

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held on
9th November 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:

PCSO John Davies
Amy Sargeson

NW Police
Wrexham Leader/ NWN Media

82. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T. Calverley, C. Lloyd and C. Powell

83. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Davies referred to recent incidents taking place within the community and advised that a number of warrants had and were continuing to be executed. There was also an issue with car theft involving younger members of the community. He advised that the monthly statistics were not available in time to be presented at the meeting but he agreed that these would be forwarded by email at the earliest opportunity. He advised that he had attended the bonfire organised by The Venture and other community partners and that it had been very successful and passed without incident. There had been no reported incidents or problems associated with Bonfire Night.

A Member referred to an issue regarding discarded needles on the footpath from Hillcrest to Wilson Avenue and reference was also made to the theft of some fencing panels from the Pentre Gwyn area. PCSO Davies made note of the issues. It was generally felt that there had been a recent improvement regarding the anti-social riding of motor bikes.

84. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

85. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

***RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Ordinary and Confidential meetings held on 12th October be received and adopted as a true record.*

Matters arising:

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

The Clerk reported that there were some concerns over the lamp column identified to house the camera. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED:**

To check with Wrexham CBC if a higher column could be substituted for the one currently in place and what cost.

That if this was not possible or cost prohibitive, the Council proceed as previously outlined.

87. PENTRE GWYN COMMUNITY CENTRE (PM 71, 55, 54)

The Clerk reported that two meetings had taken place with representatives from the Resident's Association as well as a meeting with a representative of Wrexham CBC regarding the asset transfer.

The Chair advised that good progress had been made and that the recommendation was that the Community Association would lease the building from Wrexham CBC and the Community Council would agree to underwrite the shortfall in finances for an initial defined period of three years. This would afford the Community Association some degree of certainty for business planning. In addition, the Community Council would offer practical support and advice where possible. In the event of the community centre ceasing to operate the building would revert back to Wrexham CBC.

***RESOLVED:** To note and endorse the progress and recommendations made.*

88. WEED CONTROL IN CAIA PARK AREAS (PM72)

It was noted that although this was going to be discussed at the November meeting, an announcement over the licencing of the product by the EU was imminent and so the matter would be placed on the agenda for the December meeting.

89. WELSH MEDIUM PRIMARY EDUCATION (PM 73)

A Member advised Council that this matter was currently being consulted on by Wrexham CBC.

90. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (PM 77)

A Member commented that the financial assistance given by the Council towards the community bonfire had been worthwhile as the event was well attended and a very enjoyable evening. Thanks were given to the various community groups for organising the event.

91. COMMUNITY ADVICE SERVICE (PM81)

The Chair advised that the position of Manager of the Advice Service had recently been filled and Mr. David Sheridan had been appointed.

92. MEMBERS REPORTS

Cllr. C. Harper –

Referred to a recent site visit regarding the poor quality of lighting on the footpath running from alongside Queensway Sports Centre towards Prince Charles Road because of over growing trees shrouding the light. Some light pruning had been undertaken following advice from Wrexham CBC Environment Department although this had proved ineffective and they were reluctant to undertaking more severe pruning. Cllr Harper had made representations to the appropriate officer at Wrexham CBC and is awaiting a response.

The Clerk reminded Members that they had already agreed to fund the replacement of the lanterns with led lights and it is hoped this will give some improvement.

Members expressed concern that there is a safety issue to consider which should outweigh the work required to the trees as this is the most well used footpath within the community given access to the town and other facilities. It was **RESOLVED:**

To replace the lanterns with led lights as a matter of urgency to be paid for from the street lighting reserves.

To make further representations to the appropriate officer at Wrexham CBC regarding the trees and to give the Chair the power to act in terms of contributing to that work if necessary given the urgency of the situation.

Cllr A. Jeorrett –

Referred to correspondence from Wrexham CBC regarding the play area to the rear of Benjamin Road and some s106 grant money which was available to enhance the facilities. It was noted that some funding would be required for protective surfacing and extensions to the bow top fence, A list of equipment had been supplied together with details of prices etc. It was **RESOLVED:**

To circulate the information to the three Smithfield ward councillors for observations and to request that Wrexham CBC seek the views of the Play Development Team.

93. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) **Wrexham CBC** – Notification of changes to the procedure for consultation on planning applications. – Members were advised that it was the intention not to supply paper copies of planning applications from January 2018 but for community councils to be reliant on accessing information from the website. Members felt that this far from convenient and discriminated against those without IT facilities or a suitable venue. It was **RESOLVED:**

To make representations objecting to the changes and to request that it be considered at the next Town & Community Council Forum meeting.

(ii) **Boundary Commission for Wales** – Revised proposals for change to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales - **NOTED**

(iii) **One Voice Wales** – Invitation to event on land reforms in Scotland – **NOTED.**

(iv) **Welsh Government Revised Local Government Scheme 2017** - **NOTED**

(v) **Wrexham Area Civic Society** – Invitation to Awards Evening - **NOTED**

Supplementary:

- (vi) **Wrexham CBC – Notification of next Town & Community Council Forum – 14th December 2017 – NOTED**
- (vii) **Wrexham CBC – Notification of consultation event on budget proposals for 2018/19 – Monday 20th November at 5.30pm. - NOTED**

NEWSLETTERS & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

- (i) **Wrexham Area Civic Society – In Focus Magazine - Noted**

94. BUDGET PREPARATION, REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD 31ST OCTOBER 2017

The Clerk presented a report outlining some initial thoughts on the budget preparation for 2018/19 as a final budget at the precept requirements are determined in January. On a general note, Members were reminded that in view of the capital receipt received from the sale of premises during late 2016/17 and the high level of reserves, the council tax precept was reduced and the budget shortfall between income and expenditure was to be met from reserve funds. In addition, the cost of elections held in May of 2017 and the grant to Gwenfro Valley ICC which was not included in the budget would also be met from reserves or any surplus left in the grants budget. This was summarised as follows:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Excess expenditure over income in 2017/18 budget | £36,560 |
| Cost of elections (approx.) | £ 6,600 |
| Grant to Gwenfro Valley ICC | <u>£26,668</u> |
| Total | £69,828 |

Members were also reminded that if existing levels of expenditure were to continue, without any new initiatives, then reserves would be further depleted unless the council tax reverted back to a high level. Individual items were considered and it was **RESOLVED** as follows:

- (i) *Provision be made to fund the three existing school crossing patrols (approx. annual cost £12,000) and to check whether the location for the Gwenfro School crossing is appropriate given the relocation of the entrance gates.*
- (ii) *To fund the maintenance, inspection and repairs of the play areas at the following locations:*
Pont Wen
Prince Charles Road and Prince Charles Road MUGA
Pentre Gwyn
Rear of Benjamin Road
Abenbury Fields (Caia side)
Queensway Skate Park
Bala Road
Queensway MUGA
Estimated annual costs £ 15,500 plus repairs (this year to date £2963)
- (iii) *Pentre Gwyn Community Centre £6,000 per annum for 3 years*
- (iv) *Grants budget – Reduce from £15,000 in 2017/18 to £10,000 for 2018/19*
- (v) *Provisionally include Youth Outreach SLA with Caia Park Partnership*

- (vi) *To undertake an evaluation of continuing with St Peter's Hall given the increasing level of subsidy comprising of a working party of the three Smithfield Members and Chair. An initial provision be made in the budget given the likely timescale involved.*
- (vii) *That venue hire charges form part of the St Peter's Hall evaluation process*
- (viii) *That any costs associated with by-elections occurring be met from Reserves funding.*
- (ix) *That the financial statement for October 2017 be received and adopted*

95. DRAFT REPORT INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Clerk presented a report on the Draft recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as they are proposed for Community Councils. The significant change was that previous discretionary determinations in relation to paying Members an allowance was now to be mandatory with individual members having to opt out of accepting the payment. This would have an effect on the HMRC tax and NI payment as Members would effectively be regarded as employees. Apart from the additional costs, there would also be implications for operating payroll as it would not be possible to take advantage of the HMRC basic tools package and so additional bespoke software would have to be acquired or the payroll service contracted out. Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED:** *to respond to the consultation document requesting that the determinations remain discretionary rather than mandatory as proposed.*

96. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: *That no objection be raised to the following applications*

- (i) **P2017/0878 Unit 2 Border Retail Park, Wrexham**
Display of 1 No. internally illuminated fascia sign and 1 No.
- (ii) **P/2017/0892 22 Bryn Estyn Road, Wrexham**
Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of 2 No. detached dwellings with associated parking and new access

That concerns be expressed over the following application due to lack of parking provision:

- (iii) **P2017/0868 28 Moorland Avenue, Wrexham**
Conversion of dwelling into 3 no. flats

97. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were authorised for payment:

| | | | | |
|-------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------|
| D.D. | Pace Telecom | General Admin | * 84.53 | |
| | | CAS | * <u>182.33</u> | 266.86 |
| D.D. | SSE (elect) | Prince Charles Rd | * | 107.71 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| 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 |
| 7118 | WCBC Planning fee | Prince Charles Road | | 190.00 |
| 7119 | WNW | St Peter's Hall | * 85.08 | |
| | | Prince Charles Rd | * <u>79.13</u> | 164.21 |
| 7120 | Wales Audit Office | General Admin | | 321.75 |
| 7121 | Wrexham CBC (waste) | Prince Charles Rd | | 151.50 |
| 7121 | Wrexham CBC | Amenity/Environment | | 2964.00 |
| 7121 | Wrexham CBC | Amenity/Environment* | | 1985.36 |
| 7122 | Best Host | General Admin | | 10.50 |
| 7123 | Alpha Windows | St Peter's Hall | * | 144.00 |
| 7124 | K. Cramer | Community Agent | | 10.78 |
| 7125 | Petty cash | General Admin/CAS | | 80.00 |
| D.D. | SSE (Elect) | Prince Charles Rd | * | 120.66 |
| D.D. | SSE (Gas) | Prince Charles Rd | * | 144.99 |
| D.D. | SSE (Elect) | St Peter's Hall | * | 73.92 |
| D.D. | PHS Group | Prince Charles Road | * | 207.26 |
| D.D. | Dee Valley Water | Prince Charles Road | | 32.00 |
| | 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 Nov) | St Peter's Hall | | |
| | H.M. Revenue & Customs | Tax NI (Nov) | | |
| | Clwyd Pension Fund | Pensions (Nov) | | |

*Figs include VAT which is reclaimable