

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on Friday 13th January 2012.

PRESENT : Councillor R.K. Jones (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillor B.T. Doleman and Mrs. S.L. Jones.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk).

107. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

There was one member of the public present and he advised that there were two issues he wished to raise. The first concerned the fact that the website did not have any minutes on it beyond May 2011 which would assist the public in being able to keep up to date. In response, Councillor C.P. Owens and the Clerk indicated why they had been unable to do this, but would approach the Company who had designed the revised website, with a view to using some of their pre-paid time to undertake this task. Up until November 2011 copies of the minutes had been left at the Bagillt Library for local residents to peruse. It was agreed the Clerk should approach the Libraries at Flint and Holywell to enquire whether they could assist in receiving copies of the minutes.

The other issue raised by the member of the public present related to an item included in the budget discussion. Details were requested of what role the Community Caretaker played, given that it appeared to be an appointment unique to Bagillt when enquiries had been made with other similar sized Community Councils. The Chairman indicated that the Clerk would respond to this aspect at an appropriate point later in the agenda.

108. ADDRESS BY FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Members had been advised that the Chief Executive to Flintshire County Council was unfortunately unable to attend this meeting when agendas had been forwarded. He hoped to attend either the February or March Council meeting and the Clerk indicated he was yet to receive confirmation. The Chairman made reference to the items which had been raised by Members to be discussed during the address and indicated that if there were some other aspects they also felt should be included then they should advise the Clerk, who could let the County Council know accordingly.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

109. POLICING MATTERS

It was noted that there was no CPSO in attendance for this meeting. Reference was made by the Chairman to the fatality which had occurred on the railway in Bagillt last week to a man from Holywell and it was agreed that when details of the person involved, and the address had been clarified, that the Clerk should forward a letter of condolence on behalf of the Council.

The Clerk indicated he had received information via One Voice Wales concerning a review that was being undertaken by North Wales Police regarding their buildings, upon which comments were invited via their consultation facility on their website. In addition to some major works and refurbishments in other areas, as far as Flintshire was concerned four Police Stations, including those at Flint and Holywell, had been identified as requiring relocation, which was a long term plan and none would close until suitable alternative accommodation was ready for use.

The Clerk reported that earlier this week he had received a letter from Chief Inspector Wareing, who was based at Mold Police Station, concerning the recruitment of an additional 17 PCSO's for the County of Flintshire. He would be placing 9 additional Officers in the North of the County and 8 in the South, and the District Inspectors would ensure that these Officers played a very active role within the community, with a keen focus on visibility, communication and problem solving. Once the new staff were in place they would be touch with partners so that working relationships could be formed.

Councillor M.A. Reece referred to the practice of the Police being able to use Library facilities when they had no other facility in the area, which was no longer a possibility in Bagillt now the building had been closed. He suggested that perhaps the Community Centre would be the appropriate venue for Bagillt if this were possible. The Chairman made reference to the fact that the Centre itself was run by the Community Association and that there would no doubt be an issue in relation to access/key holder but agreed that the Clerk make an approach to the Association to see if this was feasible.

RESOLVED :

That the information referred to above be noted.

110. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 18th November 2011.

a. Minute No. 96(d) – Community Caretaker

In response to the issue raised earlier in the meeting by a member of the public, the Clerk explained the role of the Community Caretaker, the working relationship agreed with Flintshire County Council and the method by which records were kept regarding the duties he had undertaken whilst in Bagillt. Other Town and Community Councils employed their own staff to undertake similar types of duties, as well as other aspects which were individual to them.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 18th November 2011, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

111. PLANNING

a. Applications Determined –Recess Period

| No. | Location | Detail | |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------|
| | 049224 | Land adj. 1 Middle Row | Demolish |

It was noted that the proposal had been supported by the East Ward Members.

049273

It was noted that the proposals were objected to by West Ward Members, as in 2007, on grounds of access/over development, as well as three storey height and the effect on the footway.

b. Applications

The Clerk advised that no applications had been received to be reported to this meeting since the agenda was printed.

112. ACCOUNTS

a. Recess

RESOLVED :

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

| Name | £ | Cheque No. | Expenditure | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Powers | | | | |
| Delyn Press (S.111) | 222.00 | 101456 | Loc.Govt.Act | 1972 |
| Huws Gray Ltd. Councils Act 1957 | | 7.20 | 101457 | Parish |
| | | Flintshire County | | 3,150.00 |

b. Payment

For

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

| Name | £ | | | £ |
|------------------------------|----------|--------|---|----------|
| Mr. G. Roberts 1972 (S.112) | 844.93 | 101459 | Loc.Govt.Act | |
| H.M. Revenue & Customs | 156.39 | 101460 | Loc.Govt.Act | |
| Soc. of Local Council Clerks | 123.00 | 101461 | Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112) | |
| Flintshire County Council | 4,399.93 | 101462 | Loc.Govt.(MP) Act 1976 (S.19)/Loc.Gov. Act 1972 (S.101) | |

113. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, on Estimates for 2012/13, 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 2011/12.

Members were reminded of the discussions and decisions made at the November meeting, as well as other factors taken into account in preparing the

Draft Schedule, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. It was noted that the Chairman's allowance, Clerk's salary and expenses would remain the same as for the present year. Items of expenditure had been removed concerning memberships of the Ramblers, Open Spaces Society and Clwyd Community Initiative Chest, as well as for hanging baskets, litter bins and salt bins, which in total would reduce expenditure by £670. The final Library costs for the last three months was £600 less than anticipated, and this has been reflected accordingly in the Schedule.

In relation to the Community Centre, whilst it had been agreed to provide funding in estimates to cover costs for the purposes of the Draft Schedule, revised financial details had been requested. These had been received and the Clerk reported on them to the meeting, advising of the balance sheet, being up to the end of October, the position of income in relation to expenditure, as listed, the monies held as a reserve in a deposit account and the latest balance in their current account as at December 2011.

Whilst noting the Community Centre information that had been received, as requested by the Council, Councillor C.P. Owens was of the view that there needed to be further clarification regarding the income stream and charges raised to users, and this could be better achieved at a meeting of the Community Centre Management Committee. The Council had two Members on this body but there did not seem to be any formal mechanism of being advised of when and if such meetings were held. Notwithstanding the fact that they were a registered charity and had to meet certain obligations, and that the balance sheet, as submitted, was still subject to audit, Councillor C.P. Owens suggested that the amount shown in the Estimates Schedule should be included in the budget for next year to cover the costs, as previous, concerning insurance and water/sewerage charges. Any payments should be held in abeyance until the further clarification had been given to the satisfaction of the Council. In response, the Clerk indicated that the payments for water/sewerage were met twice a year, usually in August and February, and the insurance for the building was paid in March. Members had already noted that without this financial assistance the Community Centre accounts would have shown a significant loss.

Included in the report was a detailed explanation regarding Council balances, as had been requested by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, as well as possible further expenditure reduction options relating to miscellaneous schemes and balances contribution.

The Chairman referred to the detail in the accompanying schedule regarding what the balances were held for. In particular reference was made to the amount of £11,500 shown for traffic calming, which had been a figure that had been held for a number of years. It was understood that Flintshire County Council had no provision for match funding such schemes. He suggested therefore that this allocation could be switched to the miscellaneous fund. As such, there was not

the need for the Council to make a contribution in the next financial year to replace balances which had been used this year to keep the Library open for a six month period. The likely balances at the end of this financial year of just under £20k should be sufficient for the purpose. If there were to be no contribution to balances then the precept could remain as for the present financial year at £34,525, instead of rising to £37,160, an increase of 8.22%, if the Draft Schedule as circulated was agreed in its entirety.

RESOLVED :

1. That a precept of £34,525 be made on Flintshire County Council for 2012/13, which equates to a Band D charge of £23.85, an increase of 0.51% (£0.12p) on the last financial year, due to the slight reduction in Band D equivalent properties within the community.
2. That the amounts indicated in the previously circulated expenditure heads for estimate purposes for 2012/13 be approved as circulated, subject to the deletion of a contribution to balances and the transfer of the balances held for traffic calming to the Miscellaneous Fund..
3. That in relation to the Community Centre, the Bagillt Community Association be advised that, whilst the Council will be making appropriate provision to continue previous financial assistance towards the running of the Centre for the next financial year, payment will be subject to further clarification on financial issues to Council representatives at their Management Committee.
4. That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council wish to continue with the Community Caretaker arrangements in the next financial year, subject to any changes which may arise as a result of the Council housing ballot.
5. That the provision of continued funding for participation in the Playscheme Programme and Summer activities for children be endorsed following previous discussions and that Flintshire County Council be advised accordingly.
6. That the level of funding agreed at the last meeting be formally included in the budget for the next financial year to enable green maintenance at the Bagillt Bowling Club.

114. LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS 2012/13

The meeting considered a report of Responsible Financial Officer on Local Government Investments, copies of which had been previously circulated to

Members. The Appendix to the report advised that all excess 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 for this Authority for 2012/13.

115. 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 1st October to 31st December 2011, copies of which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED :

That the details circulated for the third quarter be noted.

116. BAGILLT FORESHORE

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that the Countryside Services at Flintshire had closed a section of the path due to the erosion at the former tip, and were hoping for monies from Veolia Environmental to assist in the matter. The Clerk indicated that he had received a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Friends of the Bagillt Foreshore, as had been previously promised.

117. RECESS

It was noted that other than issues referred to on the Agenda, there were no other matters upon which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were consulted during the recess.

118. RIVERBANK – BRICK BUS SHELTER

During the recess the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had agreed that the Tenancy Agreement could be transferred to the purchasers of the property on which it was located, subject to it being on the same terms and conditions as originally entered into in August 1991.

RESOLVED :

That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be endorsed.

119. RESPONSES FROM FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

a. Allt Celyn- Lighting Column

They had advised that Allt Celyn was unadopted and confirmed there was never any intention for the estate road to be adopted and, as it was privately owned, there was no Bond held by the Authority.

b. Children's Play Area – Equipment Removal

They indicated that they would be continuing in their current practice of prior notice of advising the Local County Member and Town and Community Council, should the Authority be required to remove items of play equipment on safety grounds. The Chairman indicated that this was a reiteration of what they were currently supposed to do, but this had not occurred when equipment had been removed from Bron Haul before there had been any opportunity to consider an appropriate repair. It was noted that this was an item upon which the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council would be requested to respond when he attends a future Council meeting.

c. High Street Play Area

The response had indicated that the Authority had been trying to progress the adoption of both the estate road and play area. After contacting the Surety under the Bond supporting the Section 38 Agreement it had been confirmed that it was in order for the Highways Department to carry out the required completion/remedial works. An e-mail had been received confirming that the play area land could be transferred to the County Council. A draft Transfer had been sent to the Company in October, and a reminder sent in November, but no reply had been received by early December. It was indicated that the Council would be kept informed of any progress.

The Chairman referred to discussions he had held with the Legal Officer of Flintshire County Council dealing with the matter, including the position of the residents, and it had been understood matters had now been sorted. He had an e-mail concerning this aspect and would forward it to the Clerk, who could again take the matter up with the County Council. Councillor T. Renshaw stressed the need to keep the pressure on the County Council to ensure that this matter was sorted as soon as possible.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

120. CHANGES TO AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS REGULATIONS

The Clerk reported to the meeting that the External Auditor had advised that the accounts approval and deadline dates had been brought forward. Accounts now had to be approved by the Council no later than 30th June (previously September) with the audit having to be signed off by their firm no later than 30th September (previously December). It was expected that the Annual Returns for 2011/12 would be sent out in February, with the Audit being called for 31st May 2012 for Councils with income over £10,000, such as Bagillt.

The Clerk indicated that upon receipt of the letter in December he had been in contact with the Council's Internal Auditor, JDH Business Services. As a consequence, it had been agreed that the Council should make arrangements to approve the accounts at their meeting to be held on 13th April 2012, with the accounts and supporting documents going to the Internal Auditor the following week. The meeting to be held on 13th April 2012 was due to be in Ysgol Glan Aber, but it was known that the School would be closed at that time for the Easter break. It was therefore not possible to hold the meeting at this venue, but contact had already been made about using the Community Centre.

RESOLVED :

1. That the changes to the Accounts and Audit Regulations by way of deadlines be noted.
2. That the need to hold the 13th April meeting of the Council be agreed even if it involved an alternative venue.

121. INDUCTION TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

The meeting considered a letter from Flintshire County Council, which was in response to the consultation which had been undertaken in September. It was noted that there had been a good response and agreement on it being proposed that between early May and the end of July 2012 three identical sessions be held at County Hall, relating to the roles and functions of a Unitary Council and, in conjunction with the Council's Monitoring Officer, three identical sessions relating to the Members' Code of Conduct. At least one of the sessions on each topic would be held in the evening.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

122. QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council advising on the outcome of a consultation with Town and Community Councils about nominations for the Fields Challenge. The letter listed the 17 sites which had been nominated and agreed by the County Council, which included Victoria Road/Riverbank, Boot End. These would now be sent on to the Fields in Trust this month.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

123. WAR MEMORIALS

The Clerk reported on a letter received from the Conservation Section at Flintshire County Council. They were compiling a list of all War Memorials within the County and who was responsible for them. They were aware that as well as the main Memorials, there were also Memorial Plaques within Churches and Chapels.

2014 sees the beginning of a series of centenaries nationally marking the First World War, and the collection of this information was relevant to this, as well as ensuring the existing Memorials were protected for future generations. In relation to the War Memorial in the High Street, the Clerk indicated that the Community Council had on a number of occasions incurred expenditure on its maintenance and improvement, but did not have direct responsibility. Councillor C.P. Owens also made reference to the role of the Bagillt Heritage Society, which again had arranged for work to be undertaken and incurred expenditure without being responsible for the War Memorial. It was agreed that Flintshire County Council should be advised that responsibility would probably be vested in the Royal British Legion.

In relation to Memorial Plaques, Councillor J. Williams indicated that there was one within St. Mary's Church, which was confirmed by other Members, and it was agreed that this information also be forwarded to Flintshire County Council.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk respond to the enquiry from Flintshire County Council, as outlined in the discussion.

124. COUNTY FORUM – CHARTER

It was noted that the next County Forum would be held on Wednesday 8th February 2012 at County Hall, Mold, at 6.30 p.m. Councillor C.P. Owens advised that he was unlikely to be able to attend and make an update report in relation to digital mapping, but he would let the Clerk know for sure later this month so Flintshire County Council could be advised accordingly.

Circulated with the agenda had been a Charter Action Plan, upon which comments had been invited.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

125. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Merllyn Lane – Manhole

Councillor M.A. Reece referred to the continuing problem of the manhole at the bottom of Merllyn Lane, which resulted in blockages and overflow of sewerage. Whilst United Utilities were responsible for clearing the blockage, they did not deal with the resultant spillage and neither would Flintshire County Council, who indicated it was not their responsibility.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to both United Utilities and Flintshire County Council on this matter concerning the need for appropriate action to negate this continuing problem and that they be advised if an appropriate solution was not forthcoming the Council would make representations to the Environment Agency.

b. Pedestrian Crossing, High Street

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the fact that this item had been one listed to discuss with the Chief Executive at his address, which was supposed to have taken place at this meeting. In particular he made reference to the fact that he had been able to obtain a quotation from a reputable firm for undertaking the necessary lining works at a cost of £500, whereas a full scheme, as indicated by the County Council, would cost in the region of £25k. In view of the fact the Chief Executive had not attended this meeting he suggested that Flintshire County Council be requested to provide an appropriate explanation.

The Chairman concurred with the sentiments, given that the Community Council had already forwarded a letter to the Highway Authority in support of Councillor M.A. Reece, in his capacity as Local

County Member.

RESOLVED :

That a letter be forwarded to Flintshire County Council accordingly.

126. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY REVIEW – WALES

The Clerk referred to the recent announcement concerning the proposals by the Boundary Commission to reduce the number of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales from 40 to 30. He made brief reference to information obtained from their website which related to the changes in Flintshire. The new Constituency proposed for Alyn & Deeside would be as present plus a number of communities in the present Delyn Constituency, with the remainder of the latter being combined with communities in the Vale of Clwyd to establish a proposed Dee Estuary Constituency. There was a twelve week period of consultation, which would end on the 4th April 2012 and, in relation to a public hearing for the North East Wales area, this would be held at Glyndwr University, Wrexham between the 29th February and 1st March 2012.

Councillor T. Renshaw suggested that this item should be on the agenda for the next meeting so that the Council could consider an appropriate response to the proposals made by the Boundary Commission.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council to enable consideration of a response to the proposal.

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Date of Council Meeting | Friday 13th January 2012 |
|--------------------------------|--|

| Member | Item | Minute No. Refers |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|
| There were no declarations of personal interest | | |

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Chairman