

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT MARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2008

Members Present

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

WPC Kay Muldoon and PCSO Laura Salisbury were in attendance.

Apology for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Sharp and R H Willis and PCSO Wendy Harris

Welcome

The Chairman extended a welcome return to all members and hoped that they were fully refreshed following the summer break.

47 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2008 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

48 VARIATION OF AGENDA

In accordance with Standing Order 16 it was resolved that the Order of Business be varied on the grounds of urgency.

49 POLICE REPORT

Matters of concern were discussed including Crime statistics. The Chairman also reported that PCSO Laura Salisbury was leaving Gresford shortly to pursue her career in the police force. Members expressed their full appreciation of her efforts for the community and wished her well for the future. The Chairman presented Laura with a card and small gift from the members in recognition of this service.

50 FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Chairman welcomed Helen Prince and John Troth, from Groundwork Services Ltd and invited them to address the Council on the proposed feasibility study. Afterwards, they answered many questions from the members.

It was resolved that Groundwork Ltd should carry out a study of the area near the shops in Chester Road, including necessary consultations and submit an interim report to the next meeting which would be followed with a detailed study in, six to eight weeks.

51 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members of the public were present and were invited to address the Council at this time.

Dangers from bikes

Mr Ken Bennett spoke of his concerns for the safety of children when riding their bikes, as they seemed on most occasions to have total disregard for their own and others safety.

It was agreed to obtain the Maximum publicity for Mr Bennett's concerns.

Lighting Sunnyridge Avenue, Marford

Mrs Carolyn Stenning a representative of the residents of Sunnyridge Avenue informed the Council that Wrexham Neighbourhood Watch had been consulted recently and they had suggested that the provision of lights might reduce the incidents of burglaries. The Clerk circulated an e-mail he had received from Mr Eric Owen a resident of Marford who was unable to be present this evening. Councillor M J Edwards submitted a letter he had received from Wrexham County Borough Council's Highways Department.

The Clerk of the Council was of the opinion that the Community Council did not have the powers to light private land.

It was resolved to await the report from the Lighting Engineers and in the meantime to instruct the Clerk of the Council to obtain clarification from the Society of Local Council Clerks and One Voice Wales as to whether the Community Councils had the legal powers to provide lights on Sunnyridge Avenue.

52 ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resident Only Parking Schemes, High Street, Gresford

The reply from Principal Traffic Engineer was further considered. ***It was decided to ascertain whether any progress had been made.***

Satellite Navigation Equipment and Heavy Goods Vehicles Using Inappropriate Highways

A reply from Principal Engineer Traffic was received and noted. Councillor Edwards also reported on the situation regarding Hoseley Lane.

Dispensation by Standards Committee

It was noted that dispensations had been granted to Councillors A Bailey and J Dutton which would expire on 4th June 2009.

Internal Audit Report 2007 - 08

The report was received and noted. It was also noted that the Chairman had signed the Annual Return during the August Recess and this had been sent to the External Auditors.

Kissing/clapper gate near Balmuir Garage – An order had been placed with contractors

Play Areas, Allington Park and Marford - safety mats, moss & re-painting – The RoSPA report had been received and was referred Play Areas Sub-committee. Enquiries were continuing regarding the various issues.

Muga Netball Ring – Muddy area - Enquiries were ongoing

Gates to Allington Park and Children's Play Area – Repairs had been carried out

Litter Bins by the Play Area – An order had been placed

Youth Club Members to attend the meeting in October 2008 – Agreed with Senior Youth Worker

Park benches in Gresford and Marford – Work was partially completed

Repaint Lakeside Platform Steps – Order placed with a contractor

Gresford Cemetery

Removal of rubble & flower debris - Ongoing

Labels on bins “General Waste” and “Green Waste”

Uneven tarmac – Work was to be carried out next week

Pruning various trees – Some pruning had been carried out – ***It was agreed that the laurel bushes should be reduced to ground level***

Attention to the building including writing to Funeral Directors

Memorial Safety – Order placed with Buckley Memorials Ltd

Assistance for the Clerk – Under consideration

Notice/Information Boards – It was noted that the boards were erected yesterday and keys would be given to Councillors and others

Planning Aid Wales Seminar – As there was little interest from other community councils and organisations ***it was agreed to discontinue with the arrangements for the seminar***

Sheaves – Discussions were ongoing

New Street Lights – The Engineer’s report was expected

Christmas Tree and Lights Scheme – Councillor Blackmore reported on progress

Assistance for the Clerk of the Council – ***On the recommendation of the sub-committee it was agreed to look into the provision of an extra telephone line at the Clerk’s home***

53 REPORTS

Councillor M J Edwards

Matters reported on included the part re-surfacing of Woodlands Road and discussions relating to the status of Sunnyridge Avenue.

Councillor B Blackmore

Matters reported on included the need to resurface Winchester Way and weed clearing at the rear of the Chinese Takeaway.

Councillor A C Bailey

Matters reported on included the next meeting of IMAGE on 8th September; thanked all concerned for their efforts with the Garden Competition and that the purchase of Maes y Pant was with the solicitors.

Councillor J Dutton

Matters reported on included the purchase of new chairs by the Trust and that Gresford Bowling Club’s funding application was in progress.

54 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

P/2008/0856 – Two storey extension, comprising bathroom and porch, sun room and re-build garage, The Croft, High Street, Gresford – **No representations**

P/2008/0889 – single storey rear extension, 53 Bodwyn Crescent, Gresford – **No representations**

P/2008/0891 – Single storey side extension, 48 Annefield Park, Gresford – **No representations**

P/2008/0935 – Alterations and extension, Gladwyn Lodge, Chester Road, Gresford – **It was decided to ask the Chief Planning Officer to have regard to the number of accidents occurring on this stretch of road when approving the arrangements for the entrance to this property.**

P/2008/0806 – Amended plans - Construction of enclosure around existing fans and kitchen extracts system (to reduce impact of noise) Red Lion, Marford Hill, Marford – **No representations**

55 FINANCE

The following items were approved for payment

Gresford Retirement Club, Donation	£300.00
Wrexham County Borough Council, Trade Refuse Charges	£571.52
Wrexham County Borough Council, Quarterly Lighting Maintenance –	£1,426.04
Wrexham County Borough Council, Tree Planter Sponsorship	£500.00
JDH Business Services Ltd, Fees for Internal Audit, year ended 31 st March 2008	£326.45
Scottishpower plc, Unmetered supplies	£840.15
C E Dutton & Son, repairs to field gate	£47.00
Playsafety Ltd, Annual Inspection & Report	£81.00
Dee Valley Water plc, Water Charges	£40.54
STC Limited, Tree Work on 22 nd August	£188.00
P & W Maintenance Ltd, Grounds Maintenance	£58.29
Mr S A Pugh, Grave making	£980.00
Mr C A Route, Grass Cutting and maintenance of cemetery (2Months)	£1,090.00
Clerk of the Council, Salary August & September & Overtime & travelling	NJC Rates
HM Revenue and Customs, Income Tax and Employers NI	PAYE Rates

56 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Service of Thanksgiving, 40th Anniversary of the North Wales Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, 14th September

Grants by Community Councils – Letter from the Chief Legal and Democratic Services Officer

New Code of Conduct – Member Training Sessions on either Thursday, 18th September
Monday, 22nd September in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Wrexham

Latest Work Programme for Wrexham CBC's five Scrutiny Committees

Wrexham Neighbourhood Watch's Community Fun weekend –25th and 26th July 2009

Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales

Mayor's Charity Ball – Friday, 31st October 2008

One Wrexham Charter of Belonging – ***It was resolved to sign the Charter Network***

Recruitment Event for Potential Magistrates – The Law Courts, Wrexham on Wednesday,
22nd October

Supporting Social Enterprise – Northern Marches Cymru's Newsletter

Wrexham in Bloom Reception –Mayoral Reception, Wednesday, 17th September 2008

57 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING It was confirmed that the next Meeting would
be held at Gresford Memorial Hall on Thursday, 2nd October 2008 at 7.15 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR J DUTTON
CHAIRMAN**

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