

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL GLAN ABER, Bagillt, on Thursday 11TH June 2009.

PRESENT : Councillor A. Griffiths (Chairman)

COUNCILLORS : R.K Jones, Mrs. S.L. Jones, S.M. Manfredi, T. Renshaw, C. Williams, C.R. Williams, Mrs. D.J. Williams, J. Williams and T.M. Withington.

APOLOGIES : Councillors B.T. Doleman, Mrs. N.M. Jones and M.A. Reece.

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

19. POLICING MATTERS

It was noted that the Community Beat Manager was unable to be present due to the change in date of the meeting as he was on holiday. He had arranged for Sergeant J. Williams to attend in his place, but unfortunately it was not known why the Officer was not in attendance.

20. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 8th May 2009.

a. Minute No. 6(b) – Trebor Avenue Play Area – Fencing

Councillor C. Williams indicated that a discussion had been held with a representative of the Leisure Services Department of the County Council, when the problems of trespass to his and neighbouring properties, and damage, together with the possible danger from the nearby stream, were discussed. Flintshire had agreed to erect fencing, which would stop unauthorised access from the play area to his property, but leave the natural undergrowth as a deterrent for the stream area.

b. Minute No. 6(d) – Road Markings – New Brighton Road

The Clerk advised that Flintshire had arranged for these road markings to be attended to.

c. Minute No. 6(e) – Red Road Markings

The Clerk advised that Flintshire had identified the red road

markings in the Bagillt area requiring attention and they had been added to their programme. They would be prioritised and, subject to availability of funding, would then be considered for refurbishment.

d. Minute No. 13 – Dog Control Order

Councillor S.M. Manfredi indicated that the comments made by Councillor R.K. Jones in relation to a possible change in policy of the County Council on stray dogs had been missed from the minutes, a view that was shared by the Member who had originally raised the issue. The Clerk apologised for this omission and indicated that he would pursue the matter with the County Council.

e. Minute No. 17(a) – Foreshore – Dog Bins

The Clerk reported on contact with the appropriate Section at the County Council and the Senior Ranger, with a view to precisely identifying the location so that they could be included in the next roll out, which was taking place in July. In relation to the proposed dog bin at Victoria Road, Councillor M.A. Reece was taking up the matter of the precise location.

f. Minute No. 17(b) – Riverbank Play Area – Possible Additional Funding

The Clerk advised the meeting that, following an exchange of e-mails and information from Councillor M.A. Reece, it transpired that the application was now going to be made by Flintshire County Council.

g. Minute No. 17(c) – Wern Avenue – Parking

The Clerk advised Councillor S.M. Manfredi that to date there had been no response from the County Council.

h. Minute No. 17(d) – High Street – Large Vehicles Parking

In the absence of Councillor Mrs. N.M. Jones, the Clerk advised the meeting that she was of the view that this issue was not a problem, although it had been passed to the Community Policeman.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 8th May 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman advised that he would be attending the Flintshire County Council Civic Service on 28th June 2009 and at Flint Town Council on 5th July 2009.

2. The Chairman advised Members that in June 2010 it would be the 25th anniversary of the Council being formed and suggested that an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the issue, and this was accordingly agreed.

22. PLANNING

a. Application Determined – Planning On-Line Consultation Period

No.	Location	Detail
046042	14 Walwen Isaf Sunnyside	Erection of garden wall and garage

It was noted that the proposal had been supported.

b. Applications for Consideration

No.	Location	Detail
046118	Former H & J Davies Garage High Street	Change in visibility splay
046141	Coetia Llwyd, Northop Road, Milwr	Two storey extension

RESOLVED :

That applications 046118 and 046141 be supported.

c. Flintshire UDP – Inspector’s Report

The report of the Inspector became available to the public on 26th May 2009 and extracts in relation to sites objected to by the Council at Bedol Farm, Victoria Park and Wern Farm had been previously circulated for Members’ information. The County Council would be considering what action to take on each of the recommendations put forward by the Inspector and to prepare a statement of its decision. This would be published alongside any proposed modifications to the plan.

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the Inspector's comments in relation to Wern Farm, with particular regard to school space for new pupils and the issue of drainage in connection with the proposed 47 properties. He felt that when a planning application was submitted in the future then the drainage issue would need to be appropriately considered in any comments made by this Authority.

RESOLVED :

That the Inspector's report in relation to sites in Bagillt be noted.

23. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Mr. G. Roberts	844.83	101264	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	201.96	101265	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
JDH Business Services Ltd.	85.20	101266	Loc.Govt.FinanceAct 1982
Open Spaces Soc.	40.00	101267	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
HCI Data Ltd.	73.60	101268	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Clwyd Community Chest	35.00	101269	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

24. INTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09

The meeting considered the Action Plan and Report of the Internal Auditor, JDH Business Services Limited, copies of which had been previously circulated. On the basis of the work carried out, which was limited to the text indicated in the documentation, it was the view of the Auditor that the Council's system of internal control was in place and adequate for the purpose intended. In relation to the Action Plan, the Clerk reported on the error which had been made to the payment he had received in July 2008, as reported in the Plan and advised that his salary payment for this month had been reduced by £4.08 as a correction.

The Internal Auditor had recently circulated suggested options for the future in relation to the governance issue raised by the External Auditor. These had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Clwyd Branch of the Clerk's Society together with suggestions from JDH Business Services Limited, who

were internal auditors to most Councils in the area. As a result, the Branch had decided arrangements should be left as at present and the Clerk advised that for Bagillt this would mean having the internal auditor at the end of the financial year. He further advised that he concurred with these sentiments until such time as the Internal Auditor came forward with any different view.

RESOLVED :

1. That the internal audit of the accounts 2008/09, and the satisfactory conclusion reached by the Council's Internal Auditor, be noted.
2. That in relation to the Action Plan, the correction made by the Clerk to the payment received in June 2009 to rectify the error made in June 2008 was noted and approved.
3. That in relation to options put forward by JDH Business Services on internal audit for the future, the present arrangement for the Council to have the accounts audited at the end of the financial year be continued until such time as the Internal Auditor advises to the contrary.

25. REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROLS

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk, copies of which had been previously circulated, which had been prepared in consultation with Councillors A. Griffiths and C. Williams, who certified that the internal controls listed were in place and being adhered to by the Council.

RESOLVED :

That the certification by Councillor A. Griffiths and C. Williams be noted, and that the documentation as circulated be accepted as the review of internal controls for the current financial year.

26. COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The Clerk circulated at the meeting a draft of the fifth edition of the Community Newsletter. Apart from the usual Chairman's comments, it contained articles from the Women's Institute, Bagillt Youth Centre, views of a local resident on teaching through the medium of Welsh, progress in relation to the Bagillt foreshore, information on the summer play schemes in the village and information on the publication of a book on Pubs and Breweries in Flintshire. The present draft contained previously issued information in relation to Council contacts, as well as future meeting dates, and the Clerk suggested that, following a telephone call he had received earlier in the day, this be replaced by an article on the Memorial to Prince Dafydd ap Llywelyn.

RESOLVED :

1. That the draft Community Newsletter, as circulated and subject to the amendment suggested by the Clerk, be agreed with any further revisions being agreed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
2. That as previously, 2,000 copies of the Newsletter be printed by Delyn Press in A5 format with delivery to be undertaken by Members once they had received copies of the Newsletter from the Clerk.

27. TIDAL DEE FLOOD MANAGEMENT SCHEME

The meeting considered information from the Environment Agency Wales. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that this information related purely to a management strategy and not actual flood defence works. It was unlikely that any of the area would benefit from physical defence works, having regard to the nature of the area that there were no significant properties at risk, as salt marshes as such were not considered to be vital.

RESOLVED :

That the information be noted.

28. EIRGRID WALES PROJECT UPDATE

The meeting considered information received from Eirgrid, copies of which had been previously circulated. Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the fact that this would be a two-way exchange of energy between Ireland and Wales and that the pipework would remain under water until Point of Ayr and then proceed inland to the Connah's Quay Power Station. The decision to not continue under water was due to the wildlife significance of the Dee estuary. There may well be significant disruption whilst the pipeline was being laid, particularly to the A548, and it had been suggested to the contractors that any community which was badly affected should be compensated in some way. The Member indicated that he would be making further investigations in relation to this scheme and if any further relevant information came to hand then he would report to a future meeting.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be noted.

29. ONE VOICE WALES CONFERENCE AND AGM – 10TH OCTOBER 2009

The meeting considered appointing a delegate to attend the above conference, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The Chairman indicated that he would be prepared to attend, subject to availability.

Councillor T. Renshaw expressed reservations about the value of the One Voice Wales organisation, and to the fact that Flint Town Council was not a Member and instead had joined the North Wales Association of Town and Community Councils. In his view, the organisation was dominated by authorities from South Wales. In reply, the Clerk indicated that approximately two thirds of Town and Community Councils in Wales were Members, and that in relation to the Area Committee covered by Wrexham and Flintshire just over half of the Councils were Members, principally those of a smaller size, due in the main to the membership fee. The Council had been a member of One Voice Wales since its inception and in his opinion the Organisation had improved significantly in services it offered since the beginning.

Councillor R.K. Jones felt that if the Chairman were able to attend the conference then he could report back on its value, which would assist the Council in considering renewal of membership next April

RESOLVED :

That the Chairman be authorised to attend the Once Voice Wales Conference and AGM in October 2009, if he is able.

30. DRAFT FLINTSHIRE REGENERATION STRATEGY

The Clerk reported that the Council had been consulted by Flintshire County Council in relation to the above document, the deadline for response being by 3rd June 2009. As a consequence, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were forward an electronic copy, due to its size, and agreed on behalf of the Council that it should be supported.

RESOLVED :

That the action taken by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be supported.

31. ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (WALES) REGULATIONS 2005 – PROPOSED CHANGES CONSULTATION

The Clerk reported on a Consultation received from the Welsh Assembly Government. Section 2 of the document was applicable to Community and Town Councils, and the issues related to removal of the requirement to follow the CIPFA SORP practices for Large Community and Town Councils, thresholds for completing income and expenditure accounts and statements of balances and

lastly the deadline for approval of publication of the statement of accounts by bringing them forward to align with the timetable in England. The Clerk advised that at a meeting of the Clwyd Branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks earlier in the month this issue had been discussed and it had been agreed that none of the proposed changes were of concern and could be supported.

RESOLVED :

That the changes proposed in the Regulations as they applied to Town and Community Councils be supported and the Clerk respond accordingly.

32. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY FORUM

The Clerk reported that the next two meetings of the Forum would be in Flint on 15th July 2009 and Connah's Quay on the 21st October 2009. The Chairman was unable to attend the Forum at Flint and at the present time the Vice-Chairman was uncertain as to whether he could attend.

RESOLVED :

1. That the dates of the next two County Forum's be noted.
2. That in the event of the Vice-Chairman being unable to attend the Forum to be held in Flint on 15th July 2009, then the Council be represented by either Councillor C. Williams or Councillor R.K. Jones.

33. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Manor Estate

Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that he had intended to raise this issue under Policing Matters if an Officer had been present. He reported on concerns received from local residents regarding the actions of youths using the play area at Oak Grove. A particular problem was the number of balls going into nearby residents' gardens and the reaction of the youths when challenged by residents. A possible solution would be to raise the fencing or position netting, which would prevent the majority of the balls going into the residents' gardens and thereby reduce friction. Councillor Renshaw also reported on other issues in relation to the use of this play area and to the action which had already been undertaken by the Police.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to the Leisure Services Department at Flintshire County Council on the possible heightening of the fencing at the Oak Drive Play Area.

b. Dog Bin – Beechcroft Close

Councillor C.R. Williams indicated that he was raising this issue in the absence of Councillor M.A. Reece for the Council to support the introduction of a dog bin at Beechcroft Close. The Clerk made reference to the need for the precise site to be identified and for discussions to be held with any effected local residents prior to application to the County Council. In the circumstances he would discuss this matter with Councillor M.A. Reece on his return from holiday.

RESOLVED :

That the proposed introduction of a dog bin at Beechcroft, at a precise site to be agreed, be supported and representations made to the County Council accordingly.

c. Housing Repairs,Capital Programme and Staffing Issues

Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that he would have preferred the County Councillor for the Bagillt East area to be in attendance and perhaps comment on the issues he wished to raise. In particular, he indicated that it had not been possible to find out if the County Council had a Housing Capital Programme for the current financial year, and made reference to expenditure on this issue in previous years. Having regard to the fact that tenants were being requested to pay an increase in their rents, then there needed to be a programme of improvement. In addition, it appeared that only repairs of an emergency nature were being undertaken and whether this was in the context of influencing tenants when they were asked to vote about possible transfer of Council housing to a Housing Association.

A further issue on which he required clarification related to the County Capital Programme and was on other services, with particular reference to any projects in the Bagillt area. Having regard to the changes which were undergoing in the senior management at the County Council, he also requested information in relation to appointments at a senior level in both the Housing and Environmental Services Sector, of both a permanent and interim nature.

RESOLVED :

That the issues raised by the Member be forwarded to Flintshire County Council for a response, with copies to the two County Councillors.

d. Litter Bin – Walwen Playing Field

Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones indicated that a litter bin was needed at the Walwen playing field, and also attention needed to be given to the amount of litter etc. which had been left in this area on a regular basis but not by local children.

RESOLVED :

1. That representations be made to Flintshire County Council about the possibility of a litter bin at the Walwen playing field.
2. That the Clerk contact the Community Caretaker with a view to cleaning up the area and keeping it under review.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Thursday 11th June 2009
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no declarations of personal interest.		

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Chairman