

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held on  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
at Community Council Offices, Prince Charles Road, Wrexham

Cllr M. King (Chair)  
Cllr B. Cameron (Vice Chair)

\*Cllr T. Calverley  
\*Cllr L. C. Crawford  
\*Cllr M. J. Downward  
Cllr B. Halley  
Cllr C. Harper  
Cllr A. J. Jeorrett  
\*Absent

\*Cllr J. Johnson  
Cllr S. Jones  
\*Cllr C. Lloyd  
Cllr L. M. Platt  
Cllr C. Powell  
Cllr Paul Williams

Also present:

Cllr. R. Prince  
Representative

County Councillor – Cartrefle Ward  
Wrexham Leader/ NWN Media

**98. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M. Downward, T. Calverley, J. Johnson and C. Lloyd .

**99. POLICE MATTERS**

There were no representatives from the Police or PCSOs present

**100. VOLUNTEER USE OF HAND HELD SPEED CAMERAS**

The Clerk explained that this item had been requested to be placed on the agenda by Cllr J. Johnson who was not present at the meeting due to illness. As a result, the item stood deferred to a future meeting.

**101. USE OF GLYPHOSATE WEEDKILLER IN THE COMMUNITY**

Cllr R. Prince was invited to address the meeting to express his concerns over the use of Glyphosate weed killer by Wrexham County Borough Council's Environment Department for the control of weeds.

His concerns centred on the fact that there was little use of trimmers to control weeds and that this year in particular, rather than using a narrow spray area of weed killer, there appeared to be a much wider use on the edges of open spaces, play areas and around open amenity areas adjacent to residential properties. Various photographs were circulated to demonstrate this.

He was concerned that there was increasing evidence proffered to suggest that the use of Glyphosate could be carcinogenic from eminent sources such as the International Agency for Cancer Research, Dr. Michael Antoniou – Kings College, London and other sources. Whilst there are contrary views, Cllr Prince feels that a precautionary approach should be taken and its use curtailed in line with some other Local Authorities such as Edinburgh.

It was noted that the EU had voted to extend the licence for the use of Glyphosate for a further five years. In voting against, France announced that the use of Glyphosate in France would be banned as soon as alternatives are found, and within three years at the latest.

Members supported Cllr Prince's concerns and had a divergence of views. Some felt that it was necessary to continue to spray paths and alleyways effectively and safely and others suggested that alternatives should be explored and trialed in a similar way to some London Areas and Cheshire West.

Cllr Prince was also advised to speak to Ms. L. Griffiths AM who held ministerial responsibility in Welsh Government for such environmental matters.

Following a full debate, the Chair thanked Cllr Prince for his address and it was **RESOLVED:**

*To write to Wrexham CBC to enquire if extensive use of Glyphosate weed killer was limited to Caia Park as other areas did not seem to have such large areas of grassland affected.*

*To ask what safety measures were in place when spraying around play areas (such as warning signs etc.)*

*To enquire what action they have taken in seeking alternative methods as some other Authorities had ceased using Glyphosate since 2016*

*To seek reassurance that health and safety were the highest priority.*

## **102. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs. M. King and L. Platt declared an interest in Agenda Item 12(ii) request for financial assistance by The Venture (Wrexham) Ltd as both are employed by the organisation.

## **103. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** *That the minutes of the Ordinary meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> November be received and adopted as a true record.*

**Matters arising:**

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## **104. RELOCATION OF SECURITY CAMERA (PM 86, 70, 50)**

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a quotation for a replacement column from Wrexham CBC.

## **105. TREES AND LIGHTING FOOTPATH QUEENSWAY SPORTS CENTRE ACROSS DUNKS (PM 92)**

It was reported that some progress had been made. Additional pruning works was to be carried out to the trees (scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017) and the lighting heads were to be replaced with led type lanterns which the Community Council agreed to fund. These are now on order.

## **106. PLAY AREA TO REAR OF BENJAMIN ROAD (PM 92)**

Cllr A. Jeorrett had undertaken some more research into possible alternative new play equipment and it was suggested that the details be forwarded to Wrexham County Borough Council to ensure that the equipment meets all of the relevant specifications and that they are happy to install.

It was further reported that the play area at Abenbury Fields was to close in March 2018 for refurbishment.

## **107. WITHDRAWAL OF PAPER COPIES OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS (PM 93)**

The Clerk reported that this had been considered earlier in the day at the Town & Community Council Forum meeting. It had been agreed that this would be considered again early in the New Year at a specially convened Forum meeting.

#### **108. MEMBERS REPORTS**

##### **Cllr. C. Harper –**

Referred to some research she had undertaken in terms of the effect and impact of the rolling out of the Universal Credit benefit system. She estimated that since the introduction of the roll out in October, some 200 or so Caia residents had contacted either the Advice Service, Caia Park Partnership Tenancy Support or the Local Housing Estate Office and that these figures did not include those presenting at the Job Centre.

**Cllr B Cameron** – Attended the Town & Community Council Forum to comment on an agenda item submitted by the Community Council in terms of the withdrawal of Communities First Funding by Welsh Government and the effect this would have on play provision in certain areas. Cllr B. Halley asked if the details surrounding the Communities First Legacy Fund was any clearer. It was noted that further guidance from W.G. on this matter is expected soon.

**Cllr B. Halley** – Referred to his attendance at a recent meeting of Hafod y Wern Governing Body and queried if it was appropriate for him to refer details of the meeting to the Community Council. Cllr Halley was advised that as he was a Local Authority appointed Governor there was no requirement for him to report back on the meeting and that care should be taken not to breach the confidentiality of those meetings.

#### **109. CORRESPONDENCE**

- (i) Welsh Government 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Education programme – Noted**
- (ii) Wrexham Gymnastics Club – Invitation to attend Christmas displays - Noted**
- (iii) Wrexham CBC – Progress report on the restoration of Armed Forces Standards - Noted**
- (iv) Wexham CBC – Poster Adult Social Care Community Inclusion Grant - Noted**

Supplementary:

- (v) Community Health Councils across Wales – Appointment of Members/ recruitment - Noted**

#### **110. CAIA PARK PARTNERSHIP YOUTH OUTREACH WORK - HALF YEARLY REPORT**

A comprehensive report was presented to Members in accordance with the Service Level Agreement. In noting the report, Members suggested that it would be beneficial if a member of staff could present the reports in future in the event of any questions arising. The Clerk advised that they had always offered this facility.



**111. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Members were reminded of the need to annually review Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and the Investment Strategy. The Clerk advised that there had been no legislative changes and that there had been no issues raised at either internal or external audit in relation to Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. He reported that the options in terms of investment were very limited given that guidance states that we should not risk the capital amount. At present there were no fixed rate bonds available to organisations such as the Community Council and conventional deposit/current accounts attracted minimal interest.

Following consideration, it was **Resolved:**

*That the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations remain unaltered*

*That the current secure investments be noted but kept under review if more attractive options become available.*

**112. FINANCIAL MONITORING**

The financial statement for period ending 30<sup>TH</sup> November 2017 was submitted.

**Resolved:** *That the financial statement for the period be received and adopted.*

**113. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Resolved:** *That the Council, in accordance with its powers under S137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:*

(i) *Caia Park Environmental Group (Xmas activities) £100*

The Council considered an application submitted by The Venture (Wrexham) Ltd. The application was to cover staffing costs for play workers between January and March 2018 and the sum requested was £7431.84. Members were reminded of the Council's policy that the maximum amount of grant to one organisation in any financial year was limited to £2500 and of the previous decision made when allocating funding to Gwenfro Valley ICC that any surplus in the grants budget at the end of the year should be offset against this expenditure which had not been budgeted for.

Some Members, whilst supportive of the applicant, were concerned that the application did not comment on the sustainability of the organisation post March 2018 and that the granting of this application could set a precedent. It was also felt that it may be premature given the uncertainty on how the Communities First Legacy Fund would be allocated as this had not been clarified by Welsh Government and the local Lead Delivery Body.

An amendment suggesting a payment of £2500 which would cover the amount requested for one month and give time to allow clarification on how the Legacy Fund would be distributed was defeated.

Following further discussion, it was:

**Resolved:**

- (i) That in this case, to suspend the Council's normal policy of allocating a maximum of £2500 in a Financial Year to any one organisation.
- (ii) That the Council, in accordance with its powers under S137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

(ii) The Venture (Wrexham) Ltd £ 7431.84

(Cllrs M. King and L. Platt declared an interest in this agenda item as employees of the applicant organisation and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was discussed)

**114. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**RESOLVED:** That no observations be made on the following application:

- (i) **P2017/0959 10 Caia Road, Wrexham**  
Conversion of dwelling into 3 bedroom (single occupancy) house in multiple occupation

**RESOLVED:** That no objections be raised to the following application:

- (ii) **P/20170968 44 Gwenfro, Wrexham**  
Erection of fence in retrospect

**115. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The following accounts were authorised for payment:

D.D.	Pace Telecom	General Admin	* 44.88	
		CAS	* <u>137.98</u>	189.30
7129	British Gas	St Peter's Hall	*	374.73
7131	CPAG	CAS		195.00
D.D.	SSE (Elect)	Prince Charles Road	*	140.86
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D.D.	Plus Net	CAS	*	12.00
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	St Peters Hall		9.10
D.D.	Wrexham CBC	Prince Charles Road		457.00
D.D.	Wrexham CBC	St Peter's Hall		170.00
7132	Wrexham CBC	Amenity/Environment*		8580.00 Play areas maint
7132	Wrexham CBC	Amenity/Environment*		214.18 Repairs play equip
7132	Wrexham CBC	Amenity/Environment		4139.91 Pentre Gwyn
7132	Wrexham CBC	General Admin	*	6941.51 Election costs
7133	Bates Office Services	CAS	* 66.77	
		General Admin	* <u>25.20</u>	91.97
7134	J. W. Hinds	Prince Charles Road	150.00	

		St Peter's Hall	<u>50.00</u>	200.00
7135	Petty cash (postage)	CAS	60.00	
		General Admin	<u>20.00</u>	80.00
7135	Cash	General Admin		200.00
	RBCW	St Peter's Hall	750.00	
		CAS	<u>375.00</u>	1125.00
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	Prince Charles Road		42.24
	G. Evans (sal adj/travel)	CAS		
	P. Donellan (sal adj/travel)	CAS		
	J. Carter (sal adj/travel)	CAS		
	K. Walker (sal adj/travel)	CAS		
	A. Humphreys (sal adj Dec)	St Peter's Hall		
	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Dec)		
	Clwyd Pension Fund	Pensions (Dec)		

\*Figs include VAT which is reclaimable