

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held on 14th November 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:

Chief Inspector N. Maxwell, Danielle Jones and Sarah Pawley PCSOs - N. Wales Police

77. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T. Birch, B. Halley M. King, C. Lloyd and C. Powell.

78. POLICE MATTERS

Chief Inspector Maxwell was welcomed to the meeting. He advised that he was attending at short notice and as such did not have the crime statistics for the month to hand.

He reported on the matter of arson in the community which is of concern to all. He advised that there had always been a level of arson within the community but that it had been particularly high in 2012. Multi agency strategies had been introduced to attempt to reduce these incidents including targeted awareness raising / courses with more to be undertaken. There had been no incidents on Bonfire Night. The Youth Justice Outreach Team would be undertaking community work commencing in December for a significant period. CCTV cameras were in place at strategic places and other security measures were under consideration.

A general discussion took place over staff deployment and the level of cover provided to Caia Park. A Member expressed concern that PCSO's were being deployed in the town centre at the expense of the surrounding communities. It was acknowledged that there was a problem with shop lifting and that the matter of staff resources used to address this issue was being considered across the Police Force.

Details were given of funding opportunities arising from the proceeds of crime confiscations, although applications had to be submitted by 30th November and only two projects would be chosen.

79. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 10th October 2013 be received and adopted as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

80. WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS (PM73)

The Clerk presented a further report on this matter which gave clarification on costs previously provided and responses to some of the points put forward following the October meeting.

It was noted that the running costs and identified repairs following non intrusive surveys for the community centres remained as quoted. It was confirmed that whilst these required repairs had been identified, it did not imply that the building cannot be used or operated safely in the immediate future. The Community Council's suggestion that opportunities may arise when Hafod y Wern School is remodeled in 2016 was noted, although the response indicated that there would be no surplus accommodation at the school. Options may be available at the building that currently houses the Early Years Centre on Prince Charles Road or part of the current infant block at Hafod y Wern school.

The figures for play areas had increased from £480 for each play area (as detailed in the original letter received from Wrexham CBC) to approximately £1,700 when litter picking, grass cutting and average annual repair costs had been included.

No further details had been received to the Council's request for risk assessments to be undertaken in relation to school crossing patrols.

It was reported that since the last meeting, a letter had been received outlining proposed changes to footway lighting funding inviting those community councils who do not already do so to take on the cost of footway lighting and precept accordingly or for those communities who refuse to do so, that a special expense will be levied on the Council Tax which will be based on actual costs. (At present costs are averaged across Action, Caia, Offa and Rhosddu Councils and applied as a special levy)

A general discussion followed on each facility. Members generally felt that they did not wish to increase the Community Council precept unless absolutely necessary and if these facilities were to be taken over, an examination of the existing budget expenditure would be required in the first instance. Some Members felt that it was premature to make a decision over the community centres until the County Council had completed its asset review which was expected to be at the end of the year.

The Clerk advised Members of the results of the community survey undertaken since the last meeting. Whilst returns had only been received from five Members, there was very strong support for the retention of play areas and school crossing patrols but little support for taking over the community centres with Kingsley Circle being the least popular. The Clerk also advised Members that it was necessary to set the Community Council precept for 2014/15 by 31st December 2013 and that it would need to have regard for the cost of any facilities or services that it may wish to take over. It was noted that the County Council budget proposals are currently out for consultation which ends on 11th December.

Following further discussion, it was **Resolved:**

To request that Wrexham County Borough Council explores alternatives to cutting essential community services and facilities, such as community centres, road crossing patrols, parks and libraries.

We propose that significant savings can be made by:

- *Reforming the role of the Mayor, currently costing £138,000 per year*
- *Reducing the costs of consultants' fees in the coming year to the 2012 levels. This would save £332,000 on the current financial year.*

Significant savings here would enable the County Council to make the savings needed without cutting vital services. The total cost savings from community centres, school crossing patrols, parks and libraries would be £403,000 per annum. We believe that these alternative savings options should receive due consideration prior to any closures or cuts of community facilities and services.

It was further **Resolved:**

That in relation to footway lighting, the preferred means of funding would be by way of a special expense on Council Tax as detailed in proposal 4 of the letter from Wrexham CBC dated 11th October 2012.

81. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were considered:

- (i) **Wrexham CBC – Application for a modification order to add a footpath to the definitive map public rights of way.**
This addition was requested by the Community Council in 2003 and related to the length of footpath from Queensway to Kingsmill.
Resolved: *No objection*
- (ii) **North Wales Police – Details of future relocation plans.**
Letter advising the Council of plans to relocate the Custody Suite to Llay and relocate the town centre police station from Bodhyfrydd to a shared location with Wrexham CBC.
Resolved: *To note the details*
- (iii) **Post Office - Decision letter over the proposed relocation of Rhosnesni Post Office.**
The Council was advised that the Post Office had decided not to proceed with the proposed relocation to The Co-operative Food Store at Borrass Park Road and that it would continue to operate from its current location for the time being.
Resolved: *To note the content of the letter*
- (iv) **Wrexham Area Civic Society – Invitation to awards evening 22nd November 2013**
Resolved: *To note the invitation*

(v) **North Wales Police – PCSO quarterly monitoring return**

As part of the new service level agreement with Wrexham CBC, Community Councils are requested to complete a questionnaire relating to the PCSO involvement within the community.

Members felt that it was difficult to be specific given that there are a number of PCSOs operating within the community boundary serving five County wards making a meaningful assessment difficult.

Resolved: *To defer completion until the next quarter*

82. NEWLETTERS

The following were received and noted:

- (i) Wrexham Area Civic Society - In Focus magazine
- (ii) Nightingale House Hospice newsletter

83. DETACHED OUTREACH YOUTH WORK REPORT (APRIL – SEPT 2013)

Members received a written report outlining the activities of the Youth Outreach Team for the period April – September 2013 in accordance with the service level agreement in place. Members were appreciative of the work undertaken and

Resolved: *To note the report.*

84. COMMUNITY ADVICE SERVICE STATISTICS

Members received statistical information and amounts of recorded gains for the period April – September.

Resolved: *To note the statistics*

85. PLANING APPLICATIONS

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

- (i) **P2013/0676 30 Eagles Meadow, Wrexham**
2 new fascia signs
- (ii) **P2013/0684 Sports & Social Club, Queensway, Wrexham**
Single storey rear extension and sub division of existing building
- (iii) **P2013/0705 62-63 Chester Street, Wrexham**
Formation of opening between shop units and installation of three air conditioning units (partly in retrospect)
- (iv) **P2103/0709 7-8 Charles Street, Wrexham**
Sub division of existing retail unit into two separate units incl. rear extension to no. 7
- (v) **P2013/0711 Unit B1B, Eagles Meadow, Wrexham**
Sub division and a change of use from shop (Class A1) to financial and professional services (Class A2)
- (vi) **P2013/0721 60 Chester St., Wrexham**
Change of use from A1 to D1 class use.

It was **Resolved** in relation to:

- (vii) **P2013/0719 125-127 Kingsmills Road, Wrexham**
Erection of detached bungalow.

That the Community Council has concerns as this appears to be tandem development, could give rise to vehicular conflict and compromise the amenity of No. 127 due to an existing door and window facing the access drive to the proposed new property.

86. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial statement for period ending 31st October 2013 was submitted.

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

87. URGENT ITEM - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk advised Members that since the agenda had been dispatched, a request for financial assistance had been received from Caia Park Environmental Group to facilitate their Christmas community celebrations. To defer the application until the December meeting would be too late for their planning purposes and accordingly it was submitted as a supplementary agenda item for consideration.

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:

Caia Park Environmental Group - £316.40

88. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

D.D.	EON	St Peters Hall	*	53.11
6299	Diamond Properties	Cartrefle	*	439.20
D.D.	Pace Telecom	General Admin	*	12.46
		CAS	*	<u>35.13</u> 47.59

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	*	32.09
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	Cartrefle		24.04
D.D.	AVG Computer security	General Admin	*	101.99
6308	Graphic Office Systems	General Admin	*	42.36
6309	Bates Office Supplies	General Admin	*	49.92
		CAS	*	42.00
		St Peters Hall	*	<u>10.20</u> 102.12
6310	Shelter Cymru	CAS		86.00
D.D.	EON	Cartrefle	*	264.91

D.D.	EON	St Peter's Hall	*	36.89
6311	Powys Teaching LHB	General Admin		70.98
6312	Don Hughes Electrical	Cartrefle	*	225.36
6315	Caia Park Environ Group	Donation		316.40
	J. Francis (Salary Nov)	St Peter's Hall		
	G. Evans (Sal adj & Travel)	CAS		
	P. Donellan (Travel)	CAS		
	J. Carter (Travel)	CAS		
	P. Rondel(Sal adj Nov)	St Peter's Hall		
	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Nov)		
	Clwyd Pension Fund	Pensions (Nov)		

*Figs include VAT which is reclaimable