

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on Friday 11th January 2008.

PRESENT : Councillor M.A. Reece (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillors R. Davies, J. Ovens and C. Williams.

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

117. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There was one member of the public present and he had been given a copy of the procedure. He indicated however that he did not wish to speak but when the item on the agenda concerning the Travellers Site planning application was reached he was prepared to give an update from a local perspective, if Members so desired.

118. POLICING MATTERS

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had received an e-mail from P.C. Oare. Whilst the Officer had intended to be at this meeting, he had unfortunately fell whilst on duty and badly damaged his ankle and was consequently signed off on sick leave. He had therefore requested that his apologies be passed on to Members.

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the recent national press article concerning comments made by the Chief Constable of North Wales Police. This concerned the use of the drug Ecstasy, which had been compared to Aspirin. Whilst the former had led to a number of unfortunate deaths, the latter had medically recognised benefits for certain disorders. He felt that such comments by a high profile person, including the fact that the use of drugs in the future could be legalised, sent out the wrong message, both to the public and Officers working for the Police Force, who were expected to uphold the law. It was suggested that a letter of concern regarding these comments should be sent to the Chief Constable with copies to the North Wales Police Authority, Delyn MP and AM and Flintshire County Council, and he was supported in these aims by Councillor A. Griffiths.

The Chairman felt that there would be benefit in inviting Inspector Maxwell to a meeting of the Council together with the Community Beat Manager, if hopefully back from sick leave, to discuss concerns regarding the use of drugs and

underage drinking in the Village. Other Members supported these sentiments and felt that the invitation should be extended to attend the next meeting of the Council in February, and failing this for March.

Councillor C.R. Williams indicated that he had yet to see the new Community Beat Manager on duty in the Village but was assured by other Members that he had been undertaking duties, including visiting various premises such as the two Schools and public houses.

RESOLVED :

1. That a letter be forwarded to the Chief Constable expressing concerns at the comments made regarding the issue of drugs, with copies to be sent to the Police Authority, Delyn MP and AM and Flintshire County Council.
2. That an invitation be extended to Inspector Maxwell to attend the February meeting of the Council and if this was not convenient, to the one to be held in March.

119. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9th November 2007.

a. Minute No. 101 (a) – Planning Applications – Former British Legion Club

The Clerk advised that Councillor J. Ovens had informed him that when these applications were being considered at a recent Planning Committee he had requested that consideration be deferred to enable a site visit due to access concerns, and this had been agreed.

b. Minute No. 101(c) – Notice Board, High Street

The Clerk made reference to the new Notice Board, which had been in use for more than a month and had an improved system of attaching any notices by magnetic discs when compared to the board erected at Riverbank. He therefore requested authority to purchase additional magnetic discs to use with the Riverbank Notice Board and also a spare set of keys from the suppliers, Greenbarnes Limited, and this was accordingly agreed.

c. Minute No. 101(d) – Dog Bins in Flintshire

Councillor R.K. Jones advised that the two bins were now in place.

d. Minute No. 105 – Planning Application – Road Runner

In reply to Councillor J. Williams, Councillor R.K. Jones and the Clerk advised that they were not aware that a decision had yet been made by the Planning Authority on this application.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9th November 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

120. COUNCILLOR MRS. D. JONES

The Clerk advised the meeting that Councillor Mrs. D. Jones had last attended a Council meeting on 23rd July 2007 and that in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, it was a requirement to attend a meeting within six months of the previous. Failure to do so resulted in ceasing to be a Member of the Council unless the Council considered a request to grant an extension prior to the expiry of the six months. This meeting was the last opportunity to do so before the six months expired on 23rd January. The Clerk advised that it was usual for him to give a reminder to a Member, usually after a period of four months but unfortunately it had been overlooked in this case and a letter had only been forwarded to Councillor Mrs. D. Jones a week or so before this meeting. In addition, he had endeavoured to contact the Member by telephone over the past few days but had been unable to make contact.

The Clerk further advised that as elections were due on the 1st May 2008, any extension would only apply to that date. In addition, within a six month period of an election being due the Council were not able to fill any vacancy. In the circumstances, the Clerk requested the meeting to consider the issue of an extension which could then be offered to the Member.

RESOLVED :

That, having regard to the explanation given by the Clerk, an extension from absence to meetings be granted to Councillor Mrs. D. Jones until the termination of the current Council due to the elections on 1st May 2008, should she wish to take up this offer.

121. UNAUTHORISED USE OF LAND OFF HOLYWELL ROAD (A5026) BY TRAVELLERS – PLANNING APPLICATION 043412

The Clerk made reference to the fact that this application had not been considered by the Flintshire County Council Planning Committee held on 9th January 2008, and was now due to be considered at the next meeting to be

held on 6th February 2008. Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to a report he made at the last meeting of the Council, following a meeting with the County Legal Officer. In view of the undertaking given he felt that a letter should be forwarded to the Legal Officer for an explanation as to the continuing delay.

At the request of the Chairman, the member of the public present referred to in Minute No. 117 commented upon the situation from a local resident perspective.

RESOLVED :

That a letter be forwarded to the Legal Officer at Flintshire County Council accordingly.

122. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2008/09

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer on Estimates for 2008/09, prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Details were also included in relation to probable income and expenditure for 2007/08, together with a short report on particular aspects which could affect the financial information previously circulated.

a. Donations

At the request of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman brief details had been circulated of the current policy in relation to donations, together with an Appendix A indicating sums given to various organisations over the past three years. Councillor C.P. Owens felt that there should be a detailed review in how donations were given by the Council prior to any further applications being considered in the current financial year. In addition, it should include information on the various changes in policy that the Council had agreed over the years and he was supported in these sentiments by other Members. He further pointed out that it was not the intention to stop supporting applications from local organisations in particular but that the Council should have a detailed set of Guidelines in making determinations which would assist both Members and applicants. Councillors J. Williams and Mrs. S.L. Jones indicated that they could not support this recommendation.

The Clerk briefly advised Members of some of the previous criteria used concerning donations and the significance of Section 137 expenditure. If Members required a detailed report on the lines being suggested then it would be his intention to make it available for the next Council meeting.

b. Christmas Lighting Expenditure

Details were given in the report of the expenditure on Christmas lighting

since 2002/03, highlighting the problems that had occurred this year, with particular reference to the cross street display at Gadlys Lane. In view of this information Members were asked to consider their future policy in relation to making provision for Christmas lighting prior to discussing estimates. In relation to the sum in estimates, Members were advised that this would cover the existing provision only and did not include the rope lights, which were not used this year following problems in 2006.

Councillor R.K. Jones felt that the Council should continue with its provision of Christmas lighting in the Village, notwithstanding the problems which had occurred in 2007, which were outside the control of the Council. It was unfortunate that there were not more buildings available which would lend themselves to cross street displays hence the trial last year of using rope lights on lamp columns. It was regrettable that the system insisting upon by Flintshire County Council had made them very exposed to vandalism. In addition he made reference to the fact that a number of other communities in the County had utilised a different method of connecting from lamp columns, although it did appear that these were columns of a greater height than those used last year in High Street. There was a possibility that in the future lamp columns of a greater height might be erected, which could then be utilised.

Councillor C.R. Williams felt that if the Council were to continue with Christmas lighting then some attempt should be made to have something in the West end of the Village, possibly by utilising the rope lights, which were currently being kept in storage. Other Members supported this aim and suggested the local Members should endeavour to examine possible suitable sites, including lamp columns. The Clerk reminded the meeting that, following on from the 2006 problems, he had obtained details of another system to connect rope lights to lamp columns, as suggested by the Council's current lighting supplier. In view of the cost which had then been notified then at a price of £450 per column, it had been decided not to proceed in view of the previous expenditure of a similar amount which had already been outlaid. In addition, in the event of a new building being used, then the Council would be responsible for placing a connection/timer which would then remain all year round. If the Council wished to include the possibility of using the rope lights this year, then a further provision would need to be made in estimates.

c. Estimates of Income and Expenditure

At the request of a Member, the Clerk explained the background to the assistance given on an annual basis to the running of the Community Centre, which covered insurance and water/sewerage rates. Councillor Mrs D.J. Williams felt that, in view of the financial assistance given by the Council, in the event of it requiring to use the Community Centre for either

a Council or public meeting then it should be able to do so without charge.

The Clerk made reference to the item in the report concerning notice boards and to the suggestion agreed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, that the existing wooden one at the Community Centre which had been provided by the Council more than twenty years ago should be replaced with a new wall-mounted lockable version from Greenbarnes, subject to agreement by the Community Association.

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the Community Caretaker, and he was advised by the Clerk of the Department of Flintshire County Council to whom this Officer reported. In addition, he was still receiving regular reports on work undertaken on behalf of the Council. The Member made reference to the staff directly employed by Flint Town Council that undertook various general duties in the town and requested the Clerk to make enquiries regarding the working arrangements for that Authority.

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the income aspect of the report and to the figure being suggested for precept purposes. In response the Clerk made reference to the fact that if Members wished to retain it at the same level then the additional income required could be met from balances.

RESOLVED :

1. That a precept of £30,000 be made on Flintshire County Council for 2008/09, the same as for 2007/08.
2. That the amounts indicated in the previously circulated expenditure heads for estimate purposes 2008/09, be approved as circulated, subject to item 8.5 being increased to £3,000 to take account of the decision in Resolution 4 below.
3. That a detailed review be undertaken concerning donations following a report by the Clerk, and until this has been considered no further applications from Organisations be considered.
4. That the Council continue to provide Christmas lighting, to also include the rope lights presently in storage with a view to them possibly being located in the West end of the Village and local Members be requested to provide information to the Clerk on suitable locations.
5. That in relation to the Community Centre, the Bagillt Community Association be offered a replacement wall mounted Notice Board, supplied by Greenbarnes Limited, and that in respect to the continued

financial assistance towards the running of the Centre, they be advised that in future the Council would expect free use of the premises on the odd occasion it would be required for either a Council or public meeting.

6. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council will once again participate in the Playscheme programme, summer activities for older children and transport assistance for those in the Wern area wishing to attend the Youth Centre.
7. That in relation to the provision included for Community Caretaker, formal notification of continuation of the scheme await a report by the Clerk at the next meeting concerning information regarding the alternative undertaken by Flint Town Council.

123. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS INVESTMENTS 2008/09

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.

The Appendix to the report advised that all excess funds were to be held in a Business Money Management 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 2008/09.

124. 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 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members.

RESOLVED :

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

125. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Bagillt Heritage Society

Councillor B.T. Doleman informed the meeting of the progress in relation to the War Memorial Improvement Scheme. In particular reference was made to the near completion of the lighting arrangements and the position with regard to the stone mason.

Reference was made by the Chairman to the problems of the bench and the inappropriate use by residents of placing their refuse sacks against the rear of the wall to the Monument due to the fact that a concrete base had been provided there by the developer. Councillor R.K. Jones informed the meeting that steps were in hand concerning removal of the stone/wood bench and that Officers of the County Council had advised residents that collection was from individual properties. With regard to the concrete base which had led to the problem, he suggested an approach be made to the developer to see if he would agree to remove it and provide planting in its place.

RESOLVED :

1. That the progress report in relation to the War Memorial be noted.
2. That the Clerk make representations to the developer of the Alston Court properties at the rear of the War Memorial accordingly.

b. One Voice Wales – Wrexham/Flintshire Area Committee

The Clerk advised he had attended a meeting held yesterday evening in Wrexham in place of the Chairman. There had been two guest speakers, the first being from the Electoral Commission Wales, who had explained the purpose of this Organisation and had made reference to their role in the forthcoming Local Government Elections on 1st May 2008. In this latter aspect a copy of the election timetable was available on their website and the Clerk advised he would forward this information to Members. In addition contact had been made with the Electoral Officer at Flintshire County Council, who had confirmed they would be sending nomination packs for the Community Council elections to Clerks for distribution amongst existing Members.

The subject of the second speaker at the meeting had been the North East Wales Spatial Plan, with particular reference to the Mersey/Dee Alliance. Reference had also been made to the cross border issues between Flintshire, Wrexham and Cheshire.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

126. PLANNING

a. Application Considered Under Recess Powers

No.	Location	Detail
044260	Y Bwthyn, Foel Gron	Erection of conservatory and re-design garage.

It was noted that this application was supported.

044226	Land adj. 1 Ithell Cottages High Street	Outline – erect detached dwelling and demolish existing garage.
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It was noted that an objection was made due to the adverse effect on adjoining properties and vehicle parking with reference to the similarities to a previous application (041933) in September 2006.

b. Applications for Consideration

No.	Location	Detail
044259	1 Gadlys Lane	Erect single storey extension to rear.

RESOLVED :

That the application be supported.

127. RECESS PERIOD

Other than planning applications and estimates referred to previously, it was noted the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had approved implementation of the national salary award for the Clerk, backdated to 1st April 2007, details of which were reported to the meeting. In addition, the Clerk indicated that he had kept the Chairman and Vice-Chairman advised of the fact that on two occasions during the recess he had assisted Flint Town Council by covering meetings of

that Authority due to the absence of the Town Clerk.

128. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid.

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Delyn Press	126.00	101154	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)
Delyn Press	35.90	101155	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)
Mr. G. Roberts	780.19	101156	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
HM Revenue & Customs	217.30	101157	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
Society of Loc. Council Clerks	113.00	101158	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
Greenbarnes Ltd.	39.76	101159	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

129. DONATIONS

In view of the decision taken earlier in the meeting to undertake a review of the Donations Policy, consideration of applications received was deferred accordingly.

130. COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting of the Council positive responses had been received to date from the Community Policeman, Branch Librarian and Ysgol Merllyn, to forward articles for the next edition of the Community Newsletter. The Council intended to publish the next edition before the end of February to enable circulation prior to the commencement of the period associated with the Community Council elections due on 1st May 2008. To date, no actual information had been received from the three positive responses and there had been no indication as yet whether the Vicar or Ysgol Glan Aber, who now had a new Head Teacher, also wished to be included.

RESOLVED :

That a report be made to the next meeting of the Council as to whether it would be possible to publish a second edition of the Community Newsletter before the

end of February.

131. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – PLAY AREA UPGRADING

A letter had been received from Flintshire County Council following further representations made by this Authority after the last meeting of the Council. It advised that when the Head of Leisure Services had been consulted on planning applications and Section 106 Agreements had been entered into, then those provisions and/or payments had been used to enhance children's play facilities in the relevant community. In addition, it was suggested that this Authority may wish to consider when being consulted on planning applications that any response, where appropriate, it supported the provision of play facilities or the payment of a commuted sum to the Authority, for use in improving local recreation provision.

Councillor R.K. Jones felt that further representation should be made to the Planning Authority in relation to Section 106 Agreements, with particular regard to the fact that there should be provision for such monies to also be used for other appropriate community purposes as well as upgrading play facilities, if the development was not sufficient to require one to be provided within the site.

RESOLVED :

That representation be made to the Planning Authority accordingly.

132. TRAINING PLANNING SEMINAR FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

Details had been previously circulated to Members concerning a Training Planning Seminar for Councillors on land use planning organised by One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales.

RESOLVED :

That if Councillor C. Williams was able to attend at the event to be held on 20th February 2008 at Llanddulas, then he be authorised to do so, subject to a place being available and that the OVW Member fee of £25 be paid accordingly.

133. ADOPTION OF ESTATE ROAD AT CAE'R FFYNNON OFF TYN TWLL LANE, BAGILLT

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. It was noted that the County Council had decided it would proceed with the works to complete the estate road at Caer Ffynnon to adoption standard without seeking any further

contribution from the residents. The programming of the works, subject to weather contingencies, was noted.

The Chairman advised that as his previous offer to meet the shortfall was no longer needed, he would make a contribution to another cause within the community.

134. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Electoral Registration

Councillor Mrs D.J. Williams made reference to a recent programme she had watched on television regarding the sale of electors' names by Local Authorities to companies. In response, the Clerk advised that the Regulations governing the sale of Electoral Registers did permit the unedited version to be sold at a rate per 1,000 names but this was for specific purposes, examples of which he gave to the meeting.

b. Alexander's Garage, High Street

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to the fact that this site appeared to be being used for work on a variety of vehicles and was looking somewhat untidy. He was advised by Councillor R.K. Jones that permission would only be necessary if a change of use was involved and, as it was already a garage, this was unlikely to be the case.

c. Roadrunner Waste

Reference was made by Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones to the problem of lights at Roadrunner which were dazzling to traffic on the A548. The Clerk advised that this issue had previously been raised with the Company via the Enforcement Section at the Planning Authority.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk raise this issue with the appropriate Authority accordingly.

d. Land Adjoining Victoria Public House

Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones made reference to the untidy state of the land adjoining these premises including the location of a large container. With regard to which Authority the matter should be reported to, Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the fact that it all came down to the volume of waste at issue with only what was considered to be large amounts dealt with by the Environment Agency. In the circumstances he suggested that the matter be reported initially to Flintshire County Council.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk reports the matter to Flintshire County Council accordingly.

e. Stag Inn, High Street – Smashed Glass

Councillor C.R. Williams made reference to the problems caused through bottles and glasses being smashed in the periphery of the Stag Inn, which was a danger to the general public. Reference was also made to the landlord situation at these premises.

f. Derelict Premises, Boot End

The Chairman referred to the derelict premises in front of The Poplars, which had had a variety of uses and had been subject to a number of planning applications since becoming derelict. There had previously been a proposal for Flintshire County Council to possibly look at taking over the premises and reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to a change in legislation which permitted such action if appropriate.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to Flintshire County Council concerning the future of this building in relation to previous comments and changes in legislation.

135. PRINCE DAFYDD THE SECOND – PROPOSED MONUMENT

Members considered a letter received from a member of the “Dafydd The Second Committee”, copies of which had been previously circulated at the meeting. It was proposed that a suitable memorial monument be erected within Bagillt in honour of Prince Dafydd The Second, who was a former Prince of Wales and ruled between 1240-46. In the letter reference was made to the fact that he had been born at Hen Blas Castle, Coleshill in 1215, with the actual scene of his birthplace now being part of the community of Bagillt. There had been an encouraging response to date on the proposal and it was requested that a letter from the Council be sent in support of the idea of such a monument.

RESOLVED :

That a letter be forwarded as requested accordingly.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 11th January 2008
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no declarations of interest.		

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Chairman