

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL GLAN ABER, Bagillt, on Friday 11th April 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, C.P. Owens, C. Williams, C.R. Williams Mrs D.J. Williams and J. Williams.

APOLOGIES : Councillor S.M. Manfredi.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. D. McKnight, Communities First, Holywell (minute No. 169), P.C. Chris Byron and Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk).

167. POLICING MATTERS

P.C. Byron advised the meeting that he had commenced CBM duties in Bagillt and made brief reference to his Policing career and his wish to undertake Community Policing in the area. With regard to the issues which had been raised by Members at the last meeting, he commenced by commenting upon motorbikes on the foreshore and the action he had taken by issuing six Warning Notices, after informing the recipients that they had no legal right to be there. In response to Councillor R.K. Jones, he indicated that there had been no four-wheel drive vehicles present on this occasion.

In relation to juvenile nuisance, reference was made by the Officer to information which had been received and action that would be taken. In respect to Dollar Park, he advised that an issue had been raised concerning speeding of vehicles. P.C. Byron advised that he had been visiting various premises in the Village including public houses and also made reference to the vandalism occurring to the changing huts at Merilyn School, and to discussions held with the Head Teacher. On this latter point, Councillor R.K. Jones advised that, in his capacity as Chairman of the School Governors, he had also been in conversation with both Leisure Services at Flintshire County Council and the Head Teacher, and it had been reluctantly agreed that they would need to be removed. However, it was essential that the floodlighting of the all-weather area continued and therefore different arrangements would have to be made concerning electricity supply.

On the issue of a particular gang of youths that had been raised at the last meeting, a number of Members referred to the damage which had been caused in the Village, which was accordingly commented on by the Officer. In relation to the Mounted Police initiative which had taken place at the end of last month, he advised that there was to be a further visit to the area.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for attending and reporting on issues and invited him to stay for the rest of the meeting.

168. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14th March 2008.

a. Minute No. 153(b) – War Memorial Improvement Scheme

The Clerk reported to the meeting on the initial advice he had received from One Voice Wales, which was, if possible, to locate the title deeds to the area and suggested ways in which this may be achieved. In relation to the British Legion aspect, he advised of a conversation with the organiser for the Flint Branch, and Councillor R.K. Jones agreed to contact the name given of a Bagillt representative in relation to the whereabouts of the title deeds. Reference was made by Councillor B.T. Doleman to the possibility of contacting the former owners of the Clarpo factory, who sold the land to the developer, to see if they could assist, and the Chairman advised that he would make enquiries accordingly and advise the Clerk.

b. Minute No. 153(c) – Land Adjoining Victoria Public House

The Clerk and Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones advised that there had been no further progress in this matter and that it was in the hands of the Enforcement Section within the Planning Department.

c. Minute No. 153(i) – Foreshore

Councillor R.K. Jones reported on discussions with the Environment Agency and a representative of the Minerals Section of the Planning Department concerning the possible transfer of the land in the ownership of Veolia to Flintshire County Council, so that it could be managed properly and also help to achieve future aims in this area concerning the coastal footpath and cycleway. There would need to be discussions with legal officers and also to achieve use of the monies deposited by the former company in relation to environmental improvements. He also reminded the meeting of the ownerships of other land in this area, and that any progress would need to achieve a relocation of the scrap yard area to a more suitable site at no cost to the owner.

d. Minute No. 165 – Naming of Developments

Further to discussion at the last meeting, the Clerk advised he had received a letter from the Prince Dafydd the Second Monument

Committee Chairman, suggesting further names for a new future street or development in Bagillt, and advised that these had been passed on to the Flintshire County Council advising that this Authority supported the suggestion.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14th March 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

169. COMMUNITIES FIRST HOLYWELL NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Chairman welcomed Mr. David McKnight, Co-ordinator of the Communities First Holywell Neighbourhoods to the meeting. Mr. McKnight advised that he had been Co-ordinator for the Holywell Neighbourhoods since September 2007, having previously been a development worker for the Greenfield area. He made brief reference to the areas covered within the Holywell neighbourhoods and to the fact that the Boot End only covered part of the West Ward of the community. Although there were constraints, he indicated that he did support flexibility in relation to the boundary issue. After briefly advising of the work undertaken within the Boot End area encompassed within the scheme, he made reference to the role of the Partnership Board.

In relation to the key objectives for the Partnership Board for 2008/09, Mr. McKnight circulated information at the meeting. He made particular reference to the overall aim of the programme, which was to seek to improve the infrastructure and environment of the five neighbourhoods by working with the communities to foster and forge strong social bonds. In relation to the outcome of communication, reference was made to the Newsletter which was produced, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, and to the comments which had been received in relation to its format. On the outcome of local facilities and community assets, reference was made to working with partner community organisations in the Boot End to develop community assets. With regard to community safety, there had recently been a number of meetings held in each of the five neighbourhoods, including the Boot End. In relation to the other outcomes, reference was also made to the issues of environment, jobs and training, local democracy and citizen participation, health and well-being and children and young people. Mr. McKnight indicated that he would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have on the issues he had raised.

Councillor Mrs. D. Jones referred to the divisive nature of Communities First in relation to only helping a part of Bagillt, and not even a complete community Ward. This did raise the issue of divisiveness, an issue which was accepted by Mr. McKnight but unfortunately there were constraints within the criteria. Councillor C.P. Owens referred to the detailed survey which had been undertaken in 2003 and was advised that this had been used extensively to

prepare key objectives for a number of years, and whilst there were no plans to do so again it may be something which would have to be considered for the period 2010/13. Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the need for close working with elected representatives, both from the County Council and Community Council, a view which was accepted by Mr. McKnight. Reference was made by Councillor J. Williams to the involvement of the private sector within the Partnership Board and in response he was advised that the criteria needed to involve the statutory sector, voluntary and private sector and the community itself.

The Chairman thanked Mr. McKnight for attending and responding to issues raised by Members.

170. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman advised that he had attended the last service in March held by the Reverend Brian Taylor, who was retiring as Vicar of Bagillt, and also made reference to the party to be held in his honour at the Community Centre tomorrow evening. In relation to the retirement gift, Members were advised of the engraving details.
2. The Chairman made reference to the situation appertaining at Roadrunner and to discussions held with Mr. B. Sheffield of the Flintshire Planning Department concerning the height of the mounds above the fencing and the problems which were occurring concerning leaving debris on the highway. Reference was made by Councillor C.R. Williams to the issue of lorries accessing the other site off the A548 and P.C. Byron undertook to investigate the matter.

171. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Trem Afon

Councillor J. Williams made reference to problems which had occurred following the erection of fencing, which was precluding the use of a parking area and also restricting access by emergency vehicles. To date it had not been possible to establish who had arranged for it to be erected in this particular area. Councillor R.K. Jones undertook to have a look at the matter at the end of the meeting to see if he could assist.

b. One Voice Wales – Wrexham/Flintshire Area Committee

The Clerk advised that he had attended a meeting held on the 20th March at County Hall, Mold. The principle issues had concerned a presentation by a representative of Planning Aid Wales on Commenting on Planning Applications and there had also been a presentation in relation to the

Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

172. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No.	Location	Detail
044777	1 Sunnyside	Conversion of existing dwelling into two apartments - two storey extension to rear and erection of two two-storey apartment blocks.

Having regard to the particular site in question, Councillor C.P. Owens felt that an objection would be appropriate, particularly in relation to access and vehicle movement, over-development of the site and the effect it would have on adjoining properties.

0044725	Ex Royal British Legion Gadlys Lane	Demolition of existing buildings, erection of four houses and associated works.
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Members were advised that this was a slightly amended application covering plots 7-10, which had recently been refused by the Planning Authority.

RESOLVED :

1. That an objection be made to application 044777 on the grounds raised at the meeting.
2. That an objection be made to application 0044725 on the same lines as the previous application No. 044016.

173. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

The meeting considered a report prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED :

That the accounts for 2007/08 be approved as circulated and signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer.

174. FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2007/08

RESOLVED :

That the previously circulated Bank Reconciliation Statement and Income/Expenditure information for the January-March 2007/08 quarter be noted.

175. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid.

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Mr. G. Roberts	765.38	101177	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
HM Revenue & Customs	199.00	101178	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
Greenbarnes Ltd.	39.76	101179	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)
Greenbarnes Ltd.	541.57	101180	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)
Ramblers Assoc.	36.00	101181	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)
Cornhill Allianz Insurance Plc.	704.46	101183	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)

176. LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT – SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

Further to the report at the last meeting, the Clerk advised that 13 Members of the Council had now signed the Code of Conduct Observation form in the format issued by the Welsh Assembly Government.

177. COMMUNITY CARETAKER

Councillor R.K. Jones advised the meeting that he was unable to pursue the points he had raised at the previous meeting due to the County Council elections taking place on 1st May 2008. In the circumstances, the Clerk suggested that the Council should agree, with immediate effect, to the change in the one week arrangements to one of two days and three days each month, as had been discussed at the last meeting.

RESOLVED :

1. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council agree to changing the arrangements for the Community Caretaker from one week per month to using two weeks of two and three days, with immediate effect.

2. That the other issues in relation to the workings of the Community Caretaker, as reported at the last meeting, be held in abeyance until after the elections.

178. PUBLICATION OF A BOOK ON 'PUBS IN FLINTSHIRE'

The Clerk advised that he had received an e-mail from the author of the above book, due to be published in 2009. He had approached the Council to use information contained in the Garreg Lyddan Footpath Guide, published in 1991. As the poem and footpath detail were the work of Mr. Norman Watson, a former Community Councillor, he was approached and consented. The Vice-Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman, was consulted on behalf of the Authority and had agreed accordingly. It was noted that both the Council and Mr. Watson would be acknowledged in the publication.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

179. ELECTIONS 1ST MAY 2008

The Clerk reported to the meeting on the nominations received for both the East and West Wards. Following the deadline for nominations and that for withdrawals, there had been seven nominations received for both Wards, and therefore all would be elected unopposed. There were two new Members, one in each Ward, and they would receive information from the Clerk in relation to the workings of the Council. In addition, the Clerk advised that two existing Members, Councillor Mrs. D. Jones, who had been on the Council since 1985, and Councillor J. Ovens, who had been on the Council since 1999, had not sought re-election.

In relation to the two retiring Members, the Chairman expressed the view that in recognition of their service to the Council and the Community, they should both be presented with a plaque incorporating the Council's logo, suitably engraved indicating their name and period of service with the Council.

RESOLVED :

1. That the report by the Clerk in relation to the nominations received and that there would be no need for elections in either Ward of the Council, be noted.
2. That in appreciation for their service to the Council and Community, the two retiring Members, Councillors Mrs. D. Jones and J. Ovens, each

receives a plaque as indicated by the Chairman.

180. PRINCIPLES OF GOOD ADMINISTRATION AND PRINCIPLES FOR REDRESS

It was noted copies of the publications received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales were available at the meeting for perusal by Members.

181. BENCHES – WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk advised that he had received an approach from the Bagillt Heritage Society to replace the one existing public bench with two appropriate ones so as to compliment the improvement scheme which had now been completed. The intention was that one of the benches would be provided by the Heritage Society and they were requesting the Council to provide the other.

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the black metal benches provided in the centre of the Village and expressed the view that this type would be more appropriate in this location as they would compliment the railings provided and were less prevalent to vandalism.

RESOLVED :

That the provision of two new benches at the War Memorial, the cost of one to be met by the Council, be agreed in principle, and that the Clerk make enquiries with Flintshire County Council concerning the type referred to at the meeting.

Note: Councillors B.T. Doleman and C.P. Owens declared personal interests in this item and took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon.

182. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Hanging Baskets

The Chairman advised the meeting that following the application made to EON, the Council would receive financial assistance in the sum of £50 towards the purchase of a water bowser. In view of the cost of such machines provided by a manufacturer, he suggested that a cheaper option would be possible by purchasing the parts separately and arranging for assembly. In relation to their hanging, Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that it might be possible to make an enquiry with Flintshire County Council to see if they could arrange for the specialist support poles to be altered, but a more likely alternative would be to shorten the chain and make a stronger connection so as to make them more difficult to reach and disturb.

There still remained the issue of watering, even if some sort of bowser was achieved, and whilst Councillor R. Davies advised that it could be kept at his premises and it was noted there was still an outside tap available across the road, it would still require volunteers. The Chairman and Councillor B.T. Doleman indicated that they were unlikely to continue to make themselves available for the watering of the plants during the summer months and the possibility of utilising hours of the Community Caretaker had previously been discounted as it would mean there would be little time left for other duties.

RESOLVED :

1. That the position concerning the matter of a water bowser and alternative hanging arrangements be noted.
2. That the issue of hanging baskets be placed on the agenda for the June meeting when a decision would have to be made whether to purchase plants and replace existing baskets, subject to arrangements being in place concerning watering.

b. Beechcroft

Councillor Mrs. D. Jones referred to the letter received from Flintshire County Council in April 2007 regarding Beechcroft, which had been included in the 2007/08 Capital Programme for refurbishment, both internally and externally. Whilst works had been undertaken at the property She expressed concern regarding the car parking area in relation to the problem with lighting during the dark months and the uneven surface which was a concern to elderly visitors. In relation to the light issue, Councillor A. Griffiths indicated that there was one but unfortunately it was vandalised on occasions which negated its value. The Clerk indicated that he would make enquiries to see if any further works were planned in relation to the car parking area.

183. NOMINATION OF A TOWN OR COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Clerk read out to the meeting a letter received from Flintshire County Council advising that there was now a vacancy on their Standards Committee for a representative of local Councils in the County.

RESOLVED :

That no nomination be made in respect of the vacancy on the Flintshire Standards Committee.

184. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Flintshire County Council in relation to the new Code of Conduct, following an Order prescribed by the Welsh Assembly Government. In addition, a copy of the Code adopted by the County Council earlier this month to take effect from 2nd May 2008 had also been circulated. The Flintshire Standards Committee were recommending that all Town and Community Councils adopt the new Model Code and also insert the sum of £10 as a value above which gifts and hospitality must be registered.

RESOLVED :

That the information received from Flintshire County Council be noted and that the Clerk prepare a report for the next meeting to include a new Code of Conduct to be adopted by the Council.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 11th April 2008	
Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
Councillor B.T. Doleman	War Memorial – Purchase of Public Benches	181
Councillor C.P. Owens	War Memorial – Purchase of Public Benches	181

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Chairman