

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> March  
2014 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:

Acting Insp P. Wycherley and Sgt D. Jacks - N. Wales Police  
3 members of the public and a press representative

**131. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S. Jones and C. Lloyd

**132. POLICE MATTERS**

Insp. Wycherley presented the crime statistics for the previous month on a ward by ward basis. It was noted that criminal damage seemed to be reducing and Members were asked if they felt this was the general perception within the community. It was felt that there seemed to be a general improvement overall.

A Member expressed concern over the recent bail and support accommodation which had recently opened on Queensway and enquired if the Police and Local Authority were consulted over this given the difficulties which had been experienced in Gwersyllt at another property operated by the same organisation. Sgt Jacks commented that representations expressing concern had been made by the Police but as this is not a licensed or regulated activity there was little that could be done. Similarly, the property was not owned by the Local Authority and was in private ownership and the activity did not require planning consent.

The Chair reminded those present that this item appeared as a separate item later in the agenda.

Members expressed concern over the continuing problems in the Churchill Drive, Sycamore Road and surrounding areas and the increasing incidents of anti social behaviour. The Police had received a number of complaints from residents and a multi agency meeting had been held earlier in the day with an eleven point action plan drawn up. Letters had been sent out to seven parents alerting them to the behaviour of their children and pointing out that if they are Council tenants and this continues, their tenancy could be at risk. Two positive responses from parents had been received to date, some parents had received home visits and one youth had been arrested and was due to appear in Youth Court.

A member of the public commented that contractors working on properties in Sycamore Road had left ladders attached to scaffolding when they had finished work for the day thus making easy access to upper floors and roofs. It was agreed to contact Wrexham CBC Housing Department alerting them of the issue.

A Member reported a continuing problem with syringes being discarded along with evidence of other drug related paraphernalia, items of clothing and bedding along the river banks in the Smithfield area. He enquired if Police patrols were still taking place in the area and expressed frustration as whilst this was regularly reported, little was done to clear the materials from the area. A general discussion followed and reference was made to the many support agencies in the area formed to address and support substance and alcohol misuse issues. Some Members felt that a safe place where drugs could be administered had proved successful in some areas thereby reducing the need for indiscriminate use in public places. It was acknowledged that this could be a controversial step. It was agreed to contact agencies to see if it would be worthwhile pursuing this idea and discussing the legal and practical issues.

Acting Insp. Wycherley advised Members that the end of March represented the end of their recording year and that it has been six months since he has been back in Wrexham. He thanked the Council for their support shown over this period.

**133. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

***Resolved:***

*That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014 be received and adopted as a correct record.*

**Matters arising:**

**134. PARKING RIVULET ROAD ( PM 115 )**

The Clerk advised that the planning application for development off Rivulet Road had recently been considered by the Planning Committee with the final decision delegated to officers as some additional information was required. The Planning Committee had also recommended that the costs associated with advertising any residents parking scheme proposed for Rivulet Road should be borne by the developer.

**135. HIGHTOWN SURGERY ( PM 93, 103 & 118 )**

Councillor Cameron reported that a recent meeting had been held with some County Councillors and Ms Lesley Griffiths AM and a subsequent meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March with the Community Health Council. He reported that a final decision should be made within the next two weeks and that there seemed a willingness to retain a surgery in Hightown.

**136. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC MEETING RELATING TO WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S PROPOSED LEISURE REVIEW**

The Chair welcomed Mr. C. Jones to the meeting who had requested the Community Council consider holding a public meeting to discuss the County Borough Council's proposal to close Plas Madoc Leisure Centre and to explore transferring the remaining leisure facilities to an external trust and if there was sufficient support to follow this up with a community poll.

He held the view that leisure facilities should remain under the control of the County Council and furthermore they should be provided free of charge to individuals with the costs being levied as an additional element of tax. Mr. Jones also advised that he had set up a social media page to establish if there was any support or interest

Mr. Jones presented Members with a paper outlining his proposals. Whilst Members shared some of the concerns, the Chair and Clerk outlined the procedure and restrictions on holding a community poll and changes that had occurred in legislation in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. Members were reminded that:

A community poll could only be held following a public meeting at which 150 registered electors from the community or 10% of the electorate (whichever is less) vote in favour of one and the question to be voted upon has to be agreed at that meeting.

The question has to be relevant to a community issue (i.e. Caia Park) and not a County wide or National issue and phrased as such that a simple yes or no answer can be given at the ballot.

The cost of holding the ballot is charged to the council tax payers in the community requesting it (i.e. Caia Park) and whilst the costs may not be as high as a normal election as the hours of poll are less, they could amount to several thousands of pounds.

The County Borough Council must consider the results of any poll but are not duty bound to act on them.

Members were advised that at the Executive Board meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, the County Borough Council had agreed certain measures for the future of leisure services including:

- That the Head of Community Wellbeing and Development, in consultation with the Head of Assets and Economic Development and the Leader of the Council, be authorised to seek expressions of interest in the transfer of the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre to a leisure trust or community-based social enterprise, at no cost to the Council, and, in consultation with the Head of Corporate & Customer Services, to conclude an agreement with the trust/enterprise to take over the centre on or before 1 October 2014; to close the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre on or around the 28 April 2014 and, in the interim, to secure the building and equipment as described in Appendix 1 of report HCWD12/14; and to explore the possible use of facilities, such as Ebenezer Chapel or any other suitable alternative site for the provision of leisure activity (in the event that an agreement cannot reasonably be concluded and the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre not transferred by 1 October 2014).
- Head of Community Wellbeing and Development, in consultation with the Head of Assets and Economic Development and the Leader of the Council, be authorised to decommission and demolish Plas Madoc Leisure Centre, but that in accordance with resolution (ii) above no demolition shall commence until after 1 October 2014.
- That the Head of Assets and Economic Development, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to dispose of the site of the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre and that the Lead Member report back to the Executive Board with recommendations on the use of the capital receipt, to include options for reinvestment in a reduced community facility in Plas Madoc.

- That the Head of Community Wellbeing and Development, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to commission external support as necessary to enable the Council to transfer the management of the Leisure Service to an existing Leisure Trust and to report back to Executive Board before concluding any agreement.
- That the Head of Community Wellbeing and Development, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to consult with schools where dual use leisure facilities are based (excluding Clywedog swimming pool) on the transfer of the management of the facilities to the schools and to report back to the Executive Board on the outcome of the consultation with recommendations for transfer, closure or retention of facilities.

Given that the Executive Board has powers to act and that a community poll could not address the wider leisure issues referred to by Mr. Jones, Members felt that they could not justify spending a considerable sum on holding a community poll, the result of which could have little or no influence on the decisions already made by Wrexham County Borough Council.

## **VARIATION IN AGENDA**

Members agreed to bring forward agenda item 9(i) to this point in the meeting given that two members of the public had attended to make a statement on the future of Kingsley Circle Community Centre

### **137. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – KINGSLEY CIRCLE COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chair welcomed Mrs. M. James and Mr. R. Delaney to the meeting.

The Clerk advised that the Council had received an application for financial assistance from the “New Kingsley Circle Community Centre Management Committee” requesting a grant from the Community Council in the sum of £6000 towards running costs for Kingsley Circle Community Centre post 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

He reminded members of their resolution in December whereby the Council resolved “not to fund any costs associated with Kingsley Circle Community Centre” and that under Standing Orders, this decision stood for six months unless four Members requested that it be placed on an agenda for further consideration.

The decision in December was informed by the fact that both running costs and projected capital costs for the centre were high, a community survey completed by 321 residents revealed that only 14 saw the centre as a high priority with 240 rating it as a low priority or not at all. In addition, other venues are available in the area.

A supporting letter had been received from the Chair of the new Management Committee with a supporting action plan and a letter from Glyndwr University showing an expression of interest in the premises but with no commitment. The action plan indicated that a business plan was to be prepared by May. A letter had also been received from Wrexham CBC indicating that in accordance with its adopted policies the centre would close on 31<sup>st</sup> March in the absence of any group or organisation coming forward to take over the running of the centre.

Following discussion, and the fact that there was no business plan in existence, no firm commitment from Glyndwr University and having regard to standing orders, Members **resolved:**

*Not to make a grant award at this time but would receive any additional information in the future in relation to a firm business plan or any expressions of interest by third parties who may wish to support the management Committee financially and organisationally.*

*(Cllr B. Pritchard as a Member of the Management Committee declared a personal and prejudicial interest, withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting)*

### **138. MEMBERS REPORTS**

**Cllrs J. Johnson & A. K. Gregory** - Attended Smithfield Residents Assoc and will be attending their coffee morning on 15<sup>th</sup> March

**Cllr. B. Pritchard** – Attended the Eisteddfod at Hafod y Wern School

### **139. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items of correspondence were received and noted:

- (i) **Wrexham CBC - Town & Community Council Forum meeting (20<sup>th</sup> March 2014) subsequently cancelled.**
- (ii) **Nightingale House Hospice – Invitation to attend AGM**
- (iii) **Wrexham CBC – Off street parking places (Guildhall) order 2014**
- (iii) **One Voice Wales – Invitation to subscribe**

**Supplementary agenda:**

- (i) **Wrexham CBC – Employment land survey**

### **140. POLICY STATEMENTS**

The Clerk presented two policy statements for consideration. **Resolved:**

*To adopt the policy statements in relation to*

- (i) *Disciplinary Policy*
- (ii) *Health & Safety (premises and lone working)*

### **141. PLANING APPLICATIONS**

It was **resolved:**

*That no objections be raised in respect of:*

- (i) **P2014/0083 45, St George’s Crescent, Wrexham**  
Disposal of internally illuminated fascia signs

**Supplementary agenda:**

- (ii) **P2014/0101 Former Gas Holder Site, Rivulet Road, Wrexham**  
**Erection and installation of new gas pressure reduction kiosk and equipment to replace existing (which is to be demolished)**

#### 142. APPLICATIONS 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)	Smithfield Residents & Tenants Assoc	£250
(ii)	Wrexham Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' Assoc	£50
(iii)	NSPCC	£50

#### 143. USE OF 41 QUEENSWAY BY STONHAM AS BAIL AND SUPPORT ACCOMMODATION

Further to the discussion under Police Matters earlier in the agenda, Members expressed concern over the apparent lack of consultation and accountability over this development and questioned how appropriate it was given the location.

Members were keen to know if any objections had been lodged by the Police and Local Authority, what the level of supervision was (if any) and whether there could be an increase in such accommodation when the prison is built in Wrexham.

It was agreed that enquiries would be made and that Ian Lucas MP should be advised of the concerns.

#### 144. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial statement for period ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 was submitted.

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

#### 145. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

That the accounts due for payment in March be authorised for payment

D.D.	Pace Telecom	General Admin	* 9.07	
		CAS	* <u>32.94</u>	42.01
6365	British Gas	St Peter's Hall	*	471.99
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D.D.	Dee Valley Water	St Peter's Hall		12.45
D.D.	Plus net	CAS (St Peter's)	*	12.00
6367	Walker Fire (UK) Ltd	Cartrefle	*	208.50
6368	WNW	Cartrefle	* 138.47	
		St Peter's Hall	* <u>129.79</u>	268.26
6369	Bates Office Services	General Admin	* 126.87	
		CAS	* <u>62.00</u>	188.87
6370	Graphic Office Systems	General Admin	*	28.92
6371	Alpha (Wrexham) Windows	St Peter's Hall	*	9079.20
6372	RBCW	St Peter's Hall	708.50	
		CAS	* <u>354.00</u>	1062.50
6373	CPL Petroleum	Cartrefle	*	1378.28
6374	Diamond Properties	St Peter's Hall	*	158.40
6374	Diamond Properties	Cartrefle	*	1411.20
6375	Smithfield Residents Assoc	Donation		200.00
6376	Wrexham Allotments	Donation		50.00
6377	NSPCC	Donation		50.00
D.D.	Eon	St Peter's Hall	*	39.03
D.D.	Eon	Cartrefle	*	417.36

D.D.	Dee Valley Water	Cartrefle		24.04
D.D.	Plus net	Cartrefle	*	32.03
	J. Francis (Salary Mar)	St Peter's Hall		
	G. Evans (Sal adj & Travel)	CAS		
	P. Donellan (Sal adj & Travel)	CAS		
	J. Carter (Sal adj & Travel)	CAS		
	K. Walker (Sal adj & Travel)	CAS		
	M. Morris (Sal adj)	General Admin		
	L. Mills (Sal adj)	General Admin		
	P. Rondel (Sal adj Mar)	St Peter's Hall		
	P. Jones (Sal adj Mar)	Cartrefle		
	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Mar)		
	Clwyd Pension Fund	Pensions (Mar)		

\*Figs include VAT which is reclaimable