

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on Friday 13th May 2011.

PRESENT : Councillor C.P. Owens (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillor T.M. Withington.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) P.C. Jennifer Salisbury (minute No. 5) and Mr. N. Waller, Flintshire County Council (minute No. 6).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2011/12

RESOLVED :

That Councillor R.K. Jones be elected Chairman of the Community Council for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor R.K. Jones made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with the Chain of Office by Councillor C.P. Owens, and thanked Members for electing him as Chairman and proceeded to chair the rest of the meeting. The Chairman presented Councillor C.P. Owens with an engraved shield incorporating the Council's logo in recognition of his year as Chairman for the 2010/11 and congratulated him on his year of office.

Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that he had enjoyed his year of office and thanked all Members and the Clerk for the assistance given to him.

2. APOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2011/12

RESOLVED :

That Councillor B.T. Doleman be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Community Council for the ensuing municipal year.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE 2011/12

RESOLVED :

That in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 (Section 5) the Chairman's allowance be fixed at £825 for the 2011/12 municipal year and paid to the Chairman accordingly (cheque No. 101408).

4. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council considered the appointment of representatives on Outside Bodies, the details of last year's appointments being included on the agenda.

RESOLVED :

That the undermentioned Members be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Outside Bodies indicated below :-

1. Local Organisations

- a. Bagillt Community Association :**
Councillors B.T. Doleman and C. Williams
- b. Bagillt Heritage Society**
Councillor R.K. Jones

2. Other Organisations

- a. One Voice Wales/Wrexham-Flintshire Area Committee**
Chairman with Vice-Chairman as substitute
- b. Communities First Holywell Neighbourhoods Partnership Board**
Councillor J. Williams
- c. Flintshire Town/Community Council Planning Focus Group**
Chairman
- d. Flintshire County Forum**
Chairman with Vice-Chairman as substitute

5. POLICING MATTERS

P.C. Jennifer Salisbury, the Bagillt Community Officer, was in attendance. Reference was made by Councillor C.P. Owens to problems being caused, particularly at weekends, by the noise of vehicles and clouds of smoke. In response the Officer indicated that she was aware of this problem, which had been particularly bad last weekend, and was in contact with her colleagues in the Traffic Police, but indicated that she was not aware personally of the noise nuisance now referred to. Councillor Mrs. N.M. Jones referred to problems which had occurred at St. Mary's Mews by a gang of youths, which the Officer indicated she was aware of. It appeared that the same group may also be responsible for

damage to trees at Leadworks recreation area at Merilyn Lane, as reported by Councillor A. Griffiths, and which was noted by P.C. Salisbury.

Councillor C.P. Owens also made reference to an incidence of drag racing, and was advised by the Officer that she was aware of the particular vehicle causing the problem. In relation to the Anti-Social Behaviour Initiative referred to at a previous meeting, P.C. Salisbury indicated that this was still on-going and would be so until the summer when she would then be in a position to indicate the result. She also advised the meeting of changes in the Police structure which had taken place recently, to the effect that all Response Officers were now based from the Mold Police Station, with Neighbourhood Police Officers like herself still using the Stations at Flint, Holywell and Mostyn. However, the North Flintshire area had now been combined with that from Deeside and it may well be that different Officers or CPSO's would attend Council meetings in the future. P.C. Salisbury indicated that she was aware of problems being caused by quad and motor bikes at New Brighton.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Salisbury for attending the meeting.

6. REGENERATION

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Niall Waller, the Economic Development Manager at Flintshire County Council, to the meeting, who was to address Members on the subject of regeneration. Mr. Waller indicated that the regeneration service consists of three particular elements, that of economic development which included tourism, town centres and markets, business development and communities first.

As well as circulating a Regeneration Strategy review document to Members at the meeting, he made reference to the issues of people and the role in relation to employment and meeting the skills needs of employers. Although Flintshire had a lower unemployment level compared to neighbouring areas, it had grown in the last two years as a result of the recession and a particularly worrying factor was the instance of young people from 18-24 years. In relation to business, Flintshire had a high proportion of manufacturing jobs compared to other areas, which was of a high skill value, and he referred to the success of the Flintshire Business Week Initiative.

In relation to places, reference was made to the town centre element, the number and how they varied throughout the County, and to the partnership approach which had been initiated. Flintshire also had an important tourism element which generated significant income and provided many jobs, mainly in the Talacre/Gronant area. There was also the element of the coastal path and cycleway along the Dee Estuary. The section also now included the running of the Council Markets and he referred to the new initiative which had recently started in Flint of using Church Street on a Friday by prohibiting traffic and also to the support of traders to date.

The Chairman made reference to a prior comment concerning the high percentage of manufacturing jobs, estimated at 30% in Flintshire, and enquired as to the ratio between local labour and from neighbouring areas. In response, Mr. Waller indicated that he did not have precise details but was aware that, as far as Air Bus were concerned, it was approximately half provided by Flintshire residents. Councillor S.M. Manfredi referred to the effect on town centres by supermarkets in relation to local businesses and was advised by Mr. Waller that this did have an impact as did the aspect of out of town retail centres. He advised Councillor C.R. Williams that in relation to the business rate, this was set nationally by Central Government and was only collected by Flintshire and passed on to them with the Council receiving a small percentage back in return. Councillor C.P. Owens made reference to the number of empty shop properties, particularly in a town centre like Holywell, and to the aspect of rent levels being sought by landlords. In response, he was advised that the levels of rent required by landlords was indeed an issue, mainly in relation to the cost element for particular businesses. Having regard to a previous comment regarding the skills factor, Councillor C. Williams referred to the fact that some careers advisors at schools dissuaded brighter pupils entering into the engineering as opposed to more academic studies. Mr. Waller indicated that there did appear to be such an element and indicated the good career prospects that were available at a firm such as Air Bus, and also opportunities for further studies and to the problems they had in filling posts from able youngsters.

The Chairman reminded Members that he had originally raised the issue of regeneration at a County Forum meeting some months ago by making reference to the funding available for town centre initiatives, and whether this could also be used for villages such as Bagillt. He referred to the centre of the Village which had had some environmental improvements some years ago using part of the funds available to the Flint area. It had been intended to continue with such environmental works at both the East and West ends of the village so as to improve infrastructure, having particular regard to the fact that there was now only one shop in the centre of the Village. In response, Mr. Waller indicated that, unfortunately, Bagillt did not qualify for Rural Initiative funding, even though the Village area was mainly of this nature, and this also applied to other areas in Flintshire due to Welsh Assembly Government designation, which unfortunately the County Council had been unable to persuade them to change. The Chairman then made reference to the decision of the County Council to dispose of its farming tenancy assets, which would affect the Bagillt area and could have implications on local residents being able to get on the farming ladder in the future. Mr. Waller advised that he noted the comments which had been made regarding infrastructure improvements and the farming issue, and if he was able to ascertain more information or possibilities for the future then he would be prepared to attend a future meeting of the Community Council to address Members once again.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Waller for attending the meeting and addressing Members and responding to issues they had raised.

7. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th April 2011.

a. Minute No. 152(b) – Roadrunner Waste Limited

The Clerk indicated that Hannah Parrish, the Senior Minerals Officer in the Planning Department, had agreed to attend the June meeting to report on the revised planning applications which were expected shortly.

b. Minute No. 155 – Bagillt Branch Library

Councillor Mrs. N.M. Jones indicated that unfortunately she could not stay to the end of the meeting, when this item was listed separately on the agenda. She wanted to advise those present that, while she had supported the County Council budget, which included closing the Library, she had indicated in a letter to the Authority that she wished to see it continue in use and had also made suggestions regarding other options.

c. Minute No. 162 – Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

The Clerk advised that he had received one nomination from Councillor M.A. Reece concerning Riverbank Playingfield and this had been notified to Flintshire County Council.

d. Minute No. 163(a) – Riverbank Playingfield

The Clerk advised that he had received a response from Flintshire County Council indicating that a contractor had been responsible for cutting down the daffodils and that he had been advised accordingly about taking more care in the future.

e. Minute No. 163(b) – Foreshore Gates

Councillor M.A. Reece advised the meeting that the locks had been replaced.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th April 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman advised that he had been invited to attend the Flintshire County Council Civic Service on Sunday 12th June 2011, but unfortunately he would be unable to do so.

9. PLANNING

a. Applications Determined – On-Line Consultation Period

No.	Location	Detail
048306	Land side of Oaklands, dwelling Tyddyn Mesham	Erection of a

It was noted that no objection was made to the proposal and it was left to the Planning Authority to determine.

048446	Red Roofs, storey side extension Tyddyn Mesham	Erection of single
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It was noted that no objection was made to an extension, but concern had been expressed at the building line due to the highway corner.

b. Applications

No.	Location	Detail
048543	The Vicarage, storey side Vicarage Road	Erection of a single extension
048569	Walwen Bungalow to front and rear Bagillt Road	Dormer extension extension.

RESOLVED :

That no objections be made to applications 048543 and 048569.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Mr. G. Roberts	840.28	101401	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	156.39	101402	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
C.M. Scott	14.15	101403	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.5)
Delyn Press	100.00	101404	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Huws Gray Ltd.	29.62	101405	Parish Councils Act 1957
Bagillt Bowling Club	650.00	101406	Loc.Govt.(MP Act 1976 (S.19)
JDH Business Services Ltd.	90.00	101407	Loc.Govt.Finance Act 1982
One Voice Wales	65.00	101409	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

11. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Flintshire Standards Committee

The meeting held on 11th April 2011 at Mostyn Community Centre had been attended by Councillor R.K. Jones and the Clerk, and a note of the issues covered had been previously circulated for the information of Members. The Standards Committee were anxious to raise their profile in the County and had completed self-assessment forms and wanted to liaise more clearly with Town and Community Councils. It had been suggested that Members of the Committee, in a capacity as observers, and giving prior notice to the Clerk, could attend Town and Community Council meetings to see how they were conducted. It had also been suggested that perhaps Clerks could be provided with examples of personal interests, particularly on planning issues, so as to lessen the need to contact the Monitoring Officer.

With regard to the work of the Standards Committee, reference had been made by the Monitoring Officer to the situation in Wales and the role of the Ombudsman, who acted as the gatekeeper for all complaints about Councillors, with only occasional reference to the Monitoring Officer, who could then report to the Standards Committee. Training for Members including Town and Community Councils had been referred to and how it could be framed for the best benefit. In relation to a matter of common concern, the Monitoring Officer had reported in relation to a paragraph on the existing Code of Conduct, which had been added at WAG level, details of which were included in the report of the meeting.

b. Bagillt Community Flood Plan

Earlier this evening a discussion had been held, prior to the Council meeting, between Rachel Cooper from the Environment Agency and Flood Wardens, Councillors R.K. Jones, A. Griffiths and also the Clerk. The purpose had been to review the draft Flood Plan and to enable Flood

Wardens to check the detail contained therein for any amendment purposes and also to add further information. A separate meeting had been held between Rachel and the other Flood Warden, Councillor T.M. Withington, who had been unable to attend this evening. Rachel had also updated in relation to the visits which had been made to properties in the risk area from tidal flooding with a view to residents being able to have self-help including the registering for telephone flood alerts. A copy of the information which had been circulated to local residents had also been given to each of the Flood Wardens and the Clerk.

The Chairman indicated that there were details to be included, if appropriate, in relation to vulnerable persons and also in relation to possible local contractors who might be able to assist in times of need and if any other Members had any comments to make on this then they can either contact the Flood Wardens or the Clerk. In addition, he had referred to the aspect for a secure place for the possible storage of sandbags, bearing in mind that in the event of a tidal flood arising then many other areas in Flintshire as well as Bagillt could be affected and the County response officers could not deal with all places simultaneously. There was also the issue that there needed to be noted that sandbags deteriorated over a period of time and any place sought should be safe from water penetration. It was suggested that perhaps the air raid shelter next to the Community Centre might be a possibility and he requested other Members present to give some thought to the issue and let one of the Flood Wardens or the Clerk know accordingly.

12. REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROLS 2011/12

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk, which had been prepared in consultation with Councillors A. Griffiths and C. Williams, who were prepared to certify that the Internal Controls listed were in place and being adhered to by the Council. The documentation followed the format agreed last year, suitably amended to take account of any changes.

RESOLVED :

That the document, as circulated, be constituted as the Review of Internal Controls by the Council for 2011/12, following certification by Councillors A. Griffiths and C. Williams, that the Internal Controls as listed were in place and being adhered to by the Council.

13. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11

a. Internal Audit

The internal auditor, JDH Business Services, had advised of a new arrangement which gave dates to each Clerk to deliver and then collect

the Council books etc. subject to audit. For Bagillt they had been delivered on the 9th May 2011 and would be collected on the 16th May 2011, meaning that the Action Plan and report of the internal auditor would be reported to the June meeting.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

b. External Audit

The Clerk reported notification was shortly expected from Hacker Young that the external audit of accounts would be held on 31st July 2011. Public notices would be displayed within the community, as required by the auditor. As the annual return had not been received in time for submitting the Council records for internal audit, it had been agreed with the internal auditor that a draft of Section 1 in relation to the Council's accounts could be submitted using a copy of last year's form, appropriately amended, and this had accordingly been done. At the next meeting of the Council formal notification would be reported, as well as the steps that needed to be taken by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, and the Council, in accordance with the new procedure which was introduced last year.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

14. ONE VOICE WALES – 2011 CONFERENCE AND AGM

RESOLVED :

That the Chairman be authorised to attend the 2011 One Voice Wales Conference and AGM, to be held on Saturday 8th October 2011 at Bont Pavilion Pontrhydfendigaid, Cerriguddion, and that the fee of £65 be paid accordingly.

15. MEMBER'S ITEM

Japanese Knotweed

Councillor C.P. Owens advised that the previously reported knotweed close to his property had not been removed by Flintshire County Council, as they had promised after visiting the site. The knotweed was growing on County Council owned land and was spreading, which was not being helped by the fact that it was being brushed by passing vehicles, thereby running the risk of it being deposited in other areas.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to Flintshire County Council stressing the need for them to attend to this problem as a matter of urgency due to the pernicious nature of this type of weed.

16. MATCH FUNDING – CHILDREN’S PLAY AREAS 2011/12

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Flintshire County Council attaching details of their proposal to provide a toddlers' play structure with slide, bridge and climbing wall, a copy of which was shown at the meeting. Members were reminded that the total cost of the improvement would be a minimum of £10,000, with this Authority being liable for a sum of £2,500, which had been included in the current year’s budget.

As Councillor Mrs. N.M. Jones was no longer present at the meeting, the Clerk raised an issue on her behalf. She was requesting the Council to consider match funding again next year to improve the play area at the Manor. The Clerk indicated that the Council was likely to receive a letter from Flintshire County Council in due course, along with other Town and Community Councils in the County, inviting applications.

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to the equipment provided at the Walwen play area, the details be noted.
2. That the request concerning upgrading the Manor play area be noted, pending information from Flintshire County Council concerning the Match Funding scheme for next year and the financial position of this Authority in relation to other funding requirements.

17. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Flintshire County Council advising they were proceeding with the application to the Welsh Assembly Government for Civil Enforcement Powers. In conjunction with the application a review of all signs and markings resisting the Orders would be carried out and remedial works programmed to rectify any defects.

They also wished to review the existing Traffic Regulation Orders and before undertaking this review they wanted to consider any outstanding requests. They were requesting any observations on existing restrictions. The Clerk suggested that as comments would not need to be sent in until the end of June this item might be better listed for the next meeting to enable Members more time and also to receive a copy of the letter beforehand.

RESOLVED :

That this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council, as suggested by the Clerk.

18. BAGILLT LIBRARY

A note of the meeting held with Flintshire County Council Officers, at which Councillor R.K. Jones and the Clerk represented the Council, copies of which had been previously circulated, was considered. Following the receipt of up to date financial information from the County Council, an options sheet had been prepared by the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and copies of this were circulated at the meeting. The Chairman indicated that he would now give Members an opportunity to read the details, as circulated, which also included the up to date information received from the County Council prior to considering the options available, both short term and long term that were open to the Council.

After Members had had the opportunity of reading the details circulated at the meeting, Councillor C.P. Owens made reference to the need for this issue not to be considered in isolation to the other organisations in the Village, which received significant financial assistance from the Council. The Community Centre in particular had received significant help over a prolonged period and this year also the Bowling Club. In relation to the former, there was also the need to be assured that it was being utilised for the best purpose. On the Community Centre, the Clerk briefly reminded Members of the arrangement which had been agreed in the early 1990's to fund the cost of ensuring the building and also payment of the water/sewerage costs, bearing in mind that should the charitable organisation running the building fold then the premises would become the responsibility of the Council and this factor had always been reflected in the amount of balances held.

In relation to the three month short term option being suggested in the options list, which was the minimum to which the County Council would agree if this Authority wished to meet the running costs, a number of Members queried whether this period would be sufficient given the fact that it also included the summer holiday period. There was full support for there being a public consultation, by way of a letter to all residents, informing them of the situation, including the financial aspects, which also needed to include some way of encouraging a response. The delivery of the letter in the manner undertaken for the previous Community Newsletters was mentioned, and also the possibility of Members' endeavouring to collect a response. It was suggested that it may be appropriate to form a small group of Members to look into the content of such a newsletter and the manner for delivery and collection, and also to be a focal point

for issues associated with the Library if there was an urgent need. With regard to the latter the Chairman indicated that he would always be prepared to convene a Special meeting of the Council should that be necessary.

The Chairman advised that he had been able to obtain a copy of the survey undertaken of the building in 2005 and that he had approached contacts within the Housing Department to have this updated, given the fact that the premises were still owned by the County Council. He was hopeful that this would be done free of charge but it may well be that there could be a minimal cost.

In his capacity as Responsible Financial Officer, the Clerk made reference to the examples given in the options of the effect on the balances of the Council agreeing to meet the running costs of the Library, which had been estimated at £1,568 per month, as no sum had been included in the current budget. There would therefore need to be recognition that this should be addressed when the next budget was being considered and this was acknowledged by the Chairman, although it may well be that any diminishing of balances in this financial year would need to be recouped over more than one financial year by way of an increase in the precept. Notwithstanding the options included in the list circulated at the meeting, Members were of the view that they needed a six month period to enable sufficient time to fully consider the future for the building, consult fully with local residents and look at all the other financial commitments facing the Council.

In relation to the information received from the County Council regarding the closure of the Community Asset Transfer programme, and grants being available for a similar project under the People and Places programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund for Wales, the Clerk advised that there was a Funder's Fair being held in Wrexham on the 18th May 2011, which included representatives from this organisation. It would be the intention of the Clerk to attend and seek information concerning possible funding in relation to long-term proposals for the Library premises and report to the members of the Working Group initially and to the Council at the next meeting.

RESOLVED :

1. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council would be prepared to meet the running costs of the Bagillt Library based on existing hours of opening at a cost of £1,568 per month for a six month period (June-November), subject to the County Council providing stock, delivery, management and IT backup.
2. That a Working Group of Members be formed, consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Councillors Mrs. S.L. Jones, C.P. Owens and

C.R. Williams to assess the information to be given by way of a public consultation, including delivery and collection and if necessary acting as a focal point for issues associated with the Library if there was an urgent need

3. 3. That the effect of the six month period referred to in 1 above, amounting to £9,408, be taken out of balances as there was no current budget provision, with a proviso that consideration would be given to its replacement at estimates time later in the year, although full recovery may be over more than one financial year.
4. That the Clerk report to the next meeting on further information from the Big Lottery People and Places funding.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 13th May 2011	
Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no declarations of personal interest		

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Chairman