

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL GLAN ABER, Bagillt, on Friday 12th November 2010.

PRESENT : Councillor C.P. Owens (Chairman)

COUNCILLORS : B.T. Doleman, A. Griffiths, R.K. Jones, Mrs. S.L. Jones, S.M. Manfredi, M.A. Reece, T. Renshaw, Mrs D.J. Williams, J. Williams and T.M. Withington.

APOLOGIES : Councillors, Mrs. N.M. Jones and C. Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) and Mrs. M. Williams, Mrs. D. Jones, Mrs. N. Williams and Mr. H. Threlfall, Bagillt Bowling Club (minute No. 88(a)).

83. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th October 2010.

a. Minute No. 77 – Match Funding Scheme – Play Area Improvements 2011/12

The Clerk reported that Flintshire County Council indicated they had received 18 expressions of interest from Town/Community Councils and that, following consideration, they hoped to advise on the outcome by mid-December.

b. Minute No. 80(a) – Bulb Planting

Councillor B.T. Doleman advised that it had not been possible to utilise the bulbs at the War Memorial and a different area would be used.

c. Minute No. 80(b) – Derelict Property, High Street

The Clerk indicated a response had been received from Flintshire County Council indicating that the property was found to be in no worse a state of repair than the previous inspection carried out in April. The concerns of this Authority had been passed on to the Environmental Health Department who would monitor the situation.

d. Minute No. 80(e) – Overgrown Area, High Street

The Clerk reported that the overgrown car park area adjacent to the Community Centre had been tidied up by the Probation

Service. In relation to the other area, Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had had further contact with Flintshire Officers and they would be carrying out some work in this area.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th October 2010 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

84. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman reminded Members that there would be the usual Remembrance Sunday Service on the 14th November 2010 at the War Memorial, High Street at 12 noon.

85. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. One Voice Wales Annual Conference

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the Annual Conference and AGM held at Bont Pavilion, Pontrhydfendigiad, Cerrigudidion on Saturday 9th October 2010. Whilst it was a purpose built venue, it was difficult to locate and did not have a landline facility or mobile phone coverage.

During the morning there had been a number of speakers and due to a delay in commencement and poor Chairmanship, it had reduced the time available for the buffet lunch and the opportunity to visit the exhibitors' stands. There had been number of interesting exhibitors and he made reference to contact with the Environment Agency, who had offered to address a future meeting on a Community Flood Plan. In relation to digital mapping software he suggested that this should be an issue for discussion on the agenda at a future County Forum, as it would need to be Unitary Authority led and this was accordingly agreed.

The afternoon session had dealt with Notices of Motion which had been received, when concern had been expressed regarding how they had been re-worded from the original intention and the problem with it not being possible to raise amendments. He felt that if the speaker arrangements had been arranged by way of workshops then it would have been possible for a delegate to choose particular interests. This was the first attended by the new Chief Executive and the organisation would be arranged far better in the future, although it was an improvement on the conferences previously organised by NALC.

b. Standards Conference

Councillor R.K. Jones reported on his attendance at this conference, held in Cardiff on Thursday 14th October 2010, when he was one of the Town and Community Council representatives from the Flintshire area. Councillor T. Renshaw had attended in his capacity as a Member of Flint Town Council. Reference was made to the presentations in the morning session which had been of varying interest, with particular reference to the different situation that applied in England and the role of the Ombudsman, criticisms made of some Councils' behaviour and lack of training, and to the particular problems which had occurred at Anglesey. In the afternoon there were workshops, one from the One Voice Wales representative concerning planning scenarios and another on Standards and Ethics, when particular reference was made to issues such as reviewing Terms of Reference and Work Programme, which he felt was more appropriate to Unitary Authorities or possibly the larger Town Councils. On balance, he felt it had been worthwhile attending.

c. Meeting with Flintshire Standards Committee

This had been held at Connah's Quay on Monday 11th October 2010 and had been attended by the Chairman and Clerk. The Clerk advised Members that this was the first of the meetings agreed at the last County Forum and it had covered three topics relating to the role of the Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer, standard of behaviour at meetings and relationships between the Clerk and Councillors. In relation to the role of the Standards Committee reference had been made to the differences with England, Code of Conduct aspects including dispensations and the roles of the Ombudsman and Adjudication Panel. Clerks were able to contact the Monitoring Officer or his deputy for advice on Code of Conduct concerns.

On standards of behaviour at meetings, reference had been made to the role of the Chairman, respect towards the Chairman, Clerk and other Members, and the need for ensuring there were Standing Orders, as well as training for both Chairman and Members, particularly if the latter were new to Council procedures. On the matter of Clerk and Councillor relationships, the Monitoring Officer had indicated the need for procedures to be in place, such as a contract of employment, suitably updated, job description when appointed and a grievance procedure to be adopted, whilst acknowledging that for many the Clerk was the only employee and he or she would have to deal directly with the Council as employer. It was noted that the next meeting would be in the Spring at Mostyn.

d. One Voice Wales – Wrexham/Flintshire Area Committee

The meeting had been held at Mold on Tuesday 12th October 2010, when the Chairman and Clerk had been present. There had been a presentation by representatives of Keep Wales Tidy on the Tidy Town Scheme, which had been set up by Welsh Assembly Government in 2008, and it was noted the current funding ceased in February 2011 with its future being awaited. Each Unitary Authority in Wales had an Officer allocated, but operated the scheme in their own way, with Flintshire topping up the grants of £500 with a similar sum, and it was confirmed that a sum was still available, but had to be spent by next February. The funding enabled the purchase of equipment and insurance cover for volunteers involved and examples had been shown of the different types of schemes which had been covered, the role of the Keep Wales Tidy Officers, the co-operation of the Unitary Authority and the need for voluntary effort. Also, contact and participation had been made with Town and Community Councils and it was confirmed that it was not confined just to towns as all areas could apply.

There had been the opportunity to comment on the OVW Annual Conference and the Chairman had expressed the views mentioned earlier in the meeting, which had been confirmed with three others who had also been present. In addition, it had been pointed out that agendas had only been despatched to delegates a few days before which had not allowed time to consult with their own Councils on the motions. The Area Committee delegate on the Executive for OVW, who had been unable to attend the conference had noted the comments made by those who had, and would be, taking these points to the next meeting.

e. Flintshire County Forum

This had been held at Gwernymynydd on Wednesday 20th October 2010 and the Council had been represented by Councillor R.K. Jones, as Vice-Chairman, and the Clerk. There had been a presentation on the Gwernymynydd Local Plan with particular reference made to the liaison with Flintshire, local involvement, benefits to date and the way forward. There had also been a presentation on the Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategy 2011/14, which was an item to be discussed later on the agenda. In relation to the draft Charter, reference had been made to the amendments received from Community Councils, which had been incorporated, and it had been agreed it would now be launched as it was a working document and would be updated as necessary.

The new Streetscene Head of Service Mr. Steve Jones had been introduced at the meeting and he advised on winter maintenance information to be sent to Town and Community Councils, and it was noted this had been received and would be discussed later on the agenda. Information had also been given on the working on the street

scene system, which included all manual workers except Housing being under his control and therefore more flexibility, particularly with issues such as winter gritting. There would be local accountability with the County divided into areas and Local Councils would be advised of the Contact Officer who could attend meetings and that there would be only one number for the public to call when it was in place. Reference had been made to the Residual Waste Treatment Project and Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that the expressed interests had now been reduced from 9 to 3, with a view to determining the preferred bidder. Whilst there had been a number of similar schemes cancelled in England, they were under PFI Schemes and it was hoped that the one for North Wales would continue, despite the spending review.

86. PLANNING

a. Applications Determined – Planning On-line Consultation Period

No.	Location	Detail
	047980	

It was noted the proposal had been supported.

b. Applications

No.
048033

RESOLVED :

That the application be supported.

c. Dollar Park Caravan Site – Appeal

The response from Flintshire County Council on the request for the legal reason the previous Inspector’s decision was not implemented had been previously circulated to Members, together with a letter from the Head of Planning concerning the arrangements for the appeal by public Inquiry. The Clerk advised that he had also received a letter from the West Bagillt Action Committee, which was a copy of that sent to the Planning Inspectorate. They were demanding a re-appraisal of the decision made relating to the appeal and that it be accepted they had the right to make representations at the hearing rather than being treated as individuals.

RESOLVED :

That the information received from Flintshire County Council and the West Bagillt Action Committee be noted.

87. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Davies Bros.	89.89	101365	Parish Councils Act 1957
Flintshire County Council	3,150.00	101366	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1953/ Parish Councils Act 1957
Flintshire County Council	2,220.50	101367	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976
UHY Hacker Young	334.88	101378	Loc.Govt. Finance Act 1982
Mr. G. Roberts	803.32	101369	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	205.14	101370	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Clr. C.P.Owens	130.65	101371	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Clr. R.K. Jones	217.65	101372	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Clr. R.K. Jones	16.50	101373	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Mr. G. Roberts	772.44	101374	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	205.13	101375	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Flintshire County Council	60.00	101376	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

88. ESTIMATES 2011/12

a. Bagillt Bowling Club – Future Green Maintenance

The Clerk reminded Members that it had been agreed at the last meeting to invite representatives of the Bowling Club to attend for a discussion on future Green maintenance to enable the Council to determine what financial assistance it can offer so that the facility could continue and be included in Estimates for the January meeting. There were four representatives of the Bowling Club present and they were requested to give some background in relation to the Bowling Club to include issues such as membership, lease arrangements with Flintshire, how they had looked after the Green to date and why there were no longer able to do so after this year.

Members were advised that there were presently 25 members in the Club, predominately female, and a further five were in the process of joining, for which there was currently a fee of £20 per annum. The Club had been running since 1986 and whilst it had received assistance from the Probation Service in relation to certain projects, it had always used its own membership to maintain the Green. Unfortunately the two male members who principally undertook this task throughout the growing season would no longer be able to physically continue to do so after this year and there were no other members who could currently take their place. There had been discussions with Mike Hornby at Flintshire County Council but it had been made clear they were not able to assist, even though that Authority looked after bowling greens in neighbouring areas. The programme of work required throughout the year had been originally costed at £3,672, based on the contractor used by Flintshire, but this had been reduced to £2,590 by reducing the cutting frequency and the Bowling Club undertaking some of the tasks which had been listed.

In addition to bowling green maintenance, it was pointed out that the Club had to meet expenses such as insurance, electricity and water usage as well as payment of league fees. In addition to membership fees they also received income from competitions held at the Green and from day visitors and reference was made to the number of local residents who also came to watch. In relation to the financial figures received via Flintshire from the contractor, Club representatives pointed out that the cost for materials indicated were lower than they were paying at present.

Reference was made by Councillor T. Renshaw to the visit made by Members earlier in the summer to see the facility for themselves, when it had been agreed it was an excellent facility for the community. He felt it should be supported, at least in principle from this meeting so as to enable further enquiries, so that the Council were in a position to determine any commitment at the January meeting. This view was supported by other Members present. Councillor R.K. Jones felt that, given the assistance given by Flintshire to neighbouring bowling greens, they should at least be requested to provide the materials required for maintaining the Green. The Clerk suggested that perhaps the Bowling Club should make contact with other Clubs within their league to see if any others were in the position of having to use a contractor to maintain the Green, if only to determine whether a lower price could be obtained, and this should also include a direct approach to the contractor used by Flintshire to see if that Authority were including an on-cost in the figures quoted. It was also made clear by the Clerk that the Council were in no way looking to involve themselves in the running of the Club in the event of agreeing financial assistance to maintain the Green in the future and

that there was a need for agreement in relation as to how any payments would be made in order to protect the Council's position.

RESOLVED :

1. That it be agreed in principle that the Council will financially assist the Bagillt Bowling Club so as to ensure future maintenance of the Green in the next financial year.
2. That in the meantime the Clerk make representations to Flintshire County Council with a view to requesting them to at least meet the cost of the materials required to maintain the Bowling Green.
3. That the Bowling Club for their part make enquiries with the contractor used by Flintshire and also other Bowling Clubs to see if they used a similar arrangement in an endeavour to find out if a lower cost could be achieved for the work required.
4. That the Clerk report further to the estimates meeting of the Council in January so as to enable the Council to determine its financial commitment for 2011/12.

(Note: Councillor M.A. Reece declared a personal interest in this item and took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon).

b. Community Centre

The Clerk reported to the meeting on the financial details received from the Bagillt Community Association, which was in accordance with that required from any other organisation requesting support from the Authority. This information would now be required on an annual basis whilst the Council were continuing to meet the costs of the insurance, water/sewerage expenses at the Centre, which had originally commenced in 1991.

Reference was made by the Chairman of his concern at the dampness in part of the building, no doubt as a result of the embankment at the rear, despite the significant works which had been undertaken on the building in recent times. In relation to the land at the rear of the Community Centre, the Clerk reported enquiries had been made by the Community Association to determine ownership which was not part of the area included in the Community Centre title deeds. To date, the Church Authorities were denying ownership, despite enquiries made, and the same applied to the rear of the car park area. The particular concern related to the trees which overlooked the Centre and the damage that could occur if one or more fell on the property. Whilst it probably needed attention, Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that he understood

they were covered by a Tree Preservation Order and that if they were removed then it could cause a landslip from the Church side. Councillor R.K. Jones suggested that perhaps the Community Association could make enquiries with Flintshire County Council for advice as to the state of the trees, what action should be taken and whether they would be prepared to assist. In the unlikely event of Flintshire being unable to offer any more than advice then this Authority could consider what assistance they could offer, given the fact that in the event of the Community Association disbanding that the Community Centre would pass to this Authority.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk approach the Community Association accordingly concerning this matter.

c. Miscellaneous Items

Members were reminded that it was practice at this meeting to briefly consider whether any items of expenditure should be included or removed to enable the usual report on Expenditure and Income and consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the January 2011 meeting that would agree the budget and set the precept for the next financial year. Members were reminded by the Clerk of the decision made at the last meeting concerning upgrading of a play area, and upon which a decision by Flintshire would not be made until mid-December, and the discussion during the meeting on the Bowling Club, all of which would have an effect on the precept. In the light of this it may be necessary to consider the deletion of the usual sum of £1,000 which was included for the Miscellaneous Fund.

RESOLVED :

That the comments of the Clerk be noted.

89. APPLICATION TO ADD ON AN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC FOOTPATH TO THE DEFINITIVE MAP

Members noted a letter and map received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated. It related to the inclusion of an additional footpath on the foreshore, which had been supported after consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillor M.A. Reece, as Local County Councillor, as a response was required by 12th November 2010.

RESOLVED :

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

90. AUTHORITY FOR ACTION DURING THE RECESS PERIOD

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 (other than planning applications) acting as a Sub-Committee, be given powers to act where Local Member involvement would be helpful during the recess period.

91. TIDAL DEE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A letter received from the Environment Agency concerning exhibitions arranged to highlight the Management Strategy had been previously circulated. Members who had previously advised of their e-mail address had also been sent a copy of the information document, which had reference by way of maps to the short, medium and long term solutions for the Tidal Dee area.

Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that he had a number of concerns regarding the lack of action concerning the Bagillt Foreshore in all of the three time spans indicated, unlike other areas included in the Tidal Dee catchment. In addition, there was also the possibility of contamination by sewerage in the Village as a result of any flooding. The Chairman referred to the comment he had made earlier in the meeting regarding an offer from the Environment Agency to attend a meeting on a community flood plan and, whilst agreeing to the concerns expressed by Councillor R.K. Jones, including requesting a presentation at a future Council meeting, perhaps the other contact should also be notified.

RESOLVED :

That in relation to the Tidal Dee Flood Risk Management Strategy consultation, the following issues be raised :

1. Why was it that Bagillt Foreshore was identified as the only area in the Estuary where no defence work was being considered throughout the 100 year period ?

2. Can you clarify (as it appears on the maps) that the Railway Embankment was seen as the flood barrier ?

3. What were the implications, long term, for the

proposed coastal footpath and cycle route ?

4. What were the implications for the safety and security of the landfill site (former Bettisfield Colliery) which would act as a groyne and potentially leading to its undermining and erosion, thus allowing for potential contaminate leaching into the Estuary ?

5. What were the implications for the fresh water fishing pond (known as Condeys Pool) if the erosion of the salt marsh extends to the railway ?

6. What were the long term flooding implications for the Village and the Manor Industrial Estate, given that the access tunnels and drainage ditches would be vulnerable as a consequence of there being no proposals ?

7. That the Council request attendance by a representative of the Environment Agency Wales at a future meeting of the Council to discuss these issues and other points which might arise and that the Community Flood Plan officer be advised accordingly.

92. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/10

The Clerk reported that the external Auditor had audited the Annual Return for the last financial year, which followed on from the report made to the September meeting, and public notices of conclusion of audit had been displayed on the Council notice boards and at the Branch Library.

RESOLVED :

That the conclusion of the audit and action taken by the Clerk be noted.

93. WINTER PREPARATIONS

The meeting considered a letter from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. It concerned a contact for local weather forecasts and gritting actions and to consider the matter of additional salt bins subject to the conditions identified.

In relation to contact, the Clerk suggested that this should perhaps be himself and, based on the information received, he would endeavour to forward e-mails to other Members and also, where appropriate, include information in the appropriate section on the website.

In relation to salt bins, Members were reminded of the decision taken at the last meeting to request a salt bin for Victoria Road on a rechargeable basis to replace the once which had been there previously. Councillor A. Griffiths indicated that

there had previously been two salt bins in Merllyn Lane and that these also needed replacing.

RESOLVED :

1. That it be agreed that the Clerk should be the contact for local weather forecasts and gritting actions from Flintshire County Council, and that the information necessary be circulated to Members, as indicated.

2. That in relation to salt bins, Flintshire County Council be advised that, in addition to the decision already taken about Victoria Road, the Council would also be prepared to meet the cost of two replacement bins at Merllyn Lane but, inasmuch as in all three cases they were the responsibility of the Highway Authority, the cost of the salt provision should be met by them.

94. COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SURVEY 2010

The meeting considered a letter received from the Welsh Assembly Government, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. The Council had been invited to respond to a questionnaire, with the aim of the survey being to gather information about a number of issues in relation to Town and Community Councils in Wales, as listed in the letter.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk complete the survey on behalf of the Council accordingly.

95. FLINTSHIRE SUMMER PLAYSCHMES PROGRAMME 2010

The meeting considered information received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. As well as general information on how the scheme had operated during the summer months it also gave specific information in relation to attendances at the two Bagillt Schemes in Victoria Road and Merllyn over the five week period.

RESOLVED :

That the information received from Flintshire County Council in relation to the Play Schemes for 2010 be noted and that provision be made in estimates for the Schemes to continue in the next financial year.

96. LEISURE ACTION PLAN

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members.

RESOLVED :

That no action be taken in relation to this issue.

97. GOOD HEALTH, GOOD CARE IN FLINTSHIRE 2011/2014

The meeting considered a letter and Consultation Document received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. There were a number of questions on which they were seeking information, which Members may wish to respond to on an individual basis.

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the information coming out regarding the possible closure of the Accident and Emergency facility at Glan Clwyd being taken by the Local Health Board and upon which there had as yet been no public consultation. The implications for people in the Bagillt area would be the need to travel to Ysbyty Gwynedd Bangor, Wrexham Maelor Hospital or the Countess of Chester Hospital.

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to the Good Health, Good Care Consultation, it be left to Members to respond on an individual basis, if they so wished.
2. That representations be made to the Betsi Cadwalader University Health Board concerning the situation regarding the possible closure of Accident and Emergency facilities at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and the implications for people in this area and if there was going to be public consultation on this issue.
3. That the above issue be brought to the attention of the Delyn Assembly Member if she was not already aware.

98. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Litter Bin High Street Car Park

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the arrangements he had made for erecting winter flowering hanging baskets on the facility available at the car park, as they did not have the same watering requirements as those in the summer. Unfortunately it had not been possible to put up further due to the fact that one of the columns could be accessed by climbing on the black litter bin which had been erected as part of the previous Environmental Improvement Scheme in the centre of the Village. He requested that representations be made Flintshire County Council to see if the litter bin could be re-located.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to Flintshire County Council accordingly.

b. Notice Board, Riverbank

Reference was made by Councillor J. Williams to the need for attention to be given to the lock on the Notice Board. In addition, he made reference to the fact that the information contained on the Notice Board on local Policing was out of date and needed replacing.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk endeavour to arrange for the locking mechanism on the Notice Board to be examined and draw the attention of the Community Police Officer to the need for updated information in relation to posters displayed on the Council Notice Boards.

c. Housing Stock Transfer

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to a meeting he had attended as a Member in the Housing Department at Flintshire County Council concerning the proposed housing stock transfer when it had been stated that consultation was being undertaken also with Town and Community Councils. As far as he was aware this was not the case and this was confirmed by the Clerk.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to Flintshire County Council concerning consultation on this issue.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 12th November 2010
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
Councillor M.A. Reece	Bagillt Bowling Club- Green Maintenance	88(a)

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Chairman