

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD MEMORIAL HALL ON 7th NOVEMBER 2013

Members Present

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs B Blackmore, Mrs S Cleaver, Mrs J D Dutton, M J Edwards, M Harriman, Mrs J Holmes, Mrs P M Lightwood, Mrs J MacDonald, G Peake and Mrs B Watson.

Apologies

Councillors M Perry and M L Roberts

In Attendance

PCSO 2118 Wendy Harris

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. Councillors A Bailey M J Edwards, J Holmes, J Dutton, M Harriman, P M Lightwood and G Peake indicated their intention to make declarations at the appropriate time.

202 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman after deletion of the words "and approved" in paragraph 190 – Budget Headings. It was also agreed that the Visual Condition Survey, 2013 provided by Wrexham Council be sent to Barron Design Ltd.

203 POLICE REPORT

Crime statistics for October were circulated and discussed. The PCSO also reported on the priorities set by the Council. It was noted that the Police had recently added to their priorities for the PCSO's one relating to Anti Social Behaviour Orders for Youth Offenders.

204 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public was present.

205 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Application for Financial Assistance from Maes-y-Pant Action Group

In accordance with Standing Orders, this matter was dealt with now as a matter of urgency in view of the attendance of representatives of the Group. (Councillors A Bailey and M J Edwards declared personal and/or prejudicial interests in this application and left the meeting while it was discussed)

After hearing the observations of the representatives and noting that there would be no further applications in the near future, the representatives left the meeting.

The Community Council resolved that financial assistance of £7,000 be made to Maes-y-Pant Action group to improve the entrance to the Quarry.

Parking Restrictions on School Hill, Gresford

After noting that the main issues were related to enforcement of the present regulations, consideration was deferred until the next appropriate meeting.

Marford Community Centre

Costs arising from the Visual Condition Survey: 2013 were received from Wrexham Council.

After noting the costs it was decided to invite representatives of the Community Centre to attend the Community Council Meeting on 9th January 2014.

Community Facilities: Budget Reductions and the Role of Community Councils and Community Groups

The current costings, 2013 provided by Wrexham Council since the last meeting was received. Councillor Bailey also reported the results of a recent survey he has carried out of residents living near the play area in Newtown whose main concern was that the site maybe sold off for housing development.

The present position was noted.

Footpath across Allington Park

(Councillor P M Lightwood declared a personal and/or prejudicial interest in this matter and left the meeting whilst it was discussed. Councillors A Bailey, J Dutton, J Holmes and J MacDonald also declared personal and/or prejudicial interests but relied on the dispensation granted by the Standards Committee to remain in the meeting for discussion of this item)

Satisfactory replies were received from the three contractors to the additional questions asked following the Council's decision at its last meeting.

Three quotations were also received to fell the Cherry Tree on High Street.

The Council resolved to accept the lowest quotation from Contractor No 3 to complete the work of improvement to the footpath and the lowest quotation from Contractor No 2 for felling the Cherry Tree.

Goal Posts at Marford Play Area

It was noted that the Goal Posts could be reinstalled as soon as the Sub-Contractors for Welsh Water provided a date which was acceptable to Mr John Dutton.

Village Improvements

The Steering Group were meeting regularly but appropriate funding was not readily available at present. However funds were being raised by IMAGE and it was important that the Group should keep the residents informed possibly through monthly reports to "Essentially Yours".

Christmas Tree

A number of members had met with a representative of Jones Lighting & Co Ltd who could supply lights and install them on the Christmas tree for a total installation charge of £618.25 + vat.

This was agreed by Council.

Website

Councillor Cleaver gave her monthly report on the website.

Stones at the Side of Gresford Lake

Councillor J Holmes raised the issue of the need for additional stones/boulders at the lakeside and would be consulting with others as to the most suitable type.

Code of Conduct

The Council was reminded that where appropriate, members should declare personal and/or prejudicial interests in business being discussed by the Community Council and State whether they were relying on any dispensation granted by Wrexham Council's Standards Committee to remain in the meeting.

Youth and Play Services and Gresford Young Peoples Centre (Youth Club)

Councillor Dutton reported on the conditions she found at Rossett Village Hall on her recent visit.

After some discussion it was noted that these two matters were ongoing.

Carved Oak Tree

It was noted that members had met with Wrexham Council's Arboricultural Officer. It was agreed that this matter should now be pursued and a working party was set up to look at the options and the relevant forms which would be required by Wrexham Council.

206 NOTICE OF MOTION

(Councillor M J Edwards took no part in the discussion or voting)

It was proposed by Councillor M Harriman and seconded by Councillor B Watson that "Recognising the 'Funding Crisis' facing Wrexham County Borough Council for the year 2014-2015 and beyond whereby savings in the region of £34m may have to be made during the next financial year, Gresford Community Council calls upon the County Borough Council to withdraw all dedicated funding towards the Office of Mayor save for that paid by way of special responsibility allowances to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor after this current financial year until such time as the economic climate improves and such funding once again becomes justifiable."

Following discussion and on being put to the Community Council the motion was adopted. Councillor Bailey asked that his abstention be recorded in the Minutes.

It was also resolved that the resolution be sent to the Leader and Chief Executive of Wrexham Council and circulated to all Town and Community Councils in the County Borough.

207 REPORTS

Councillor M J Edwards reported that Wrexham Council's Budget was available for consultation by the public but there was a very narrow window of opportunity for the public to respond.

Councillor A Bailey reported that Wrexham Council's Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee was meeting on Wednesday, 13th November to look at various services.

Councillor B Blackmore reported that Marford Community Centre was being discussed at meetings early next week.

Councillor J Dutton reported that charities could make claims for compensation from the proceeds from crime.

208 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/2013/0660 – (Development in adjoining community) – Drilling of Exploration Borehole (Requiring 24 hour operation) to remove a core of Coal for Sampling and Site Restoration following cessation of drilling operations. Drilling operations to take approximately 60 days and a maximum of 75 days, part of field west of Commonwood Farm and south of Borrass Road, Commonwood, Holt – ***Request the local planning authority to attach conditions to control the level of noise emanating from the site.***

P/2013/0670 – Amendment to P/2012/0787 to incorporate Double Doors at Ground Floor on Side Elevation and Rendering to Front Projection Wall, 16 Hawthorn Road, Marford – ***No representations***

P/2013/0672 – Prune back lowest branch nearest Garage approximately 3-4 metres from 1 Sycamore Tree (T1) Protected by TPO WMBC NO7, Kingsley, Pant Lane, Gresford – ***The Council was content with the proposal provided that Wrexham Council's Arboricultural Officer approved.***

P/2013/0686 – Porch Extension for Front and Two Storey Extension to Rear, 24 Bodwyn Crescent, Gresford – ***No representations***

P/2013/0707 – Erection of two detached houses (House A and B) and detached garage for House B, Plot 12 Quarry Brow, Marford – ***The local planning authority be asked to note the proximity of the proposal to the nearby woodland and take action to protect this woodland; To ensure that the private access road and that the approach road from Pant Lane are brought up to adoptable standards; and to ensure that the proposed development is not out of line with the adjoining properties in terms of frontage and height.***

P/2013/0713 – Outline Application for New Dwelling, Fairfield Farm, Barkers Lane, Borrass ***As this development maybe outside the Settlement Limit there should be special reasons for permitting the development which should also be sympathetic with the adjoining area.***

208 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment:

Mr C A Route, Grounds Maintenance and Cemetery work	£545.00
Scottish Power, Unmetered Supplies	£831.06
Wrexham CBC – Street Lighting Maintenance	£1,159.36
One Voice Wales – Training Course	£60.00
Dee Valley Water Service plc – Water Charges	£6.58
Barron Design Ltd, Professional Consultancy Services	£720.00

UHY Hacker Young – Audit Fee	£720.00
Malcolm Lane & Son Ltd – Replacement PETG for Notice Boards	£624.00
Councillor M Harriman – Travelling Expenses	£66.00
Councillor M L Roberts – Travelling Expenses	£24.00
Mr Steve Pugh – Grave Making	£75.00
Gresford Royal British Legion – Contribution to Wreath	£50.00
Friends of Alyn Doctors – Donation to purchase COPD Packs	£300.00
Gresford Trust – Rock Salt	£186.00
Mrs M Jones, Salary	NJC rates
Maurice Paddock, Salary	NJC rates
HM Revenue & Customs, NI and Tax	PAYE rates

209 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Application for Financial Assistance – Gresford Village Bowling Club
(Councillors M Harriman and G Peake declared personal and/or prejudicial interests and left the meeting whilst it was discussed. Councillors A Bailey, J Dutton, J Holmes and J MacDonald also declared personal and/or prejudicial interests but relied on the dispensation granted by the Standards Committee to remain in the meeting.)

The Council resolved to make a donation of £1,000 towards the upkeep of the bowling greens.

- 2 Invitation to Annual Awards Evening of Wrexham Area Civic Society on 22nd November, 2013 – noted.

210 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 5th December 2013 at 7.15 p.m. at Marford Community Centre and in accordance with the Council's previous decision to consider the Budget for 2014-2015 including setting the Precept and Planning Applications only.

**COUNCILLOR MRS J MACDONALD
CHAIRMAN**

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