

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt on Friday 12th January 2007.

PRESENT : Councillor M.A. Reece (Vice-Chairman in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS : R. Davies, A. Griffiths, Mrs. D. Jones, R.K. Jones, Mrs. S.L. Jones, S.M. Manfredi, J. Ovens, C.P. Owens, C. Williams, C.R. Williams, Mrs. D.J. Williams and J. Williams.

APOLOGIES : Councillor B.T. Doleman .

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) and P.C. Schofield (minute No. 107)

106. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th November 2006.

a. Minute No. 90(c) – Tyn Twll

The Clerk advised Councillor C.R. Williams that no response had been received from Flintshire County Council. Having regard to the stated response time of the County Council it was agreed a further letter be sent to the Chief Legal Officer.

b. Minute No. 90(g) – Holywell Road, Manor Estate – Slow Markings

Reference was made by Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams to the work undertaken by the Highway Authority in this area to both improve the road surface and markings.

c. Minute No. 104 – Improvements to Drainage System, - High Street

Councillor Mrs. D. Jones was advised that the works had been completed and the contractor had left the site but the County Council were still to undertake repairs to the car park area, which had been used as a compound. Councillor J. Ovens indicated that it was intended the planted tubs presently in the vicinity of the Library be re-located in the planting area of the car park facing the Stag Inn so as to prevent the public walking over the area.

d. Minute No. 105(a) – Apple Tree by Library

The Clerk informed the meeting that a reply had been received from the

County Council advising that this particular tree was the responsibility of the Education Department and that the request from this Council had been passed to them for consideration.

e. Minute No. 105(b) – Gadlys Lane – Playing Area Support

The Clerk advised the meeting that the County Council had indicated that the land in question was in the ownership of the Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and the concern expressed had been conveyed to that organisation for attention.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th November 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

107. POLICING MATTERS

The Clerk made reference to the letter forwarded to the Delyn MP and AM on funding for the North Wales Police Force, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and a meeting he had attended together with Councillor A. Griffiths. In addition, a copy of their responses had also been previously circulated for the information of Members. A letter had also been received from Inspector Maxwell concerning meetings on partnership working and Policing issues. The first was to be held in Flint on the 24th January 2007, with the Council being requested to be represented.

P.C. Schofield advised that since he had last attended a meeting in October 2006, the only real area of concern related to Ysgol Merllyn, details of which were reported to the meeting. He made reference to comments made to him by some residents concerning new housing accommodation in the Wern area and was advised by Councillor R.K. Jones of the precise numbers intended, subject to completion of the Draft Flintshire UDP processes and approval of any subsequent planning application.

Councillor C.R. Williams was advised by the Officer that no Anti-Social Behaviour Orders had been issued in Bagillt and explained the process involved. The same Member also made reference to the number of hours the Officer was available in the Bagillt area and the meeting was advised that this was likely to be less in the future, given the information previously made available concerning Police funding, with particular reference to cut-backs for the North Wales Force, including personnel. The Officer advised Councillor A. Griffiths of the responsibility of those involved in a road traffic accident to provide information, whilst Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to a meeting he had recently attended concerning IT improvements for the Police, which was intended to release time for other duties. The Officer briefly informed Members of the

reduction in Community Beat Managers throughout the area due to them being required to undertake other duties and therefore the time he had to spend in other areas.

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to a recent incident concerning access to the foreshore and P.C. Schofield was able to indicate that the persons concerned were from outside the area and did not actually go on to the foreshore area with their motorbikes. He once again advised that information had been passed onto the landowners, including when evidence had been obtained regarding fly-tipping incidents, but they did not seem to be willing to take things forward. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated he had spoken to an Officer in the Legal Department of Flintshire County Council, who was looking into the letter received from the landowners concerning their foreshore area. It was hoped that a situation could be reached whereby it may be possible for Flintshire to manage the site and therefore take appropriate action against trespassers, whilst responsibility for the former landfill site area would remain with the landowners for the required number of years after closure. This would depend upon the response received from the Legal Officer.

RESOLVED :

1. That the information in relation to the funding issue for the North Wales Police be noted.
2. That Councillors A. Griffiths and C.R. Williams represent the Council at the meeting to be held with the Police at Flint on the 24th January 2007.

108. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2007/08

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer on Estimates for 2007/08, prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Details were also included in relation to probable income and expenditure for 2006/07 together with a short report on particular aspects which affected the financial information previously circulated.

a. Traffic Calming – Automatic Speed Signs

Following discussion at the last meeting, enquiries were made with Flintshire County Council concerning such signs in Bagillt and they had advised they were currently considering provision of new speed activated signs where they would achieve the maximum impact and speed reduction. The sites suggested by the Council would be included for consideration and they also confirmed that there was no match funding policy as this was discontinued by the Authority in 2005/06. Therefore, any provision in Estimates for the next financial year had been omitted and, in the event of the policy changing, an initial use could be made of

balances held for traffic calming schemes held up by the moratorium. As the Member who had initially suggested funding for such signs, Councillor R.K. Jones advised that the aspect of match funding for the next financial year had still not been decided by the County Council and it was his view that those Local Councils who were prepared to make funds available could well receive preference in relation to the location of such signs. In the circumstances, he was prepared to go along with the recommendation that, for the present, use could be made of the sum held in balances for delayed traffic calming schemes.

b. War Memorial Improvements

In September 2006 it had been agreed to meet 10% of the cost of the scheme to enable the Heritage Society to obtain other funding required from the landfill tax grant scheme. Unfortunately, this grant had been lost due to lack of action by Flintshire County Council concerning the amended lighting scheme specification needed to meet the grant requirements, and the sum agreed by this Council had therefore been removed from the probable expenditure for this financial year. Councillor C.P. Owens advised Members of the details which had been awaited from Flintshire County Council on the revised scheme, which had not been received, despite numerous requests. The Heritage Society, by way of volunteers, had commenced work on the scheme, details of which were reported to the meeting. Whilst use had been made of the original lighting plans, it had been possible for the Society to now obtain a significantly lower quotation and progress on this aspect was also reported.

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the fact that the loss of the grant had been taken up with the Acting Chief Executive and Acting Director of Environment & Regeneration at Flintshire County Council. It might be appropriate if, given the previous support by this Council for the improvement to the War Memorial Scheme, they also made representations to the County Council deploring the lack of action which had led to the loss of grant to the Heritage Society.

c. Christmas Lighting 2006

Members had previously received a letter from the Clerk on 5th December 2006, concerning problems with the Christmas lighting, which had eventually been resolved a week later. Since that letter there had been two further instances of vandalism to the rope lights on the lamp columns in the High Street and Members were asked to give consideration as to their future, given their vulnerability concerning the fitments in the bottom section. The Clerk advised Members that the electrical contractor had complied with the instructions issued by the County Council, who would not give permission for a permanent fixture and required the temporary

arrangement which had been used. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that there appeared to be different arrangements available for other County Council lamp columns used in other areas of the County and, together with Councillor M.A. Reece, agreed that the Clerk should approach the electrical contractor for a better solution and then take the matter up with County Council.

Members were reminded that the Council would be required to meet the cost of the electricity used for the lights at the Foresters Hall, the shop at the junction with Gadlys Lane and for using the lighting columns.

d. Clerk's Contract Hours of Work

The Clerk drew Members' attention to the information previously circulated concerning his contracted hours of work and requested that consideration be given to an increase by one hour per week, with effect from 1st January 2007.

e. Estimates of Income and Expenditure

In addition to the items referred to in a – d above, Members gave consideration to the financial information previously circulated in relation to expenditure heads and income. In response to Councillors R.K. Jones and Mrs. D. Jones, the Clerk reminded Members that at the November 2006 meeting they had agreed that a sum be included in estimates for the next financial year to enable further financial assistance to be given to the Flintshire Eisteddfod 2007, should the need arise. The Clerk further confirmed that Bagillt was included in an area also comprising Holywell and Whitford, and that any further amount to be given would be a matter to be determined by the Council from April onwards, should an application be made. The Clerk also responded to a query from Councillor R.K. Jones concerning the level of precept for this and the next financial year in relation to estimated balances. It was also confirmed that the level of balances held by the Authority was examined on an annual basis by the external auditor.

RESOLVED :

1. That representations be made to Flintshire County Council deploring the loss of grant to the Bagillt Heritage Society due to a lack of promised action on the War Memorial lighting scheme.
2. That in relation to Christmas lighting, the Clerk make enquiries with the contractor concerning an alternative method for connecting to the lamp columns to reduce vulnerability due to vandalism and then pursue the matter with Flintshire County Council accordingly.

3. That the contracted hours of work for the Clerk be amended from 14 to 15 hours per week with effect from 1st January 2007.
4. That a precept of 30,000 be made on Flintshire County Council for 2007/08.
5. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Community Council would continue to participate in the Community Caretaker arrangement for the next financial year.
6. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Community Council would participate in the Playscheme programme for 2007 in Bagillt and in relation to summer activities, particularly for older children, provision be made to continue the arrangement for 2007, once the scheme had been notified and agreed.
7. That the amounts indicated in the previously circulated expenditure heads for estimates purposes 2007/08 be approved as circulated, subject to items 2.1 and 2.2 being appropriately amended to take account of the decision in Resolution 3 above.

109. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The meeting considered a report of the Responsible Financial Officer concerning income/expenditure and Bank reconciliation for the third quarter of the financial year from 1st October to 31st December 2006, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members.

RESOLVED :

That the details as circulated for the third quarter be noted.

110. LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS

The meeting considered a report of the Responsible Financial Officer on Local Government Investments, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. The Guidance on Local Government Investments issued by the Welsh Assembly Government was meant to formalise the procedures undertaken by Community Councils but was not meant to be overly onerous and would only apply in full to the very largest of those with significant sums to invest. The strategy was meant to be a document that sets up categories of the Investment Plan to be undertaken and the amount intended to be invested for relevant periods of time. It was felt Community Councils may find it appropriate to include the approval of the Strategy within their budget processes or documentation, hence consideration of the item at this meeting.

The report advised of a decision taken by the Council in October 2006 to close the Business 14 day notice account due to the fact that it was now closed to new applicants and had a lower interest rate, which could be bettered by transferring the funds to the Business Money Manager Account for balances above 25k. The Appendix advised that all excess funds were to be held in a Business Money Manager No Notice Account.

RESOLVED :

That the Annual Investment Strategy for Bagillt Community Council, as prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer, and circulated as an Appendix to the report, be adopted for meeting the requirements for this Authority for 2007/08.

111. ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT 2006/07

The meeting considered a report of the Responsible Financial Officer on Annual Risk Assessment, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. The report reminded Members of the risk assessments undertaken in previous years. It was a statement adopted by the Council showing its identified risks, assessed them, and put controls in place to manage. The Council had to carry out a risk assessment to provide assurance for local tax payers and to prevent the cost of litigation. The Appendix attached to the report was once again in the format as recommended by the internal auditor.

In relation to budgetary control, the Council considered and agreed a report on estimates of income/expenditure at its January meeting in order to set the precept for the coming financial year. It also received a quarterly update which included Bank reconciliation. At the same time as estimates were considered at the January meeting, the Council also considered a separate report in relation to Local Government investments. The Clerk advised that the risk assessment would normally be undertaken earlier in the municipal year and they would ensure that for 2007/08 this would be reported to the May meeting.

RESOLVED :

1. That consideration of the report of the Responsible Financial Officer be accepted as the formal Risk Assessment by the Council for 2006/07.
2. That in relation to the key risks, the response again be identified as relating to the Council's assets, Bank accounts, internal financial controls and insurance cover for statutory and other purposes.
3. That the Appendix attached to the report be accepted as having taken all the appropriate steps to minimise risks in conjunction with documented internal financial controls, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

112. PLANING

a. Application Determined Under Recess Period

No.	Location	Detail
042485	Adjoining 83 Riverbank	Erection of public notice board

As the application was submitted by the Council it was supported as given additional information to local residents.

042418	Panton Hall, Old Bagillt Road	Barn Conversion
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The application was supported.

042517	6 Manor Drive	Erection of single storey rear extension
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The application was supported.

042546	Gwynfryn, Sandy Lane	Continuation of use of parking area for two vehicles for school contracts
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The application was supported.

042526	Old Legion Club, Tai Newydd, Gadlys Lane	Demolish single storey building and erect 6 new small dwellings and 1 new detached larger building
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Whilst not against the housing development on the site, an objection was raised regarding the use of Highfield Road as an access for four of the dwellings, in view of its width and the junction with Merlyn Lane.

RESOLVED :

That the responses made on behalf of the Council during the recess period be noted.

b. Applications for Consideration

No.	Location	Detail
042484	Car Park, High Street	Erection of public notice board

RESOLVED :

That as the application was submitted by the Council, it be supported as giving additional information to local residents.

113. DONATIONS

The meeting considered three applications received for financial assistance, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. In relation to the application received from New Brighton Chapel Action Group, Councillor C.P. Owens and the Clerk gave further information concerning uncertainties regarding quotations received for work intended for which they were seeking financial assistance.

RESOLVED :

1. That a donation of 60 (cheque No. 101078) be agreed under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to The Samaritans.
2. That the application received from New Brighton Chapel Action Group be deferred pending further information.
3. That no donation be made in respect of the application received from Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod.

114. NOTICE BOARDS

a. Adjoining 83 Riverbank

The Clerk advised the meeting that planning permission had now been received to locate a notice board made by Glasdon on the pavement area alongside the hedge to the junction side of the street sign. An application had now been made to the Highway Authority to locate the notice board on the adopted highway and a copy of the planning permission received had been forwarded. It had been agreed with Halkyn Depot that Flintshire County Council would store any notice board purchased and would arrange for erection on a re-chargeable basis.

RESOLVED :

That the progress report be noted and that the Clerk be authorised to order the agreed notice board from Glasdon once Highway Authority permission was received, with erection being by way of Flintshire County Council on a re-chargeable basis.

b. Car Park, High Street

The Clerk advised that the planning application in relation to this notice board had been delayed due to the fact that the site plans had to be returned, as the precise location point within the area of consent given by the Directorate of Community and Housing Services at Flintshire County Council had not been identified. This had been done, hence earlier in the meeting the planning application had been reported.

The Clerk advised that he had today received a phone call from the Planning Department indicating their concerns that the notice board supplied by Glasdon was silver in colour. Enquiries were being made with the manufacturer as to whether a black version was available so that it would blend in with the existing street furniture in the area. They also expressed concern regarding the precise site for the notice board, and were requesting the Housing and Community Services Directorate to provide a larger scale plan, which would then better enable it to be indicated. It may well not be possible to obtain planning permission for the preferred notice board to be erected on this site due to its colour, therefore an alternative but similar style may have to be sought.

RESOLVED :

That the progress report be noted and that the Clerk be authorised to pursue an alternative type of notice board if the Planning Authority are unable to approve the type chosen due to its colour.

115. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name		Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Flintshire County Council	600.00	101074	Loc.Govt. (MP) Act 1976 (S.19)
Soc. of Local Council Clerks	95.00	101075	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
Mr. G. Roberts	666.93	101076	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
HM Revenue & Customs	203.47	101077	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)

116. RECESS PERIOD

The Clerk reported that apart from the Police funding issue and planning applications referred to previously, there were no issues requiring action by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

117. RIGHTS OF WAY – PROPOSED DEFINITIVE MODIFICATION ORDER TO ADD A FOOTPATH AT MAES WALWEN PLAYING FIELD

The meeting considered a letter and map received from Flintshire County Council advising that there was sufficient evidence to proceed with the making of the Order. Reference was made by Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones to the fact that the route went straight across the football field and that there had been discussions with the Recreation Department of Flintshire County Council to the effect that perhaps it could around the outside. Councillor R.K. Jones and the Clerk advised that it would be better for the Order to proceed as shown on the map to ensure that it was made and was included on the Definitive Map as, in practice, if there was a match proceeding then people would walk around the outside of the football field. Once an Order had been made and included on the Definitive Map then it would be possible to apply for a diversion to address the concerns indicated by the Member.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

118. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Retail Facility

Councillor R. Davies requested information from County Councillors as to whether there had been an enquiry to Flintshire County Council in relation to the provision of a new retail facility in the Village. In response, Councillor R.K. Jones advised that there had been an enquiry concerning Council owned land and the Authority were now considering the planning situation in relation to such a usage. If and when it was decided that the land concerned should be disposed of for retail purposes, then it would be valued by the District Valuer and then made available for purchase, either with planning permission for retail usage or making such an application a condition for the purchaser that it only be available for retail purposes.

b. Kerbside Collections

Councillor C. Williams enquired if it was possible for the boxes provided to be of a larger capacity or to have a lid, due to the problems caused by recent weather conditions due to high winds. In response, Councillor R.K.

Jones indicated that, as Executive Member, it was not possible to replace all such boxes as indicated due to the number and cost and that in any case to provide a lid would reduce the capacity and in many aspects all it required was careful loading by the public. In relation to a further enquiry concerning wheelie bin provision, Councillor R.K. Jones reminded Members that in many areas this had now meant the Local Authority switching over to a two weekly collection of household refuse, which did lead to problems in times of hot weather.

Councillor J. Williams made reference to the County Council facility at Greenfield and to the extremely helpful staff who aided the public. Councillor R.K. Jones suggested that anyone experiencing such helpful assistance should make this known in writing to the Local Authority, and possibly also the local press.

c. Nant y Glyn/Pen y Glyn

Councillor R. Davies made reference to the need for 'Give Way' markings at Nant y Glyn and Pen y Glyn.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to the Highway Authority accordingly.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT**

Date of Council Meeting		Friday 12th January 2007
Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
	There were no Declarations made	

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Chairman.