

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT GRESFORD METHODIST CHURCH HALL ON 6th June 2019

Members Present

Councillors A. Bailey, M. J. Edwards, J. Dutton, B. Blackmore, M. Harriman, S. Atherton, J. Blackmore, J. Hobbley, K. Hobbley, A. Atkinson

Chair: Councillor A. Bailey.

Clerk: Serena Baxter.

Apologies given and accepted: Councillors. R. Smith, J Holmes R. Gilmartin, M. Wilde

451. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted.

452. 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.

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

454. POLICE REPORT: PCSO. Lawrence presented a report outlining instances of crime across Gresford and Marford during May 2019. Of note was an incidence concerning around 50 youths in the quarry which was related to school leaving or end of term PCSO Lawrence explained the difficulties of dealing with perpetrators in an area such as the quarry. The Clerk enquired about follow up action to the flare being released, caught on CCTV, and the Chair advised of an upcoming beer festival. The Clerk advised the Council that the Inspector is to attend the meeting on the 5th September and the Chair asked for consideration of items that would need to be raised. The Chair also advised of a forum meeting organised by the Inspector to be held on the 4th July. It was agreed that Councillor Atherton will attend this forum on behalf of the Council. Items suggested for inclusion at both meetings included Pont Y Capel lane and anti-social behaviour, and the 50mph speed limit on the bypass approaching Gresford, following which there appears to have been a risk in incidents and near- misses. Statistics were requested together with any evidence of emissions having been reduced. It was also stated that people are going through the red lights on the roundabout and overtaking at the crossing. The Clerk also advised of the response received from the Traffic unit of North Wales Police, following the letter sent by the Council highlighting a number of these issues. The PCSO was thanked for her report.

455. MINUTES OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2nd May 2019: The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd May 2019 were **AGREED** as a true record.

456. MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: The Clerk circulated a table of actions and progress since the last meeting. These were **NOTED**. In terms of Actions concerning speeding from the previous meeting, Councillor Atkinson advised on the process with data collected from speed monitoring exercises. It has to go to Welsh Government to see if it is sufficient to qualify for a lower speed area.

457. ONGOING MATTERS

i. **7 Chester Road:** Councillor Atkinson advised he is not aware of any further progress. Councillor Harriman suggested and it was **AGREED**, to write again to WCBC pointing out the current state of the area. **Action: Clerk will write letter.**

ii. **Clappers Lane flooding** - Councillor Atkinson advised that he has gone around the area with the Highways manager, looking at flooding hotspots. A discussion took place about the area next to the Trust land gateway. The Clerk advised on a response received from WCBC after requesting the matter be raised at Town and Community Council forum. It was **AGREED** to request this be raised at the Forum in September. Councillor Atkinson will continue to pursue it in the meantime.

iii. **High Street, Gresford:** Councillor Atkinson updated on this matter in his report.,

- iv. **Pont Y Capel Lane.** The Clerk advised that no further response had been received although she had chased the matter.
- v. **Marford Play Area:** The Clerk advised of response received from WCBC which had been reported to the General Amenities Committee, concerning both the future management of the area and the recent requests to WCBC to maintain the area. The most recent response suggested WCBC would attend to the hedge when the nesting season was over. It was mentioned that the hedge is over the pavement and a hazard for pedestrians. **Action: Clerk to advise WCBC and request urgent work.** Councillor B. Blackmore advised of a request made to mark the football pitch out at Marford Play area
- vi. **Marford Community Centre:** The Clerk advised the letter had been sent to WCBC, and via the response made to Planning department. A response had been received from the Planning department, stating the points raised were not Planning matters but were matters for the landlord. This was reiterated by Councillor Edwards. Councillor Atkinson declared an interest in this matter, due to knowing the playgroup manager on a social basis. (Councillor Atkinson left the meeting). No response had as yet been received from WCBC, who had been written to by the Council in their capacity as landlord of the Centre. It was reported that the Application for Planning had been approved. Concerns about the Community Centre's availability for use by the residents of Marford to use were reiterated. **Action: Clerk to pursue a response from WCBC to the concerns raised via letter.**

458. GRESFORD HEALTH CENTRE- ONGOING MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION: Councillor Blackmore updated the Council on the Patient Engagement group meeting held at Llay, attended by herself and Councillor Holmes. It had been stated that available land may need to be used if the school is to expand. A discussion took place about the possibility of a hub operating from Gresford and other matters. The Clerk advised that a letter has been sent to WCBC requesting additional signage. The Clerk also advised that further to the offer to meet made by BCUHB, that the most suitable date for most appeared to be 16th July and she had therefore responded to them and was awaiting confirmation.

459. CEMETERY COMMITTEE

- i. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 8th May 2019 were noted.
- ii. **Approval to remove one tree from central location at a cost of £120.plus VAT.** After discussion about the advice received from WCBC's Tree officer, which had been considered by the Cemetery Committee in reaching its recommendation, the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee was **Approved. One of the remaining three trees to be removed at the cost stated, and the remaining trees to be monitored and reviewed once the tree survey had taken place. Action: Clerk to place order for the work.** A discussion took place about the ongoing matter of the lease that has been raised with WCBC. It was stated that without a lease being in place it was important that the Council did not at this stage commit to too much expenditure. The issue of Planning Permission for the Cemetery expansion area being insisted upon by WCBC was also discussed, despite the existence of a covenant. Councillor Harriman requested that the item 'Cemetery Lease ' be put on the next Council agenda. **Action : Clerk**

460. FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- i. **The Minutes** of the Meeting held on the 3rd June 2019 were **noted.** Councillor Edwards advised on a number of items arising from the Minutes. A grant application had previously been considered from the Organising Committee for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of Gresford Trust. Councillor Edwards advised that all information requested had now been received and the Committee were now satisfied the award of the grant could be recommended to proceed, as an exception. It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 to the Organising Committee, as an exception , to be spent on the Village celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Trust. **Action: Clerk to arrange payment.**
- ii. **Lead Councillor Policy:** Consideration was given to the revised document , and the recommendation of the Finance Committee to adopt the document. Council were advised that the policy is recommended to be called 'Designated Project lead policy. However , as this was the first opportunity Councillors not on the Finance Committee had had to peruse the

document, the decision was deferred to the next Council meeting on the 4th July .**Action: Clerk to place on agenda.**

- iii. **Report of Internal Audit:-** A copy of the report received from the Internal Auditor was considered and Councillor Edwards drew members attention to the two items raised. It was **RESOLVED** to formally accept the report, and it was noted that the two items raised had already been addressed.
- iv. **Approval for submission of Annual Return as set out:** (Councillor Atkinson rejoined the meeting.) The Annual Return for submission were circulated by the Clerk and was formally **AGREED to be submitted to the External Auditor.**
- v. **Update from Allotments Task group:** A report was received outlining the meeting that had taken place recently with the Council's Solicitor appointed for this purpose, Mr Gareth Kelly. In view of his discussions with the University of Wales, Mr Kelly was recommending that the Council form a charity, and to be the Trustee of that charity and one other Trustee which could be the Clerk. The Clerk reported she had sought the advice of One Voice Wales on this. (Councillor Atkinson left the meeting). After discussion on the matter, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the solicitor's advice and form a charity, and to agree the name of that charity as 'Gresford Allotment and Recreational Trust'. **Action: Clerk to inform Solicitor of outcome.**

461. COUNCIL PENSION SCHEME: This item was **deferred** to the next Council meeting on request of the Clerk, who is awaiting further information.

462. GENERAL AMENITIES COMMITTEE:

- i. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on the 21st May 2019 were **noted**. Councillor Bailey, in the absence of the Chair of General Amenities Committee updated on a number of matters arising. The Lake clear up is to be arranged, and he and the Clerk will arrange to meet with Ms Williams as previously, regarding skips to be ordered. The Algae in the lake was highlighted and it was stated that IMAGE had sourced a product which could be purchased and put into the lake to deal with the Algae. Councillor Dutton suggested barley straw could be obtained. Councillor Blackmore advised she has received further requests about a throwline. Councillor Atherton advised on project operation London Bridge. Councillor Edwards raised an issue of the seat by the noticeboard in Marford. It was agreed that these matters would be put on the next Agenda of General Amenities Committee. **Action: Clerk to agenda items.**
- ii. **Agreement with GAJFC for use of the pitch at Allington Park:** Councillor Edwards gave an update on this matter.
- iii. **Approval to award Tree survey:** It was reported that a number of quotations had been received from approved contractors. The General Amenities Committee had made a recommendation for the work outlined in the specification to be awarded to the contractor quoting £750 for the survey and the subsequent report. It was **RESOLVED to agree this recommendation for the amount of £750.**

463. LIGHTING COMMITTEE:

- i. **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 31st May 2019:** Councillor Harriman thanked the Clerk for her prompt completion of the minutes of the meeting. The Minutes were **Noted**. Councillor Harriman updated the Council on progress on lighting matters, including progress with the LED contract, and the replacement of nine columns since the last meeting. Salix funding has now been agreed and the Council is advised by the contractor that the LED's on order for installation are in process. Councillor Harriman advised that all Councillors will be informed of the commencement date and information for residents will be put in Essentials, the noticeboard and on the website once the dates have been confirmed.
- ii. **Future Lighting Maintenance Contract:** Councillor Harriman advised on the need to give three months' notice if the current arrangements in place with WCBC are to terminate. Committee has considered the matter and would recommend the termination of the current arrangement. A discussion took place about the recommendation of the Committee and it was **RESOLVED** to give three months' notice to WCBC that the current Maintenance Agreement arrangements for Lighting Maintenance will end in September 2019. **Action: Clerk.**

- iii. **Approval for expenditure of £260 plus VAT for sleeves for lighting columns Units 177 and 178 Stancliffe Avenue:** Councillor Harriman advised on the background to the need for this expenditure. It was **RESOLVED** that the expenditure on the sleeves of £260 is to go ahead as stated.

464. NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013-2028. This matter was noted by the Council. Councillor Bailey stated he would attend the pre-hearing.

465. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED):

- i. P/2019/0336: Outline Planning Application for proposed residential development to form 8 No. Mews style properties in two blocks of 4 No. Units with central access point and associated parking to the rear. Land South of the paddock, Old Wrexham Road, Gresford, Wrexham:- The Council wished to reiterate their original objections to this development as it does not appear that anything has altered in this new submission. These objections are: That the proposed development is outside the settlement area. There is an ancient and attractive hedgerow providing harbour for wildlife which will be lost. The new submission does not alter this impact. The ecology report is not accepted. There will be a loss of rural amenity. The properties opposite do not have parking and park on the roadway, therefore there will be difficulty with access opening as it would be across the way from parked cars, which would in turn give rise to traffic issues. There will be increased traffic in this location which the roadway may be unable to absorb.
- ii. P/2019/0399: Use of existing detached garage as ancillary living accommodation for family member: 20 Bryn y Groes, Gresford, Wrexham:- It was stated that as long as the accommodation provided is for use by the owners of 20 Bryn Y Groes and not occupied separately as a tenancy. The accommodation is ancillary and should remain so.
- iii. P/2019/0419: Construction of balcony with glass panels over existing front porch- Edenfield Sunnyridge Avenue, Marford,. Wrexham:- There were no objections raised.
- iv. P/2019/0409: Proposed Garage extension and canopy over side entrance door- 8 Bryn Y Groes, Gresford, Wrexham:-There were no objections raised.

466. FINANCE:

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

Date	Payment To	Reason	Amount
8.5.19	Came and Company	Additional Insurance cover fee	67.62
20.5.19	BT	Contract re: CCTV	120.60
31.5.19	Vodafone	Contract re: Council telephone	10.76
6.6.19	WCBC	Refuse Charges Cemetery	749.50
6.6.19	JDH	Audit fees	412.08
6.6.19	AVOW	Membership fees	10.00
6.6.19	Scottish Power	Electricity supply	840.50
6.6.19	Encore Office Systems	Maintenance of printer and printer costs	240.85
6.6.19	Gresford Trust	Hire of room	16.25
6.6.19	SR Electrical and security	Final instalment for CCTV installation	149.76
6.6.19	One Voice Wales	Training fees	80.00
6.6.19	NJW Grounds Maintenance	Monthly contract charges grass cutting	1032.00
6.6.19	Steve Pugh	Gravedigging services	250.00
6.6.19	Gresford Trust	Hire of rooms for the year	294.00
6.6.19	Michelle Jones	NJC Salary	
6.6.19	Serena Baxter	NJC Salary	
6.6.19	HMRC	Monthly amount due	

467. WREXHAM COUNTY BROUGH COUNCIL REPORTS:

- i. A report was received from the Borough Councillor for Gresford. This detailed his progress with resurfacing of roads and road markings and highlighted the retirement of the Head of All Saints School. The Council resolved to send a card. The report was accepted by the Council and the contents noted. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. There was no report put forward by the Borough Councillor for Marford , who could not attend the meeting.
- iii. Concerns were expressed about communications with the Borough Councillor about Marford issues. There has been no feedback for some time on matters such as the Rofft School governors. A general discussion ensued about routine non-attendance by Community Councillors and the Clerk was asked to provide an updated report. It was suggested that for all Community Councillors, if attendance becomes difficult for any reason, that Councillors should consider stepping down to create a vacancy which can be filled by someone able to attend. Non- attendance can impact on the ability of some committees to form a quorum and on the decision making and actions that need to follow on. **Action: Clerk to update attendance report and circulate.**

468. MEMBER’S URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- i. **Collier’s Park:** Councillor Harriman advised the meeting that he had noticed that Collier’s Park was nearing completion and suggested that the Council might request an opportunity to take a look around the new development. Councillor B. Blackmore advised that the Council should complement the developers as there appeared to have been no trouble with lorries as had been anticipated. It was also suggested that there might be an opportunity for the schools, scouts and guides to visit. **Action : Clerk to make request.**
- ii. Councillor Harriman asked for the minutes of the Larger Councils meeting to be circulated to all Councillors .

469. CORRESPONDENCE: Items of Correspondence were tabled in a report from the Clerk, as received by the Council for the month of May 2019 and these were **NOTED.**

470. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Council will be held on the **4th July 2019 at 7.15p.m. at the Gresford Trust Memorial Hall.**

COUNCILLOR A. Bailey.

CHAIR **Date.....**