

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT MARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 2nd MAY 2013

Members Present

Councillors Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs S Cleaver, M J Edwards, M Harriman, Mrs J Holmes, Mrs P M Lightwood, Mrs J MacDonald, M Perry, M Pritchard, M L Roberts and Mrs B Watson.

Apologies for absence

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs J D Dutton, and PCSO2118 Wendy Harries

In Attendance

PS Helen Douglas

Declarations of Interest

No member proposed to make a Declaration at this time.

132 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor M Perry, seconded by M J Edwards and ***unanimously resolved that Mrs J MacDonald be elected Chairman of the Community Council for the ensuing year. In accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)***, Councillor MacDonald signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Lightwood thanked the members for their support during her year of office.

133 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor M J Edwards, seconded by Councillor M Perry and ***unanimously resolved that Councillor Mrs B Blackmore be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Community Council for the ensuing year. In accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act (as amended)***, Councillor Blackmore signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

134 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2013 were confirmed by members and signed by the Chairman.

135 YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICES

Ms Donna Dickenson, Head of Service Education Enrichment gave a presentation regarding the Service and referred to the need to make savings of £93 million, in the revenue Budgets. In view of the repairs backlog together with a national decline in attendance at Youth Clubs and the changing interests of young people, 27 centres would have to be closed and rationalised. Persons present questioned whether the present Youth Club building in Allington Hall could be closed as it had been given to the Community for young people. The Officers confirmed that the building does belong to the County Borough Council and did not contain any Covenant requiring its retention for such purposes

Many of those present also called for the decisions to be reviewed in light of the very successful Youth Club and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in Gresford. It was pointed

out, however, that savings had to be made the way in which Youth and Play Services were delivered.

Members of the public present called for a need to look at the continued use of the building to avoid it becoming derelict and resulting in an eyesore.

The Officers were thanked for their attendance and agreed to provide periodic progress reports.

136 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to take any further part in the meeting.

137 POLICE REPORT

Crime Report for April 2013 was received. The Police were asked to note that School Leavers this summer may gather at Hoseley Hall in view of the improvements which were taking place in Maes y Pant Quarry.

138 APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

It was *resolved that the following Sub-Committees consisting of the respective members be appointed for 2013-2014:*

Cemetery Sub-Committee Councillors A C Bailey, B Blackmore, M Harriman, M Perry, M Pritchard and M L Roberts

Play Areas Sub-Committee Councillors A C Bailey, J Dutton, M J Edwards, J Macdonald M Pritchard and B Watson.

Lighting Sub-Committee Councillors J Dutton, M J Edwards, Mrs J Holmes and G Peake

Risk Assessment Sub-Committee Councillors A Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, J Dutton, M Perry and M Pritchard

Marford Community Centre Sub-Committee

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, J MacDonald and B Watson (With power to co-opt)

Community Council Website Working Group

Councillor S Cleaver, J Holmes and B Watson

139 DATES, VENUES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS

It was resolved that for the following year, meetings be held alternately at Gresford Memorial Hall and Marford Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month at 7.15 pm, except August (no meeting), and that the meeting to consider next year's Precept should be held in December provided the appropriate arrangements could be made.

140 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Village Improvements

The Public Consultation had taken place and the findings were presently being considered by the Urban Designers.

Gresford Constitutional Club

As requested, a letter was received from the Project Co-ordinator giving details of the costs. ***It was resolved to contribute up to £2,620.00, payable to ENTRUST if the application by Gresford Trust was successful.***

Winter Gritting Policy

Details of the County Borough Council's Policy regarding the provision of Salt Bins was received, together with the cost of purchasing bins and equipment. The Wrexham Council encourage Community Councils to purchase Salt Bins and Rock Salt from them but would be maintained by the Community Councils.

It was resolved that the Lighting Sub-Committee should consider a policy for the provision of such bins at suitable locations throughout the Community.

Stone Boundary Walls

The letter from Wrexham Area Civic Society alerting all Community Council to the loss of stone walls when development takes place and the significant contribution they make to the character of places.

It was decided that members would look out for the effect developments in the Community would have on the numerous stone walls in Gresford and the Community Council would make appropriate comments to the Planning Department.

Community Council Website

The updated statistics for use of the site was discussed and noted with satisfaction.

Carving of Oak Tree

A letter had now been received from the PCC indicating that they had decided not approve of the Community Council's proposal to site the carving on the land near the Church.

The Clerk of the Council was instructed to write to them further now that the carving of the tree into the shape of a bell was nearing completion as the Community Council may need to obtain planning permission to place this tree at this site near the Church.

141 REPORTS

Councillor M J Edwards reported on the scrutiny of overspending on contracts and also that a recent Employee Survey had revealed a high level of satisfaction with their Terms and Conditions of Employment.

Councillor Mrs B Blackmore reported on the improvements to the floor of Marford Community Centre and the successful Luncheon Club.

Gresford Trust Report The AGM was due to take place next Thursday.

142 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:

P2013/0228 – Two Storey rear extension and Single Storey side extension, Wharfedale, Quarry Brow, Gresford – **No comments**

P/2013/0255 – Extension and Alterations, 25 Meadows View, Marford – **No comments**

P/2013/0268 – Construction of Single Storey side extension, The Croft, High Street, Gresford – **No comments**

P/2013/0272 – Erection of Bungalow and Detached Garage, Plot 18 Quarry Brow, Gresford – **No comments**

143 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO 31st MARCH 2013

The Statement was received and approved for submission to the Internal Auditor.

The Clerk of the Council was asked to look at the Headings to simplify the Statement of Accounts in future years so that they would be more clearly understood by those members of the public not familiar with Local Authority Finance.

144 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:

STC Ltd, Tree work at the Cemetery	£144.00
Wrexham Area Civic Society 2013 Corporate Membership	£25.00
Dee Valley Water plc, Water Charges to Cemetery	£13.96
ICCM, Corporate Membership	£90.00
Mr S Pugh, Grave making	£450.00
Mr C A Route, Grounds Maintenance and Cemetery work	£545.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary and Postage	NJC rates
Scottish Power, Unmetered Supplies	£624.56
Wrexham CBC, Quarterly Lighting Maintenance	£1,159.36
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC rates
HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates
Simon O'Rourke Tree Carving Ltd	£960.00
AVOW, Membership Renewal 2013	£10.00
One Voice Wales, Membership 2013	£675.00

145 CORRESPONDENCE

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

One Voice Wales – Spring 2013 edition of “The Voice”

An Invitation to purchase tickets to the Mayor of Wrexham's Charity Spring Dinner to mark the conclusion of his Term of Office

146 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next Meeting would be held at Gresford Memorial Hall on Thursday 6th June 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

147 GRESFORD CEMETERY

It was resolved

1 That in accordance with Standing Orders that this item be considered tonight as one of extreme urgency

2 That the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the matter as it was likely that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

It was further resolved

1 That the maximum offer should be that of an alternative plot and no more.

2 That the observations of One Voice Wales should be obtained.

**COUNCILLOR MRS J MACDONALD
CHAIRMAN**

Presiding Chairman.....Date.....