

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on 10th July 2009.

PRESENT : Councillor A. Griffiths (Chairman)

COUNCILLORS : B.T. Doleman, 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.

APOLOGIES : Councillors T. Renshaw and C. Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), P.C. Byron and Mr. R. Robins, (Flintshire County Council - minute No. 36).

34. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

There were two Members of the public present and the Chairman advised that one was to address the Council in relation to the recently published fifth edition of the Community Newsletter, which was referred to on the agenda within the minutes of the last Council meeting. Mr. Carl Renshaw referred to the article he had submitted on teaching through the medium of Welsh at a Bagillt school and expressed disappointment that there was no facility included for members of the public to express opinions to the Community Council. The Clerk explained that originally he had included a sentence which made reference to sending views to both Mr. Renshaw and the Council. Following a request by Mr. Renshaw to remove his contact details, the Chairman had suggested those of the Council should also be taken out, and this had been agreed at the last meeting when the draft Newsletter had been considered. Mr. Renshaw explained the reason why he had requested removal of his contact details.

Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that the issues raised in the article were a matter for consideration by the Local Education Authority, who could best explain the processes involved if it was to proceed at any time in the future. It was agreed that a copy of the article, as included in the Newsletter, should be forwarded to Flintshire County Council, and that any response received, together with any views expressed by members of the public to the Community Council on the Newsletter article, be forwarded to Mr. Renshaw.

35. POLICING MATTERS

P.C. Byron was in attendance and apologised for the fact that he had not been able to be present at a number of recent Council meetings. In particular, he made reference to abstractions for other Policing duties which was compromising his community role. He made reference to the issues which had been occurring

in the Manor Estate that had been referred to at the last Council meeting, and requested Members to keep him informed if they became aware of problems occurring in this area.

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the comments concerning the reduction in time on community duties and requested to know whether the move by the Officer to Holywell would improve the situation. In response, P.C. Byron felt that this would result in less abstraction of time from community duties and that it would be helpful if the Council were to forward a letter to Sergeant J. Williams at Flint Police Station expressing their concern regarding this aspect. The new Inspector had given an undertaking that once staffing shortages had been covered that it was the intention to ensure Community Policing throughout the area received its due regard. Members agreed that the Clerk should forward a letter to Sergeant Williams accordingly.

Reference was made by Councillor C.R. Williams to recent instances of particular vehicles using excessive speed through the village, which was noted by the Officer. Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the change of landlord at The Stag public house and in response the Officer indicated he was aware of the situation and would be contacting him accordingly. In response to Councillor R.K. Jones, the Officer advised that there was no update as yet concerning car scratching at Neston View. Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones reported on problems with motorbikes in Bron Haul Woods, which had resulted in trees being uprooted to make trails. As well as creating a mess in the woods this area was likely to be well used by children in the forthcoming school holidays, which could create a danger. In response, the P.C. Byron indicated he was aware of the situation and had previously made contact with some motorbike users, but there was the issue of the fact that the area was privately owned.

36. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN FLINTSHIRE

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Robert Robins, Head of Overview and Scrutiny at Flintshire County Council, to the meeting. In return Mr. Robins thanked the Council for inviting him to attend and address Members and indicated that the offer to do so had been accepted by a number of Community Councils, and it was also being made available to sixth forms in the County.

Mr. Robins briefly explained the legislative background which set up the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny roles in the Unitary Authorities. The Executive consisted of 10 Members, who had individual portfolios, with the other 60 Members of the Council having the opportunity to be involved in scrutinising their role.

As well as being a power and a duty it was a way for Councillors to hold a mirror up to both the Executive and all those responsible for public services. It was a process of checks and balances, protecting the public from an over

powerful cabinet and was broadly similar to Parliamentary Select Committees.

In Flintshire there were six Scrutiny Committees consisting of 15 Members covering the topics of Social and Health, Corporate Management, People and Performance, Environment and Regeneration, Community and Housing and Lifelong Learning, with the latter Committee also having 5 co-opted Members. In addition there was an Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee consisting of 21 Members. The Committees could request the attendance of Executive Members and Officers and Members also had the opportunity of placing items on the agenda for consideration by the Co-ordinating Committee.

There were four principles of effective scrutiny, and this was to provide the “critical friend” challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers, enable a voice and concerns of the public, it was carried out by independent minded Councillors who lead and owned the scrutiny role and drives improvement in services. Scrutiny Committees in Flintshire had been set up to look at the quality of services and other issues that effect the lives of peopling living, working or studying in the County, and the Committees listened to the concerns of local people to check out how the Council was performing. Examples were given by Mr. Robins of the topics which had been scrutinised and he also indicated that they worked with external bodies. Attached to the handouts circulated at the meeting was an overview and scrutiny suggestion form for suggested topics, which would be considered by the Co-ordinating Committee and also contact arrangements.

The Chairman then opened up the discussion for questions. Councillor R.K. Jones expressed the view that, judging by the local press, there appeared to be fewer issues being addressed by Scrutiny Committees, in response Mr. Robins indicated that whilst they were as busy as previous times attendance by local reporters had diminished hence the lesser coverage. The Member also made reference to the issue of co-option which currently only applied to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee. He wondered whether there would be a possibility in the future for Town and Community Councils to have co-option onto Flintshire’s Scrutiny Committees. In response, Mr. Robins indicated that more general co-option had been considered in the past but County Councillors had expressed the view that this would diminish the role for which they had been elected. In conclusion, Mr. Robins indicated that if further questions did occur to Members then there were contact details in the handout. The Chairman thanked Mr. Robins for attending the meeting and responding to points raised.

37. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11th June 2009.

a. Minute No. 20(a) – Trebor Avenue Play Area – Fencing

The Clerk advised the meeting that a written response had now been received from the County Council confirming the points made by Councillor C. Williams at the last meeting.

b. Minute No. 20(d) – Dog Control Order

The Clerk read out to the meeting a response received from the County Council in relation to stray dogs. It indicated there had been no change in policy on stray dogs and it remained that the Dog Warden would attend all reports as soon as practicable. In cases where the stray dog was showing signs of aggression or straying into areas such as school grounds or play areas, the response would be as soon as possible. They did not encourage Members of the public to try to catch and contain stray dogs on the grounds of personal safety.

Stray dogs out of hours had been the responsibility of the Local Authority since April 2008 due to new legislation, which removed the obligation of the Police for out of normal hours and weekends. The Dog Warden was on call to respond to stray dogs reported out of hours via the Carelink Office, although they only responded to those which had been contained by Members of the public out of hours. The service operated until 10 p.m. each night and weekends. All reports which showed signs of aggression or where the dog had actually bitten a member of the public should be reported to the Police as they had a responsibility to respond to what could be classed as ‘dangerous dogs’.

P.C. Byron confirmed that the information as given in relation to the Police role was correct. Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to a comment in relation to stray dogs being contained by the public out of hours.

c. Minute No. 20(g) – Wern Avenue - Parking

The Clerk reported on the response received from Flintshire County Council which indicated there was no Residents Parking Scheme for adopted highways at the moment. It could only be introduced when the Council had civil parking enforcement instead of the Police, and it was unlikely this would be introduced in Flintshire in this financial year. As Wern Avenue was an adopted highway, there were no parking restrictions. P.C. Byron expressed the view that a possible alternative, as had been used elsewhere, was to have parking only on one side of the road for a given period and then switching to the other side, which could ease the situation.

d. Minute No. 20(h) – High Street – Large Vehicles Parking

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had spoken to the Manager at MacColl's shop and he had agreed that delivery drivers would use the rear of the premises.

e. Minute No. 33(a) – Manor Estate

The Clerk reported on a response that had been received from the County Council advising that they were currently obtaining estimates to provide a suitable ball fencing system. It would be placed in the play unit work programme, which would be dependent upon having sufficient financial resources for completion this year.

f. Minute No. 33(c) – Housing Repairs – Capital Programme and Staffing Issues

The Clerk reported to the meeting on a response received from the County Council. They were arranging for information on key contacts within the management of the Community and Housing and Environment Services to be forwarded. The Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for 2009/10 was not yet complete and was subject to a Special meeting of the Council being convened for later this month. A senior manager in Housing would contact the Council to explain the programme after that meeting. On the General Fund Capital Programme, it was difficult to be precise about the exact detail on an area basis as there were blocks of finance included, for example on school maintenance and highway schemes. Again, they would arrange for a senior manager in Finance to contact the Council and establish exactly the information sought.

g. Minute No. 33(g) – Litter Bin – Walwen Playing Field

The Clerk indicated a reply had been received from Flintshire advising that a litter bin had been provided as part of the recent upgrading of the children's play area. The bin was serviced by the play technicians as part of the weekly inspection service and they thanked the Council for the assistance offered from the Community Caretaker.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11th June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman advised that he would be attending the Holywell Town

Council Civic Service on 12th July 2009.

39. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Draft Multi-Agency Managing and Authorising Encampment Protocol

Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones reported on a meeting she had attended on behalf of the Council that was held on the 24th June 2009 at the Greenfield Business Centre. The workshop for Community and Town Councillors only had representatives from six Local Councils and it appeared to be focussed on the needs of travellers and the services that would be provided by the County Council. She had however taken the opportunity to report on problems which had arisen out of the unauthorised travellers site at Dollar Park.

b. Society of Local Council Clerks – Wales Regional Conference

The Clerk reported he had attended the Regional Conference at Llandudno on the 7th July 2009, at which there had been more than 70 representatives, half of which had come from the Clwyd Branch area. There had been a number of speakers, including the Chief Verifier for the Cilca Wales Qualification for Clerks, an address from the Welsh Audit Office, with particular reference to their new website facility and helpful publications (copies of which had also been given to Councillors A. Griffiths and C. Williams), an electronic purchasing update from a Welsh Assembly Government representative, an address by the One Voice Wales Chief Executive on current news in relation to Welsh Local Government Affairs and a presentation on Modern Allotments. Once again the Clerk expressed the view that it had been a worthwhile experience in attending this one day conference, which had also provided the opportunity of networking with colleagues from other areas.

40. PLANNING

a. Application Determined – Planning On-Line Consultation Period

No.	Location	Detail
046392	Plot adj. Bryn Hyfryd Alwen Drive	Erection of dwelling, access and landscaping

It was noted that the proposal had neither been supported nor objected to.

b. Applications for Consideration

No.	Location	Detail
046433	Cefn Bach Farm, The Nant rear	Erection of conservatory to
046414	Oaklands House, and Gadlys Lane	Erection of swimming pool bedroom extension
046403	1-2 Top Row, Foel Gron	Change of use of ground floor premises (retro)

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to applications 046433 and 046403, the proposals be supported.
2. That in relation to application 046414, the proposal neither be supported or objected to and reference be made to the size of the proposed facility.

41. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Mr. G. Roberts	809.55	101270	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	201.97	101271	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
One Voice Wales	60.00	101272	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
J.W. Wain	1.00	101273	Loc.Govt Act 1953(S4)
Delyn Press	230.00	101274	Loc.Govt.Act 1986 (S.5)
Mr. G. Roberts	735.99	101275	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	201.96	101276	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)

42. AUTHORITY FOR ACTION DURING THE RECESS

RESOLVED :

1. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, acting as a Sub-Committee, be given powers to act on matters of an urgent nature during the recess period.

2. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, together with a Local Member(s) acting as a Sub-Committee, be given powers to act where Local Member involvement (other than planning applications) would be helpful during the recess period.

43. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2009

The Clerk reported on correspondence with LITE Limited in an endeavour to ascertain the present state of the lighting displays. The Company indicated that some of the rope light spirals and displays were in need of refurbishment work, but that still remained a cost effective method of decoration. In addition, it was pointed out that it may be necessary for some of the spirals to be completely replaced after this season, and it was being suggested this be taken into account when budgeting for 2010, with a possible increase of £600. It was anticipated that refurbishment work for this year would be no more than £300 and the remaining costs would be as per 2008, that being, £566 for the testing, delivery and collection of the scheme, and £1,430 for the installation and the removal (all these prices excluded VAT).

Another issue that had been raised with the Company concerned the two lanterns which did not function last year, those being located at the Chinese Takeaway and MacColl's convenience store. LITE had indicated that the displays themselves were fully operational. Members were reminded that the lantern at the Chinese Takeaway had not functioned properly for two seasons, and that in relation to MacColl's, despite a number of visits to the premises during the display period, it had not been possible to obtain co-operation to ensure that the power had been turned on and was remaining so. In addition, even when this lantern had functioned previously, it had been diminished in value since the premises had converted to a convenience store. In the circumstances, the Clerk advised that, following a discussion with the Chairman, it was being recommended that the Council should no longer display lanterns at these two premises. Instead to seek the co-operation of the Housing Association concerning Foresters Hall and the landlord at The Stag Inn to perhaps add an additional lantern at these two premises.

Councillor R.K. Jones felt that the locating of the two large displays on the side of Foresters Hall had functioned well, although it might not be possible to gain permission for a further lantern at the front of the premises. In relation to The Stag Inn, it was noted that there was now a new landlord and permission would need to be sought for the previous lantern location, as well as requesting a possible additional one.

Councillor M.A. Reece felt that in relation to the costs previously reported,

the Council were getting less value for money, in that the display was continually decreasing and that perhaps the time was opportune to cease the service. In relation to the spare lantern formally located at the Bagillt Arms he suggested the Community Centre could be an alternative location. The general consensus from other Members was that when the large displays required replacement or significant refurbishment then that would be the opportune time to cease the service and perhaps offer the lanterns to other bodies if they could be made use of.

In relation to the rope spirals, the Clerk reminded the meeting that they had only been used for one year and had remained in storage for two subsequent years and that even when they were working they were of insignificant value. He also referred to an e-mail he had forwarded to other Clerks concerning their use of lighting columns and gave information on their responses. Members were of the view that the rope spirals should not be further maintained but that if anybody in the community wished to have them then they could be made available free of charge.

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to the Christmas lighting for 2009, the intention was for the displays at the Chemist shop, Foresters Hall and The Stag Inn, should at least continue as at present, with the proviso that permission be sought for a possible further lantern display at Foresters Hall and The Stag Inn.
2. That the display of lanterns at the Chinese Takeaway and MacColl's convenience store be no longer proceeded with.
3. That in relation to the other lantern, which in previous years had been at The Bagillt Arms, this now be offered to the Community Centre in the High Street, with it being noted that the Council would have to meet the cost of installation of a new time clock socket arrangement.
4. That in relation to the rope spirals, no further monies be spent on maintenance and that they be offered to any person or organisation in the community, free of charge.
5. That in relation to the two large displays, when either or both were in need of replacement or significant refurbishment, then it be the policy that the Council would cease to provide Christmas lighting and if they were still usable offer the lanterns to any person or organisation within the community.
6. That LITE Limited be advised of the above decisions.

44. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Responsible Financial Officer circulated at the meeting information on income/expenditure and Bank reconciliation at the first quarter on 30th June 2009.

RESOLVED :

That the information as circulated be noted.

45. 25TH COUNCIL ANNIVERSARY

At the last meeting of the Council it had been agreed to consider the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Council, which was in April 2010. The Clerk indicated that perhaps the Council might consider involving the two Schools and perhaps make some form of award available to each to recognise pupil's achievement which could perhaps be awarded on an annual basis. If the Schools were in favour of such an award then consideration could be given at estimates time to make an appropriate sum available in the next financial year.

In relation to a possible social event, then that would be a matter for the Chairman to decide, after some Members indicated that it should not be at a cost to the public purse.

RESOLVED :

1. That the two Schools be approached to see if they would be in favour of a prize being awarded by the Council to commemorate the 25th Anniversary, with a report back to a future meeting.
2. That if any other Member had any ideas concerning how the 25th Anniversary could be commemorated then they similarly report to a future meeting of the Council.

46. NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

The meeting considered information received from One Voice Wales on a range of training courses, whilst the Clerk reported that one session of each of the three modules would be available at a local venue, which was County Hall, Mold.

RESOLVED :

That the training programme be noted.

47. MEMBERS'S ITEMS

a. Communities First

Councillor J. Williams reported on a conversation with Vera Davey of Communities First Holywell Neighbourhoods regarding requesting the Council to provide goal posts at the Bron Haul playing field. In addition, he expressed the view that Communities First should be making more funds available for the Boot End, which included the Bron Haul area, given the expenditure in the other communities which were within Holywell Town Council area. He further suggested that they be requested to provide details on what funding had been provided in the Boot End, a view which was shared by Councillor R.K. Jones who felt that perhaps a two year period would be appropriate. Following receipt of any information then the Council could request a representative from the Organisation, possibly Vera Davey, to attend a future meeting.

Councillor M.A. Reece referred to discussions held with Communities First concerning seeking financial assistance with the bus shelter which had been provided at Riverbank and the upgrading of the play area at Riverbank, with no success to date.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk approach Communities First Holywell Neighbourhoods for information concerning expenditure in the Boot End.

b. Lighting Column – Top Hill

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the new lighting column which had been provided adjacent to an old one at Top Hill but had not yet been illuminated.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk request the County Council to advise the reason for the delay in illuminating the lighting column and as to when it would take place.

c. Flooding

Councillor C.R. Williams made reference to the recent heavy rains which had resulted in flooding taking place in the vicinity of the Community Centre and at Top Hill which, according to the subsequent work undertaken by the Fire Service, was due to the need to clear drains. Councillor R.K. Jones also indicated that it would be useful if people in the community knew where they could

gain local access to sandbags which would help to diminish the flooding problem.

RESOLVED :

That the issue of drain clearance and provision of sandbags be taken up with the appropriate department at Flintshire County Council.

48. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

The Clerk reported on a letter received under the Freedom of Information Legislation to know if there was Council correspondence with organisations or individuals concerning railways. The writer had also written to a number of other Community Councils and was particularly interested in correspondence with Network Rail. As far as the Clerk was concerned he was not aware of any such correspondence in any recent or closed file he still kept on behalf of the Council. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that he was of the view there was provision for the Council to seek reimbursement of costs should there be a need to provide a photocopy of any documents.

RESOLVED :

That the receipt of the request under the Freedom of Information Act Legislation and the response of the Clerk, be noted.

49. IMPROVING THE PLANNING SERVICE – PLANNING FOCUS GROUP

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from Flintshire County Council indicating that the new Head of Service had made reference to the Welsh Assembly Government's recent announcement of a proposed review of the Planning Application process, in the interests of streamlining the service. The new Head of Service was keen to engage with stakeholders within the Planning Service and recognised the importance of the role of Town and Community Councils. One of the five Focus Groups established to provide feedback on service delivery, discuss and suggest ways in which the Planning service could be improved, would consist of representatives from each of the Town and Community Councils within Flintshire. The Council were therefore being requested to attend a meeting which had now been arranged for 29th July 2009 at County Hall, Mold.

RESOLVED :

That the Chairman and Clerk represent the Council at the Planning Focus Group meeting.

50. SUMMER PLAYSCHEMES

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from Flintshire concerning the publicity for the summer playschemes, which were taking place between 20th July and 21st August 2009, at two sites within Bagillt at Victoria Road and Ysgol Merllyn. Although this information had also been included in the recently published 5th edition of the Community Newsletter, copies of their notice would also be placed in the Council's Notice Board. Once again, the County Council were requesting assistance with possible venues in the event of inclement weather.

RESOLVED :

That the summer playscheme information be noted and that the usual advice concerning possible indoor provision venues be forwarded to the County Council.

51. DIGITAL TELEVISION SWITCHOVER HELP SCHEME

The Clerk reported on information received from the BBC concerning the traditional TV signal in Wales being switched off area by area starting from 12th August 2009 and ending 31st March 2010. They were working with One Voice Wales to ensure Community and Town Councils were aware of the digital switchover process. The Switchover Help Scheme run by the BBC under an agreement with the Government was to offer practical help to older and disabled people who may face barriers in switching to digital television.

The Clerk advised that posters concerning the switchover were being displayed on Council Notice Boards. Councillor T.M. Withington advised that assistance was also being offered by Flint Lions Club, and if any Member knew of someone who needed assistance then if they would get in touch with him he would arrange for contact to be made.

RESOLVED :

That the information on the digital television switchover in Wales be noted.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 10th July 2009	
Member	Item	Minute No.

		Refers
There were no declarations of personal interest.		

.....
Chairman