

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT
MARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 8TH JANUARY 2009**

Members Present

Councillors A C Bailey, Mrs B L Blackmore, Mrs J Dutton, M J Edwards, M Harriman, Mrs S Layhe, Mrs M Lightwood, H Sharp and Mrs H Williams

WPC Kay Muldoon and PCSO 2850 Scott Noble also attended.

Apology for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs J Freeman and R H Willis and accepted.

89 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2008 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

90 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were present and were invited to ask questions or make statements. They referred to the objections of residents to the fresh application for planning permission to redevelop 5 Bodwyn Park. In addition, a member of the public referred to the need for adequate cycle tracks in Marford Quarry. The Chairman thanked the public for their remarks.

91 POLICE REPORT

The new Police Community Support Office, Scott Noble was welcomed to the meeting. WPC Muldoon also reported that she had been promoted and would be leaving her post on 1st February. The Community Council wished her well in her new post.

Matters of concern were discussed with the officers.

92 GIFTS – CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE

One Voice Wales had now confirmed that the Council had no powers to incur expenditure with regard to personal gifts of any nature. If members wished to recognise the contribution of an individual, the best option was to organise a personal collection from members. Alternatively, the Council could give the Chairman an annual allowance to meet the expenses of Office. Expenditure such as this could be defrayed from such an allowance.

Accordingly, the Council resolved to set up a Chairman's Fund to meet the expenses of Office up to a maximum of £25.00 on any one dispersion and subject to a maximum of £500 in any one financial year. The Fund was to be administered by the Chairman and Clerk of the Council and a record of individual items would be kept.

93 PRECEPT 2009 – 10

Details of the Budgets for previous years were received. The Clerk submitted a draft budget for the 2009 – 10 and this was thoroughly scrutinised by the Council.

The Council resolved:

1 To approve the Budget for 2009 -10

2 To vary the expenditure on various budget heads to reflect the current position, including the use of surpluses to finance the future development of the cemetery, early repayment of the Public Works Loans Board's loan, Marford Community Centre, Maes y Pant, Quarry, Youth Service and an increased contribution from balances;

3 To levy a precept of £70,400 for the financial year ending 31st March 2010.

4 Having regard to the use made of the Society of Local Council Clerks by the Council, henceforth the membership subscription of the Clerk of the Council would be paid by the Community Council at the appropriate rate

94 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of planning applications received from the Chief Planning Officer that were available for Members prior to the meeting, were dealt with as follows:

P/2008/1301 – Erection of detached dwelling and construction of new vehicular access, land at 48 Wynnstay Lane, Marford - ***The Community Council considered that this development was undesirable and would have a detrimental effect upon the appearance of the streetscene and surrounding area, particularly in relation to its scale, height and design. The proposed dwelling was not in keeping with the surrounding dwellings and failed to make a positive contribution to the area.***

P/2008/1324 – Demolition of existing house and garage and erection of one block of 5 self contained flats, 5 Bodwyn Park, Gresford - ***The Community Council noted the changes proposed by the applicant but considered that its very serious concerns regarding this development remained, namely,***

The development was out of keeping with the area and if approved it should be no higher than two storeys;

If approved the number of car parking spaces should be limited in accordance with the Local Development Plan and your Council's policies in order to encourage the use of alternative means of transport;

The proposed development would increase traffic at a busy road junction that would increase the dangers to children and pedestrians;

The infrastructure was inadequate to cater with such large-scale development without considerable public and private expenditure;

The water supply and sewerage arrangements in this area were constructed prior to 1935 and were inadequate to cater for the needs of today's residents. A development such as this would make a bad situation worse. The Community Council had been informed that the service pipes were laid under nearby private gardens and at depths that would not be permitted under present regulations.

Any increase in the flow of water or sewage would prejudice the health of the inhabitants and cause difficulties adversely affecting their enjoyment of their homes;

The Community Council also strongly supported the objections of adjoining local residents.

P/2008/1333 – Erection of covered shelter, Pant yr Ochain Hotel, Old Wrexham Road, Gresford - **The Community Council considered that the design of the shelter should be appropriate to the existing building and in keeping with the surrounding area.**

95 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment

P & W Maintenance, Marford Play Area No 1 for 08/09	£58.29
Wrexham CBC, Contribution to Marford Community Centre 08/09	£450.78
UHY Hacker Young, Audit Fee 2007-08	£488.75
Encore Office Systems, Photocopy charges	£42.30
Mr S A Pugh, Grave Making	£260.00
Ellison Marketing, gresford.org.uk x 2 years	£58.75
ICCM, Conference 2008 Fees	£581.63
Mr C A Route, Grass Cutting and maintenance of cemetery	£545.00
Clerk of the Council, Salary January	NJC Rates
HM Revenue and Customs, Income Tax and Employers NI January	PAYE Rates
Wrexham CBC, Youth Work 01.04.08 – 30.09.08	£2117.50

96 Date, Venue & Time of next Meeting: To confirm the date of the next meeting at Gresford Memorial Hall on Thursday, 5th February 2009 at 7.15 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR J DUTTON
CHAIRMAN**

.....Chairman
.....Date