

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held on
14th February 2019 at the Community Council Offices, Prince Charles Road, Wrexham

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

Vacancy	Cllr J. Johnson
* Cllr L. C. Crawford	Cllr S. Jones
* Cllr M. J. Downward	Cllr C. Lloyd
Cllr B. Halley	*Cllr L. M. Platt
Cllr C. Harper	*Cllr C. Powell
Cllr A. J. Jeorrett	Cllr Paul Williams
*Absent	

Also present: Mr. R. Sheehan	Reporter Wrexham Leader
PCSO J. Seymour & PCSO S. Smith	North Wales Police
Cllr R. Prince	County Cllr – Cartrefle Ward
1 Representative	Caia Park Partnership
Mr. Julian Holland, Mr. Thomas Poad and Mr. Andrew Betney	Virgin Media

142. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M. Downward and L. Platt.

143. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Jack Seymour reported on the crime incidents for the month on a ward basis. He also advised that due to staffing changes there were only three PCSOs currently covering Caia Park. Members expressed their concern and felt that the cover was too low (allowing for absences) and that we the Council should make representations for the full complement of five to be re-instated. PCSO Seymour stated that he understood that recruitment was imminent.

RESOLVED: *To make appropriate representations to N. Wales Police*

Ward Matters:

Whitegate:

Still drug related issues being encountered. There had been a successful operation resulting in a cannabis grow being discovered as a result of community information. Cllr Cameron referred to alleged drug dealing taking place under the bridge on Whitegate Road.

Queensway:

Ongoing concerns in relation to drug related activity in Y Wern area. Police to undertake joint visits with Housing Department staff with a view to possible evictions. Cllr Harper thanked the Police for the work undertaken so far and was pleased to hear that public reporting was increasing.

Smithfield:

Ongoing work in terms of problems on Benjamin Road

Wynnstay:

Reported incident with a large group of people meeting up on St Giles Crescent.

Cartrefle:

Still Significant amount of calls relating to off road motorbikes.

Members were advised that the operation in relation to off road motorbikes following the acquisition of some detection material reported last month had still not taken place.

144. UPDATE BY VIRGIN MEDIA

The Chair welcomed representatives from Virgin Media to the meeting explaining that Members wished to discuss the issues surrounding damage to street lighting cables resulting in several outages and the complaints raised by members of the community in relation to the alleged conduct and behavior of contractors working for the company. It would also be useful to have an update of progress made on the scheme to date.

Mr. Julian Holland reported that some 8500 homes had been released and that a further 8500 would be completed this year which represented a £10m investment by the company. This would result in 27% of Wrexham's housing having access to high speed connections whereas the normal average is 6%. There had been a good uptake for the service with surveys indicating a doubling of the uptake and satisfaction compared with normal averages. It was envisaged that as the network grows, this could create local employment opportunities for service operatives etc.

Mr. Holland was thanked for his update. The Chair advised that there seemed to be a common complaint of street light outages following Virgin Media's presence in an area and this, coupled with Scottish Power's slow response in repairing, was causing inconvenience and frustration. Mr. Holland advised that there has been a significant number of strikes on the lighting cables but recently these had decreased as the contractor had acquired different cable avoidance tools. The major problem appears to be that the street lighting cables had not been buried at the appropriate depth and this matter was being taken up by Wrexham County Borough Council with Scottish Power. In theory, if they are buried at the appropriate depth of 450mm and Virgin Media only excavate to 250mm then any strikes should be minimal. In practice, the lighting cables seem to have been buried to an insufficient depth.

Other Members relayed their concerns and experiences with lighting outages. A Member expressed concern over one area where rubble had been left and enquired why an area could not be completed and reinstated before moving on to another. Mr. Holland explained that it is not always possible to do work in one street in isolation and often cable is coiled until the next street is started to facilitate making the appropriate cable linkages.

Members referred to complaints made by residents regarding the alleged offensive behavior of some operatives working for the Virgin's main contractor and felt dissatisfied by the way the complaints were handled and concluded. A Member mentioned that incidents had been corroborated by third parties and that pressure had to be put on Virgin Media to investigate the complaints. The Chair felt that the issues could have been decided on the balance of probabilities rather than requiring definitive proof.

In response, the representatives of Virgin Media stated that they do take complaints seriously and that they had been fully investigated although some lessons had been learned in terms of the handling process. There had been difficulties not only in receiving sufficient

corroborating evidence but also in terms of identification of those individuals involved. Sanctions had been taken and the complaints closed with the dissatisfaction registered on file. A Member also reported a recent incident whereby operatives were allegedly using

offensive language. Virgin media recommended that this is reported directly to the company at the time of the complaint with their helpline number being readily available.

Other matters discussed included concern expressed over “pressure selling” the product with some residents receiving up to six repeat visits from sales staff. Company representatives said they would look at an improved recording procedure to address the issue of repeat visits.

Virgin Media also provided details the diversion order which would be in place on Cefn Road from week commencing 18th Feb. The County Councillor raised the issue of the location of a cabinet on Woodland Grove which could have an impact on possible improvement works in the area. Virgin Media commented that all cabinet locations are agreed with Wrexham County Borough Council’s Highways Department after undertaking checks with the Planning Department to ensure there is no conflict with valid consents. Once locations are agreed, any subsequent diversionary work would need to be funded by the appropriate local authority.

It was noted that the recent mains fault affecting lights in Allington Drive/ Cerriog Road areas was not as a result of work undertaken by Virgin Media.

145. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Members interests

146. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 10th January 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising:

147. USE OF GLYPHOSATE WEEDKILLER (PM84, 102, 118, 134)

The Chair reported that further information had been issued from U.S.A indicating that evidence suggested a 41% risk of glyphosate weed killer being carcinogenic. The Clerk reported that he had again contacted the Assembly Member for a response and an acknowledgement had been received. The County Councillor for the Cartrefle Ward requested copies of the correspondence sent to and received from the Assembly Member on this matter and it was agreed this would be provided.

148. LITTER (PM105, 119, 135)

The Clerk advised Members that the working group met on 6th February and presented a verbal report of the meeting. Discussions took place on the staffing provision for street sweepers, the locations of new or replacement litter bins, environmental clean-up days and the possibility of a community wide litter awareness/ clearance event. Members were reminded that the Working Group does not have powers to act and a discussion followed on the verbal report.

Members **RESOLVED:**

(i) *To purchase 8 new litter bins to be located as follows:*

1 by Entrance to Gwenfro School (Old bin destroyed)

- 2 on Montgomery Road (to replace those that have been destroyed or missing)
- 1 by Bentley Place on Rivulet Road

- 1 to replace the red plastic one on the Queensway between Queensway Terrace and Whitegate Road junction (by flats/bus stop).
- 1 Windrush Close/Kings Mill Road (precise location to be discussed with WW and BC)
- 1 Millbank Rose pathway (precise location to be discussed with WW and BC)
- 1 Link footpath between Deva Way and Wynnstay Avenue (to replace damaged plastic bin at Wynnstay Ave.)
- (ii) *To progress the idea of a community wide event in consultation with Keep Wales Tidy and for the working group to meet with their representative on 6th March 2019*

149. STREET LIGHTING

It was reported that the lights in Y Wern referred to at the last meeting had now been replaced with led lanterns.

150. MEMBERS REPORTS

Cllr. B. Cameron – Reported that he and the Clerk had met with representatives from Wrexham CBC and given the previous support in principle from the Community Council, it was agreed that a scheme would be drawn up and submitted as a bid application to WCVA. Officers of Wrexham CBC suggested that part funding by the Community Council would be required up to £10k for a bid £50k although it was questioned whether this was still a requirement or criteria for successful bids. It was **RESOLVED:**

To support the submission of a bid

To check with Wrexham CBC if part funding was still a necessary requirement.

Cllr A. Jeorrett – Reported that she had met with a Highways officer to discuss the location of the interactive speed sign required for Hightown Road. A lamp post had been identified but would need changing to a more modern column suitable to mount the sign on. This would be an additional cost in the region of £1900

RESOLVED: *To replace the column at a cost of £1900 (cost of sign previously agreed)*

151. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Wrexham CBC – Notification of date of next Town & Community Council Forum** – Noted
- (ii) **Wrexham Play Development Team letter regarding funding/grant.** This was to advise that the Play Development Team had received some late grant funding from Welsh Government and it was proposed to reimburse community councils for part of the costs they had incurred by funding play provision in their areas. **RESOLVED:** *To note the letter*
- (iii) **Wrexham CBC – Details of modification order to definitive footpath map.** To advise that the application to add a new right of way from Thornleigh and Oakhurst to existing footpath Abenbury 1 had been confirmed. **RESOLVED:** *To note the decision*

Supplementary:

- (iv) **Invitation from MPCT to awards ceremony on 1st April 2019** - Noted
- (v) **Wrexham CBC – Application for tree works – Mecca Bingo (Application P/2019/0086. *RESOLVED: No objection to the proposed works.***

152. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Members considered a report on the current investment strategy. The Clerk advised that the Council held two accounts although the interest on the Reserve Account was minimal. It was noted that fixed rate bonds had been explored but this would only increase the interest by an insignificant sum per annum. It was **RESOLVED: To note the report and reaffirm the current arrangements.**

153. COMMUNITY COUNCIL CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk reported that due to a prolonged absence by a Member, a seat in the Whitegate Ward had now become vacant. It would be necessary to give the electors the opportunity to call for an election by ten or more electors from the Ward requesting an election via the Principal Authority and that if this was not requested the Community Council could then seek nominations for co-option. It was noted that the cost of any election would be an expense charged to the Community Council.

RESOLVED: To note the position and publish the necessary notices.

154. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk advised Members that a number of applications, generally from national charities, had been held in abeyance pending the approach of year end. In addition, since the agenda had been circulated, an additional application had been received for a local organisation.

It was **RESOLVED:**

To defer consideration of the applications until the March meeting of Council but because of the urgency of the application, it was further agreed to consider the application submitted by Borrás Albion F.C

It was therefore further **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:

Borrás Albion F.C.

£225.00

155. REVIEW OF GRANTS ALLOCATION POLICY FOR 2019/20

RESOLVED: To defer consideration of this item until the March meeting of Council

156. FINANCIAL MONITORING

The financial statement for period ending 31st January 2019 was submitted.

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

157. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: That the following schedule of accounts for February be paid:

D.D.	Pace telecom	CAS	* 390.52	
		General Admin	* <u>260.34</u>	650.86
D.D.	SSE (Elect)	St Peters Hall Final	*	78.97
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	St Peters Hall Final		55.31
7332	Cash	CAS Client Grant		297.30
7333	Betsi Cadwaladr HB	Sundry exp		168.00

7334	Besthost	General Admin		10.50
7335	Wrexham CBC	Amenity/Environment*		9360.00 (play areas half year)
7335	Wrexham CBC	Amenity/Environment		3291.00 (Sch crossing patrols Q3)
7335	Wrexham CBC	Amenity/Environment		1339.94 (Pentre Gwyn Q3)
7336	Graphic Office Systems	CAS	* 48.05	
		General Admin	* 16.01	64.06
7337	Hallam Heating	Prince Charles Rd	*	186.72
7338	The Venture	Donation (2 nd inst)		7046.50
7339	Borras Park Albion FC	Donation		225.00
7343	Cash (stamps)	General Admin	20.00	
		CAS	<u>60.00</u>	80.00
D.D.	SSE (Gas)	Prince Charles Rd	*	816.33
D.D.	SSE (Elect)	Prince Charles Rd	*	152.14
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	Prince Charles Road		46.58
	K. Walker (sal adj)	CAS		
	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Feb)		
	Clwyd Pension Fund	Pensions (Feb)		

*Figs include VAT which is reclaimable

