

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Gwersyllt Community Council held at the Gwersyllt Community Resource Centre on Wednesday, 13 May 2015

Members

Councillor Bernie McCann, Chair
Councillor Arfon Jones, Vice-Chair

Councillors	Martyn Davies	Councillors	Charles Rigby
	David Edwards		*Mrs. Jackie Roberts
	Bob Gray		*Mrs. June White
	David Griffiths		*Mrs. Maureen Williams
	Raymond Hughes		Michael Williams
	*Mrs. Gwenfair Jones		Mike Wilde
	*Mrs. Sheelagh Jones		Dennis Wynne
	*Sarah Morris		

* Absent

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. Gwenfair Jones, Mrs. Sheelagh Jones, Sarah Morris, Mrs. Jackie Roberts, Mrs. June White and Mrs. Maureen Williams.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2015/16

RESOLVED – That Councillor Bernie McCann be elected Chairman of the Council for 2015/16.

Councillor McCann thanked the Council for electing him Chairman and acknowledged the hard work undertaken by his predecessor, Councillor Michael Williams, on the Council's behalf during his term of office. Members congratulated Councillor Williams on a job well done.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2015/16

RESOLVED – That Councillor Arfon Jones be appointed Vice-Chair of the Council for 2015/16.

4. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES/PANELS/WORKING GROUPS ETC.

RESOLVED –

(i) That the following Sub-Committees/Panels/Working Groups be appointed:

***Appointments Committee* comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair, together with Councillors Martyn Davies, Mrs. Sheelagh Jones, Mrs. June White, Michael Williams and Dennis Wynne.**

Role – To deal with matters relating to the Clerk’s appointment/role and make recommendations to Council.

***Wrexham Local Development Plan Sub-Committee* comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair, together with Councillors Martyn Davies, Bob Gray, David Griffiths, Michael Williams and Mike Wilde.**

Role – To agree a response on the Council’s behalf to the County Borough Council’s consultations on the Wrexham Local Development Plan.

***Appointments Panel (Community Agent)* - comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair, together with Councillors Mrs. Gwenfair Jones and Mike Wilde.**

Role – To interview applicants for the post of Community Agent and make an appointment.

***Inspection of Play Areas Sub-Committee* - comprising the Chair together with Councillors Bob Gray, David Griffiths, Mrs. Gwenfair Jones and Mike Wilde.**

Role – To inspect the various play areas covered by the service level agreement with the County Borough Council and make recommendations to the Community Council as appropriate.

***Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Outbreak of World War I Working Group* - comprising the Chair together with Councillors Martyn Davies, Bob Gray, David Griffiths, Michael Williams and Mike Wilde.**

Role – To discuss ideas and suggestions for commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Outbreak of World War I.

***Street Lighting Sub-Committee* - comprising the Chair together with Councillors David Griffiths and Michael Williams.**

Role – To check on the operation of the Council’s street lighting units; to consider the need for any additional units to be provided and to monitor the performance of the Council’s street lighting maintenance contractor.

(ii) That Councillors David Griffiths and Michael Williams, together with the Clerk, be authorised to represent the Council in discussions with Bradley Bowling Club concerning the proposed assignment of the lease of Bradley Bowling Green.

5. VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS – POLICING IN THE COMMUNITY

It was agreed that Agenda Item 7 (Policing in the Community) be brought forward and dealt with prior to the Council’s other business.

Sergeant Rhian Hughes, PCSO Aled Hughes and PCSO Nicole Smith were in attendance for this item.

The crime reports for April 2015 were presented and the following matters were highlighted during the ensuing discussion:

- In answer to Members' concerns about the increasing problem of anti-social behaviour, Sergeant Hughes assured the Council that the Neighbourhood Policing team were taking action by way of issuing yellow cards to culprits, visiting parents and obtaining funding for the provision of diversionary activities: a Member remarked that it was important to let local residents know what action was being taken.
- Arising from comments about recent stone throwing incidents on the railway embankment in High Street, Gwersyllt, the Clerk was asked to provide Sergeant Hughes with a copy of Councillor David Griffiths' recent e-mail on this subject.
- A Member expressed his thanks to the Neighbourhood Policing team for their response to recent problems of anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the garage in Mold Road, Gwersyllt, adding that a local resident had contacted him to say that the action taken by the Police was much appreciated.
- Concerns were expressed about recent acts of vandalism at Ysgol Heulfan, with a Member calling for an increased Police presence to deter would be vandals.
- The Neighbourhood Policing team were asked to maintain a presence in Dodds Lane, by Gwersyllt CP School, during the school drop-off and pick-up times until such time as the School Crossing Patrol service was restored.

Sergeant Hughes and her colleagues were thanked for their attendance.

6. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillors David Griffiths and Bernie McCann gave notice of their intention to declare personal, but non-prejudicial interests in Agenda Item 14 (Planning Applications).

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 April 2015 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

Matter arising -

Page 2 - Minute 215 – Policing in the Community – Invitation to the Police and Crime Commissioner to Visit Gwersyllt – The Clerk reported a response from the personal assistant to the Police and Crime Commissioner indicating that it was considered that the best way forward for the Council was to keep liaising with Inspector Jacqueline Downes as the matters giving cause for concern were operational issues.

Arising from Members' comments, the Clerk was asked to express the Council's disappointment at the decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner not to accept its invitation to visit Gwersyllt at this time to discuss Members' concerns and issues.

8. CCTV PROVISION IN GWERSYLLT

Further to Minute 219 of the Council (15 April 2015), the Clerk reported receipt of a draft 1 year service level agreement from the County Borough Council's Assets and Economic Development Department, outlining the maintenance, monitoring and management arrangements for the six CCTV cameras in Gwersyllt.

RESOLVED – That funding support of £9000.00 (i.e. £1500.00 per camera) be made available in the financial year 2015/16 only to enable the County Borough Council to maintain, monitor and manage the CCTV service in Gwersyllt and that the matter be reviewed after 12 months.

9. FRACKING

Correspondence from Frack Free Wrexham, an organisation opposing the exploratory drilling for (allegedly) coal bed methane and (more likely) shale gas at Borrás Head Farm, Borrás, calling upon Community Councils to pass a motion to declare their areas Frack Free, was submitted. It was noted that Caia Park Community Council had recently passed a motion to this effect.

Speaking in support of the request from Frack Free Wrexham, several Members expressed concern about the potential impact of this process on water supplies, adding that calls had been made for Councils to consider the matter from a preventative point of view. A number of other Members, however, considered that the Council required more information to assist it in debating the matter fully and coming to a view.

RESOLVED – That the correspondence from Frack Free Wrexham be noted.

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY AGENT

The Clerk reported that the closing date for submission of applications for this post had been extended to Friday, 22 May 2015.

The matter was noted.

11. POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANTS SCHEME TO HELP GIFTED/TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE

It was reported that, pursuant to previous instructions of the Council, all four local schools had been formally consulted about this idea and invited to nominate a representative to participate in discussions with the Working Group set up by the Council to develop firm proposals and clear parameters for the Council's consideration. It was noted, however, that the schools had not responded or provided any feedback.

RESOLVED –

(i) That the proposal to develop such a grants scheme be abandoned and that any future applications for financial assistance from gifted/talented young people living in Gwersyllt be considered on their merits.

(ii) That the Grants Scheme to Help Gifted and Talented Young People Working Group be not re-appointed.

12. LOCAL COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL 2015/2016

RESOLVED – To approve payment of the Council's renewal premium of £2518.97 to Aon UK Limited.

13. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLVED –

(i) That the Council be represented at the next meeting of the Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum on Thursday, 11 June, 2015 by Councillors David Edwards, Bob Gray and Charles Rigby.

(ii) That the invitation to be represented at the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Conference at Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, on Wednesday, 8 July 2015 be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

14. 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/2015/0260 (Outline Application for Residential Development (50 Dwellings) – Part of Disused Railway Land to the rear of Briarswood and Land off Main Road, Rhosrobin) –

Having objected to a previous application for residential development at this location, the Council is strongly opposed to the current application for the same reasons namely:

- The site is outside the settlement limit.
- The site forms part of the green barrier and the proposed development is contrary to a number of existing planning policies which have been put in place to protect belts of open countryside and to safeguard the character of villages.
- The creation of a vehicular access from the busy main road would be unacceptable and serve only to exacerbate the traffic problems that occur in this locality on a daily basis.

P/2015/0270 (Proposed Erection of 6 Dwellings on Land Adjacent to and east of Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Gwersyllt) - The Council is concerned that this application, if granted, will increase the traffic impact from existing and proposed new residential developments adjacent to the busy A541 Mold Road. Trying to turn out of Church Street onto the A541, particularly at busy times of the day, is nigh on impossible and with a new development it will be even more difficult. The Council considers it imperative that a study be undertaken to understand the traffic impact of such developments. The Council is opposed to the application and recommends that such a study be undertaken as soon as possible.

P/2015/0285 (Outline Application for Erection of Dwelling – Hafod House, New Road, Summerhill) – The Council has no objection to this application, but would prefer to see a bungalow (rather than a house) built on the site in question as this would be more in keeping with the character of the existing properties in the area.

P/2015/0291 (Erection of 3 Bedroom Dwelling and Alterations to Existing Access – Lynwood, 57 High Street, Gwersyllt) – The Council has no objection to this application, subject to retention of the traffic calming measures that have been put in place in High Street to reduce speeding (i.e. by the footbridge over the railway line and further along High Street towards the mini-roundabout).

P/2015/0306 (Creation of Vehicular Access, including lowering of kerb and creation of hardstanding – 42 Heol-y-Ffynnon, Bradley) – The Council has no objection to the application, subject to provision of the appropriate visibility splays.

P/2015/0308 (Display of Board Advertisement Signs on either side of entrance area – both to measure 1.219m x 1.829m. – Stansty Lodge, Mold Road, Stansty) – The Council has no objection to the application provided there shall be no other advertisement signs on site.

(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) Section 38 Appeal – Land Opposite St. Peter's Close, off Llay New Road, Rhosrobin – Erection of 117 Dwellings, including provision of a roundabout to provide access, new internal access roads, public open space and retention of existing footpath route:

Members received and noted a letter from the Head of Community Well-being and Development, Wrexham County Borough Council, advising that an appeal had been made to the Welsh Government against the County Borough Council's decision to refuse an application for planning permission in respect of the above proposal and that, as a result, an appeal hearing was to be held on 20 and 21 May in Meeting Room 3 at The Guildhall, Wrexham.

15. CLERK'S UPDATE

The Clerk reported receipt of a note from the Royal Court Sheltered Unit, Summerhill, thanking the Council for its recent donation.

16. MEMBERS' ISSUES/CONCERNS

The following matters were raised:

- In answer to a Member's complaint, Councillor David Griffiths reported that the County Borough Council had undertaken to deal with the faulty street light opposite the Olivet Chapel in Rhosrobin.
- Concerns were expressed about the establishment of an informal car-lot in Pandy, on land opposite the Gresford Sports and Social Club, and the Clerk was asked to take up the matter with the County Borough Council.
- It was reported that BT had been requested to investigate the Council's previously report complaint about a leaning telegraph pole in Summerhill Road, near the Pendine Nursing Home, and the Clerk was requested to seek an update.
- The Clerk was asked to inform Jones Lighting Ltd. about two faulty lighting units, namely unit 60 in Bottom Road, Summerhill, and a unit in Pine Close, Summerhill (no. ref. provided).
- Reference was made to an overgrown hedge in First Avenue, Gwersyllt, that was encroaching onto the pavement to the detriment of passers-by: the Clerk was asked to arrange for the matter to be investigated.
- Further to previous discussions, Councillor Arfon Jones reported that he had made enquiries concerning the Wheatsheaf Public House and it had been established that

the pub building was still in the ownership of Marstons Brewery, but that the car park belonged to another company and so could perhaps be earmarked for development in the future. He also reported that arrangements were to be made for a meeting to be held with Councillor Hugh Jones, Lead Member, Wrexham County Borough Council, to discuss the possible use of the vacant land off Renfrew Close, Gwersyllt, for allotments or similar purposes.

- A Member called for steps to be taken to extend the Council's website to include more links to other organisations and it was agreed that the matter be taken up by the Clerk.

17. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

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

RESOLVED – That the Forward Work Programme be approved.

18. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED – That the following accounts be paid:

- Wrexham County Borough Council – Total Employers Costs paid in April 2015 - £1577.81 (Cheque No. 102358)
- Wrexham County Borough Council – Community Street Lighting – Rechargeable Repairs for the Period 1 Jan. to 31 March 2015 - £331.08 (Cheque No. 102359)
- Wrexham County Borough Council – Community Street Lighting – Quarterly Maintenance for the Period 1 Jan. to 31 March 2015 - £2172.67 (Cheque No. 102360)
- Wrexham County Borough Council – Bradley Bowling Club – Electricity Consumption – February to April 2015 - £294.04 (Cheque No. 102361)
- Wrexham County Borough Council - Recharge for Photocopying and Printing the Council Agenda Papers – £76.23 (Cheque No.102362)
- Jones Lighting Ltd. – Community Street Lighting – Monthly Maintenance Charge - £1242.06 (Cheque No. 102363)
- Scottish Power - Street Lighting Energy Charges – 31/03/15 – 30/04/15 - £1606.91 (Cheque No. 102364)
- Michele Walker – Website Support and Maintenance for the Periods Jan. - Mar. 2015 and Apr.- June 2015 - £200.00 (Cheque No.102365)
- Society of Local Council Clerks – Fee for Attendance of the Chair and Clerk at the Wales Training Seminar held in Llandrindod Wells on Thursday, 14 May, 2015 - £165.60 (Cheque No. 102366)
- JDH Business Services Ltd. – 2014/2015 Internal Audit - £225.12 (Cheque No. 102367)
- P. J. Mullen – Petty Cash - £100.00 (Cheque No. 102368)

19. 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.

20. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2014/2015

The Clerk submitted the recently received Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2014/2015 prepared by JDH Business Services Ltd.

The Clerk also presented, for Members' consideration, the Annual Return for the Council for the financial year ended 31 March 2015.

RESOLVED –

(i) That the Clerk prepare a response to the recommendations made in the report, for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

(ii) That the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2015 be approved.

(iii) That JDH Business Services Ltd. be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for 2015/16.

21. ANNUAL APPRAISAL OF THE CLERK'S PERFORMANCE

Councillor Michael Williams reported that prior to this meeting the Appointments Committee had met to carry out the annual appraisal of the Clerk's performance. He outlined the Committee's views and recommendations.

RESOLVED –

(i) That the Clerk's working hours be increased from 18.5 to 20 hours per week.

(ii) That in recognition of his performance the Clerk's salary be increased by one increment to spinal column point 32 (pro rata based on 20 hours per week), such increase to be backdated to 1 April 2015.
