

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Gwersyllt Community Council held at the Gwersyllt Community Resource Centre on Wednesday, 15 July 2015**

**Members**

Councillor Bernie McCann, Chair

Councillor Arfon Jones, Vice-Chair

Councillors Martyn Davies

David Edwards

Bob Gray

David Griffiths

Raymond Hughes

Mrs. Gwenfair Jones

\*Mrs. Sheelagh Jones

\*Sarah Morris

Councillors Charles Rigby

Mrs. Jackie Roberts

\*Mrs. June White

\*Mrs. Maureen Williams

\*Michael Williams

Mike Wilde

\*Dennis Wynne

\* Absent

**41. CONGRATULATIONS**

On behalf of the Council, the Chair congratulated Councillors Arfon and Gwenfair Jones on the recent arrival of their baby granddaughter.

**42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. Sheelagh Jones, Mrs June White, Mrs. Maureen Williams, Michael Williams and Dennis Wynne.

**43. APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY AGENT**

The Clerk reported that Miss Justine Godfrey had been appointed to the post of part-time Community Agent and would be taking up her duties in the near future.

Justine was introduced to Council Members and they wished her well in her new role.

**44. POLICING IN THE COMMUNITY**

PCSO Dave Jones, deputising for the local PCSOs, was in attendance for this item.

(i) **Monthly Crime Reports** – The crime reports for June 2015 were presented and the following matters highlighted during the ensuing discussion:

- **Phone Link to Neighbourhood Policing Team** – A Member expressed concern about the absence of a direct line to the local Neighbourhood Policing team.
- **School Crossing Patrol Service – Gwersyllt CP School** – A Member called for the Police to maintain a presence by the school during the drop-off and pick-up times for children in the continued absence of the School Crossing Patrol Officer.
- **Gwersyllt West- Assaults** – Councillor Arfon Jones said that he would like to discuss this matter further with the local PCSO.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour – Redrow Estate, Mold Road, Gwersyllt** – It was reported that complaints had been received about youngsters causing damage to trees on this new estate and the Clerk was asked to bring the matter to the attention of the local PCSOs.
- **Under Age Drinking – Use of Fake ID** – Concerns were raised about the use of fake ID by under age drinkers to gain admission to licensed premises in the town centre. PCSO Jones indicated that the matter could be taken up with Trading Standards and with the Police’s licensing team. In addition, Members requested that the matter be drawn to the attention of ‘Night Safe’ and the County Borough Council’s licensing team.
- **Representation of the Neighbourhood Policing Team at Council Meetings** – Members were disappointed to note that for the second month in succession no members of the local Neighbourhood Policing team were available to attend the monthly Council meeting and the Clerk was asked to convey Members’ concerns to Inspector Jacqueline Downes. Members thanked PCSO David Jones for his attendance.
- **Liaison Between Tenancy Enforcement Officers and the Police** – Brief reference was made to two recent domestic related incidents in Gwersyllt West, leading Members to ask whether the Police and the County Borough Council’s Tenancy Enforcement Officers liaise with each other in the case of any such incidents involving Council tenants given that anti-social behaviour, especially threatening behaviour, domestic violence or abuse, was contrary to the Council’s tenancy conditions and could lead to eviction. The Clerk was asked to take up the matter with the County Borough Council.

(ii) **Clerk’s Report** – The Clerk submitted a report for Members to review the Council’s previously agreed policing priorities.

In addition, on the subject of anti-social behaviour, the report contained a response from Mr. Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive, North Wales Police, recommending the Council to continue working with the local Inspector (Jacqueline Downes) and neighbourhood policing team and advising that if the matters causing concern to the Council were issues that required a partnership approach then the local Inspector would raise this with the relevant authority. The Clerk added that Inspector Downes would be attending the Council’s next meeting in September to discuss Members’ concerns and issues.

**RESOLVED –**

**(i) That the Council’s previously agreed policing priorities, as outlined in the Clerk’s report, be re-affirmed.**

**(ii) That the response from the Chief Executive, North Wales Police, be noted.**

**45. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

The Chair (Councillor Bernie McCann) and Councillor David Griffiths advised that they intended to declare personal, but non-prejudicial interests in Agenda Item 11 (Planning Applications).

#### **46. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 June 2015 be received and confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following correction:**

**That the reference in Minute 34 (Page 6) to an unconfirmed report about the reletting of the former Tesco Store in Dodds Lane be deleted.**

**Matters arising –**

**Page 2 – Minute 25 - Leaning Telegraph Pole in Summerhill Road, near the Pendine Nursing Home** – A Member said that she was pleased to report that this telegraph pole, which had been the subject of a number of complaints on safety grounds, had now been replaced.

**Page 3 – Minute 27 – Gwersyllt Outreach Project** – The Clerk reported that the Citizen's Advice Bureau had confirmed that the Gwersyllt Outreach Project sessions would be reduced from 5 hours to 3 hours per week in line with the Council's recent instructions. Members **approved** payment of the Council's grant of £2065.06 for the period 1 June to 31 August 2015.

#### **47. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND BANK RECONCILIATION FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

The Clerk presented his statement of income and expenditure and bank reconciliation for the quarter ended 30 June 2015.

In commenting on the matter, the Clerk drew particular attention to the Council's closing balances as at 30 June 2015 and advised that the Council's expenditure during the first quarter of the financial year had totalled £25,573.25. Members noted the Council's financial position.

A Member said that the children's playground in Second Avenue was in need of more equipment and, in reply, the Clerk indicated that he would investigate the matter in consultation with the Environment Department with a view to seeking quotations.

**RESOLVED – That the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Bank Reconciliation for the Quarter Ended 30 June 2015 be received.**

#### **48. PROPOSED 2015 COMPOSITE ORDER FOR WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

The Clerk submitted a letter and accompanying information from the Network Policy & Road Safety Manager, Wrexham County Borough Council, concerning the proposed introduction of a number of parking and waiting restrictions on various roads throughout the County Borough in order to ensure the safe movement of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the highway.

Members noted the specific proposals relating to Summerhill. In particular, concerns were expressed about the proposal to introduce parking restrictions in Caer Haf.

**RESOLVED – That the County Borough Council be informed that the Community Council strongly objects to the proposal to introduce parking restrictions in Caer Haf, Summerhill, on the following grounds:**

- **The Council considers the proposal to be unjustified since no safety reasons have been put forward in support of it.**
- **The adjacent Summerhill Institute is the only village hall/community centre in this part of Gwersyllt and users are dependent on the availability of on-street parking. It is becoming increasingly difficult for parents to drop off their children for the pre-school playgroup sessions at the Institute and the current proposal, if approved, will exacerbate the situation.**
- **The availability of on-street parking in this locality is crucial to the continued survival of the Institute and the Council fears that if the proposal is approved the Institute’s days will be numbered.**
- **The Council considers that there is no need for the residents of Caer Haf to park on the road, since they have ample driveways and so the logic behind the proposal must be questioned.**
- **The Council is of the opinion that if the County Borough Council is minded to proceed with this ill-conceived proposal then it should consider the provision of a public parking area on part of the adjacent recreation land.**

#### **49. PLAY AREAS IN GWERSYLLT**

##### **(i) Annual Inspection Reports:**

The Clerk reported receipt of the Annual Inspection Reports from the County Borough Council in respect of the various play areas in Gwersyllt for which the Community Council was providing funding support by way of a service level agreement with the County Borough Council. Copies of the reports had been circulated to Members electronically.

Commenting, briefly, on the matter, a Member emphasised the need to deal with the replacement of any rotten woodwork as a matter of priority.

A Member remarked that she would be meeting the Clerk and a representative of the Environment Department towards the end of this month to discuss the possible installation of a suitable gate at the play area in New Road, Summerhill.

**RESOLVED – That the matter be noted.**

##### **(ii) Inspection and Maintenance of Play Areas – Service Level Agreement with the County Borough Council:**

**RESOLVED – To approve payment of the County Borough Council’s invoice for the first half yearly instalment of £5417.00 for this service.**

#### **50. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

##### **(i) 1<sup>st</sup> Summerhill Guides:**

Members considered an application for financial assistance from the 1<sup>st</sup> Summerhill Guides towards the cost of arranging a 4 day camp at the Shropshire Guidings County and Activity

Centre in late July/early August. It was noted that 15 members of the guides were expected to take part in this venture at a cost of £45.00 per person.

Commenting on the matter, a Member remarked that the applicants should consider undertaking some fundraising and suggested that they might wish to approach Wrexham Football Club or the local Crusaders Rugby League Club with a view to organising a collection at a future match at the Racecourse Ground.

**RESOLVED – That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), a grant of £350.00 be made to the 1<sup>st</sup> Summerhill Guides for this purpose.**

**(ii) Possible Provision of Grants Scheme/Fund to Assist Exceptionally Gifted/Talented Young People:**

**RESOLVED – That a Sub-Committee comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair, together with Councillors Martyn Davies, Ray Hughes and Mike Wilde, be set up to discuss this proposal further and report back with draft terms of reference for the Council’s consideration.**

## **51. PLANNING MATTERS**

**(i) Applications for Planning Permission:**

The Clerk sought Members’ instructions on recent applications for planning permission.

**RESOLVED – That the Local Planning Authority be advised as follows:**

**P/2015/0468 – Rear Conservatory Extension – 37 St. Giles Park, Gwersyllt:**

The Council has no objection to this application.

**P/2014/0876 – Amended Plans – Outline Application for a Maximum of 369 Dwellings and Approval of Two New Vehicular and Pedestrian Accesses – Land East of Tan-y-Bont:**

The Council has decided to re-affirm its previous objections to the proposed development as conveyed to the Local Planning Authority in December 2014 and, in support of these objections, makes the following additional comments:

1. The Council considers that little regard (if any) has been paid to the Wales Spatial Plan in bringing the application forward for discussion by the Planning Committee. It is particularly concerned that the community of Gwersyllt is becoming a regular target for new development at a time when the preparation process for the Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 for 2013-2028 has yet to be completed. This is putting the community under great pressure and is, in the Council’s opinion, contrary to the spirit of the Wales Spatial Plan which promotes the building of sustainable communities whilst retaining their character and distinctiveness.
2. Furthermore, the Council considers that there are strong reasons to refuse planning permission in this case on grounds of prematurity particularly having regard to the following:
  - the development plan is still in preparation and has yet to be adopted or approved

- the submitted development proposals are so substantial that any decisions need to be taken in the context of an approved development plan
- the proposals would have a significant impact on the nearby settlements

**P/2015/0495 – Single Storey Side Extension – Gresford View, Bottom Road, Summerhill:**

**The Council has no objection to this application, but considers that the design should reflect the existing dwelling and retain the character of the original property.**

(In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillors David Griffiths and Bernie McCann both declared personal, but non-prejudicial interests in this matter, by virtue of their positions as members of the County Borough Council's Planning Committee, and remained in the meeting taking part in the item.)

**(ii) Planning Appeal – P/2014/0480 - Land Opposite St. Peter's Close, off Llay New Road, Rhosrobin** - The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from The Planning Inspectorate advising that this appeal had been dismissed.

Members noted the matter.

**52. CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Clerk submitted a report containing information on the following matters:

- Completion of the Annual Audit 2015
- Street Lighting
- Themed Benches
- Land off First Avenue and Renfrew Close, Gwersyllt

In addition, the Clerk reported upon the following:

- A proposal by the Holy Trinity Church Council to run a summer holiday breakfast project at the Gwersyllt Community Resource Centre for the benefit of local children.
- The purpose of the community payback service.
- A request for Groundwork to provide options, with costings, for revamping the Peace Garden in Old Mold Road, opposite the Memorial Garden, following recent complaints about the appearance of this site.
- A recent letter from Sam Wilde thanking the Council for its kind and generous donation (Minute 234, 15 April 2015 refers) and offering to prepare a presentation for Council Members on his participation in the World Scout Jamboree.

**RESOLVED -**

**(i) (a) That the report of the external auditor, UHY Hacker Young of Chester, be received, that formal notice of conclusion of the audit be published on the Council's website and that the auditor's invoice for £498.00 be paid.**

**(b) That the three cheques referred to in paragraph 1.2 of the Clerk's report totalling £310.00 be cancelled and that a donation for the same amount be made to 'Cefn-y-Bedd Senior Citizens', subject to the provision of receipts showing how the money has been used.**

(ii) (a) To endorse the action taken in consultation with the Chair to authorise Jones Lighting Ltd. to install new lanterns to two faulty street lights in Glan Llyn Road, Bradley, at a cost of £184.34 plus VAT per lantern.

(b) That Jones Lighting Ltd. be authorised to proceed with the installation of a replacement light in Hollybush Close, Bradley, at a cost of £1066.84 plus VAT.

(iv) That the information contained in the Clerk's report about themed benches be recirculated to all Members and that they be invited to identify, for the Council's consideration, suggested sites for the installation of such benches.

(v) That a letter be sent to Mr. Lee Robinson, Strategic Director, Wrexham County Borough Council, and copied to the relevant Lead Member, asking whether the Council's unused land off First Avenue and Renfrew Close, Gwersyllt, could be made available for use as allotments or a community garden and, if so, on what terms and conditions.

(vi) That, in the case of the summer holiday breakfast project, the Holy Trinity Church Council be advised that the Council will meet the costs associated with the hire of the Resource Centre for this purpose and would wish to receive a report on the success of the project.

### **53. MEMBERS' ISSUES/CONCERNS**

The Clerk was asked to take up the following matters:

- The need for the road markings in Main Road, Rhosrobin, to be renewed.
- Members' concerns about the overgrown hedge to the rear of the elderly persons' bungalows in Bryn Coed.
- A suggestion that a new flag be acquired for the Gwersyllt Community Resource Centre.

### **54. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The proposed Forward Work Programme for the Council, for the period 1 September to 30 November 2015 was submitted.

**RESOLVED – That the Forward Work Programme be approved.**

### **55. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED – That the following accounts be paid:**

- Wrexham County Borough Council – Total Employers Costs paid in June 2015 - £2010.82 (Cheque No. 102382)
- Wrexham County Borough Council - Recharge for Printing the Council Agenda Papers – £68.10 (Cheque No.102383)
- Scottish Power - Street Lighting Energy Charges – 31/05/15 – 30/06/15 - £1606.91 (Cheque No. 102384)
- Margaret Forbes - Purchase of Plants for the Memorial Garden - £21.90 (Cheque No. 102385)
- P. J. Mullen – Petty Cash - £50.00 (Cheque No. 102386)

- **J. Jones Consultancy/Jones the Computer – Supply a new AV – Monitor 22” - £109.00 (Cheque No. 102387)**
- **Jones Lighting Ltd. – Street Lighting Monthly Maintenance Charge - £1401.37 (Cheque No. 102388)**

#### **56. INFORMATION ITEMS**

The following information items were noted:

- North Wales Community Health Council – Treatment and Care of Dementia Patients – News Release
- Collection and Management of Devolved Taxes – Written statement from Jane Hutt, Minister for Finance, Welsh Government
- Wrexham Area Civic Society – Information about the Society’s role and its desire to work more closely with its corporate members
- Presentation of World War I Remembrance Bench to Ysgol Bryn Alyn – Letter of thanks from Sarah Liddell, Teacher of History, Ysgol Bryn Alyn

#### **57. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED – That under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and representatives of the press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**

#### **58. BRADLEY SKATE PARK – TENDERS**

The Clerk reported upon the three quotations received by the County Borough Council for this proposed scheme, adding that the Community Council had made a provision in its budget for the construction of a new skate park in Bradley.

**RESOLVED – That the quotation submitted by Freeskate in the sum of £39,999.00 be accepted on the basis that the works shall be funded by the Community Council but managed by the County Borough Council.**

#### **59. PROPOSED REPAINTING OF PLAY EQUIPMENT**

Further to Minute 135 of the Council (17 December 2014), the Chair reported that quotations were being sought for the repainting of various items of playground equipment. It was hoped quotations would be obtained by the middle of August with a view to the works being carried out in early September.

**RESOLVED – That a Sub-Committee comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair, together with Councillors David Edwards and Ray Hughes, be set up to accept a quotation for this work given that the Council will not be meeting again until September.**

#### **60. REVIEW OF ASSETS REGISTER**

**RESOLVED – That consideration of this matter be deferred to a subsequent meeting.**

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