

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt on Friday 9th March 2007.

PRESENT : Councillor B.T. Doleman (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillor S.M. Manfredi, J. Ovens and M.A. Reece.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk).

133. POLICING MATTERS

The Chairman made reference to the fact that P.C. Schofield was not present and that it was not known if he would be attending the meeting. Accordingly, if the Officer were able to attend later then he would return to the item of Policing matters.

134. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 16th February 2007.

a. Minute No. 123(c) – Proposed Telecommunications Installation at Bagillt Road, Bagillt

The Clerk advised Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones that there had been no further communication for the Company and to date was not aware that a planning application had been submitted.

b. Minute No. 124 – Community Newsletter

The Clerk advised that he had accessed the Royal Mail website and had ascertained there would be a minimum charge of 500, plus a cost of 35 per thousand items, for delivery of the Community Newsletter to all households. This would exceed the total budget in the next financial year, which was to also include the costs of printing. It was agreed that due to the cost the option of using volunteers should be pursued to retain the intention to cover all households within the community.

c. Minute No. 126 – Donations

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had received correspondence from the New Brighton Chapel Action Group regarding the altar top they wished

to purchase from Eurostone at a cost of 271.25 and, in accordance with the decision made at the last meeting, a letter had been forwarded to the Company confirming that the cost of purchase would be met by the Council. In the event of the invoice for completion of the works requiring payment before the next meeting, then the Clerk was authorised to pay accordingly. Councillor J. Williams updated the meeting concerning possible financial assistance for the Group from the Communities First project pot money.

d. Minute No. 130(d) – Beechcroft, Highfield Road

The Clerk advised Councillor Mrs. D. Jones that no response had as yet been received from the Housing Directorate, whilst the Member made reference to the need to make the step more visible for elderly users of the facility due to the inadequate lighting in the area.

e. Minute No. 131 – Access to the Foreshore

The Clerk indicated that he had received a response from the Legal Officer at Flintshire County Council concerning the previous agreement between the former Delyn Borough Council and Company, which confirmed the points that had been reported at the last meeting.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 16th February 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

135. APPLICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT – FORMER BRITISH LEGION CLUB, GADLYS LANE

Councillor Mrs. D. Jones indicated that, following the last meeting of the Council, she had been in contact with both the Planning and Highways Departments at Flintshire County Council concerning this matter. The Planning Department had indicated that the decision to grant approval, which also permitted some access down Highfield Road, had been granted two days before the last meeting of the Council and that it had been done under delegated powers, as agreed with the local County Councillor. In addition, she made reference to her discussion with the Highways Department, following on from the points made at the last Council meeting. A letter had also been received from Flintshire County Council in response to the letter sent following the discussion at the last meeting, confirming that the decision had been made, and also commenting on the highways issues raised.

Councillor C.P. Owens felt that it had been a waste of time discussing this issue at the last meeting if the decision had already been made prior to that date and

questioned the fact that this was not made known by the County Members. In response, Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that at the last Council meeting he was not aware that the decision to grant the application under delegated powers had been made and it was often some 2-3 weeks later when he received a copy of the decision. Councillor C.P. Owens felt that there should be a motion of censure against the Local County Councillor on this issue, which was supported by Councillor Mrs. D. Jones, with other Members abstaining. The Chairman felt the issue should not be pursued at this meeting as Councillor J. Owens was not present to respond.

RESOLVED :

That this item is placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting and that the Clerk advises Councillor J. Owens accordingly and also endeavour to ascertain from the Planning Department as to when the decision was made and when the local County Member was advised of the decision to grant the application.

136. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Bagillt Heritage Society

Councillor C.P. Owens updated the meeting in relation to progress with the War Memorial improvement scheme, both in terms of the work to be undertaken by the stonemason and the lighting aspect.

137. UNAUTHORISED USE OF LAND OFF HOLYWELL ROAD (A5026) BY TRAVELLERS

The Chairman advised the meeting that although it was not on the agenda he would allow a discussion on this issue, which was of particular concern to local residents. The Clerk advised that prior to the meeting commencing he had been handed correspondence on behalf of the residents of the Bagillt West Ward, and the covering letter sent to Planning Officer at Flintshire County Council and accompanying petition, each of which were read out. Local residents were particularly concerned at the unauthorised use of the land with the works that had already taken place giving it a semblance of permanence and that there were no appropriate local facilities available, and neither had the necessary planning permission been sought or obtained.

The Clerk also advised that he had spoken to the Clerk to Holywell Town Council as the site being used was actually within their area, although it was close to the boundary of this Authority. Contact had already been made with their local County Councillor, and they were meeting as an Authority very shortly to discuss the issue and would probably welcome working with this Council. In addition, the Clerk indicated that he had also discussed the matter with Councillor J. Owens, who was not able to be present, and reported on action already undertaken by

Flintshire Officers and to the fact that the issue was complicated in that it involved land in private ownership. This latter aspect was also commented upon by Councillor R.K. Jones. In relation to this particular issue also, Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones reported on the uncertainty of the legal situation regarding ownership and whether a previous alleged sale to a person outside the United Kingdom had in fact been properly processed. It was noted that a number of local residents were attending the meeting tonight to listen to the discussion on this particular item.

RESOLVED :

1. That representations be made to the Planning and Legal Departments of Flintshire County Council registering the concern of this Authority regarding the unauthorised use of this land and to include the damage to the woodland and effect on wildlife. Also, that they be requested to keep the Council informed of progress in relation to any actions they were contemplating.
2. That contact be made with Holywell Town Council with a view to working jointly on this issue and that a copy of the correspondence received from and on behalf of local residents be forwarded to their Clerk.
3. That the lead petitioner be advised of the above actions on behalf of the Bagillt West Action Committee.

138. THE BIG D-DAY – (CYMRU) 07

The meeting considered information received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been circulated previously. The Clerk reminded Members that there had been brief discussion on this matter at the last meeting on the item relating to access to the foreshore. The event was to take place on the 14th and 15th September 2007, and the aim was to have sections of the Estuary coastline adopted by organised groups and cleared of light litter, where it was safe to do so, with the County Council committed to removing all bagged litter following the event. They were hoping to raise the profile of the Dee Estuary coastline within the wider Flintshire community and also conservation and recreation projects support, within this and other communities in the short and long term. In particular, they would be looking for volunteers and representatives to liaise with the conservation and business groups also coming forward within community boundaries.

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the organisations consulted, which did not appear to include Communities First for Holywell Neighbourhoods, which covered both the Boot End, Bagillt, as well as Greenfield. In addition, he felt that the principle of the event should be supported, a view that was shared by

other Members. A further discussion could take place when more details were received, including the precise location of the event in relation to the Bagillt area.

RESOLVED :

1. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Community Council supports the aims of the project and now awaits further details concerning involvement by volunteers and the precise area to be covered.
2. That the County Council be advised of their possible omission in relation to Communities First for the Holywell neighbourhoods for both the Boot End, Bagillt and Greenfield areas.

139. PLANNING

a. Applications

The Clerk advised that there were no applications for consideration at this meeting.

b. Appeal – Panton Hall, Old Bagillt Road

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Council had previously agreed to support this application and that following an appeal by the applicant they had the opportunity to withdraw or modify their previous comments. He had received a telephone call from the applicant, who was seeking clarification as to why the Council supported the application and had promised to forward further details, which had not been received.

RESOLVED :

That the previous decision of the Council to support the application be adhered to without further comment.

140. BAGILLT SUMMER ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME 2007

The meeting considered information received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated. The Council had for a number of years supported this scheme with financial assistance and had agreed to do so for 2007/08, subject to receiving details of what was intended. The purpose of the letter was to give details as to what took place in 2006 and to request observations of what Members would like to see included in 2007. To support the information which had been circulated the Clerk also read out comments that had been received from those who had taken part in the activities.

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the apparent low number of youngsters that had participated in the various activities organised and was advised that it may be due to restrictions on numbers, particularly on organised trips. In addition, perhaps there could be more emphasis on publicity to ensure youngsters were advised of the availability of activities during the summer recess.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Authority has no comment to make on the range of activities offered in 2006, having noted the observations of youngsters who had attended, but would wish to see more publicity to ensure greater attendance, notwithstanding any restriction there may be on numbers for trips away from the area.

141. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name		Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Welsh Water Dw'r Cymru	191.42	101085	Loc.Govt. (MP) Act 1976(S.19)
Mr. G. Roberts	670.74	101086	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
HM Revenue & Customs	203.45	101087	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
J. Pugh	25.00	101088	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.144)
Glasdon U.K. Ltd	709.19	101089	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.144)
Ramblers Assoc	24.00	101090	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)
One Voice Wales	374.00	101091	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)

142. DONATIONS

The Clerk advised that no applications for donations had been received for discussion at this meeting.

143. NOTICE BOARDS

a. Adjoining 83 Riverbank

The Clerk advised that the notice board for this site had now been ordered from Glasdon, with a delivery period of 4-6 weeks, due to the fact that it

included personalisation by way of the name of the Council. When it was ready it would be delivered to the Flintshire County Council Depot, Halkyn, who would then make arrangements for it to be erected on site. The cost of the Glasdon notice board was £603.57 and it was agreed the invoice could be paid if received prior to the next Council meeting. The notice board normally came with two sets of keys but the Company had agreed to provide two further sets, which the Clerk indicated would be passed on to Councillors Mrs. S.L. Jones and J. Williams, as local Members, so that they could also arrange for usage of the facility by local organisations.

Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones indicated that there was still continued parking of vehicles in this pavement area, which if it continued would make it difficult to see any notices which were being displayed.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

b. Car Park, High Street

The Clerk advised that once again there had been no further progress in relation to this notice board, as he was still awaiting the view of the Planning Authority in relation to the siting and colour of the style proposed to be used.

RESOVLED :

That the report be noted.

144. HOMES FOR LOCALS

The meeting considered an e-mail received from Cymuned, copies of which had been previously circulated. The organisation were calling upon the County Councils of Wales to follow the lead of some Councils in England by declaring that they would not permit new residential build, except in cases where there was proven local need. Town and Community Councils were being asked to declare their support for the Homes for Locals Campaign by advising Cymuned accordingly and also writing to the County Council to request them to include this policy as part of their Local Development Plan. The organisation felt it was vitally important for Town and Community Councils to make a stand in favour of the local people they represented by declaring support for the Campaign, and in turn supporting local people who were unable to afford homes in their own community.

Councillor C.P. Owens felt that there were merits in this Campaign which could be supported. Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the issue of affordable

homes in relation to the 30% figure, which developers were supposed to make available in schemes over a certain size and to their tendency to try and negate this somewhat by in turn offering a separate site of just affordable homes, rather than a mix within a large development, as was intended. Councillor Mrs. D. Jones also commented on the affordable homes issue in relation to the definition and the ability of local persons to meet even a lower purchase price. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that his support for this campaign was due to the fact that new developments seemed to have their properties purchased by other than local people, presumably because of the cost.

RESOLVED :

That Cymuned be advised that the Council support the general aims of the campaign and that a letter be forwarded to Flintshire County Council accordingly.

145. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Clerk advised a letter had been received from the Wales Audit Office, advising that it had been a number of years since the appointment of U.H.Y. Hacker Young as the external auditor for Town and Community Councils within the area. A new procurement exercise had been carried out last year specifically for Community Councils and other small bodies, with tenders invited and bidders thoroughly evaluated for ability to provide a quality tailored for Wales. As current auditor, U.H.Y. Hacker Young was one of the preferred bidders and it was being proposed that their appointment should be extended for the foreseeable future. The Clerk advised that having an external auditor in addition to an internal auditor was the requirement of the current Regulations and based on personal experience he could see no reason why the appointment should not be extended.

RESOLVED :

That the Wales Audit Office be advised that the extension of the appointment of U.H.Y. Hacker Young, as external auditor, was acceptable to the Council.

146. HOUSING IN FLINTSHIRE – STRATEGY SUMMIT

A letter had been received from Flintshire County Council indicating they were developing a long-term plan for housing in the County, which would be their Strategy for the next 3-5 years. They wished to take on board the views and opinions of a wide range of people and groups in developing the Strategy, and as such were inviting attendance at a Housing Summit on 22nd March 2007.

RESOLVED :

That if they are able to attend, the Council be represented by Councillors R.K. Jones and Mrs. D. Jones.

147. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Wern Avenue - Fencing

Councillor A. Griffiths advised the meeting that part of the fencing at Wern Avenue was down.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be reported to Flintshire County Council for attention.

b. Housing Development, High Street – State of Highway

Councillor A. Griffiths referred to the housing development in the High Street opposite Talbot Stores and to the unsatisfactory state of mud on the highway, which was not being cleared away by the developers as required, and that in addition some of the heavy vehicles appeared to be causing damage to the highway surface. In relation to this particular development, Councillor Mrs. D. Jones indicated that the developer had not as yet provided the required amenity area and was advised by Councillor R.K. Jones that this was a planning requirement and would no doubt be undertaken when the housing units had all been completed.

RESOLVED :

That the problems with the mud and possible damage to the highway be reported to Flintshire County Council for attention.

c. Highfield Road

Councillor Mrs. D. Jones referred to the issues she had raised some months previously concerning the need for assistance to be given to a tenant who was unable to undertake work on his garden. It had been looked into but the Community Caretaker at the time advised that it would be undertaken by the Housing Department.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk take the matter up with Flintshire County Council accordingly.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 9th March 2007
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
	There were no Declarations made	

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Chairman.