

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOLGLAN ABER, Bagillt, on Friday 6th June 2008.

PRESENT : Councillor C. Williams (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillors Mrs. N.M. Jones and S.M. Manfredi.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), P.C. Byron and Mr. M. Taylor, Flintshire Countryside Service (minute No. 18).

16. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were three members of the public present when this item was being discussed, although two further persons attended later in the meeting. One of the two members of the public present for this item indicated they wished to speak on an item which was being added to the agenda at the end of the meeting on Members' Items. It concerned two oak saplings given to the Bagillt Women's Institute, who were looking for guidance and support from the Community Council in relation to where they should be located in the Village, hopefully one in the east and one in the west. It was suggested that perhaps their location and planting could be done in conjunction with the two Schools.

17. POLICING MATTERS

P.C. Byron advised that he was not in a position to update Members on issues raised at the last meeting as he had been predominately used to investigate vehicle crime in the Flint area due to his investigative skills and therefore had only been able to visit the Village in a responsive manner. Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to concerns expressed before by the Council in relation to previous Community Beat Managers being utilised for other tasks beyond their community duties in the Village due to their particular skills and felt that representations should be made to the local Inspector on this issue. P.C. Byron advised the meeting of the name of the new Sergeant at Flint Police Station and of the concerns he had expressed on this issue accordingly.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to Inspector Maxwell concerning the use of P.C. Byron on duties other than his CBM role to the detriment of the Village given the excellent impact he had made since commencing these duties in Bagillt.

18. BETTISFIELD AREA/ALL COASTAL PATHS

The Chairman welcomed Mike Taylor a Senior Ranger in the Flintshire Countryside Service to the meeting. Mr. Taylor commenced his address by explaining the role of the Countryside Service and of the funding being made available by the Welsh Assembly Government in relation to the All Coastal Footpath, which was being administered through the Countryside Council for Wales. The funding covered staff costs at a decreasing level over a number of years, as well as for other costs. He indicated work that had already been carried out by the Countryside Service in other coastal areas using the partnership approach, which involved the local community and that other funding had been made available by local companies.

There was a sum of £150,000 available in the current financial year, and reference was made to work already being undertaken in the Greenfield Dock area with the co-operation of the local fishermen. In relation to the foreshore at Bagillt, an initial meeting with the fishermen had been held, with a further meeting to be held soon. In relation to this area, he expressed the importance of the County Council being able to control access and made reference to the current position concerning the lease of the Bettisfield area, which it was hoped Flintshire County Council would take over from Veiola. On this particular point, Councillor M.A. Reece advised Members of a discussion held with the Legal Officer concerning progress and Members were reminded by Councillor R.K. Jones of the funding which would be made available if this was possible, which could be used for environmental purposes.

Mr. Taylor indicated that the Bettisfield area was one of a number of key link areas in relation to the Coastal Path project and that it would be possible to include interpretive material on the site as a possible scheme. On this latter aspect, Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that the Bagillt Heritage Society were pursuing a project which could include such information, as well as a link from the Village to this area, and that the Society would look forward to working with the Countryside Service on this issue. Mr. Taylor also made reference to the cycle way provision along the coast, which would also encourage recreation provision. A problem associated with the Bagillt area in relation to the foreshore, as with many others along the coast, was the position of the A548, and reference was made to previous attempts to secure a footbridge to assist with safe access, which unfortunately was an expensive option. Mr. Taylor referred to the possibility of funding from the landfill tax following discussions with Veiola, who could not access such funds while they still owned the land, which may provide a solution for this aspect as well as others in the future if the County Council could take over the lease and then control management of the site.

P.C. Byron circulated at the meeting aerial photographs of the foreshore showing the erosion being caused due to inappropriate activities by motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles, as well as the proposals for an organised motor cross area

at Kingspan in Greenfield. On this latter aspect, P.C. Byron indicated that he had brought with him to the meeting Mr. G. McKenzie who was endeavouring to organise this activity. Mr. McKenzie addressed the meeting on his proposals for the Kingspan area, which was located within Greenfield, making particular reference to the fact that if it came to fruition there would be a division between those machines of a more powerful nature and those which were used by younger persons, and at all times safety would be an issue both in terms of equipment and appropriate insurance. He also made reference to the control of noise from this site and to the support he had received to date concerning these proposals. Mr. McKenzie responded to Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones concerning the issue of policing the activity at this site. P.C. Byron and Mr. Taylor indicated that they supported the proposals as they felt that if it came to fruition it would greatly reduce the problems presently being caused to the foreshore.

RESOLVED :

1. That the proposals outlined by Mr. Taylor of the Flintshire Countryside Services concerning the Bettisfield area and All Coastal Footpath, be supported.
2. That the proposals outlined by Mr. McKenzie concerning organised motor cross facilities at the Kingspan area be supported, subject to them also being supported by Greenfield residents.

19. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 9th May 2008.

a. Minute No. 6 – Policing

In response to Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams, P.C. Byron indicated that he had not been able to look into the matter of the sale of vehicles from a highway grass verge due to the comments he had made earlier concerning his activities since the last meeting.

b. Minute No. 7(a) – War Memorial Improvement Scheme

The Clerk advised the meeting that he was still awaiting a response from the headquarters of the Royal British Legion concerning the Title Deeds. In relation to the depositing of refuse sacks at the side of the War Memorial, Councillor M.A. Reece advised the meeting on recent discussions with the appropriate officer at the County Council and to a further communication to be sent to residents seeking their co-operation. P.C. Byron indicated that he would also forward official Police letters to the residents in relation to this issue.

c. Minute No. 7(d) – Roadrunner

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to photographic information in relation to this issue and to the discussions held with the Legal Department, as well as the need to ensure that the activities at this site were kept under constant review.

20. NEW BENCHES – WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk reported to the meeting that he had received the requested information from the company which supplied the metal benches for the Environmental Improvement Scheme in the centre of the Village. Each metal bench would cost a sum of £546 excluding VAT, with a further cost of £66 for carriage. He indicated that he had held a discussion with Councillor C.P. Owens prior to the meeting concerning this issue in terms of the size of the benches in relation to the space available, delivery arrangements and erection, given that they were on metal supports which had to be sunk in concrete.

RESOLVED :

1. That two of the Ollerton Festival steel benches in black be ordered from Marshalls, at a cost of £546 each excluding VAT, with the Community Council purchasing one and the Bagillt Heritage Society meeting the cost of the other.
2. That arrangements be made with Flintshire County Council concerning the delivery of the two benches and their subsequent erection, with the Council meeting all the costs of both the delivery and erection of both benches.
3. That 1 and 2 above be subject to confirmation by the Heritage Society that the metal benches of the type being ordered would fit into the spaces available at the War Memorial.

21. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman reported that he had received invitations to attend Civic Sunday Services from Flint Town Council on the 29th June and Flintshire County Council on the 13th July 2008, which he would attend if possible.
2. The Chairman indicated that, together with the Clerk, he would be attending the Emergency Planning Seminar organised by Flintshire County Council to be held at County Hall, Mold on Wednesday 11th June 2008.

22. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

Code of Conduct – Training

The Chairman advised the meeting that together with Councillor T.M. Withington he had attended the training session held at the Town Hall, Flint, on the 21st May 2005. Reference was made to information given on cases of suspended Councillors including the penalties which could be imposed and that it was important to remember the conduct situation when not in meetings and discussing matters with members of the public. In relation to the dispensation for Town and Community Councillors concerning the non-requirement to declare an interest if donations were to be made up to £500, it would be in order to use this facility over consecutive meetings if it were intended to make a larger donation to the same Organisation. Councillor T.M. Withington made particular reference to the conduct of Members outside Council meetings and to the fact that there was no similar penalty for members of the public who did not behave appropriately towards Members.

23. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No.	Location	Detail
044908	Farmhouse, Panton Hall.	Listed Building Consent – change of use to dwelling.
044970	Land at Tyn Twll Lane	Erection of a detached house.
045056	1 Llys Merllyn	Two storey side extension.

In relation to application no. 0454970 reference was made to the history of this site, the width of the highway and the steps which had to be taken over a long period to get the highway adopted.

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to applications 044908 and 045056, the proposals be supported.
2. That in relation to application 044970, an objection be made on the grounds of the historical status of the land and on highway access.

24. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid.

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Mr. G. Roberts	771.55	101190	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
HM Revenue & Customs	99.00	101191	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
NWN Media Ltd.	126.90	101192	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)
Clwyd Community Chest	35.00	101193	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)

25. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS - 2007/08

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that notification had been received that the external audit of accounts would be held on 31st July 2008. Public notices would be displayed on Council Notice Boards and at the Library from 17th June 2008, as required by the Auditor.

The Annual Return had been completed for Section 1, the Statement of Accounts, and had been signed by the Responsible Financial Officer and Chairman that had been in the Chair when the Accounts were approved by the Council in April 2008. Section 2, Statement of Assurance, copies of which had been previously circulated, required the approval of the Council and signature by the Chairman and Clerk. It was noted that Section 4, Annual Internal Audit Report, had been completed by JDH Business Services Limited, the Council's Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED :

1. That the action to be taken by the Responsible Financial Officer concerning public notice of the audit of accounts for 2007/08, be noted.
2. That the Section 2, Statement of Assurance, be answered as "yes" for each aspect and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
3. That the Clerk forwards the annual return and supporting documents to the External Auditor on behalf of the Council.

26. DRAFT RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The meeting considered a copy of a letter received from Flintshire County Council together with the executive summary.

RESOLVED :

That the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan be supported.

27. HANGING BASKETS 2008

The Clerk advised that, in the light of the discussion at the April 2008 meeting (minute No. 1829(a)), it was necessary to consider whether the water situation could be resolved so as to enable the plants and replacement baskets to be ordered and erected.

In relation to the issue of a possible water bowser, Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that there had been no progress from EON concerning the promised £50 donation towards the costs. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that it may be possible to obtain assistance by way of Refurbs personnel, but unfortunately it would be at least two weeks or so before he could discuss the matter with the appropriate person due to holiday arrangements.

In view of the fact that the hanging baskets needed to be ordered and erected as soon as possible, but could not be so until the watering arrangement difficulty had been solved, Councillor R.K. Jones suggested that their provision for 2008 be held in abeyance with a view to their re-introduction the following year. In the meantime it may be possible to seek other funding opportunities to purchase a water bowser which would help with the watering arrangement. In addition, the Clerk indicated that perhaps reference would be made to this in the next Community Newsletter which may encourage volunteer assistance for next year.

RESOLVED :

1. That in view of the fact that the watering arrangements had not been settled and the fact that the hanging baskets should now be erected, their purchase for 2008 be cancelled with a view to their re-introduction in 2009.
2. That in the meantime enquiries continue regarding the possible purchase of a water bowser for use next year utilising external funding sources where possible.
3. That reference be made to these decisions in the next edition of the Community Newsletter so that the public are accordingly informed.

28. COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Further to the discussion at the March 2008 meeting (minute No. 160), the Clerk reported to the meeting on possible articles for the next edition to enable a decision to be made to publish before or after August. In addition to the usual Chairman's comments, he suggested that details needed to be repeated now that there were new Members of the Council concerning contacts, as well as for the County Councils for the area. P.C. Byron had agreed to provide an article and a photograph and information had been received from Citizens Advice Bureau requesting for it to be inserted in the next Newsletter. In addition, if the Newsletter could be published by mid-July then it would be appropriate to make reference to the holiday playschemes and summer activities so that as many youngsters as possible were aware of the arrangements. The Clerk also suggested that perhaps an article could be included on the Community Caretaker facility. Ysgol Glan Aber would again be approached to see if they wish to place an article along the lines of that by Ysgol Merllyn in the last edition.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk prepare a draft third edition for the next meeting of the Council on the lines now reported, with a view to it being published and distributed mid-July.

29. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2008

The Clerk reminded Members that at the January 2008 meeting during discussion on estimates for this financial year, it was decided to continue to provide Christmas lights and that the local Members would advise the Clerk of suitable locations in the West end of the Village for those presently not being used in the centre of the Village. In view of the likely deadline of the electrical contractor then such information was required as soon as possible if the necessary progress were to be made. In the meantime, existing site owners in the Village centre would be approached with a view to continuing the present arrangements, and a further report would be made to the July meeting.

In relation to the rope lights which were not in use in the centre of the Village, Councillors J. Williams and M.A. Reece made reference to possible lamp columns which could be used and which were high enough to avoid the previous problem, subject to appropriate fitting arrangements and they would advise the Clerk accordingly.

RESOLVED :

1. That the report of the Clerk be noted.

2. That following information from local Members, the Clerk proceeds to see if permission was possible to use alternative street lamps for the erection of rope lights.

30. NEW STRUCTURES NHS IN WALES

The meeting considered information from the Welsh Assembly Government and Clwyd Community Health Council, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members,

RESOLVED :

That the information be noted.

31. ONE VOICE WALES – CONFERENCE AND AGM 11TH OCTOBER 2008

That the Council not be represented at the Conference and AGM.

32. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Oak Saplings

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor C.P. Owens, following an approach from the Bagillt Women's Institute. Referring to the information given to the meeting under the Public Enquiry Item, Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that, in his capacity as Chair of Governors for both local Schools, he would approach the two Head Teachers with a view to accepting the Oak saplings for future planting.

b. New Brighton Cemetery – Grass Cutting

Reference was made by Councillor J. Williams to complaints he had received from members of the public regarding the grass cuttings following strimming, particularly when it had been wet, and to the fact that there had been occasions when vases on grave spaces had been damaged. Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had taken the matter up with the appropriate Department at Flintshire County Council and indicated that this was a common practice through all Council cemeteries, but nevertheless he supported representations being made accordingly.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk makes representations to the appropriate Directorate accordingly.

c. Tyddan Mesham – Traffic Calming

Reference was made by Councillor R. Davies to the previous representations made to the Highway Authority to proceed with the agreed Traffic Calming Scheme, which had now been held up for a number of years due to the moratorium. Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the discussions he had had on this subject whilst a local County Councillor in an endeavour to make progress.

Councillors R. Davies and Mrs. D.J. Williams made reference to the apparent increase in vehicles using this highway even though it was intended for access only and to the fact that it was a route used by school children to walk down to the bus stop.

P.C. Byron indicated the difficulty of enforcing the 'access only' but if he were given the assistance of a PCSO then he would endeavour to make visits to the site and stop the traffic. Whilst making the area 'one way' might be a possible solution, it could in fact increase the speed of traffic and create a bigger danger. It was suggested that when the report of the meeting was forwarded to the local press, that reference be made to this issue and also in the next edition of the Community Newsletter.

RESOLVED :

1. That the Clerk once again make representations to the Highway Authority with a view to making possible progress on a Traffic Calming Scheme for Tyddyn Mesham.
2. That reference to possible Police action to enforce the 'access only' for this highway be made in the report to the local press from the meeting and also in the next Community Newsletter.

d. Dollar Park Travellers' Site – Fencing

Reference was made by Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones to the removal of hedgerows and erection of wooden fencing and to the fact that the work had caused traffic to be stopped for it to be undertaken. The Clerk advised that after being informed of the work by a local resident, he had written to the Planning Authority concerning the removal of the hedgerows to see if this was permitted under the appropriate Regulations but to date no response had been received.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 6th June 2008
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
	There were no declarations of interest	

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Chairman