to enable them to attend if possible.
- vii. **Gresford Library:** Councillor Bailey provided a report on behalf of the Library which highlighted the works carried out to improve facilities and fundraising events.

423. MEMBER'S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- i. **Proposal by Councillor B. Blackmore - Council to consider Gresford Trust 70th Anniversary celebrations.:** Councillor Blackmore advised the Council of a Planning group meeting that had recently taken place in regard to the planned event to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Gresford Trust. It was suggested that a Grant could be applied for.
- ii. The Clerk introduced an item which was not on the Agenda. This concerned **the digitisation of the cemetery records** that had previously been approved to go ahead by Full Council. The Clerk advised that in taking this forward the Cemetery Assistant had obtained a further price for additional items to be added into the software package, amounting to £300.39 plus VAT. Council's approval was requested for this to go ahead. The Chair gave approval as per Financial Regulations for this expenditure as an urgent matter, and the Clerk will ensure it is recorded via the Agenda the next meeting of the Council.

424. ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE: Items of Correspondence were tabled in a report from the Clerk, as received by the Council for the month of March 2019 and these were **noted**.

