

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on Friday 14th January 2011.

PRESENT : Councillor C.P. Owens (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES :

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), P.C. Tony Gray and CPSO Phil Rushby (minute No. 99) and Mr. Phil Jones and Ms. Rachel Cooper (minute No. 100).

99. POLICING MATTERS

In the absence of P.C. Jennifer Salisbury, her colleagues P.C. Tony Gray and CPSO Phil Rushby attended the meeting. Crime Statistics were circulated at the meeting for the Bagillt East and Bagillt West areas and CPSO Rushby drew attention to both improvements and increases in specific crimes recorded in these areas. In relation to anti-social behaviour, he advised that there was to be an initiative from the 20th January to 1st April 2011, targeting hot spot areas and in response to Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that he could provide an update for P.C. Salisbury at the midway point at the end of February to report back to Members. Councillor R.K. Jones welcomed the improvements that had been recorded in statistics for the Bagillt East area and enquired whether the changes required in the North Wales Police Force as a result of financial measures would have a bearing on neighbourhood policing. In response, he was advised that as far as was known the changes would affect response officer arrangements rather than those for neighbourhood policing.

Councillor T. Renshaw made reference to the proposals to close the Magistrates' Court at Flint and expressed the hope that this would not have any implications on the adjoining Police Station. In response, P.C. Gray indicated that neighbourhood policing for the area was located at both Flint and Holywell Police Stations and to date he was not aware that the Court proposals would affect this arrangement. Reference was also made to the "Balance your Bobbies" initiative on the police force website which gave an opportunity for residents to let them known about their problems and priorities for local policing. The Chairman thanked the two Officers for attending and also providing the Clerk with updated notices to go in the Council notice boards in relation to the Bagillt Community Officer and also the 101 service.

100. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

a. Flood Plan

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Phil Jones and Ms. Rachel Cooper from the Environment Agency, who would address the meeting on the Flood Plan issue. Phil Jones commenced by indicating that, as a result of funding provided by the Welsh Assembly, which would cease on 31st March 2011, the Agency were contacting vulnerable residents in areas which were at particular risk of flooding with a view to providing them with self-help and contact information. By reference to plans displayed at the meeting he indicated areas in Bagillt at high risk and low risk from tidal flooding and, in relation to the former, his colleague would be leading a team which would visit each property in that area.

It was recognised that people were sometimes reluctant to respond to cold calls on the door step and, if this happened or if the properties were empty at the time, a card would be left. As far as the Bagillt area was concerned, it was indicated that this would be undertaken next month during normal office hours during the week and they would also include visits on Saturday with a view to catching more people at home. He then went on to explain the information that would be in the packs that would be left, which would also include a short DVD, and circulated some copies at the meeting for Members representing the West Ward, which had the particular area of high risk of flooding. There was also the opportunity for residents to become part of the telephone contact system which would give a warning of an impending problem. In the work they had carried out to date in other areas there had been approximately a 40% take up.

In addition to self-help awareness by residents they were also keen for bodies such as this Council to have a Community Flood Plan. It would require someone to volunteer to be principal contact of Chief Flood Warden for the area and for others to also be available. The principal person identified would be the point of contact with the Environment Agency. The particular area of concern of flooding for Bagillt would be at high tide with wind from a particular direction together with heavy rainfall.

Reference was made by Councillor B.T. Doleman to the High Street area in the vicinity of The Feathers public house, which had frequently flooded in the past and to the alterations that had been made to the Green Park Lake to make it a tidal holding pool, which had improved the situation. Councillor J. Williams indicated that the areas of high risk identified on the map displayed were well known to local persons. Councillor R.K. Jones expressed the view that when problems occurred people were anxious to have a single point of contact rather than a multitude by the various Agencies, both in the public and private sector as they were not concerned with responsibility if the flooding occurred

because of tidal or other problems in the area. Councillor C.R. Williams made reference to the information that could be obtained from the Agency website and pointed out that a number of people did not have the availability of such a method of contact and whether the information pack to be handed out could also include a map showing the particular areas at risk. There was also the possibility that perhaps such a map could be displayed, with any other relevant information, on the Council Notice Boards at the time when the Agency were visiting the property in the high risk area.

In relation to the Community Flood Plan, a copy of which Phil Jones passed to the Clerk, he indicated that a particular contentious issue always concerned whether or not to include a list of vulnerable people, due to the sensitive nature of the information. In addition, any flood plan would need to be reviewed on a regular basis. The Chairman indicated that it should be possible to include a reference to the visits by Agency staff to the high risk flood areas in Bagillt on the Council website, and this was accordingly agreed.

RESOLVED :

1. That Mr. Phil Jones and Ms. Rachel Cooper be thanked for attending the meeting and explaining the flood plan issue and the benefits which would be available to local residents in the high risk flood area.
2. That consideration be given at the next meeting of the Council to also participating in a Community Flood Plan to include volunteer Flood Wardens.

b. Tidal Dee Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Clerk referred to minute No. 91 of the last meeting of the Council agreeing issues to be raised on the consultation undertaken by the Agency in relation to the Strategy. Whilst it had not been possible to have a representative from the Agency at the meeting tonight, the Clerk had attended their offices at Buckley and spoken to a contact. It had been explained that the document referred to at the last Council meeting had been a summary prepared by the Agency to cover the Strategy's main aspects, and that the purpose of the public exhibitions were to impart more detail and to respond to any concerns identified. A reference in the document to set back a new defence to allow natural process in relation to the salt marsh did include the Panton Cop and that following on from the Strategy, there would projects developed with detailed proposals which would enable more consultation with stakeholders and interested parties. The railway embankment was not seen as a flood barrier due to the tunnels. There was the need for infrastructure protection, but people and property were of the paramount importance and the need for a new

embankment in front of the railway line may well be a proposal to be discussed with other Authorities and interested parties.

The Agency was well aware of the coastal footpath and cycleway proposals but in relation to any future embankment proposal, there may be a need to relocate in the medium turn in some areas. In relation to the former Bettisfield Colliery tip, this area would be covered by monitoring and maintained defences and erosion protection in the medium turn, as included in the summary, with more detailed proposals to include other relevant parties. The needs of the fresh water Condie's Pool were appreciated and may well be covered by any new embankment proposal. The long term flooding implications for the Village and the Manor Industrial Estate would be paramount in any detailed project to comprise a possible new embankment of the appropriate height to include global warming consequences.

The Clerk explained there was an offer for the Council to still make further observations on the Consultation in the light of this discussion. If any Member wished to discuss a particular aspect they can ring the contact or arrange to meet her. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that he would make contact with the Agency representative identified by the Clerk, but felt that the organisation should still be prepared to attend a future meeting of the Council to discuss these matters in more detail.

RESOLVED :

1. That the report of the Clerk be noted.
2. That the Agency be requested to send a representative to a future meeting of the Council to discuss the Tidal Dee Flood Risk Management Strategy in more detail, in the light of the concerns expressed previously by the Council.

101. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 12th November 2010.

a. Apologies for Absence

It was noted that Councillor C.R. Williams had also submitted an apology for absence for this meeting.

b. Minute No. 86(c) – Dollar Park Caravan Site – Appeal

The Clerk advised the meeting that the postponed adjourned public Inquiry into the appeal would re-convene on Monday 17th January 2011.

c. Minute No. 88(b) – Community Centre

The Clerk advised the meeting that in relation to the trees at the rear of the Community Centre, it had been confirmed that they were not covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Although Flintshire County Council was unable to assist with the trees, the Community Association had been directed to approach the Ground Work Organisation on this matter. In relation to the concerns of dampness expressed at the last meeting, the Clerk advised that, after consultation with the Chairman, he had held a site meeting with the Community Caretaker and a representative of the Centre. It had been discovered that a number of pipes at the rear of the dwelling had been vandalised, which were exacerbating the dampness, and accordingly the Caretaker had arranged for their repair and had also cleaned the gulley at the rear of the premises of leaves and mud and would keep this area under review.

d. Minute No. 97 – Ysbyty Glan Clwyd

The Clerk read out to the meeting a reply from the Betsy Cadwallader University Health Board, giving an assurance that the Emergency Department at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd was not being removed and that they were investing capital to improve it over the coming months. The Health Board had agreed at a public meeting held on 25th November 2010 for a further £8 million investment pending Welsh Assembly Government approval.

e. Minute No. 98 (b) - Notice Board – River Bank

The Clerk advised the meeting that a new lock had been fitted to the Notice Board.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 12th November 2010 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

102. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

One Voice Wales – Wrexham/Flintshire Area Committee

A meeting had been held in Overton on the 13th December 2010, which had been attended by the Clerk in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The principal item was a presentation by the new Chief Executive. This was his first visit to the Area Committee and he intended to meet them all in the coming months. After making brief reference to his Local Government and housing background, and that he had also been a Community Councillor, he indicated

that in the four months since his appointment he had met with a number of other organisations and made reference to the role aspect of Town and Community Councils and Charter working with Unitary Authorities, as well as a review of how One Voice Wales worked. The cut backs being forced on Unitary Authorities would give opportunities for Town and Community Councils and reference had been made to the Localism Bill and the Big Society issue. In any changes the issues of capacity and capability needed to be addressed by Local Councils in wanting to undertake additional functions, the need for training and the financial aspect. One Voice Wales was preparing a strategy for the next five years to include the Area Committee system. He also made reference to the annual conference which would require change to address the issues brought forward from those who had attended and that there may be a case for regional conferences, such as the SLCC had organised for a number of years.

103. PLANNING

a. Applications Determined – Recess Period

No.	Location	Detail
047981	Porch Cottage, Replace corrugated lean-to kitchen with Gadlys Wood brick structure, sky light, doorway, window.	

This Listed Building proposal was neither supported nor objected to and left to planning.

048087	Rydal Cottage, Tyn Twll Lane	Erection of a single storey side extension.
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There was no objection to the proposal.

048029	Smithy Cottage, lean-to roof, install Gadlys Wood replace windows.	Replace existing bathroom and and
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The proposal was neither supported nor objected to and left to planning.

b. Applications

No.	Location	Detail
048110	Flat, Talbot House.	Variation of condition No. 4 of

Talbot Terrace,
permission 044437 to vary
private

High Street
access.

048215 Central Garage,
Amendment to approval 040036
to

High Street, Bagillt
include dormers to the front and
rear elevations and internal alterations.

RESOLVED :

That no objections be made to
applications 048110 and 048215.

104. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

a. Recess

RESOLVED :

That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in approving the
undermentioned account be endorsed.

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Flintshire County 1976(S.19)	750.00	101377	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act

b. For Payment

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Delyn Press	80.00	101378	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Mr. G. Roberts	796.10	101383	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	205.14	101380	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Soc. of Local Council Clerks	118.00	101381	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Huws Gray Ltd.	85.61	101382	Parish Councils Act 1957

105. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on Estimates for 2011/12, with an Appendix containing particular items prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. As well as suggested levels of expenditure for the next financial year, details were included in relation to probable/actual income and expenditure for 2010/11 and in the report comments were included as to how the figures had been calculated.

With regard to the items of expenditure relating to Civic, Clerk, Office Expenses, Conferences/Courses, Donation and Insurance, the Clerk made brief reference to the comments in his report and that they followed on from previous years' expenditures, which were duly noted by Members. In relation to Recreation/Other Services, the following comments were made on particular items.

a. Community Caretaker

This was to continue the existing arrangements which had been in place for a number of years and the County Council had advised that even in the event of the housing ballot transferring the stock then it should be possible for some arrangement to be agreed with the new organisation.

b. Christmas Lighting

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the fact that he had received a number of comments from local residents as to why the Council had not provided Christmas lighting this year and felt that perhaps if our small scheme had been part of the contract to include Flint or Holywell Town Councils then the Council may have received a better service. In response, the Clerk reminded Members of the problems which had arisen with Christmas lighting over the years and that the decision had been taken that it was not value for money. The principle difficulties had invariably incurred with the premises at which the lights had been erected and that the Council had now disposed of all of its previous assets. It was therefore agreed that it would be inappropriate to go back to providing Christmas lighting in the Village.

c. Miscellaneous Schemes

For a number of years a sum of £1,000 had been included in estimates but due to budget pressure this was not included in the present appendix. Councillor R.K. Jones felt that a sum of £2,000 should be included and this was supported by other Members. The Clerk suggested that this sum should be equally divided between increasing the precept and using balances.

d. Play Schemes/Summer Activities

In relation to the Play Schemes, Flintshire County Council was awaiting confirmation of transitional funding for the next financial year to meet their contribution, as the existing grant expired in March 2011. The figures for both elements of the scheme which would be required from the Community Council to support the initiatives had been included in the estimates sum.

e. Bowling Green Maintenance

Following on from the information enclosed with the agenda, the Clerk reported that the Club had only been able to obtain one other estimate from another branch of the County Council. This was at a higher rate than the figures which had been used to provide the sum necessary in estimates, following on from the decision in November to support them for the next financial year, in principle.

On a general matter of financial information, Councillor R.K. Jones requested the Clerk to investigate and report at the next meeting on the arrangements for loan facilities for bodies such as the Community Council.

RESOLVED :

1. That a precept of £34,525 be made on Flintshire County Council for 2011/12, which equates to a Band D charge of £23.72, an increase of 6.94% on the last financial year.
2. That the amounts indicated in the previously circulated expenditure heads for estimate purposes for 2011/12 be approved, as circulated, subject to an allocation of £2,000 for Miscellaneous Schemes (8.6).
3. That in relation to the Community Centre, the Bagillt Community Association be advised that the previous financial assistance towards the running of the Centre would continue for the next financial year subject to the continue provision of financial details.
4. That Flintshire County Council be advised that this Authority will once again participate in the play scheme programme and summer activities for children.
5. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council wish to continue with the Community Caretaker arrangements in the next financial year.

6. That Bagillt Bowling Club be advised that the Council agrees to provide financial assistance for green maintenance in the next financial year to the maximum sum included in estimates and that the Clerk make contact with their Secretary to sort out payment arrangements and advise the Council accordingly in due course.

106. LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS 2011/12

The meeting considered a report of the Responsible Financial Officer on Local Government Investments, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. The appendix to the report advised that all access funds were to be held in a Business Money Manager Account.

RESOLVED :

That the Annual Investment Strategy for Bagillt Community Council, as prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer and circulated as an appendix to the report, be adopted for meeting the requirements of this Authority for 2011/12.

107. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The meeting considered a report by the Responsible Financial Officer concerning Income/Expenditure and Bank Reconciliation for the third quarter of the financial year from 1st October to 31st December 2010, copies of which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED :

That the details circulated for the third quarter be noted.

108. BAGILLT FORESHORE

Councillor M.A. Reece reported that a grant to tarmac the area between the former Station and the Scrap Yard had been approved.

109. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF BAGILLT BRANCH LIBRARY

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had not received any response from the Director of Lifelong Learning to the representations made in the recess, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and following information received from Councillor M.A. Reece. The letter had requested details in relation to the criteria being used to suggest the closure of the Bagillt Branch Library, along with four others in the County, and assurance that there would be consultation with the communities affected before reaching a decision and a comment that had been made regarding a suggestion for using other buildings to

permit access to books. Councillor R.K. Jones suggested that thanks should be recorded in relation to the efforts of Councillor M.A. Reece in organising a petition against the closure of this facility in the Village and this was agreed. He also deplored the comments made by the Executive Member concerning the use of alternative buildings, including public houses. The building was also used as a Polling Station and based on the number of hours it was opened it was understood to be a well used facility, particularly in relation to use made of the computer facilities. He indicated that he would be seeking a meeting in his own right with the Chief Executive and/or Executive Member concerning this matter but that in the meantime there should be a request for details concerning costing in relation to the Bagillt Branch Library, as well as deploring the lack of consultation with the community. In support of the comments made, the Chairman felt it might also be appropriate to raise the issue on consultation at the next County Forum. The Clerk indicated he could use the letter received from the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council in relation to the County budget to request the further detail now being suggested and also to enquire why no response had been received to a letter forwarded in December and which had been hand delivered to County Hall. In the letter being forwarded by the Clerk to Flintshire, Councillor R.K. Jones suggested that details also be requested in relation to the proposal by that Authority regarding introducing charges at all car parks.

RESOLVED :

That further representations be made to Flintshire County Council requesting the Chief Executive to provide details concerning costing in relation to Bagillt Branch Library, as well as the criteria being used to reach such a decision and deploring the fact that there had been no response to the earlier communication as well as a lack of consultation with the community.

110. RECESS PERIOD

Other than the issues referred to in other items on the agenda, it was noted that there were no other matters upon which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had been consulted during the recess.

111. SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS – JOINT BRANCH CONFERENCE – LLANDUDNO – 18TH MARCH 2011

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk be authorised to attend the Joint Branch Conference, which was being organised for the benefit of Clwyd and Gwynedd Branches, at a cost of £40.00.

112. WINTER PREPARATIONS

The Clerk reported that all three replacement salt bins requested at Victoria Road and Merilyn Lane had been erected and Flintshire had subsequently confirmed that all three will be classed as replacements with no charge to this Council. In the recess a requested was received from a resident in Wern Avenue for either an additional salt bin or for an existing one to be re-sited half way up instead of at the bottom as at present. Local Members were of the view that the present salt bin should stay where it is and that the one which used to be at the top of Wern Avenue should be replaced by the Highway Authority.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to the Highway Authority accordingly and that the local resident be informed of this action.

113. HOUSING BALLOT

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council on the Housing Ballot following representations made after the last meeting. It indicated that the County Council was at the start of the consultation process on the future of Council housing, which would cumulate in a ballot of tenants and whether they wished to transfer to a registered social landlord or not, and this was expected to take place in Autumn/Winter 2011. Flintshire would be distributing its first Consultation Newsletter in January and this would be sent to all Town and Community Councils. Whilst all eligible tenants would be able to vote on the future of Council housing in Flintshire, the Authority was keen to consult with other stakeholders, particularly those likely to be affected should tenants vote to transfer to an alternative landlord. The Project Director was willing to attend a meeting of the Council to brief Councillors on the ballot process.

In relation to the arrangements between the two Authorities regarding the Community Caretaker, if tenants did vote to transfer there was no reason why this could not continue between the new landlord and the Community Council.

RESOLVED :

That the offer of the Project Director to attend a future meeting of the Council be accepted and dates notified to him accordingly.

114. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council advising that they were currently considering an application to Welsh Assembly Government for powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004 relating to Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE). Within the formal application to Welsh Assembly Government it was intended to apply for the transfer of parking enforcement powers on a date yet to be determined in the next financial year with

enforcement covering the whole County except the A55 and A494 Trunk Roads, similar to that already introduced in other North Wales Authorities. The Council were being asked for any comments that they may have in relation to the proposed application and confirmation that they had no objection.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council fully supports the application in relation to Civil Parking Enforcement.

115. RECYCLING TEAM CAMPAIGN TRAILER 2011

The Clerk advised that in the recess an e-mail had been received from Flintshire indicated they would be rolling out their new managed weekly collection service that would affect the whole of the County. They wanted to educate and inform residents of what was going to happen and how the changes would affect them. As part of the communications plan the Recycling Campaign Trailer would be out during January and February promoting the changes. They would be visiting the main supermarkets in Flintshire and were looking for community events to visit too. The opportunity to display posters on the Council Notice Boards had been offered.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

116. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Dog Bin – Top Hill

Councillor M.A. Reece requested support for the installation of a dog bin at Top Hill.

RESOLVED :

That the request be supported.

b. Speeding Fines

Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams made reference to a recent programme on television concerning income received from speeding fines. In response Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that if the speeding fines were raised by the Police then the funding went to the Home Office, but if it was raised by the Arrive Alive Organisation then half of the fines raised went to that body.

117. STREET NAMING – FORMER WHITEFIELD HOUSE, HIGH STREET, BAGILLT

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Flintshire County Council where it was being proposed that the name “Cae Gwyn” for the new road comprising of residential development of 6 dwellings on land formerly known as Whitefield House, High Street, Bagillt.

RESOLVED :

That the suggested name be supported.

118. OFF STREET PARKING SCHEMES – TREM AFON AND MAES WALWEN

The Clerk reported to the meeting on letters received from Flintshire County Council and which had been sent to tenants at Trem Afon and Maes Walwen, together with the two County Councillors for Bagillt. The purpose was to address the issues which had caused problems for residents and visitors for many years. The proposal would be discussed with each individual tenant and anyone who may be affected by the improvement. The scheme was essential in order for Emergency Vehicles to access the complex safely and improve the parking availability.

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had been requesting such a scheme for some time.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council fully supports the Off Street Parking Schemes at Trem Afon and Maes Walwen, Bagillt.

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

Date of Council Meeting		Friday 14th January 2011
Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no declarations of personal interest.		

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Chairman