

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on Friday 13th March 2009.

PRESENT : Councillor C. Williams (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillors S.M. Manfredi and J. Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), Ms. N. Gilbert, Flintshire County Council (minute No. 132) and Mr. D. McKnight, Communities First Holywell Neighbourhoods (minute No. 146).

131. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

The Chairman advised the meeting that whilst there were two members of the public present neither wished to make use of the opportunity agreed under this procedure to speak.

132. COMMUNITY CARETAKER/NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SERVICES

The Chairman welcomed Nicola Gilbert of Flintshire County Council to the meeting and indicated that she would be addressing Members on aspects of the Community Care Service and also the Neighbourhood Warden Service. Nicola advised she had been responsible for the estate caretaker service in Flintshire since February 2007, and that it was this staffing which enabled the Community Caretaker service in Bagillt. Members were reminded that for a number of years the Council had purchased the time of one person for one week per month and that for the past twelve months this had been spread over a two week period, two days in the first week of the month and three days in the third week. The days utilised were Thursday and Friday in the first week and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the third week, although Nicola pointed out that there was a degree of flexibility, both in terms of undertaking tasks on behalf of the Community Council out of this time period and also the number of staff utilised.

Whilst the principle task undertaken by the Community Caretaker whilst on Bagillt duties was to pick up litter, that person also maintained street furniture belonging to this Authority and reported items requiring attention which had been noted whilst in the area, examples of which were given. In addition, the caretaker also assisted persons in the private sector who

were unable to undertake certain tasks themselves, such as grass cutting, hedge cutting, clearing of gutters (subject to a height restriction) and small outdoor painting tasks. The Clerk advised that if Members knew of anyone who needed this service then they should contact him and he in turn would pass the information onto Nicola. Councillor R.K. Jones reminded the meeting that the purpose of setting up a Community Caretaker service on a rechargeable basis had been to principally enhance that already supplied by Flintshire County Council. The Chairman enquired as to the procedure if the Caretaker whilst on duty found the task facing him to be too much and reported the matter for attention by the County Authority. In response Nicola advised that the matter would be brought to her attention and if necessary she would arrange for additional assistance from the estate caretaker service or pass the matter onto the appropriate Section of the County Council. In conclusion she pointed out the changes being introduced to the paper work required to be completed by the caretaker to ensure the Community Council were informed what had been undertaken in the area during the weeks used in the month.

In relation to the Neighbourhood Warden Service, she advised that it operated between 9 am and 9 pm Monday to Saturday, but since it had been formulated there had been a significant turnover of staff as it was seen as a stepping stone to better opportunities. When the Service was fully staffed there were six in total, including herself, and a supervisor, which meant that four were available to go on regular patrol. They looked out for issues such as graffiti, dog fouling and smashed glass to bring to the attention of the appropriate Section of the County Council, but more importantly also offered a crime prevention service to vulnerable people by way of installing extra security equipment, examples of which were reported to the meeting. The Service also got involved with environmental audits, a recent one having been carried out in Bagillt with very little to report, and this had been done in conjunction with the Community Policeman. Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the particular problem of dog fouling on the playing field at Riverbank, whilst the sign at Trem Afon was being covered over by overgrowth, which she indicated would be attended to.

The Chairman thanked Nicola for addressing the meeting and responding to Members' comments.

133. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th February 2009.

a. Minute No. 120 – Bagillt Foreshore

Councillor M.A. Reece reported on the meeting which had been held on the 4th March 2009 at The Blossoms Hotel, Bagillt, which had been arranged by the Head Ranger. Unfortunately, a small

number of those present were vociferous in not wishing to make progress concerning controlling vehicles going onto the foreshore by means of locked gates. However, it was hoped that some progress could be made at a further meeting to be held on the 31st March 2009, particularly in relation to setting up a Friends of the Bettisfield Area, as had been achieved at Greenfield Docks, which would enable access to Grant Aid. It would have been better if there had been a Chairman, and this would be taken into account at the next meeting. Councillor R.K. Jones, who had also attended the meeting, concurred with the points now reported.

b. Minute No. 121(d) – Top Hill – State of Highway

The Clerk reported on a further reply received from Flintshire County Council, which indicated that some maintenance work would be undertaken.

c. Minute No. 124(b) – Lighting Column – Top Hill

Councillor M.A. Reece read out to the meeting a reply received from Flintshire County Council indicating why they could not proceed with the provision of a new lighting column, estimated to cost £3,000 plus future maintenance. Councillor Reece referred to the fact there were two lighting columns in this area, one of which had been newly erected some 18 months ago and had still not been put into use.

d. Minute No. 125 (b) – Dollar Park, Bagillt Road, Holywell

The Chairman read out to the meeting a copy of a letter from the West Bagillt Action Committee, which they had sent to the local press. It referred to the fact that the Planning Inspector had found against the appeal lodged on the refusal of planning permission. They were however requesting that the appropriate Authorities undertake certain actions, which were detailed to the meeting. In relation to the latter aspect, Councillor R.K. Jones referred to the fact that the detailed conclusions of the Planning Inspector were still awaited.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th February 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

134. VACANCY IN EAST WARD

The Clerk indicated that the Returning Officer had advised that three valid nominations were received and not withdrawn and the names of the three Candidates were reported to the meeting. The contested election would take place on Thursday 19th March 2009 between the hours of 7 am and 10 pm and it was noted that poll card letters had been issued to inform electors of the arrangements. The Clerk advised that he intended to attend the Count for the purpose of issuing information after the result to the newly elected Member.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

135. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Flintshire County Forum

The Clerk advised that, together with the Chairman, he had attended the second County Forum on 4th March 2009 at Northop and there had been a good attendance from Town and Community Councils in the County. In relation to the issue of information sharing, this related to the issue of enforcement to cover such matters as dog fouling, planning and speed control. In relation to the Model Charter, it had been suggested that a Working Party be formed of County and Local Council representatives. A number of those present, both Councillors and Clerks, had indicated they were willing to take part. The Chairman enquired if any Member of the Council would like to put their name forward as it may be possible for others to be added to the Working Party. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that he would be willing to do so, and this was accordingly agreed.

An update had been given in relation to the alcohol control zones and it had been pointed out that in view of the stance taken by Wrexham to include the whole of their area, that similar steps may be taken in Flintshire, having regard to the views of the Police, but that there would be further consultation. A short report had been given in relation to the position to the Flintshire Unitary Development Plan and the switch over to a Local Development Plan, which would have a role for Local Councils. The local issues raised were reported and the next meeting would be in June, which would include a report on the Capital Programme.

136. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Considered Using Planning On-Line Service

No.	Location	Detail
045881	Twll y Llwynog The Gadlys	Certificate of Lawful Use as a dwelling

It was noted that the application had been supported.

b. Applications for consideration

The Clerk advised that no applications had been received since the agenda was printed. However, in relation to application 045817, relating to erection of a dwelling at land at the side of Valparaiso, Sandy Lane, a site meeting had been held on the 2nd March 2009, at which the Council had been represented by Councillor Mrs. N.M. Jones.

137. CLERK'S SALARY

The Clerk advised that he had reported to the November Council meeting indicating that an interim pay settlement for 2008/09 of 2.45% had been agreed and that there was now to be arbitration. The result of the arbitration had now been made known and a further 0.30% had been agreed, backdated to April 2008.

RESOLVED :

That the notification of the arbitration award be noted and implemented accordingly.

138. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid.

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Dwr Cymru Act1976(S.19)	427.14	101235	Loc.Govt.(MP)
Mr. G. Roberts	779.52	101242	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
HM Revenue & Customs	217.07	101243	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.112)
AON Ltd.	924.90	101244	Loc.Govt.(MP)

Act1976(S.19)

Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	118.39	101245	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.144)
One Voice wales	419.00	101246	Loc.Govt. Act 1972 (S.111)

139. PROPOSALS ON THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS IN WALES

The Welsh Assembly Government had issued a Consultation Paper advising that the existing Community Health Council for Clwyd would be amalgamated into one for North Wales, to also include Wrexham, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd and Anglesey. Each existing Unitary Authority would have one representative on the new Council and comments could be submitted until 24th April 2009. The Chairman referred to a copy of a statement he had received from the Welsh Assembly Government relating to delivering the new NHS for Wales. This advised the establishment of six new Local Health Boards, with the one for North Wales coinciding with the suggested new Community Health Council. As the decision had already been taken in relation to the Local Health Board, which would come into force on 1st June 2009, there seemed little point in the consultation exercise in relation to Community Health Councils.

RESOLVED :

That in relation to the consultation exercise on Community Health Councils, the point be made that it appears the decision has already been made, having regard to the information presented to the meeting.

140. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP SCHEME – ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

The Clerk advised that he had circulated an extract from the document forwarded by the Welsh Assembly Government, relating to the increasing importance of Community and Town Councils.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

141. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Clerk advised that Flintshire County Council had indicated that, following a consultation exercise, which amended the Draft version, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan was now available either on the web site

or by request on a disc or in paper format.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

142. ETRADING FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The meeting considered a letter from One Voice Wales concerning part of the Xchange Wales Programme by the Welsh Assembly and extracts from the Guide on Value Wales. In relation to the Guide extract, it was noted that the benefits particularly related to larger Local Authorities unless smaller ones were able to combine together.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be noted.

143. REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF FLINTSHIRE

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales had advised they were to review the electoral arrangements for Flintshire under Local Government (Wales) Act 1996, and had issued Guidance, a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. They had requested the views of the County Council on Electoral Divisions, based on existing communities and Community Wards prior to formulating Draft Proposals. They were also requesting comments from other interested persons with initial observations to be provided by 5th May 2009.

The Clerk made reference to the Guidance previously circulated and to the comment that it was considered the aim should be to achieve Electoral Divisions with a Council to Electorate ratio of no lower than 1..1750. In relation to Bagillt, the current East Ward had 1472 electors, and the West Ward 1604 electors. However, there was also the point that Electoral Divisions needed to encompass whole communities or community Wards, and with relation to Bagillt the two current divisions matched exactly the two Community Council Wards.

RESOLVED :

That the Local Government Boundary Commission be advised that this Authority supports the status quo in relation to Bagillt.

144. WELSH MEDIUM SCHOOL

Further to minute No. 122(4) of the last meeting, Members were asked to consider the response received to the letter sent by the Clerk, with copies of both having been previously circulated to Members. In the response, the intention had been to convey that it should be offered to the recipient to ascertain the views of local residents and, if wished, to make representations to the Local Education Authority. This is why the opportunity had been offered for him to include an article in the future edition of the Community Newsletter, which would be made clear that it was the view of the writer.

There had been no contact with the two Schools in the Village. In order to ensure that there was no further confusion on this issue between the writer and the Council, Councillor M.A. Reece offered to discuss the matter with him accordingly.

RESOLVED :

That the offer of Councillor M.A. Reece be accepted.

145. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES – LAW MAKING POWERS

The meeting considered a Consultation Note from the National Assembly relating to the Welsh language, copies of which had been previously circulated, which has a response date of 20th March 2009.

RESOLVED :

That the National Assembly be advised that the Council were of the view that the status quo should remain.

146. COMMUNITIES FIRST HOLYWELL NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Chairman welcomed Mr. David McKnight to the meeting. Mr. McKnight referred to the last time he had attended and indicated Communities First had now received confirmation of continuing funding for a further three year period to 2012 but, due to a reduction, they would now have only four development workers for the five Holywell neighbourhoods. He gave an indication of the funding being made available, which would principally be to cover staff costs, but indicated that there was further funding to be made available over a three year period which could be used for some form of capital programme, most of which came from the savings being made in Wales on staff costs. In relation to this issue, the Welsh Assembly Government would very much be looking forward to partnership work, to also include match funding possibilities with Local Authorities. Mr. McKnight referred to previous conversations he had had with Councillor M.A. Reece, and indicated that play equipment

and assistance toward a bus shelter would be a possibility providing the partnership approach, match funding and evidence of need were available. He indicated that Holywell Town Council was already formulating schemes in relation to seeking aid from this form of funding.

Mr. McKnight circulated at the meeting the Holywell Neighbourhoods Communities First Work Plan 2009-2012. In relation to outcomes, Councillor R.K. Jones requested to know if such information could be obtained. In response, he was advised that such information could be provided and indeed much of it was contained within the Annual Report published each year. In addition, monitoring was undertaken by the Welsh Assembly Government on Communities First expenditure. In addition a Newsletter was published, which was in a newspaper format and this was circulated throughout the areas covered and beyond and upon which articles of interest were invited. Mr. McKnight indicated that there was flexibility in relation to Communities First boundaries, which was a particular aspect in relation to Bagillt given that the Boot End only covered part of one Ward. To highlight this issue he indicated that Communities First was happy to be involved in the project to set up a Friends of the Bettisfield Area on the Bagillt Foreshore along the lines with what had been achieved at Greenfield Dock.

The Chairman thanked Mr. McKnight for attending and responding to Members' comments.

147. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Pedestrian Crossing, High Street

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had submitted a petition to Flintshire County Council. A detailed response was received from the appropriate Directorate but in the meantime he had been offered red lines on the highway, which had half the difficulty of enforcement.

b. Roadrunner

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that approval had been given to the planning application on 16th February 2008, and he briefly reminded Members of what this related to. It was subject to detailed conditions, but due to the present recession there would be appropriate time given for adherence. He circulated to the meeting photographs taken of the site, which he visited on a regular basis, and stated that he had always been against the location of this works at this site.

He referred to the fact that there was significant mud on the road within the vicinity of Roadrunner. It was agreed that this be brought to the attention of the Highway Authority.

c. Trebor Avenue Play Area – Fencing

Councillor C. Williams made reference to the need for fencing between the play area and the rear of his garden, given the close proximity of the stream and in incline which would be a danger to children. In addition, there had been problems with youngsters gaining access to properties, including his own, and there had been vandalism, which had been brought to the attention of the Police. The Police were also requesting that representation be made to Flintshire County Council for appropriate fencing to be erected.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be reported to the appropriate department at Flintshire County Council with a request for fencing to be erected and a copy forwarded to Councillor Mrs. N.M. Jones as local member.

d. Dog Bin

Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones requested the provision of a dog fouling bin at the top of either Victoria Road or Riverbank, and referred to the mess being left currently between Riverbank and Glan Aber School.

RESOLVED :

That a request be made to Flintshire County Council accordingly.

e. Litter Bin – Manor Industrial Estate

Councillor C. Williams indicated that, whilst there was a dog fouling bin on the Manor Industrial Estate, there was no similar provision for a litter bin and the area was continually in a mess.

RESOLVED :

That the Member be supported and that representations be made to Flintshire County Council, and if they were not prepared to do so then representations be made to the owner of the industrial estate.

f. Victoria Public House

Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones referred to the continuing problems at this site, with the fencing once again having been damaged, allowing access by children and also dumping to take place.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be brought to the attention of Flintshire County Council accordingly.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 13th February 2009	
Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of Interest.		

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Chairman