

## **BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**PRESENT : Councillor C. Williams (Chairman)**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE** : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) and P.C. Byron.

### **105. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM**

There were four members of the public present and the Chairman advised they wished to address the Council in relation to a planning application concerning land adjacent to the property known as 'Valparaiso', Sandy Lane which was to be added to the agenda. After their comments had been received the Chairman indicated Members would then go on to consider the actual application, with the outcome recorded in the minutes under 'Planning Applications'.

The Clerk reminded Members that there had originally been an application for two dwellings, which had been withdrawn, and then a further application was submitted for one property, which had recently received permission. Two of the local residents present addressed the meeting making reference to the aspects of proximity to other properties in relation to Flintshire County Council Guidelines, as well as the proposed access arrangements and indicated that they were against the proposal.

### **106. POLICING MATTERS**

P.C. Byron indicated that, due to operational reasons and leave arrangements, which finished today, he had not been able to spend much time on Community Policing in the Village in recent weeks and he was therefore looking for information from Members on issues of concern. Councillor Mrs. N.M. Jones made reference to particular incidents and advised that she would pass the detailed information onto the Officer after the meeting. Councillor A. Griffiths referred to the problem concerning the drinking of alcohol and resultant problems in the centre of the Village from a particular gang of youths, which he understood the Officer had been made aware of by the Clerk. In response, P.C. Byron indicated that when he was back on duty tomorrow he would make arrangements to discuss the issues raised with the relevant local residents.

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to problems that arose last weekend on the foreshore concerning motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles,

ruining work undertaken by the Flintshire Countryside Service to the footpath. This was noted by the Officer.

Members noted that the next Police Community Forum for Flintshire would be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in The Civic Hall, Connah's Quay, and that Councillor A. Griffiths would be attending.

## **107. MINUTES**

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

### **a. Minute No. 90(b) – Footpath No. 76**

Councillor M.A. Reece updated the meeting concerning progress to the two sections of this footpath.

### **b. Minute No. 90(c) – Bagillt Foreshore – Former Bettisfield Colliery Landfill Site**

Councillor M.A. Reece advised Councillor R.K. Jones that it was expected the documentation would be completed this week to enable Flintshire County Council to take over responsibility for the area.

### **c. Minute No. 90(d) – Victoria Road, Bagillt – Children's Play Area**

The Clerk read out to the meeting a reply received from Flintshire County Council concerning the issues of funding both for this play area and the total allocation, as well as the issue of goal posts. Councillor M.A. Reece clarified the issue in relation to goal posts and indicated that the play equipment for Phase 1 had been delivered and was now awaiting erection.

### **d. Minute No. 102 (c) – Recycling Material – Windblown Problems**

The Clerk read out to the meeting a reply received from Flintshire County Council, which made particular reference to new vehicle arrangements for recycling, as well re-usable sacks that would take cans and plastic in them, thereby releasing the original blue box for glass.

### **e. Minute No. 104 – Model Publication Scheme – Freedom of Information Act**

The Clerk made reference to the fact that all Members had been circulated with a copy of the Scheme as well as the template appertaining to the Council's services and Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that this

information had also now been included on the Council website.

**RESOLVED :**

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**108. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

1. The Chairman indicated that he had received notification of the next meeting of the Wrexham and Flintshire Area Committee of One Voice Wales, which was to be held in Wrexham on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009. It was noted that the Council would be represented at this meeting by Councillor A. Griffiths and also the Clerk, in view of the guest speaker, who was to be the external auditor.
2. The Chairman made reference to the fact that the Caretaker to Ysgol Merllyn was to retire in May 2009 and the principle of presenting an engraved plaque incorporating the Council's logo was agreed.

**109. RESIGNATION – VACANCY IN EAST WARD**

It was noted that Councillor R. Davies had resigned from the Council, with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> December 2008, and the Clerk indicated he had thanked him for his services on behalf of the Council. A notice of vacancy in the prescribed form would be displayed in the Ward on the Community Centre Notice Board and also in the Village centre on the car park Notice Board, from next Monday. There would be a period of 14 days (Monday – Friday) for ten electors within the Ward to write to the Returning Officer at Flintshire County Council requesting the vacancy to be filled by election. If no such request were received then the Council would be able to fill the vacancy by co-option.

**RESOLVED :**

1. That the resignation of R. Davies from membership of the Council be noted.
2. That the action to be taken by the Clerk concerning the notice of vacancy be noted.

## 110. PLANNING

### a. Applications Considered Under Recess Powers

No.	Location	Detail
045696	Oaklands Lodge, Gadlys Lane	Erection of single storey extension to Rear.

Following consultation with West Ward Members, the application was supported.

045799	Glen y Don, Foel Gron	Conversion of loft into bedroom/ shower room
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Following consultation with East Ward Members, the application was supported.

### b. Applications for consideration

No.	Location	Detail
044522	Garryvoe, Bagillt Road	Erection of six dwellings.

The Clerk advised that this was an amended application, reducing the number of properties from 7 to 6, which would now be in three semi-detached pairs with the property nearest to the road being raised by 600mm. In March 2008 it was agreed to support the application.

045817	Valparaiso, Sandy Lane	Outline – erection of a dwelling
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Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that this application concerned a different access and there was also the issue of floor levels. Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the issues of proximity to other properties in terms of Flintshire Guidelines and the matter of access, including visibility splay.

### RESOLVED :

1. That application 044522 be supported.
2. That application 045817 be objected to on the grounds of proximity to other dwellings in terms of Flintshire Guidelines, the issue of access and width of highway and the effect on wildlife.

**c. Dollar Park, Bagillt Road, Holywell**

The meeting noted information from Flintshire County Council on the appeal arrangements, which would commence in Holywell on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009. It was noted that Councillor M.A. Reece would be attending and would represent the Council.

**111. ACCOUNTS**

**a. Recess**

**RESOLVED :**

That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in approving the undermentioned accounts be endorsed :-

<b>Name</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Expenditure Powers</b>
Delyn Press	230.00	101226	Loc.Govt. Act 1986 (S.5)
Flintshire County Council	2,074.18	101227	Loc.Govt. (MP).Act 1976 (S.19)

**b. For Payment**

**RESOLVED :**

That the following accounts be paid :-

<b>Name</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Expenditure Powers</b>
Mr. G. Roberts	758.86	101228	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
HM Revenue & Customs	206.56	101229	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
Society of Local Council Clerks	117.00	101230	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)

**112. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2209/10**

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, on Estimates for 2009/10 with an Appendix containing particular items prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. As well as suggested levels of expenditure for the next financial year, details were included in relation to probable/actual income and expenditure for 2008/09 and in the report comments were included as to how the figures had been calculated.

The Clerk made brief reference to the items of expenditure relating to Civic, Clerk, Office expenses, Conferences and Courses, Donations, Election expenses and Insurance, which were duly noted by Members. In relation to Recreation/Other Services, the comments included on Community Centre, Community Caretaker and Playschemes/Summer Activities were also noted by Members.

**a. Christmas Lighting**

The Clerk reported to the meeting on the problems concerning the lanterns at the Chinese Takeaway and McColls, and in relation to the former Councillor R.K. Jones expressed the view that any connection difficulties should have been checked by the specialist company. It was noted that the lights had now been dismantled and that letters of thanks would be sent to the property owners concerned. Notwithstanding the letter sent to Members during the recess concerning the use of the rope lights in the Boot End, the Clerk indicated he had received some information from fellow Clerks concerning use of lamp columns, but was awaiting more and then he would report to a future meeting.

**b. Hanging Baskets**

It was noted that the provision in the estimates only provided for purchasing baskets and plants. Information on, and the decision of a water bowser, was still awaited, and there would still be the problem of arranging watering of the plants and storing even if such a device was purchased.

**c. Community Newsletter**

The provision in estimates only covered the cost of printing as to date the four editions had been delivered by Members of the Council. The Chairman made reference to the large area previously covered by former Councillor R. Davies, which had been reduced for the fourth edition last month thanks to the assistance of Councillor A. Griffiths and Mrs. N.M. Jones. He made reference to the particular difficulties he faced concerning the area he covered and suggested that a discussion was required on future delivery arrangements, with a view to sharing the burden more equally.

**d. Environmental Schemes**

The provision included in estimates for next year in relation to litter bins and bus a bus shelter were noted, in particular that the latter aspect was to cover repairs and painting. Councillor M.A. Reece reported to the meeting on discussions with Flintshire County Council, who were seeking

a contribution of £2,500 to provide an additional bus shelter at Riverbank, which would meet their insurance requirements and which they would then be responsible for maintenance.

**RESOLVED :**

1. That a precept of £33,500 be made on Flintshire County Council for 2009/10.
2. That the amounts indicated in the previously circulated expenditure heads for estimate purposes for 2009/10, be approved as circulated, subject to the provision for Miscellaneous Schemes (8.7) being increased to £2,500.
3. That in relation to the Community Centre, the Bagillt Community Association be advised that the previous financial assistance towards the running of the Centre would continue for the next financial year.
4. That Flintshire County Council be advised that this Authority will once again participate in the Playscheme Programme and Summer Activities for all children.
5. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council wish to continue the Community Caretaker arrangements for the next financial year, notwithstanding the address to be given by their appropriate Officer at the March 2009 meeting.
6. That the Clerk be authorised to attend the Society of Local Council Clerks Wales Regional Conference to be held in Llandudno on 7th July, 2009.

**113. 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 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members.

**RESOLVED :**

That the details circulated for the third quarter be noted.

**114. LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS 2009/10**

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, 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 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 Manager No Notice account.

**RESOLVED :**

That the Annual Investment Strategy of 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 2009/10.

**115. ALCOHOL CONTROL ZONES**

The Clerk made reference to the letter from Flintshire County Council, which was circulated to all Members in the Recess, following which comments were received from former Councillor R. Davies, Councillor T. Withington and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Each of the areas of concern raised was then discussed with the Community Policeman, who had also suggested certain additions. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were then consulted and a letter forwarded to Flintshire County Council earlier this week to meet their deadline.

The recreation/playing areas being suggested for inclusion were Manor Drive, Bron y Wern and the Leadworks, Merllyn Lane. In relation to the Leadworks, this had come to light in recent times due to the desertion of the nearby Merllyn School area, but P.C. Byron felt that this should also be kept in mind as past problems could re-occur. In the opinion of P.C. Byron, Victoria Road was not thought to be too problematic in relation to drinking.

In relation to other areas, the Library and surrounding grassed area of particular concern. Also, the Council land between Gadlys Lane and Beechcroft/Highfield Road and the grassed area at Beechcroft. In the High Street the car park next to Foresters Hall and the seated area on the adjacent pavement. All these areas are supported by the Community Policeman.

**RESOLVED :**

That the areas forwarded to Flintshire County Council in response to their letter be endorsed.

**116. EMERGENCY PLANNING – LOCAL PLAN**

The Chairman made reference to the discussion at the November meeting, when it had been decided to discuss information at this meeting to go into the Draft

Local Plan, with Members being requested to bring to the meeting their copy of the framework that had been previously circulated. Prior to proceeding to go through the document, the Chairman asked Members to confirm if they wished to still proceed with this issue. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that he was of the view that changes were in hand in relation to Emergency Planning and in the circumstances the issue of the Local Plan should perhaps be left in abeyance, which was supported by other Members.

**RESOLVED :**

That the preparation of a Local Plan for Bagillt for Emergency Planning purposes be left in abeyance.

**117. ADDRESSES TO FUTURE MEETINGS**

**a. Community Caretaker/Neighbourhood Warden Service**

The Clerk made reference to a discussion held between himself and Nicola Gilbert from Flintshire County Council in December, who was the Officer responsible for the Community Caretaker arrangements, as well as the Neighbourhood Warden Service. She had offered to attend a future meeting of the Council to particularly refer to the assistance the Caretaker can offer to those of an infirm and aged nature in the private sector, and also to give an overview on the Neighbourhood Warden Service, which had been agreed by the Chairman. It had been initially agreed that this should be for the meeting in February, but having regard to the other offers subsequently received, which would be reported shortly, she had indicated she was able to attend the March meeting.

**RESOLVED :**

That the action of the Chairman in agreeing to an address by Nicola Gilbert of Flintshire County Council on the Community Caretaker/Neighbourhood Warden services for the meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009, be agreed.

**b. Flintshire Countryside Service – Foreshore Footpath**

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to a discussion with Mike Taylor, the Head Ranger of the Countryside Service, concerning the work they were doing on the Foreshore to the footpath and to the damage that had been caused by motorbikes and four-wheel drive vehicles. He had offered to attend a meeting of the Council to explain in detail Flintshire proposals for the area, particularly following on from the signing of the document transferring responsibility to that Authority.

**RESOLVED :**

That Mike Taylor, Head Ranger of Flintshire Countryside Service, be invited to attend the meeting of the Council to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

**c. Communities First – Holywell Neighbourhoods**

Councillor M.A. Reece referred to a conversation with Mr. D. McKnight of Communities First, Holywell, and the offer from the latter to address a meeting of the Council, with particular relevance to possible financial assistance towards the cost of play area upgrading and the new bus shelter in the Riverbank area.

**RESOLVED :**

That Mr. D. McKnight of Communities First be invited to attend the meeting of the Council to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009 or, if not convenient, the meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

**118. RECESS PERIOD**

The Clerk advised that other than the payment of accounts referred to previously, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had agreed the Alcohol Control Zones information to go to Flintshire County Council, as referred to in minute No. 115 earlier in the meeting.

**119. MEMBERS' ITEMS**

**a. Pedestrian Crossing, High Street**

The Clerk read out to the meeting a letter received by Councillor M.A. Reece from the Director of Environment at Flintshire County Council, concerning the request for reinstatement of the pedestrian crossing in the High Street. It indicated that research had been carried out with the crossing being taken away some years ago, certainly before the Environmental Improvement Scheme was carried out in 2004. They were of the view that the crossing was installed previously as being operational prior to the Bagillt by-pass being constructed, which meant the main street through the Village at that time was the A548 Coast Road. Whilst there would be every justification for a crossing at that time because of the flows of the road, with the by-pass in place it was felt they were greatly reduced on the main street and they could see no justification to installing a new crossing at that location.

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he still wished to pursue the matter by submitting a petition to Flintshire County Council and was seeking the

support of the Community Council. Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the fact that since the removal of the crossing there had been a significant increase in traffic using the High Street, with vehicles parking in the vicinity of the shops thereby creating a hazard for pedestrians. There was also the matter of the bus stop location as when it was in use other vehicles parking nearby it increased problems for pedestrians. The Council had previously indicated they were prepared to make a financial contribution for the reinstatement of the pedestrian crossing, but Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that the Officer concerned had indicated he would not support such a provision even if this Authority were to meet all the costs. P.C. Byron indicated that he supported the provision of the reinstatement of the pedestrian crossing at this location in the High Street.

**RESOLVED :**

That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council supports the reinstatement of the pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the shops in the High Street and that they were prepared to make a financial contribution to the costs.

**b. Top Hill – State of Highway**

Councillor C.R. Williams made reference to the state of the highway embankment area at Top Hill in the vicinity of his property, which required attention.

**RESOLVED :**

That the matter be brought to the attention of the Highway Authority.

**c. The Poplars, Boot End**

Councillor C.P. Owens referred to the unsatisfactory state of this highway, which provided access to his and other properties, which had been exacerbated recently by frost damage. The Highway Authority were apparently indicating it was not adopted, but he had proof to the contrary. The Member requested the support of the Community Council in having the damage to the highway repaired.

**RESOLVED :**

That this matter be brought to the attention of the Highway Authority accordingly.

**d. High Street Pavements – Icy Weather**

Councillor A. Griffiths referred to the unsatisfactory state of the pavements in the High Street in the centre of the Village due to the recent icy weather and that no action had been taken by the County Council in prevention having regard to the danger of pedestrians slipping in such conditions.

**RESOLVED :**

That this matter be brought to the attention of the Highway Authority accordingly.

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

<b>Date of Council Meeting</b>	<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009</b>
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<b>Member</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Minute No. Refers</b>
There were no Declarations of Interest.		

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**Chairman**