

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL GLAN ABER, Bagillt, on Friday 8th February 2008.

PRESENT : Councillor M.A. Reece (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillor J. Ovens.

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

136. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were two members of the public present when this item was being discussed, although two further persons attended later in the meeting. The two members of the public present for this item indicated that they both wished to comment on the item on the agenda concerning the traveller's site planning application. In particular they made reference to the discussion at the Flintshire Planning Committee earlier in the week, which had resulted in the application being unanimously refused and thanked the Community Council for the action it had taken to date. They hoped that the Council would continue to support local residents during the appeal procedure.

The Clerk reminded Members that in accordance with the criteria agreed in July 2007, this meeting was required to review the effectiveness of the procedure after the initial six months of use, and to decide if it should continue for the future. A copy of the procedure had been previously circulated to Members and the Clerk gave details of the numbers of public that had attended and used this item to address Council meetings.

RESOLVED :

That the Public Inquiry item continues for all future Ordinary meetings of the Council in accordance with the criteria previously circulated.

137. POLICING MATTERS

The Clerk submitted an apology from the Community Beat Manager, who was unfortunately still on sick leave, but was hopeful that the treatment he was receiving would ensure he was soon back on duty. He had however forwarded information for an article for the Community Newsletter, which the Clerk indicated he would refer to later in the agenda.

There had been no response from Inspector Maxwell to the invitation to attend a Council meeting. In response to Councillor R.K. Jones, the Clerk advised that there had also been no response to the Chief Constable from the issue raised with him at the last meeting.

RESOLVED :

That a reminder be sent to the Chief Constable of the North Wales Police requesting a response to the issue raised by the Council.

138. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11th January 2008.

a. Minute No. 119(c) – Dog Bins in Flintshire

Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones indicated that the dog bin located near the OAP bungalows in Walwen was not being emptied, although the one located at Victoria Road was emptied regularly. Councillor Mrs. D. Jones indicated that a dog bin was needed at the Lead Works area Merllyn Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk draw these issues to the attention of the appropriate Department at the County Council.

b. Minute No. 125(a) – War Memorial Improvement Scheme

The Chairman circulated at the meeting a copy of a photograph, which showed clearly the situation at the War Memorial prior to the housing scheme at the rear. It confirmed that the area used by the developer to erect a concrete plinth which was being utilised by local residents for placing refuse sacks, was in fact part of the War Memorial site. It was agreed that a further letter should be sent to the developers drawing this matter to their attention, and also that the Clerk seek legal advice from One Voice Wales on how matters should proceed, should this be necessary.

c. Minute No. 134(d) – Land Adjoining Victoria Public House

The Clerk confirmed that he had received a call from Flintshire County Council requesting information on land ownership and he had referred the matter to Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones, who advised the meeting on the information she had been able to give.

d. Minute No. 134(f) – Derelict Premises, Boot End

The Clerk read out to the meeting a reply received from Flintshire County Council which made reference to the planning situation and that options open to the County Council were being discussed with the relevant Departments. Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the planning application approved in 2003 and it was agreed that the Clerk make enquiries with Flintshire County Council to see when the permission given expired and if to date there had been application to renew.

e. Minute No. 135 – Prince Dafydd the Second – Proposed Monument

The Chairman reported on a meeting he had attended of their Committee and indicated the type of monument being sought, that sites were being looked at in both Bagillt and Holywell, and the sponsorship obtained to date. There was to be a further meeting on the 13th March 2008, and he suggested that a Member on the Bagillt Heritage Society should also attend.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11th January 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

139. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman advised Members that he had been invited to attend a Charity Concert arranged by the Town Mayor of Holywell, which would be taking place at the Bagillt Community Centre next month.
2. The Chairman made reference to information he had received from Flint Town Council concerning their membership of the Cash and Carry Organisation known as COSTCO, and it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain further information from the Flint Town Clerk and report to a future meeting.
3. The Chairman made reference to representations he had received from a number of parents concerning the fact that swimming facilities for the public was not available at either Flint or Holywell baths after school until 7 p.m. due to swimming lessons for both children and adults. He felt that representations should be made to ensure that there is at least one facility was available each evening, as for youngsters after 7 p.m. was too late, and this was accordingly agreed.

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

It was noted that at the Flintshire County Council Planning Committee on 6th February 2008, this application had been unanimously refused and it was expected that the applicants would now appeal to the National Assembly. Councillor R.K. Jones expressed the view that the time taken by Flintshire County Council to consider the application, due to the need to ensure that all legal complexities were complied with, having regard to the nature of the application, then this should help to ensure that the National Assembly would not find that the Planning Authority had acted inappropriately.

Reference was made by Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones to the action taken by the travellers concerning the removing of hedgerows and planting flowers in their place, which had been brought to the attention of the appropriate Authority. Councillor A. Griffiths indicated that he had been approached by BBC Wales on the day the application was being considered for a comment in relation to the views of the Community Council. As it was a work day he had been unable to comply with the request for a live filmed interview, but had agreed to a discussion over the telephone. In the television article which was on that day, he expressed concern that the Local County Councillor did not make appropriate comments pertaining to the travellers entering the site and undertaking works without consent, and to concerns not being expressed regarding the possible contamination of the land being utilised.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

141. REVIEW OF DONATIONS POLICY

The meeting considered a report by the Clerk following on from the decision made at the last meeting of the Council. The report set out an explanation of Section 137 expenditure and its use for donations, use of other expenditure powers to assist organisations and variations to policy over the years. In addition, four appendices were attached. Appendix A gave information on donations made over the past three years, Appendix B was a list of applications for consideration for this financial year, Appendix C was a list of applications previously refused and Appendix D gave a list of options for consideration.

RESOLVED :

That in relation to Donations policy to come into affect with the new financial year commencing on 1st April 2008, the following was agreed :-

1. That in relation to frequency of determining applications received, this be undertaken twice yearly in October and February, the latter month being subject to funding still being available, with the proviso that all applications for consideration at those meetings must be received by the Clerk 14 days before their scheduled date.
2. That with regard to criteria, the following was agreed ;
 - a. All requests should be made on the basis of financial information, with the exception of both Schools and Bagillt Youth Club.
 - b. In relation to financial information for a balance sheet, it should not be more than three months old, or a bank statement more than one month old at the time of applying.
 - c. That in all circumstances where a specific item(s) was being sought, then the Community Council wherever possible would make the purchase and donate the item(s) to the organisation.
3. That in relation to the location of the Organisation applying, in all but exceptional circumstances, all recipients of funding should be constituted and benefiting the community of Bagillt and only if such circumstances of clear and substantial community benefit being demonstrated should such an exception be considered.
4. In relation to the issue of budget, the following was agreed ;
 - a. That only those identified Organisations seeking donations under Section 137 expenditure, as explained in the report of the Clerk and complying with the aforementioned criteria, should receive payment through the Donations budget included in Estimates.
 - b. Where further grant aid was considered then this finance should be budgeted to one-off expenditure from balances or only ear-marked reserves, as identified in Estimates, providing this approach was within the framework of Financial Regulations.
5. In relation to allocation of funds, the following was agreed ;
 - a. That apart from the two Schools and the Youth Club, each request be determined on merit that would normally attract contribution of the order of £90.00.
 - b. That it be noted that none of the issues covered in the review referred to above would in any way prevent or reduce the opportunity for local community based Organisations which

provided clear benefit to the community of Bagillt becoming eligible for submission for support.

6. That in relation to outstanding applications from monies still available in the present financial year, the following was agreed ;

a. That in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the following donations be agreed ;

Bagillt Playgroup and Toddlers – £200 (cheque No. 101165)

Samaritans – £50 (cheque No. 101167)

Urdd Gobaith Cymru – £70 (cheque No. 101166)

Note : Councillor C.P. Owens declared a personal interest in the application from Urdd Gobaith Cymru and took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon.

b. That no financial assistance be given to Deaf Association North Wales, County Forum Learning Disabilities Flintshire, North Wales Association for Spina Bifida and Flintshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

c. That the Clerk write to the Bagillt Community Association requesting them to give consideration to reducing the rent required to be paid by the Bagillt Playgroup and Toddlers Group during the period they would use the Community Centre whilst Beechcroft was being upgraded.

7. That in relation to applications previously refused by the Community Council, as in indicated in Appendix C, they be advised that if they apply again in the future that it was unlikely they would receive assistance in accordance with the new criteria agreed by the Council and that any applications received from them be noted in the twice-yearly reports to be considered at the October and February meeting.

142. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

Bagillt Heritage Society

Councillor C.P. Owens advised that the Annual General Meeting for the Society would take place at Trem Afon, Bagillt during the week commencing 25th February 2008, and all Members were invited to attend. In relation the War Memorial Improvement Scheme, Councillor B.T. Doleman updated the meeting concerning a continuing problem with the lighting system, which it would hope would be resolved shortly.

143. PLANNING

a. Application Considered Under Planning On-Line Consultation Period

No.	Location	Detail
044437	Land adj. to Talbot Terrace High Street	Reserved matters to erect three storey dwelling.

It was noted that this application was supported subject to it being no higher than adjacent properties and there being off-road parking.

b. Applications for Consideration

No.	Location	Detail
044363	Central Garage, High Street	Amendment to previous scheme 039947 to erect additional five two-bedroomed apartments in three and two-storey blocks including demolition of existing dwelling.

Councillors C.R. Williams and R.K. Jones expressed the view that an objection should be made to this application as it was further over-development in what was becoming a congested area and that if they wished to demolish the existing dwelling then it should be used for parking purposes only. In addition, reference was made to the UDP in relation to additional dwellings for the Village as a whole, with the ten year total likely to be exceeded and the previously agreed development on the site should not be classed as a precedent.

RESOLVED :

That an objection be made to this application on the grounds indicated above.

c. Site Visit by Flintshire County Council Planning Committee – Former British Legion Club, Gadlys Lane

At the site visit held on Monday 4th February 2008, the Council had been represented by Councillor Mrs. D. Jones. Councillor Mrs. D. Jones indicated that she had been unable to put her point across at the site visit regarding the access along Highfield Road and the junction with Merlyn Lane. The Clerk advised that during a discussion earlier in the day with Councillor J. Ovens he had indicated that application 044017 of six plots, which included access for some along Highfield Road had been refused, but application 044016 for four plots had been granted.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

144. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid.

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Temperance House	10.00	101160	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.144)
Mr. G. Roberts	690.67	101161	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
HM Revenue & Customs	270.30	101162	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
Flintshire County Council	650.00	101163	Loc.Govt.(MP) Act 1976 (S.19)
Flintshire County Council	150.02	101164	Loc.Govt.Act 1972(S.144)

145. COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had now received all the promised articles from Ysgol Merllyn, Branch Library and the Community Policeman. He briefly reported on the suggested content for the second edition of the Newsletter and it was agreed it should be dated February 2008 and that in the final page on Councils contacts all reference to existing Council Members should be removed due to the imminent elections, the procedure on which would commence in March.

The Clerk advised that it was his intention to make contact with the printer on Monday of next week with a view to producing draft copies to enable one to be delivered to each Member later in the week to so that any comments could be received. The Newsletter would then be printed the following week and all Members who had previously assisted with delivery had confirmed they would once again do so.

RESOLVED :

1. That the procedure outlined by the Clerk for producing a second edition of the Newsletter this month be agreed.
2. That Delyn Press once again be used to produce 2000 copies of A5 size back to back, black print on white paper.

146. SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS – TRAINING FOR CLERKS

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk be authorised to attend the one day training event for Wales, to be held in Llandrindod Wells on 8th September 2008.

147. HANGING BASKETS 2008

The Chairman requested a discussion concerning the provision of hanging baskets in 2008, following the decision by the Council at the last meeting to make appropriate provision in Estimates. With regard to watering arrangements, he reminded Members of the application which had been made to Eon for sponsorship of a water bowser and indicated that this was still to be considered and that there may be some assistance available. With regard to the problems with vandalism, Councillor R.K. Jones felt that the Council should continue to provide hanging baskets, but look at the possibility of a shorter and more secure chain arrangement to deter both vandalism and theft. In relation to the water bowser, the Chairman advised on a discussion with a Member of Northop Community Council and indicated that it may be possible to obtain a cheaper alternative than that which had been submitted to Eon for assistance.

RESOLVED :

1. That the Council continue to provide hanging baskets on the available columns adjacent to the car park in High Street.
2. That the situation with regard to an alternative watering arrangement be noted.
3. That with regard to the chain attachments a more secure arrangement be investigated.

148. COMMUNITY CARETAKER

The Clerk reported that following on from the discussion at the last meeting of the Council, he had held a discussion with the Clerk to Flint Town Council. They had two members of staff who worked part-time for them offering a general purpose caretaker arrangement, but unfortunately neither was prepared to increase their hours by also covering Bagillt. It was unfortunate that this was not a possibility at present as it appeared from initial discussions that the costs would be less and that Flint Town Council were likely to be in agreement.

In the circumstances the Clerk requested the Council to consider renewing the current arrangement with Flintshire County Council with a proviso that

discussions be held to see if it could be a more flexible arrangement of possibly a two-day and a three-day week in the month rather than one complete week.

RESOLVED :

1. That the situation appertaining to Flint Town Council be noted and that the Clerk keep in contact with that Authority to review the situation should the personnel change in the future.
2. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council wishes to continue the existing Community Council arrangement for the next financial year, but would wish to have discussions on a more flexible working arrangement, as previously reported by the Clerk.

149. MAY AND JUNE 2008 COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Clerk reported that an Annual meeting following on from elections had to be held within 14 days of polling taking place. The Council were scheduled to meet on 9th May 2008, which was well within this time limit, but if there were contests in either of the two Wards, then the agendas would be circulated a couple of days later than usual. In relation to the meeting in the following month, the Clerk requested that the scheduled date be amended from the 13th to 6th June, to meet personal circumstances, which had been discussed with Ysgol Glan Aber, who had indicated it would not be a problem for them.

In relation to the elections themselves, the Clerk circulated a copy of a letter received from the Returning Officer at Flintshire County Council, which precisely indicated the arrangements for receiving nominations in person at County Hall. Applications could also be sent in by post, but that was at the risk of the sender. Nomination packs were to be circulated to Clerks by early March and he indicated that he would ensure each existing Member received a set of papers unless they indicated beforehand that they did not wish to receive a set. An electoral register(s) would only be given to candidates who had submitted nomination papers and therefore the Clerk indicated he would be able to assist Members with electoral numbers for both themselves and their Proposer and Seconder.

RESOLVED :

1. That the position concerning the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2008 be noted.
2. That the scheduled date for the June meeting to be held at Ysgol Glan Aber be changed to 6th June 2008.

3. That the information concerning the nomination process for the elections to be held in May 2008 be noted.

150. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Shopping Facilities

The Chairman expressed the view that all efforts should be made to encourage further shopping facilities within the Village, and reminded Members of their prior decision concerning a previous plan by Flintshire County Council to apply for outline permission for a retail facility at the rear of the car park, which had subsequently been withdrawn. In relation to the land referred to by the Chairman. Councillor R.K. Jones reminded Members as to why the application had been withdrawn and that Flintshire County Council would not be re-submitting but would leave it to another party who may be interested in the future. The land was allocated for retail use, should an application be made in the future and be successful, and until that happened it would remain as at present.

Councillor Mrs. D. Jones expressed the view that the problem in Bagillt was that if a store of sufficient size wished to come into the Village then there was no site of sufficient size available and that the public these days tended to wish to do all their shopping under one roof. Other Members also made reference to the supermarket facilities to be available in nearby Holywell and Flint, which were used by Bagillt residents.

b. Springhill Quarry

Councillor C.R. Williams made reference to the suggestion that had been made to him concerning the future use of Springhill Quarry for waste disposal purposes. Councillor R.K. Jones confirmed that this area as a proposed site for such a facility had been taken out of the UDP.

c. Foreshore

The Chairman circulated at the meeting copies of photographs concerning the present condition of the foreshore due to vehicle damage and also erosion. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that he would take the present state of this area up with the Environment Agency and also make an approach to the relevant Officer at the Veolia Company who owned most of the area.

d. Fencing – Wern

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to the fact that the fencing at this area had still not been repaired, despite being reported to Flintshire County Council many months ago.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk once again take the matter up with Flintshire County Council, requesting appropriate action.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 8th February 2008	
Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
Councillor C.P. Owens	Application for Financial Assistance from Urdd Gobaith Cymru	141(6)(a)

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Chairman