

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT : Councillor R.K. Jones (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk)

73. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

There were two members of the public present and both wished to address the meeting on different topics. The first made reference to an application for financial assistance from the Friends of Bagillt Foreshore, which was to be considered along with others received later in the meeting. He went on to explain that the request was for running costs of the organisation, so as to enable applications for further grants and also to the success in obtaining financial assistance for the erection of a metal dragon sculpture, which was referred to in the planning applications aspect of the agenda. The other person present had also attended the previous Council meeting and indicated that he was once again of the view that the Council should not continue funding to keep the Library open given the cost to local Council tax payers.

74. POLICING

The Clerk advised that he had not received any indication there was to be a Police presence, despite e-mails being sent to both P.C. Salisbury and Sergeant Williams, concerning the new arrangement regarding local contact by way of PCSO Martin Rowlands (West) and PCSO Catherine Jones (East). This information had been noted on the agenda, and also that they would only attend Council meetings when there was any information that needed to be relayed to the Council that required a PCSO to attend. Following on from the last meeting, the Clerk indicated that he had requested Sergeant Williams as to whether an Officer would be able to attend this meeting, and also to advise on how either of the CPSOs could be contacted. It had also been noted that P.C. Salisbury had been on secondment to Rhyl and, following on from the letter sent after the last meeting to the Area Inspector, an e-mail had been forwarded with this information advising on the CPSO arrangement.

The Clerk also advised that he had received a further e-mail from P.C. Salisbury concerning Remembrance Sunday and in response had advised of the usual

arrangements so that a Police presence could be arranged to control the traffic on the High Street.

RESOLVED :

That further representations be made to Sergeant Williams concerning attendance at a future meeting to fully explain the change in arrangements and also how the indicated CPSO's could be contacted.

75. MINUTES

RESOLVED :

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9th September 2011.

a. Minute No. 57(b) – Flintshire County Forum

The Clerk advised that the next County Forum would be held in Pantasaph on Wednesday 19th October 2011, and that the Council would be represented by the Chairman and Councillor C.P. Owens.

b. Minute No. 61 – Digital Mapping

Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that contact had been made with the software company, Parish On-Line, and that an evaluation licence had been granted, which would expire on 8th November 2011. He indicated that the information was kept by the software company but it was possible to obtain maps of the area by means of a PDF file and then in turn add any other information, such as street furniture. The maps contained all the properties and boundaries and he felt that the initial viewing of the information was promising. In the event that a decision had to be made concerning taking up an initial twelve month licence prior to the next Council meeting, it was agreed that this could be determined by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, following a recommendation from Councillor C.P. Owens.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9th September 2011, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. One Voice Wales Annual Conference

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the One Voice Wales Annual Conference, which had been held on 8th October 2011. He made particular reference to the speakers that had addressed the Conference, and in particular the Chief Executives of the Welsh Local Government Association and the Big Lottery. With regard to the former, particular reference was made to the outcome of the Simpson Report on local arrangements between Unitary Authorities, both of a regional and more local nature, and the views expressed by the Welsh Assembly Government on this aspect. In particular he made reference to the effect on larger services such as education and social services.

Whilst on the subject of regional collaboration, reference was made by the Chairman to the Regional Residual Waste Strategy for North Wales and to the still awaited decision regarding the type of treatment technology to be utilised, as well as another site in addition to the likely one in the Deeside area. Reference was made to the public meetings which had been held throughout the region concerning the Strategy and as to what opportunity there would be for public consultation once the decision on the technology had been taken. He suggested that as Flintshire were the lead Authority they should be requested to clarify the issues as to when the decisions would be made and also the public consultation aspect, and this was accordingly agreed.

In relation to the Big Lottery, reference had been made to the fact that approximately 80% of their funding went to the voluntary sector and that Wales as a region got between 6 and 7% of the total funding, which was higher than it would be if it were allocated by means of the Barnett formula. Particular reference had been made to the fact that the funding was only available for capital projects and to the People and Places Scheme, with organisations able to obtain details on their website.

b. Meeting with Flintshire Standards Committee

The Clerk made reference to the note he had circulated at the meeting concerning the meeting he had attended at the Town Hall, Mold on Monday 10th October 2011. This had been the third such meeting between the Flintshire Standards Committee and representatives of Town and Community Councils. The meeting had particularly considered two issues that had been raised by Local Councils. The first related to the Code of Conduct and the need to clarify Members' interests and leaving the room whilst this issue was being debated. The second issue concerned a social network site on the internet when a Councillor had made scurrilous remarks and then refused to apologise, with the matter

being referred to the Ombudsman, as provided for in the Welsh procedure. There had also been a discussion regarding the need for training for Town and Community Councillors and to the useful information on interests, which had been circulated at the recent National Standards Conference.

77. PLANNING

a. Applications Determined – On-Line Consultation Period

No.	Location	Detail
048985	Land at Bettisfield Erection of a metal dragon sculpture	Colliery, Boot End

It was noted that no objection had been made to the proposal.

b. Applications

No.	Location	Detail
049450	Land side of 24 Wern Avenue	Renewal of permission to allow siting of caravan for a further twelve months

The Chairman referred to the fact that this was the second request for an extension of time period and to the fact that the building operation was proceeding at a very slow rate. He felt that the Planning Department should ensure that the rest of the work required was carried out in a timely manner so as to reduce the effect on neighbours.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council are of the view that this should be the final extension to the temporary siting of the caravan and that steps should be taken to ensure that the building works were completed within the further time period being applied for so as to minimise the effect on neighbours.

c. Flintshire Unitary Development Plan - Adoption

The Clerk advised that earlier this week he had received a letter from Flintshire County Council indicating that the Unitary Development Plan had been adopted by their Council on 28th September 2011. The Plan became operative on the date of adoption and would form the basis for all land use planning decisions affecting the County and that Notices of Adoption had been placed in appropriate newspapers. Anyone aggrieved

had a period of six weeks from the publication date of the first notice to apply to the High Court to have a plan or parts of a plan quashed.

Reference was made by Councillor C. Williams to information he had received concerning areas in the plan for Bagillt for residential purposes, more particularly at the Wern, Bedol and Victoria Park, with 46, 50 and 15 properties mentioned. It was his understanding that both developments at the Victoria Park and Beddol had been removed after being initially proposed and the Chairman concurred with these sentiments. As far as the Council were concerned, it was not known when the two other areas had been re-admitted and that clarification was needed. Details of the UDP were included on the County Council website and also by calling at their offices in Flint and Mold.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk make enquiries concerning this matter and contact Councillor C. Williams accordingly.

78. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure
Powers			
Mr. G. Roberts (S.112)	765.70	101434	Loc.Govt.Act 1972
H.M. Revenue & (S.112) Customs Flintshire County 1976 Council	156.38	101435	Loc.Govt.Act 1972
UHY Hacker Young 1982	2,174.54	101436	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act
Clr. R.K. Jones	342.00	101437	Loc.Govt.(Finance)Act
	218.75	101438	Loc.Govt.Act1972(S.112)

79. BAGILLT BRANCH LIBRARY

The Chairman advised that, prior to this meeting, a meeting of the Bagillt Library Working Group had taken place to consider the response received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda, and on further information which had been reported. With regard to the additional information, the Clerk advised that in relation to the possible lease of the building

by this Council on a peppercorn rent, this had been deferred for another month and figures received from the Library Service for the last six months showed a decline in usage over the past two years.

The Working Group had carefully considered the further information received from the County Council in relation to internal SLA's, IT costs and vandalism, as well as the indication they could not undertake an up to date survey of the building condition as they had no available budget to do so. As a consequence therefore, it was now being recommended that Flintshire County Council be advised this Authority was unable to continue funding beyond the agreed date of 30th November 2011, due to the financial burden it would place on this Authority, and to the lack of support from the County Council. In doing so, the Working Group were of the view that Flintshire County Council should also be requested to consider favourably any other approach from a local group or organisation(s) to utilise the building for community purposes, with this Authority being prepared to assist wherever possible without financial commitment. It was felt important that on this occasion the Council should issue a press statement, if the recommendation of the Working Group is supported, to fully explain this Authority's position.

RESOLVED :

1. That Flintshire County Council Library Service be advised that this Authority are unable to commit funding for the running of the Library in Bagillt beyond the agreed date of 30th November 2011, due to the lack of support by that Authority, including the peppercorn rent leasing option and the refusal to provide an updated building condition survey on their own property.
2. That Flintshire County Council be requested to consider favourably any other approach from a local group or organisation(s) for future community use of the Library building, with this Authority being prepared to assist any such group without financial commitment.
3. That the Chairman and Clerk arrange for a press statement to be made concerning the decision to no longer commit funding beyond November.
4. That the recommendation of the Working Group to present Ann Partridge with an engraved shield to recognise her 28 years service at the Bagillt Library be agreed and that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements in consultation with the Chairman.

80. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The meeting considered a report by the Clerk on Applications for Financial Assistance, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. Members were advised that this was the fourth year of the new policy adopted in

February 2008 to only consider applications for financial assistance or donations at the October and, finances permitting, February Council meeting. All applications were required to have up to date financial information by way of a balance sheet or Bank statement(s), apart from agreed organisations. At the Estimates meeting in January 2011, a sum of £2,000 was allocated to Section 137 expenditure, to allow the Council to expend monies for the benefit of all or some of the community when there was no other expressed legislative power. The Clerk reminded Members that in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted in May 2008, it was not necessary to declare a personal interest in financial assistance applications to community or voluntary organisations up to a maximum of £500.

In addition to the applications listed in the report, the Clerk advised that, after consultation with the Chairman, it had been agreed that consideration would also be given to one from Friends of Bagillt Foreshore, on which the Clerk verbally reported to the meeting.

RESOLVED :

1. That in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the following donations be agreed :

Society	£	Cheque No.
NewBrightonChapelActionGroup 101439	100.00	
Ysgol Glan Aber 101440	300.00	
Ysgol Merllyn 101441	300.00	
Bagillt Open Door CluB	80.00	101442
FriendsofBagillt Foreshore 101443	500.00	

2. That no financial assistance be given in respect of the applications received from :

Flintshire Diabetes Voluntary Group
NSPCC Cymru Wales
Shelter Cymru

81. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Bank Reconciliation and Income/Expenditure for the second quarter to 30th September 2011, as previously circulated to Members, was noted.

82. WINTER PREPARATIONS

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council concerning information on local weather forecasts and gritting actions, salt bins, bagged rock salt and community involvement in snow clearing.

With regard to weather forecasts, the Clerk indicated that he was the agreed recipient and was already starting to receive information in respect of this and, in the event of anything adverse, this would be passed on to Members.

In relation to salt bins, Members were reminded that at this time last year when representations had been made to Flintshire County Council concerning previously removed salt bins, these had been replaced at the cost of the Highway Authority.

In relation to community involvement in snow clearing, the Chairman indicated that perhaps clarification could be sought regarding the insurance position should they wish to assist with snow clearing at OAP residences.

RESOLVED :

1. That the arrangements for receipt of information on weather forecasts/gritting actions by the Clerk, be continued.
2. That in relation to salt bins and bagged rock salt, the matter be noted.
3. That with regard to community involvement in snow clearing, the Clerk raise the issue concerning liability and insurance cover in the event of assistance being given and an accident occurring.

83. APPOINTMENT OF TRAINING CHAMPION

The meeting considered a letter from One Voice Wales concerning the new strategy in relation to training, with particular reference to the appointment of Training Champion in each Member Council. The letter went on to explain the role of the Champion.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be noted.

84. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The meeting considered a letter received from the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated. It made

reference to the commitments to work together more closely and effectively through the County Forum and the Charter, and indicated that he would welcome the opportunity to personally visit each of the Town and Community Councils over the coming months.

RESOLVED :

That the offer to attend a future meeting of the Council by the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council be accepted and that he be invited to attend a meeting early in the New Year.

85. SUMMER PLAYSCHEMES 2011

The meeting considered information received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated. It related to attendance at the two Summer Playschemes at Victoria Road and Ysgol Merllyn during the six weeks it operated.

RESOLVED :

That the information be noted and that provision be made in estimates to continue with the Scheme in the next financial year.

86. PROPOSAL FOR INDUSTRIAL TRAIL – BAGILLT HERITAGE SOCIETY

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated. It followed on from the letter made in support of the Heritage Society for the provision of controlled pedestrian crossing facilities at two locations on the A548. The letter indicated that the location of a pedestrian crossing on the A548 would be determined primarily by the pedestrian desire line, the point at which the majority of users would normally cross, and both traffic and pedestrian surveys would need to be undertaken to establish this information in the first instance, prior to further consideration being undertaken. The existing speed limit on the A548 at both locations was 50mph, and in order to install pedestrian facilities of this nature it would require a reduction in the existing limit to 40mph, or below. Any reduction of speed limit would be subject to a Traffic Regulation Order and public advertisement, as would the pedestrian crossing. The cost involved in the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing for this purpose could not be met by the Highway Authority.

Reference was made by Councillor B.T. Doleman to the fact that two such crossings had been installed at Ffynnongroyw, against the wishes of the local community. In addition, he indicated that the cost of the previously reported lectern would be £1,245, £500 of which had been met by the Community Council from financial assistance granted in the previous financial year.

Councillor C.P. Owens referred to support from the Head Teacher at Ysgol Merllyn at the prospect of a pedestrian crossing, as they would wish to utilise any

Industrial Heritage Trail for educational purposes. The Chairman felt it was likely that Ysgol Glan Aber would wish to do likewise and that perhaps both should be approached to make formal representations to the Highway Authority. In addition, the Chairman suggested that perhaps other groups in the Village could make similar representations to the Highway Authority, such as the Friends of the Bagillt Foreshore.

RESOLVED :

1. That the response from Flintshire County Council concerning the controlled pedestrian crossings to assist with the Industrial Heritage Trail access across the A548, be noted.
2. That the Chairman and Councillor C.P. Owens, in their capacity as School Governors, request Ysgol Glan Aber and Ysgol Merllyn respectively to formally support the provision of controlled crossings across the A548 by making representations to the Highway Authority.

87. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2012

The meeting considered information received from Flintshire County Council concerning the Community Council elections due in May 2012. The purpose of the letter was to give an indication of the estimated costs to enable Councils to make provision in their estimates for the next financial year. It also pointed out that, in respect of casual vacancies, the six months before the date of an ordinary election a moratorium was placed on the filling and should any Councillor cease to hold office during this time period the seat would remain vacant until after the election. The moratorium period would begin on 3rd November 2011.

Attached to the letter was a draft election timetable for next year and it was pointed out that the only date that may change was that the Notice of Election may be published earlier than 27th March to allow for a longer nomination period. It also indicated that towards the end of February each Clerk would be supplied with nomination packs to distribute amongst current Members.

In addition, the Clerk made reference to representations made by this Authority after the last meeting concerning the loss of the Library building as a Polling Station for May 2012. Flintshire County Council had confirmed that the intention was to use the Community Centre for those electors in the West Ward who presently used the Library in the event of that building no longer being available.

RESOLVED :

That the information be noted.

88. AUDIT 2010/11

The Clerk reported that notification had been received from the external auditors, Hacker Young, completing the audit process for the last financial year, and returning the Annual Return duly signed. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been displayed on the Council Notice Boards and in the Library, and after the set period required by the Auditor, a Statement of Assurance of the Action would be forwarded to him.

RESOLVED :

That the conclusion of the audit for 2010/11 be noted.

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

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

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Chairman