

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, High Street, Bagillt, on Friday 9th September 2011.

PRESENT : Councillor R.K. Jones (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillor T. Renshaw

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk)

54. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

There was one member of the public present, and he indicated he wished to comment in relation to the Bagillt Library, which was included on the agenda for discussion at this meeting. He was of the view that the Council should not continue funding to keep the Library open given what it would cost to continue the present arrangements and the resultant effect on Council Tax payers within the community. In his opinion many local users of the Library service preferred to use the facilities available in Flint and Holywell, possibly due to the fact that the Bagillt Library was only open part-time with limited opportunity for those who were working or in school to use the facilities. In addition, there was the fact that there were computer facilities in the two local Schools. In response, the Chairman indicated that his comments had been noted and would be taken into account when the meeting discussed the Bagillt Library issue later on in the agenda.

55. POLICING

Noting that there was once again no member of the Police Force present, a number of Members indicated they had been advised that P.C. Jennifer Salisbury, the Community Officer for Bagillt, had been moved to another area, and it was understood that cover was being provided by other PC's and CPSO's. The Clerk confirmed he had not received any indication as to the withdrawal of the local Officer, including there being no response when he had e-mailed her to advise her of the change in venue and time for the meeting being held tonight.

Councillor J. Williams, A. Griffiths, M.A. Reece and B.T. Doleman deplored the fact that, despite the local problems there had been in the area over the past few weeks, the Council had not been advised of any change in the local arrangement and that no one had been made available to update this Authority in relation to previous concerns and other issues which had arisen since an Officer had last

attended. The Chairman suggested that representations should be made to the local Inspector with a request that he arrange for an attendance at the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk made representations to the Police on the issues raised accordingly.

56. MINUTES

RESOLVED :

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

57. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Flintshire Local Access Forum

The meeting considered a note previously circulated by the Clerk on his attendance at a meeting held in Flint on 20th July 2011. The note detailed the issues which had been covered and the Town and Community Councils which had been represented at this Area meeting. He confirmed that the request for copies of the two Footpath Guides, published by the Council in the 1990's had been forwarded, and drew attention to the meeting that the Forum were requesting the Council to nominate a contact who would act as liaison with them, He or she need not necessarily be a Member of the Authority, but should have local knowledge of footpaths.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted and that Councillor B.T. Doleman be nominated as contact on behalf of the Bagillt area to liaise with the Flintshire Local Access Forum.

b. Flintshire County Forum

This meeting was held in Holywell on 27th July 2011 and attended on behalf of the Council by Councillors C.P. Owens and B.T. Doleman. Reference was made by Councillor C.P. Owens to two particular aspects, the first of which concerned the matter of consultation. There appeared to be implied criticism of what this Council were trying to do in relation to public consultation on the Bagillt Library and it had been made clear to the County Council representatives that there had been no proper consultation by that Authority, and indeed the decision had already been made before requesting comments. The second aspect concerned the report he had

made on digital mapping, on which he would comment in more detail further on in the meeting. Such a facility would be of benefit to Local Councils given the Welsh Assembly Government intention concerning their role in relation to local plans in two years time or so, and it had been agreed that there would be benefit in working with the County by the Community Council offering to trial the system to see if what was on offer was feasible and produced the required advantages. Councillor B.T. Doleman concurred with the comments made.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

58. PLANNING

a. Applications Determined – Recess Period

No.	Location	Detail
048754	JR's, the Old Backyard, garden storage centre, High Street skips and gas sales.	Change of use to storage for mini

It was noted there had been no objection but comments had been made on the early start, asbestos removal and number of skips.

048807	Lyons Den Fitness, permission to allow change Boot End	Renewal of use offices.
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It was noted that the proposal had been supported.

048808	Fairview, Foel Gron	Erection of two-storey extension.
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It was noted it had neither been supported nor objected to but comments made on boundaries and the lack of scaled plans.

b. Applications

No.	Location	Detail
048945	Twll y Llwynog, the erection of stables	Retro application for
048984	The Old Presbytery, Foel Gron	Renewal of Outline permission.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council would not like to be consulted electronically because of the reasons referred to above.

59. ACCOUNTS

a. Recess

RESOLVED :

That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in approving payment of the undermentioned accounts be confirmed.

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
		Dwr Cymru Welsh	585.37 101428
		Loc.Govt.(MP) Act 1976	
		Water	
		(S.19)	
		Glasdon	28.21 101429
Manufacturing Ltd.			

b. For Payment

That the following accounts be paid :

Name Powers	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure
Mr. G. Roberts	911.70	101430	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	156.39	101431	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Bagillt Bowling Club	650.00	101432	Loc.Govt.(MP) Act 1976
		(S.19)	
		Flintshire County Council	5057.97 101433
		(S.19)/Loc.Govt.Act 1972	
			(S.101)

60. BAGILLT BRANCH LIBRARY

The meeting considered a note of the meeting of the Library Working Group held on 30th August 2011, which followed on from the public consultation, copies of which had been previously circulated together with a copy of the public consultation results.

Prior to considering the recommendations of the Working Group, and the comments made earlier in the meeting by a member of the public who was present, Members received further information from the Clerk. The first concerned the matter of the possible leasing of the Library building on a peppercorn basis, and it was noted that the Valuer was now indicating he had been unable to gather enough information for the Corporate Asset Management Group report and accordingly this matter would now have to go before its meeting in October instead of this month. In relation to the invoice for the period June to August, the Clerk advised that the total would come to £5,057.97, and he indicated the breakdown between the staffing, premises, supplies and data link. It was noted that, with regard to the indicative figures included in the SLA, staff costs were lower, but those for premises were higher and the probable reasons were indicated.

The meeting then went on to consider the report of the Working Group and the results of the consultation survey. Concern was expressed by Councillors J. Williams, C. Williams and Mrs. S.L. Jones that the response had been poor resulting in only 165 returns out of nearly 3,000, which equated to 5.5% and there was then the matter of determining whether the apathy indicated the public were happy for the Council to make the decision or that they did not want to support the continuation of funding to keep the Library open. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that, although the return was low this was not unusual and the fact that those indicating continued support for the Library were 4 to 1 in favour. If the consultation period had not coincided with the School closures then no doubt it would have been possible to obtain a better return by using local children to take the forms home and encourage parents to complete the comments form. Councillor A. Griffiths expressed the view that some parts of the community had not received any comments forms, which did not help.

Members were reminded by the Chairman that they had only agreed to fund the six month period from June until the end of November and that the cost would be met out of current balances. In relation to the Service Level Agreement (SLA), which the Clerk indicated he had now signed, the Council were committed to reviewing the situation mid-session and to advise the County Council by 10th September 2011. Councillor B.T. Doleman expressed the view that the Council needed more information from the County Council and this had been included in the conditions of the Working Group recommendation. This was particularly so in the light of the decision this Authority was being requested to make, based on the low public response and the implications of the precept and Council Tax payers if the funding were to continue beyond the agreed period. If the view of the meeting were that Members required further decisions and information from the County Council, then the Clerk suggested the first recommendation should be deferred. The Chairman concurred with this viewpoint and suggested that when requesting more details the Library service also be asked to comment on current insurance cover in relation to vandalism costs. In addition, if the decisions and additional

information were received in time the Council could then further consider the possibility of continued funding at its next meeting.

RESOLVED :

1. That Flintshire Library Service be advised that the Council had reviewed its commitment mid session, as required in the Service Level Agreement but were unable to make a decision regarding possible continued funding until the following aspects were received from them :-

a. The agreement of Flintshire County Council to grant a lease on a peppercorn basis, should it be desired by this Authority.

b. The results of the awaited updated Buildings Condition Survey.

c. Clarification of the amounts included in the current arrangements with regard to internal County Service Level Agreements and information technology, as well as an explanation of present insurance cover for the building in relation to vandalism costs.

2. That in order to meet the agreed deadline, as included in the SLA between the two Authorities, the Clerk send an e-mail on 10th September 2011 setting out the above points, after consulting with the Chairman, and that this be followed up with a confirming letter in due course.

3. That the Clerk be authorised to pay the invoice for the three month period June-August, in the sum of £5,057.97, when it was received.

61. DIGITAL MAPPING

Further to the comments made earlier in the meeting on digital mapping, Councillor C.P. Owens went into further detail on this aspect, making particular reference to the future role for Town and Community Councils in relation to the Local Plan, which was expected by way of Welsh Assembly Government authorisation in a couple of years or so. There would be issues for Local Councils in relation to this matter and some would be more able than others to cope with the digital mapping system and using GIS would be a useful tool, providing what was on offer to achieve the necessary results.

Since the County Forum, Councillor Owens had held a further discussion with County Council Officers and they were looking for a trial Local Council to take this forward, using information they already had by way of their Ordnance Survey Licence. There were a small number of firms offering a digital mapping package and the one being considered was by way of Parish on Line, which had many Local Council clients in England. The expected cost would be £60 plus VAT in

the first year and he was offering to be the link on behalf of the Council, if this Authority would agree to be the tester of the system as he had indicated.

The benefits of digital mapping were briefly referred to, which could include records of street furniture belonging to both County and Local Councils. It could also be helpful in the flooding prone areas of the community and include footpaths and the fact that the Council had a website made them better able to make use of the available software, which would also allow public access.

RESOLVED :

1. That the report be noted and that the Council agree being the tester Local Council for the digital mapping software trial, in consultation with the County Council.
2. That in the event of Flintshire County Council not agreeing to meet the cost of the software or digital mapping, in the sum of £60 plus VAT, then it be agreed that this Council will do so accordingly.
3. That it be noted that Councillor C.P. Owens will be the link with the County Council, software company and the website providers in relation to this trial.

62. COUNCIL WEBSITE

Councillor C.P. Owens made reference to a facility on the Council website, of which he had only recently become aware, which allowed for information and photographs to be put on and that he had used for highlighting the summer activities at the Library, with the permission of the persons involved. The problem concerned the fact that on the relevant page it was included amongst a number of aspects and known as "other" and he was requesting suggestions for a name that was clearly recognisable so that its intention were clear and that it also highlighted the information of other organisations with Council consent.

RESOLVED :

That Councillor C.P. Owens be authorised to proceed to change the name of the facility in line with the suggestions made at the meeting.

63. BAGILLT FORESHORE

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had recently held a meeting with the Leader of Flintshire County Council and representatives of the Countryside Service, in relation to obtaining a legal right of way to the viewing point to include

vehicles. The matter was now being dealt with by the Legal Department of the County Council. Councillor B.T. Doleman made reference to the discussions between the Bagillt Heritage Society and the Countryside Service concerning the Industrial Heritage Trail, with particular reference to the location of the Lectern and placement of one of the plaques.

Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones made reference to problems being faced by leakage of water from Condey's Pool and was advised by the Chairman of discussions with appropriate parties concerning tapping into a constant water source from a nearby pipe arrangement. In response to Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams he indicated that the quality of the water to be pumped into the pool would not be an issue.

64. NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

It was noted that the Fire Service would attend the meeting of the Council to be held on 18th November 2011 to make a presentation, operationally on fires and preventative in terms of home safety.

65. RECESS

It was noted that apart from Accounts for Payment, indicated earlier in the Agenda, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had approved the purchase of three additional keys for the Riverbank Notice Board, for use by Local Members.

66. MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF FLINTSHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The meeting considered a copy of the minutes of the last meeting held in Mostyn on 11th April 2011, and noted that the next one with Town and Community Councils would be in Mold on 10th October 2011.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk represent the Council at the next meeting with the Flintshire Standards Committee, to be held in Mold on 10th October 2011.

67. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council concerning the review they were undertaking, and it was noted that they had already been advised that the Bagillt Library, which was a Polling Station for part of the West Ward, remained open for the present due to funding by this Authority and that any decision made about its continuance, or otherwise, would be notified. The Chairman indicated that in the event of the Bagillt Library closing and not being available for the Local Government elections, to take place in May 2012, then Flintshire should be advised that in the event of a temporary mobile arrangement not being available for location in the nearby vicinity, that voters

affected in the West Ward should be relocated to vote in the Community Centre, rather than having to travel to the Youth Centre at Boot End.

RESOLVED :

That the views of the Chairman be supported in the event of there being any need to revise Polling Station arrangements in Bagillt due to the Branch Library not being available for the elections in May 2012.

68. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/2011

The meeting considered a letter from the external auditor, Hacker Young, copies of which had been previously circulated. The letter advised that there were no issues arising that the Council should consider prior to approving the Annual Return, which had been circulated with the June Agenda and approved prior to audit.

RESOLVED :

That the Annual Return be approved and signed by the Chairman in the appropriate section and forwarded to the external auditor, Hacker Young.

69. AUTUMN TRAINING PROGRAMME

The meeting considered a letter received from One Voice Wales, copies of which had been previously circulated. In addition, details were enclosed of two local evening courses for Councillors on 'The Council Meeting' and on 'Community Engagement', to be held at County Hall, Mold on 10th November and 6th October 2011 respectively. The cost for each course would be £25 and the Council were eligible for reimbursement for up to £50 from the Bursary Scheme.

RESOLVED :

That details of the training courses be noted and that if any Member wished to attend then they contact the Clerk, who would consult with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman accordingly.

70. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Pumping Station, Boot End, Bagillt

Councillor B.T. Doleman made reference to the Pumping Station, which he understood was no longer to be used by Welsh Water and suggested that an enquiry be made as to its future use. It may be possible for the building to be obtained for community use for the Council or other organisations, for a nominal fee, subject to there being no

untoward liability. The Member felt that an initial approach to clarify the situation would be helpful.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk make initial enquiries with Welsh Water to clarify the situation in relation to this building.

b. Industrial Heritage Trail – Controlled Crossings A548

Councillor B.T. Doleman made reference to a letter he had forwarded on behalf of the Bagillt Heritage Society to the Director of Environment at Flintshire County Council. It gave information on the Society's proposal in relation to the Heritage Trail and requested assistance to encounter the hazard to pedestrians having to cross the A548 in the area of the Stag Inn to gain access to Station Road at the beginning of the walk and again when progressing towards the Boot End for the second part of the journey. It was being suggested that controlled crossings would be the logical answer and the assistance of the County Council was being sought. The Member requested support from the Community Council.

RESOLVED :

That the Community Council support the representations made by the Bagillt Heritage Society to Flintshire County Council for controlled crossings to aid pedestrian safety in connection with the Industrial Heritage Trail.

c. Proposed Zebra Crossing – High Street, Bagillt

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to representations he had made to the County Council concerning a Zebra Crossing in the vicinity of Forrester's Hall, High Street and requesting the support of the Community Council.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk make representations to Flintshire County Council in support of a Zebra Crossing in the High Street as reported.

71. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS NOS. 13 AND 14 – BAGILLT

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Flintshire County Council concerning a Public Path Order. The proposal to delete part of Footpaths 13 and 14 and introduce a new route were acceptable to the Highway Authority because it satisfied the criteria for both the making and confirmation of Orders, as set out in the legislation, and also properly delineated the routes presently being walked.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be advised that this Authority support the proposed Public Path Order.

72. INDUCTION TRAINING FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Flintshire County Council offering Induction Training for Town and Community Council Members, following the 2012 election. It was part of the Model Charter between the Unitary Authority and Councils in this area. The training was particularly related to Members' Code of Conduct and the roles and functions of a Unitary Authority and different options in relation to the training were being offered.

RESOLVED :

That the offer of training by Flintshire County Council to Town and Community Councillors, following the elections in May 2012, be supported by way of training meetings.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 9th September 2011
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no declarations of personal interest		

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Chairman