

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL GLAN ABER, Bagillt, on Friday 3rd April 2009.

PRESENT : Councillor C. Williams (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillors Mrs. N.M. Jones, Mrs. S.L. Jones, M.A. Reece and T.M. Withington.

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

148. VACANCY – EAST WARD

At the contested election held on 19th March 2009 there was a turnout of 23.6%, with votes cast for Des Hughes 37, Sandra Moore 151 and Terry Renshaw 159. The Clerk reported that Councillor Renshaw had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and had been given an information pack on the Council.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor T. Renshaw to his first meeting of the Council and expressed the view that his experience as a current Member of Flint Town Council and former County Councillor would be an asset to the Authority.

149. POLICING MATTERS

Councillor B.T. Doleman advised that P.C. Byron was unfortunately unable to attend this meeting. The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Police Community Forum for Flintshire would be held on 12th May 2009 in Caerwys, and that the Authority would once again be represented by Councillor A. Griffiths.

150. MINUTES

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

a. Minute No. 133(a) – Bagillt Foreshore

Councillor B.T. Doleman indicated that he had attended the second

meeting held on the 31st March 2009, which on this occasion had been Chaired by Mike Taylor. There had been some progress in relation to setting up a constitution, with three representatives from each organisation being agreed, and it was reported the next meeting would be held on the 28th April 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that the setting up of a formal constitution would enable the Group to access funds not available to Local Authorities, such as from the Environment Agency. An application to this source of funding could possibly result in a footbridge being provided over the A548 to allow safe access to the foreshore. Councillor T. Renshaw, who had also attended the meeting, concurred with the report on progress and the need for the Group to be properly constituted.

b. Minute No. 136(a) – Planning Applications

Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that the reference to the Gadlys in the address for application 045881 was incorrect, but was advised by the Clerk that this was the address included on the application received from the Planning Authority.

c. Minute No. 143 – Review of Electoral Arrangements for the County of Flintshire

A letter had been received from Flintshire County Council inviting representatives to a seminar being held on 15th April 2009 at County Hall, Mold. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales would be in attendance and there would be an opportunity to take part in open discussion and raise questions. The Chairman indicated that he hoped to be able to attend along with the Clerk.

d. Minute No. 147(c) – Trebor Avenue Play Area - Fencing

The Clerk advised that P.C. Byron had been informed of this matter and he had included it in the environmental audit.

e. Minute No. 147(f) – Victoria Public House

The Clerk advised that a response had been received from the County Council advising that the Planning Enforcement section was to investigate ownership of the land and offer advice on what could be done with regard to the untidy condition.

RESOLVED :

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

151. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman advised that he had received an invitation from the County Council to attend a Freedom Ceremony for the Royal Welch, which was to take place on Friday 24th April 2009 at County Hall, Mold. Unfortunately he was unable to attend but the Council would be represented by the Vice-Chairman.
2. The Chairman read out to the meeting a letter received from the Youth Organiser at Bagillt Youth Club, which thanked the Council for their £150 donation towards the recent Homeless Youth Services Project. The event was a huge success, with all the young people involved able to gain knowledge from real life experiences during the twelve hour period.

152. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Bagillt Heritage Society

On behalf of the Society Councillor B.T. Doleman indicated that they were in the process of preparing their second book relating to people who served and gave their lives in the two World Wars.

153. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No.	Location	Detail
045459	Kings House High Street	Erection of new fascia and sign to replace existing (retro).
046123	Bagillt Arms	Demolition and adjoining property High Street construction of ten apartments.

In relation to application 046123, the Clerk advised the meeting that it was not yet available for consultation, but as he had been made aware of its existence by Councillor M.A. Reece he had accessed the County Council website. This would enable Members to express an opinion in the event that the consultation period became due shortly and expired before the next meeting of the Council. Concern was expressed by the Chairman in relation to the possibility of yet another development being of a three storey height and there was also the issue of parking, whilst Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the UDP and that the numbers required for

the Village has already been over provided.

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to application 045459, it be supported.
2. That in the event of application 046123 becoming available for consultation, which expired before the next meeting of the Council, then it be noted that the view of those present was that it could not be supported due to the issues of over-development, parking facilities and the likelihood the development would be three storeys.

154. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Mr. G. Roberts	775.51	101247	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
HM Revenue & Customs	201.96	101248	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Flintshire County Council	1,684.26	101249	Loc.Govt.Act1972 (S.42(6))
Flintshire County Council	2,500.00	101250	Loc.Govt.Act 1933 (S.4)
Ramblers Assoc.	36.00	101251	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

155. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09

The meeting considered a report prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated. Circulated at the meeting was a revised second page concerning the Bank reconciliation as at the year end of 31st March 2009, one cheque had not been presented.

In relation to the section on Council assets, Councillor R.K. Jones was advised by the Clerk that the new bus shelter at Riverbank would remain the responsibility of Flintshire County Council in terms of ownership and maintenance.

RESOLVED :

That the accounts for 2008/09, with the revised page as circulated at the meeting, be approved and signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer.

156. ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT – 2009/10

The meeting considered a report of the Responsible Financial Officer on Annual Risk Assessment, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. The report reminded Members of the risk assessments undertaken in previous years. It was a statement adopted by the Council, showing identified risks, assessed them and put controls in place to manage. The Council had a duty to provide assurance to local tax payers and to prevent the cost of litigation.

The Responsible Financial Officer advised Members that there had been a slight change in the appendix attached to the report in that, following guidance from the External Auditor at a recent meeting with Clerks, reference was now specifically made to the use of specialist contractors for Christmas lighting.

RESOLVED :

1. That consideration of the report of the Responsible Financial Officer be accepted as a formal risk assessment by the Council for 2009/10.
2. That in relation to the key risks, the response again be identified as relating to the Council's assets, Bank accounts, internal controls and insurance, for statutory and other purposes.
3. That the appendix attached to the report be accepted as having taken all appropriate steps to minimise risks in conjunction with documented internal controls, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

157. REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Clerk reported that, following advice received from the External Auditor when he had addressed a recent meeting of the Society of Local Council Clerks Clwyd Branch, there was a need to agree a Member format for undertaking the review of internal controls on an annual basis and reporting to the Council. It was a statutory requirement that the Council shall conduct a review at least once a year on the effectiveness of its system of internal controls and it was the Council that did the review not the Internal Auditor or the Clerk. The External Auditor pointed out that it was necessary to identify the controls, record them, review them annually and minute the review.

The Council last considered a report on internal controls in September

2008 and had previously only reviewed them on an ad hoc basis. The Clerk advised he had discussed this matter with the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman and they had both agreed to undertake the review on behalf of the Council, which could hopefully be done by way of a check list and then reported back accordingly. It was hoped that this report would be presented to either the May or June meetings of the Council and then be repeated on an annual basis.

RESOLVED :

1. That the suggestion of the Clerk concerning the setting up of a Member format to undertake the review of internal controls for 2009/10 and then on an annual basis, following advice from the External Auditor, be approved.
2. That Councillors C. Williams and A. Griffiths form the Member Panel to undertake the review in the manner being recommended and that a report be made for 2009/10 to either the May or June meetings of the Council.

158. SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council which made reference to the Welsh Assembly Government Action Plan aim to get more pupils to walk and cycle safely as part of their daily lives. It identified the number of actions to increase the levels of children walking and cycling to school, including encouragement of schools to adopt travel plans which included walking bus schemes and the provision of secure cycle parking and increasing provision of safe traffic free walking routes to schools.

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the fact that a lot depended on the location of the school and whether a central point could be used from which to collection children for safe walking to school.

RESOLVED :

That the contents of the letter be noted.

159. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

A letter had been received from Flintshire County Council making reference to the responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny, which were to hold the Executive to account, assist in the improvement and development of Council policies, monitor service delivery and contribute to improving local communities. In Flintshire there were currently seven Overview and

Scrutiny Committees, details of which were included in the letter. As part of promoting understanding of the Overview and Scrutiny function the County Council were keen to engage with Town and Community Councils. The Head of Scrutiny had offered to attend meetings of Town and Community Councils to delivery a short presentation on Overview and Scrutiny and answer any questions.

RESOLVED :

That the offer of a presentation on the Overview and Scrutiny function be accepted.

160. PRINCE DAFYDD AP LLYWELYN MONUMENT

The meeting considered a letter received from the Chairman of the Prince Dafydd ap Llywelyn Committee, copies of which had been circulated at the meeting. It indicated that since making a presentation to the Council last year the Committee had succeeded in bringing the Prince's story to a wider audience, and that in the interim fund raising had continued, with the Committee also in the process of producing a pamphlet to be distributed in the area.

They were also actively investigating the possibility of erecting the monument at other locations in Bagillt. In particular, on the green area at the back of the car park next to Forresters Hall, and a copy of a site plan had also been previously circulated at the meeting. The Committee were requesting the Council to appoint a representative to liaise with them and indicated that they met on a bi-monthly basis in Holywell.

Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that he could not support the suggested new site for the monument, which the Council had previously agreed to insure and maintain once erected, and other Members present expressed similar sentiments. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that he would be happy to serve on the Committee representing the Council, but would like to know why there had been this change in the suggested site, given what was reported to the Council last Autumn.

RESOLVED :

1. That the Committee be advised that Councillor C.P. Owens will represent the Council on their Organisation.
2. That the Committee also be advised that the Council could not support the suggested location of the monument on the green area at the back of the car park and would also like to know why there had been this change in the suggested site from what had been

indicated previously.

161. SEVERE WINTER WEATHER – POT HOLES

A letter received from the Executive Member for Environment at Flintshire County Council was circulated at the meeting. It made reference to the severe winter weather experienced across the whole County in January and early February, and the legacy of damage caused to roads and footways. Whilst the number of gangs in neighbourhood services had increased to deal with resulting potholes, it would take some time to restore the roads to the pre-winter conditions. All Local Councils were therefore being asked for their patience in the Highway Authority dealing with pothole complaints. A telephone number had been included for any new reports so staff could prioritise on an area basis and make best use of the limited resources available.

RESOLVED :

That the letter be noted.

162. COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The Clerk reminded the meeting that after discussion at the February Council meeting it had been agreed a review of the delivery arrangements by Members could be undertaken once the vacancy on the Council had been filled. The new Member of the Council, Councillor T. Renshaw, had been approached and had agreed to delivery Newsletters in his local area, which would assist Councillors A. Griffiths and Mrs. N.M. Jones. In addition, Councillors R.K. Jones and S.M. Manfredi would assist in their local areas, which would relieve the burden on Councillor C. Williams, who in turn would cover the Manor Estate. Councillor C.R. Williams had agreed to cover the properties between The Stag Inn and The Blossoms, which meant that the community was once again covered for delivery purposes. The Clerk therefore suggested that an item be included on the next agenda to consider content and a possible publication date for the next Newsletter.

RESOLVED :

1. That the report of the Clerk concerning the changes in the delivery arrangements by Members be noted.
2. That an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting concerning content and possible publication date for the next Newsletter.

163. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Road Markings – New Brighton Road

Councillor C.R. Williams advised that the road markings on New Brighton Road had faded and required attention.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be reported to the Highway Authority.

b. Red Road Markings

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the present faded state of the red road markings which had been installed a number of years ago as an aid to traffic calming prior to physical measures being introduced.

RESOLVED :

That the attention of the Highway Authority be brought to the need to maintain the red road markings.

c. New Brighton Cemetery – Kissing Gates

Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that the kissing gates had been badly damaged together with fencing, possibly by people using motorbikes.

RESOLVED :

That the need for repair be brought to the attention of Flintshire County Council.

d. Tidy Town Grant

Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams referred to an article in the Chester Chronicle on 26th March 2009 indicating that Flintshire had almost spent the £138k Tidy Town Grant awarded by the Welsh Assembly. Clean up activities and small scale environment improvements in the Flintshire towns was allocated £120k, and similar amounts of money were expected to be allocated to Flintshire over the next two years. She requested details on how the sum spent had been allocated in the various areas in the County, whilst Councillor R.K. Jones suggested that they should also be requested to advise as to

what areas can qualify to take benefit of such grant aid.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be requested to provide this information accordingly.

e. After School Club – Ysgol Merllyn

Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that the After School Club at Ysgol Merllyn was struggling due to the downturn in numbers making use of the facility, possibly because of the present economic situation, and that there was a danger it could fold. After briefly referring to the benefits of such an activity, he requested that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion as to how it could be assisted in continuing and hopefully expanding.

Councillor T. Renshaw referred to the Police and Community Trust Fund which assisted a number of After School Clubs, both in terms of equipment and also running costs, to assist them in continuing. He indicated that he would pass details on to Councillor Owens to enable an application to be made.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council for a formal discussion on this issue.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 3rd April 2009
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of Interest.		

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Chairman