

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT : Councillor B.T. Doleman (Chairman)

COUNCILLORS : R. Davies, A. Griffiths, R.K. Jones, Mrs. S.L. Jones, S.J. Moore, C.P. Owens, M.A. Reece, C.R. Williams, Mrs. D.J. Williams and J. Williams.

APOLOGIES : Councillors Mrs. N.M. Jones, T. Renshaw and T.M. Withington.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), PCSO Harvey (minute No. 33) and Mr. C. Everett, Flintshire County Council (minute No. 34).

32. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

There was one member of the public present, who indicated that he wished to take the opportunity to speak on two items. The first concerned the issue of the Community Caretaker, a subject which he had raised at previous meetings and also in e-mails with the Clerk and the then Chairman. Of particular concern was the level of expenditure on this item in relation to the budget as a whole, the duties undertaken for the time spent in Bagillt, especially in respect of litter picking, this being a County Council function, the purchasing in of this service from the County Council Housing Department and the lack of tasks undertaken being reported to the Council. He also made reference to contact he had made with the County Council on this issue and with other Community Councils.

In response, Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the tasks undertaken by the Caretaker at private sector properties, whilst Councillor J. Williams advised that he had regularly seen the person concerned when he was on litter picking duties within his area. Councillor R.K. Jones reminded the meeting that the Council re-evaluated this service annually when considering estimates and he was also used to repair and maintain street furniture in the ownership of this Authority. The litter picking duties were an enhancement to the service given in the area by the County Council and other Town and Community Councils employed their own staff direct.

The second issue raised by the member of the public concerned the recent elections and he made reference to the fact that the majority of Members elected for the East Ward lived in the West Ward. In response, he was advised by the Chairman that any eligible person could stand for the Council at election time if he lived within a designated distance from the community boundary, as well as inside the community itself, and that he himself had in his time of membership with the Council represented both Wards.

33. POLICING MATTERS

PCSO Nathan Harvey advised that the speed survey had been completed, with the results being ready by the end of the month. Once they had been received his colleague, PC Price, would forward a copy to the Clerk.

The Officer also made reference to Petrolheads and advised that two events had been arranged at the premises involving quality vehicles . The first also involved a family fun day.

Councillor M.A. Reece referred to the recent television programme on the subject of prostitution in rural Wales, which had also featured Bagillt, and requested the comments of the Officer on this issue. He reported that it was not a matter a PCSO would investigate, but he would consult with PC Price to enable a report to be made back to the Council.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for attending the meeting.

34. ADDRESS BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Colin Everett, Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council, to the meeting. Mr. Everett thanked the Council for inviting him, following his previous offer to all Town and Community Councils within the County. He indicated that he would talk briefly on the ten biggest Council issues, details of which were circulated at the meeting, and then go on to the particular issues the Council had previously indicated they wished to raise with him at this meeting.

In relation to Council Reform, it was about being clear on priorities to protect and improve local services and reforming to be as modern and efficient as possible.

Regarding Council finances, there was a gap in the budget for the next three years between £20 - £25 million and the issues of buildings and employment were being examined to address this challenging issue. It was not all negative, as by creative use of capital investment there would be improvements in the priorities of Schools, Leisure Centres, Roads and Infrastructure.

On regional and local collaboration, Flintshire County Council was working with other Unitary Authorities, as well as the Police and other Services, to ensure better use of staff and purchasing. He also made reference to the example of the One Stop Shop which was being established in Holywell in October, which would also involve a Police presence, and it was intended there would be others such as at Flint in the future.

Reference was made to the modernisation of Schools by raising the spend per pupil and dealing with surplus places. The Community Council had already

received an address in relation to the new Streetscene service and Councillor R.K. Jones was now the Executive Member dealing with Waste and Recycling. In relation to Economic Development and Planning, reference was made to the new Enterprise Zone and the introduction of the Local Development Plan which would involve close consultation with Community Councils.

The Housing Ballot had clearly indicated that tenants wished to remain with the County Council, but this in itself raised issues regarding funding for bringing them up to standard. Along with four other Unitary Authorities in Wales, they were in consultation with the Welsh Assembly Government.

In relation to Social Services, there would be the impact of welfare reform, Government funding policy and more support for the people to live independently in their home. The Council was continuing to invest in maintaining the highway infrastructure and prepare for winter maintenance, despite the need to control expenditure.

The final County Council issue Mr. Everett referred to concerned Boundary Reviews in relation to the one being undertaken for Parliamentary Constituencies, the deferred matter of that relating to the County Council and the local review of Community Ward Boundaries, which would be commencing shortly. The election was to take place in November for a Police Commissioner for North Wales and he had been appointed Regional Returning Officer.

Mr. Everett then went on to refer to the items forwarded by the Clerk, as agreed previously by the Community Council. In relation to future County Council assets remaining in Bagillt, he gave an undertaking that there would be meaningful consultation with the Community Council if changes were proposed. On a general issue, consideration was being given to particular buildings within communities which could perhaps be better utilised by local groups etc. with the idea that they would be transferred for free, or a peppercorn rent, thereby reducing expenditure for Flintshire itself. In relation to play area equipment withdrawal, once again an assurance was given on prior consultation and that the contact would be Alan Roberts within the Leisure Section of Lifelong Learning.

In relation to the High Street car park issue, he was advised by Councillor R.K. Jones that this was being addressed locally. He confirmed the previous costs given to the Council regarding the provision of a Zebra Crossing in the High Street, and to the fact that, based on statistics such as accidents, it was unfortunately low down in the list of priorities.

The issue of travel cost charges to attend County Care Units had risen due to the need to save costs and to the level of expenditure by Flintshire on transport, with each case being dealt with on its merits with an appeal system. He indicated that this had resulted in significant savings to date.

In relation to County Council response times to correspondence from Community Councils, he made reference to meetings he had held with senior staff as he was aware that not all dealt with Local Councils at an appropriate level, given that they were statutory consultees. In the event that a Community Council felt it was not getting the response it deserved within a reasonable timescale, then contact could be made with Joanne Pierce within his Department, who would endeavour to overcome the blockage.

The Chairman then invited Members to raise any other concerns they may have. Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams referred to the issue of being dissatisfied with a particular County service and to withheld part of a Council Tax payment, a clarity also being sought by Councillor C.R. Williams. They were advised by Mr. Everett of the legal position of the County Council and of the procedure to recover repayment. The Chairman referred to a press report regarding the future of County Hall, Mold, and in response was advised that it was an issue which would have to be considered by the County Council, given that it was a very expensive structure in terms of energy and building costs for the 1,200 or so employees based there. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that, notwithstanding the comments made by the Chief Executive regarding the financial position of the Council, this would undoubtedly be exacerbated having regard to the Welfare changes in the pipeline.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Everett for attending the meeting and for the information given to Members.

35. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th June 2012.

a. Minute No. 21- Chairman's Communications

The Chairman advised that he had attended Civic Sundays at Flintshire County Council on 17th June and Flint Town Council on 1st July 2012. In addition, arrangements had been finalised for his visit to the Isle of Man on 27th July 2012, when he would be making presentations to the Laxey and Lonan Heritage Trust on behalf of the Council and the Bagillt Heritage Society.

b. Minute No. 25 – Bagillt Foreshore

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the lighting of the Beacon on the Foreshore to commemorate the Solstice and that it would also be lit on 5th November for Bonfire Night.

c. Minute No. 31(a) – Replacement of Bollards

The Clerk advised Councillor A. Griffiths that he has as yet received no response on this matter..

d. Minute No. 31 (c) – Unadopted Play Area, High Street

Councillor R.K. Jones advised the meeting of the continuing outstanding legal position and that the cutting of the grass was a one-off until it had been sorted, which would then enable the County Council to take over responsibility.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th June 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Flintshire County Forum

A copy of a report of the meeting held on 13th June 2012 that had been attended by the Chairman and Clerk, had been previously circulated. It made reference to the new political arrangements at Flintshire County Council following the recent election ; Charter Action Plan, Health Service Locality Plans, Welsh Language Scheme, Welsh and Education Strategic Plan, Community Boundary Review, issues concerning Town and Community Councils' Issues, the County Council and, lastly, National and Welsh Government news. In relation to the note regarding the Welsh Language and the changes as a result of the Local Government (Wales) Measures Act 2011, the Clerk advised that three of the new standards regarding service delivery, policy making and operational, would apply to Community Councils, but that further details and the consultation to be undertaken, were awaited.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

37.

PLANNING

a. Applications Determined On-Line Consultation Period

| No. | Location | Detail |
|--------|-----------------------|--|
| 049840 | Greenways, Sandy Lane | Demolish store and erect single storey kitchen extension |

It was noted that the proposal had been supported.

b. Applications

| No. | Location | Detail |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|
| 049859 | 38 Deans Close | Renewal of permission for parking of a private hire vehicle |
| 049874 | Lyons Den Fitness, Boot End | Placement of 3 No. A boards |

In relation to the latter, Councillor C.P. Owens made reference to other signs on this establishment, which may not have the necessary permission and that the present application would regularise what had been happening for some time.

RESOLVED :

1. That application 049859 be supported.
2. That application 049874 be supported with comments for the Planning Authority to check the situation regarding other signage at this establishment.

38.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

| Name | £ | Cheque No. | Expenditure Powers |
|---------------------------|----------|------------|--|
| Flintshire County Council | 3,150.00 | 101485 | Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1953/ Parish Councils Act 1957 |
| Mr. G. Roberts | 825.30 | 101486 | Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112) |
| H.M. Revenue & Customs | 151.41 | 101487 | Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112) |
| Bagillt Bowling Club | 480.00 | 101488 | Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | (S.19) | |
| C.M. Scott | 47.35 | 101489 | Loc.Govt.Act | 1972 (S.5) |
| I.T. Sector Ltd. | 192.00 | 101490 | Loc.Govt.Act | 1972 (S.111) |
| H.M. Revenue & Customs | 151.42 | 101492 | Loc.Govt.Act | 1972 (S112) |
| Mr. G. Roberts | 755.90 | 101493 | Loc.Govt.Act | 1972 (S.112) |

39. TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON FLINTSHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The meeting considered a letter from Flintshire County Council indicating that the four year term of office for the current representative on Town/Community Councils had expired following the recent elections and they were seeking to recruit a new one. Also, previously circulated for Member's information, had been details of the position.

RESOLVED :

That the letter be noted.

40. BAGILLT FORESHORE

Members were reminded that the Bagillt Kite Festival would take place at Bettisfield on Sunday 22nd July 2012 from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm, this information was also contained in the News section on the Council's website. Circulated at the meeting was a copy of the Bagillt Harbour Initial Feasibility Study that had been prepared for the Friends of Bagillt Foreshore. A copy had been forwarded to the Clerk and permission had been given for further copies to be made. They were requesting any comments the Council may have on the document. Councillor R.K. Jones suggested that, given the detail of information contained in the document, it would be better if it were deferred to the next Council meeting which, due to the Recess, would not be until September. He also enquired whether a copy had been forwarded to Mike Taylor at Flintshire Countryside Services and was advised by Councillor J. Williams that it had been.

RESOLVED :

That consideration of the document be deferred until the next meeting of the Council to be held in September.

41. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The meeting considered revised Financial Regulations prepared by the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated. The Clerk advised the meeting this would comply with the request from the External Auditor that they were reviewed following each main election

and- the revised document also contained an additional clause on contracts, as had been requested by the Internal Auditor in the Action Plan attached to the report on the accounts for 2011/12.

RESOLVED :

That the Financial Regulations be approved as circulated, thereby constituting the post election review required by the External Auditor, and the addition of an additional clause on contracts, as required by the Internal Auditor.

42. WEBSITE MAINTENANCE

The Clerk reported that the website had recently been updated with revised information, following on from the recent elections, and Council minutes for the period February to June 2012 had also been added. The new information to be added and/or replaced on the website had been forwarded to Councillor C.P. Owens, who had made the necessary arrangements with IT Sector Limited, using part of the pre-paid hours the Council had purchased for 2011/12. A quotation for four pre-paid hours had been received for 2012/13 in the sum of £192 (inc VAT) and the Clerk and Councillor C.P. Owens were recommending acceptance of the sum reported.

Reference was made by the Clerk to a Democratic Consultation which was presently being undertaken by the Welsh Assembly Government. This principally related to Unitary Authorities but did make reference to Town and Community Councils. A significant aspect being suggested was that all Town and Community Councils should have a form of contact by e-mail and also a website containing information on the Authority by 2014. Whilst this did not impact on Bagillt it could in relation to a number of smaller Councils who may be able to get assistance from their relevant Unitary Authority.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted and that the quotation submitted by IT Sector Limited for four hours pre-paid website maintenance time for 2012/13 be accepted.

43. AUTHORITY FOR ACTION DURING THE RECESS PERIOD

RESOLVED :

1. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, acting as a Sub-Committee, be given powers to act on matters of an urgent nature during the recess period.
2. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, together with a

Local Member (other than planning applications), acting as a Sub-Committee, be given powers to act where Local Member involvement would be helpful during the Recess period.

44. COMMUNITY AWARDS 2012

The Clerk advised that the Community Awards for 2012 were to be awarded to Rhys Price at Ysgol Glan Aber, and Jordanne Davies at Ysgol Merllyn. Presentation would take place on Tuesday 17th July 2012, with the Vice Chairman, Councillor M.A. Reece, presenting on behalf of the Council at Ysgol Glan Aber, and Councillor C.P. Owens, as Chairman of the Governors, at Ysgol Merllyn. The names of the successful pupils would be included in the new section of the Council's website and also forwarded to the local press.

45. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Bank reconciliation and information on income/expenditure for the first quarter to 30th June 2012, had been previously circulated to Members.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

46. BAGILLT COMMUNITY CENTRE – MEETING/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk reminded the meeting that at the Estimates discussion in January, it had been decided that funding would be set aside to meet the costs of water/sewerage charges and insurance cover at the Community Centre, but that this was conditional upon a meeting taking place with their Management Committee, at which the Council would be represented. The Council representatives would then report back and a decision would be made concerning the financial assistance for 2012/13.

It had been expected that the meeting would have taken place earlier in the year and a reminder had been forwarded to the Secretary of the Bagillt Community Association, which ran the Centre, requesting to know when the meeting would be held, and reminding them of the Council decision concerning financial assistance for this year. They now expected the meeting to take place in September. The first of the payments would be due in July/August for the first six months water and sewerage, with the others not being due until February/March 2013. The Secretary had been advised that it would not be possible to pay the bill due within the next few weeks and that it would need to be met out of Community Centre funds, but once the meeting with the Council representatives had been held and a report made back to this Authority it would be possible for this cost to be reimbursed. This information had been shared with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED :

That the action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman be noted and agreed, with the decision on financial assistance for the Community Centre for 2012/13 awaiting the requested meeting and report back to a future meeting of the Council.

47. SUMMER PLAYSCHMES – 23RD JULY– 24TH AUGUST 2012

The meeting considered a letter from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been circulated at the meeting. It concerned the Bagillt Schemes at Ysgol Merllyn and Victoria Road, and that the former would be held in the afternoon from 1.30-3.30 pm and the latter in the morning from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Posters advertising the Scheme would be displayed on the Notice Boards and information included in the news section on the Council's website.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

48. STREETSCENE/WASTE ISSUES

The Chairman advised that he had agreed for Councillor R.K. Jones, in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Flintshire County Council on Public Protection, Waste and Recycling, to make a report. Councillor R.K. Jones referred to the Streetscene service which had recently come into effect, and to the problems which had been occurring regarding the use of a single telephone contact which had led to delays for callers. Some of the problems had occurred over the matter of replacement of staff to cover for holidays and sickness and that there needed to be changes to ensure that a single point of customer contact worked as intended.

In relation to Waste, he made reference to recent comments in the press regarding the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Plant being an incinerator and likely to be located in Deeside. He stressed that no decision had yet been made by the five Unitary Authorities comprising the partnership in relation to the type of treatment and also the issue of a location. There had been delays and he also explained the bidding process which reduced the number until a decision was made. The time table of 2017 for the introduction of the scheme was still intended and achievable. Once a decision had been made on the bidder there would be a public consultation on the type of treatment and location. For the information of Members he also made reference to the issue concerning the target to be achieved for recyclable materials.

Councillor R.K. Jones also made reference to the changes in the Waste Collection system and to the fact that smaller vehicles were to be used for particular collections in rural areas and also changes to collections concerning flats. The introduction of Saturday working was only in a few areas as a pilot and there had been issues concerning vehicle breakdowns. There were anomalies still arising with the new system and these were being addressed accordingly.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

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

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

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

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Chairman