

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held on 10th October
2013 at Cartrefle, Cefn Road, Wrexham.

Cllr Marc Jones (Chair)
Cllr A. K Gregory (Vice Chair)

Cllr T. A. Birch	Cllr S. Jones
Cllr B. Cameron	Cllr M. King
*Cllr B. Halley	Cllr C. Lloyd
Cllr C. Harper	Cllr C. Powell
Cllr J. Johnson	Cllr B. Pritchard
Cllr Maurice Jones	Cllr P. M. Williams
*Absent	

Also present:
Insp M. Williams and Sgt D. Jacks - N. Wales Police

68. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. B. Halley.

69. POLICE MATTERS

It was reported that there had been a 13.5% reduction in reported crime across the five wards when compared to a similar period last year. Given the concerns expressed over the level of crime in the Smithfield Ward, it was pleasing to note a reduction of 58 incidents when compared to a similar period last year. There were, however, still incidents of criminal damage and the Police were re-evaluating the beat plans for the PCSOs

The crime statistics for the month were presented and discussed. The number of burglaries other than from dwellings had caused some concern, however these had started to drop following a targeted policing priority to address the issue.

Details of strategies in place to cover the Halloween and Bonfire Night period were shared with Members and various posters were handed out for display.

A Member for Smithfield Ward thanked the Police for their recent assistance and support over issues at Bernard Road which now seem to be resolved.

Insp. Williams referred to a recent meeting held at the Police station to discuss the community priorities set for the Wards which was not well attended. The Clerk agreed to circulate Members with the dates and times of the future meetings.

70. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the ordinary and confidential meeting held on 12th September 2013 be received and adopted as a correct record.

Matters arising:

71. MEMBERS REPORTS & MEETINGS (PM 59)

A Member referred to a recent press article related to the proposed County Council budget reductions and a quote within the report claiming that Community Councils had not been consulted appropriately. He advised in addition to the letter sent from Wrexham CBC to Community Councils received in early September, the matter had been considered at meetings of the Town and Community Council Forum in July and October.

72. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF DEAN ROAD POST OFFICE (PM 60i)

The Clerk reported that the objections had been lodged with the Post Office and these had been acknowledged.

73. WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Chair reminded Members of the letter received from Wrexham CBC asking Community Councils to consider funding certain services or, in the case of community centres, identifying a community group who may be interested in managing them. The services under review are community centres (Kingsley Circle and Pentre Gwyn) all play areas, MUGAs, chat shelters and skate park, school crossing patrols and a further review of street lighting.

Notwithstanding the content of the letter, a drop in session organised for the afternoon of 10th October by Wrexham CBC and attended by some Members and the Clerk in the day revealed that the costs associated with the play areas were considerably higher than quoted in the letter and additional information was also provided in terms of community centre and play area condition surveys.

Members were also reminded that a footway lighting review was to be undertaken and it was likely that Community Councils would be asked to fund this or, as is currently the case in Acton, Caia. Offa and Rhosddu, a special levy would be charged by the County Borough Council at actual rather than average costs.

As a result of the new information received, the inspection costs for each play area (based on a weekly inspection) was £873 p.a. litter clearance £634 p.a and average repair costs based on previous patterns of expenditure £100 p.a. Giving a total of over £1500 per play area. The community centre costs were as indicated however there was additional recognised improvement/ repair works for Kingsley Circle Centre in the sum of £ 57,600 and Pentre Gwyn in the sum of £ 9,900. It was likely that the special lighting levy for Caia would increase from £4.39 per Band D property to £11 per Band D property.

Members discussed the inevitable increase that the foregoing would have on the Community Council precept unless reductions from within the existing budget could be found as well as the substantial increase in the special lighting levy. A Member referred to the asset review currently being undertaken by the County Borough Council and improvement works proposed for Hafod y Wern School which may have an effect on community provision.

- Following a full debate it was **resolved:**
(i) *To respond to the letter as follows:*

Community Centres:

To defer a decision on funding the community centres at Kingsley Circle and Pentre Gwyn until the completion of the Community Assets review currently being undertaken by Wrexham CBC and that information is shared with the Community Council. In addition, to ascertain what future plans are in place for Hafod y Wern School as it is understood rebuilding or remodelling work is to be undertaken. The Community Council is keen to learn whether there is likely to be any surplus accommodation and if so whether there would be an opportunity for some community use within it which they may consider supporting.

Play Areas:

To seek clarity on the costs associated with the play areas and whether the information provided in the letter or at the drop in session (or either) is correct. If it is the information given at the drop in session, this adds £12,200 additional liability excluding repair and maintenance and before agreeing it is necessary to know what the Community Council would be committing to.

To defer a decision on play areas until the next meeting on 14th November or until the information is received.

School Crossing Patrols:

To defer a decision on school crossing patrols until the next meeting on 14th November or until information is received on current risk assessments and whether schools could be approached to see if they would fund the crossing patrols.

- (ii) *For Members to undertake a survey across the five wards asking members of the public to rank which services, if any, they value most.*
- (iii) *To await further details on the footway lighting review.*

74. PLANING APPLICATIONS

It was **resolved:** *That no objection be raised in respect of:*

- (i) **P/2013/0656 32 Cefn Road, Wrexham**
Erection of single storey rear extension

75. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial statements for period ending 30th September 2013 was submitted.

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

76. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT*That the accounts due for payment in October be authorised for payment*

D.D.	Pace Telecom	General Admin	*	60.53	
		CAS	*	<u>113.11</u>	173.64
6293	Wrexham CBC	St Peter's Hall	*		291.60
6294	Cash	CAS			100.00

D.D.	Investec	General Admin	*		72.00
D.D.	WCBC Rates	Cartrefle			642.00
D.D.	WCBC Rates	St Peter's Hall			148.00
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	St Peter's Hall			12.45
D.D.	Plus net	CAS (St Peter's)	*		12.00
D.D.	Plus net	General Admin	*		32.39
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	Cartrefle			24.04
6295	Lasa	CAS			24.00
6296	MFS	Cartrefle	*		378.00
6297	WNW	Cartrefle	*	100.55	
		St Peter's Hall	*	<u>143.77</u>	244.32
6298	UHY Hacker Young	General Admin (Audit)*			1104.00
D.D.	EON	Cartrefle	*		393.35

J. Francis (Salary Oct)	St Peter's Hall
G. Evans (Sal adj & Travel)	CAS
P. Donellan (Travel)	CAS
J. Carter (Travel)	CAS
P. Rondel(Sal adj Oct)	St Peter's Hall
H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Oct)
Clwyd Pension Fund	Pensions (Oct)

*Figs include VAT which is reclaimable