

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL GLAN ABER, Bagillt, on Friday 14th September 2012.

PRESENT : Councillor B.T. Doleman (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillors Mrs. N.M. Jones and S.J. Moore.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), PC Price and PCSO Harvey (minute Nos. 50 and 51), Mr. K. Wilding (minute No. 51).

49. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

There were four members of the public present and two had indicated that they wished to speak. One would do so under this item, on the subject of the Feasibility Study commissioned by The Friends of The Bagillt Foreshore, when the points raised would be recorded in the item later on in the agenda on this issue. The second matter concerned the state of the Bagillt area. On this aspect, reference was made to the steady decline from an industrial area to its present state of decay, with many changes that had not been of benefit to the Village or its residents. In particular, the benefit arising to Flint and Holywell from there being no amenities in the Village, other than housing. It was important that the past should be remembered to teach future generations and preserve what was left in the Village. Particular reference was made to the present state of the former Bagillt Arms public house. On a positive side, the proposed development of the Dee Bank quay would preserve the past, which could lead to attracting investment and thereby provide new employment opportunities, along with the land at the former Bettisfield Colliery area.

The Chairman had previously agreed that the other member of the public, who wished to speak on the issue of Petrolheads, could do so when this item was discussed whilst the Police were still present.

50. POLICING MATTERS

PC Price made reference to the speed survey which had recently been carried out in the Village and advised that, arising from the results, it had been established that sufficient vehicles were exceeding 35mph to warrant speed checks in the High Street on a regular basis. These would take place five times per month on different times and days. In relation to speeding and cautioning, or booking of motorists, reference was made by Councillor T. Renshaw to the role

of the Traffic Officer and the discretion available concerning the amount over the limit. Councillor T. Withington thanked the Police for their response to a complaint he had made regarding motocross bikes using a playing field. PC Harvey indicated that he had now obtained a key for access to the Bagillt Community Centre and that they would shortly be holding sessions at the premises whereby members of the public could call in to discuss issues. Notices were being prepared to advertise this service and the Clerk indicated that if he was sent copies he would ensure that they were displayed on the Council notice boards and website

51. PETROLHEADS

Councillor C.P. Owens had requested a discussion on this item and made reference to an event which had taken place in July on a Sunday, which had gone on until the early evening and had been extremely noisy to the detriment of local residents. He had made contact with both the Police and Flintshire County Council, as Licensing Authority, and the latter had indicated it had not been a licensed event. In response, Mr. K. Wilding indicated that the Café had been in the wrong in not having applied for a licence and, due to the problems with the late arrival of the sound equipment, it had gone on much later than anticipated. The event had been organised to raise funds for a hospital and had been successful. Whilst apologising for the upset to local residents, Mr. Wilding advised that businesses such as his could apply and be granted a licence for a number of outdoor events in any year, as the one referred to. He also indicated that he would be holding a similar event next year, which would be subject to a licence. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that his main issue of concern was the noise aspect, not the matter of licensing, but he acknowledged that with regard to previous complaints regarding the premises, the situation had improved dramatically. Mr. Wilding confirmed the information he had given at the June meeting regarding the cessation of Cruise Nights and the efforts he was making to encourage older bikers to visit, which was being frustrated by lack of assistance from the Tourist Board. On the matter of the premises itself, he made reference to the interest being shown in the graffiti style art which had been placed on the adjoining portakabin, which was available for community use, and his efforts to make use of an untidy area of land. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that, on behalf of the Heritage Society, he would certainly hold a discussion with Mr. Wilding to see what assistance they could give concerning this aspect.

PC Price made reference to the outdoor event, which had led to concerns being expressed regarding the noise level, and to the fact that this facility was available to, and used by, other commercial premises.

In conclusion, Mr. Wilding thanked the Council for being given the opportunity to speak and invited all Members who were available to come over to the premises

after the meeting for a coffee and be shown round the facility. The Chairman and a number of Members indicated that they would take the opportunity to do so.

52 MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th July 2012.

a. Minute No. 32 – Public Inquiry Item – Community Caretaker

Although the member of the public who had raised this issue once again last month was not present, Councillor M.A. Reece advised the meeting of the usage he had made of the Community Caretaker's time in the past two months, in consultation with the Chairman and Clerk. These included cutting hedges/bushes and removing rubbish, weedkilling a garden area and removing branches, strimming the different areas in Riverbank, cutting back brambles by the Station bridge and clearing the pathway by New Brighton Cemetery. There were further jobs to be looked at, including one which involved the need for assistance, due the Health and Safety Regulations regarding lone working, and he had agreed to provide that assistance. Councillor R.K. Jones, in his capacity as Executive Member, advised that there were changes to be introduced concerning the manner in which Streetscene operators worked and further information would be given to a future meeting.

b. Minute No. 35(c) – Replacement of Bollards

Councillor M.A. Reece advised the meeting that local residents had indicated they did not wish the bollards to be replaced and, following a site meeting with Streetscene, advised that things would be left as they were.

c. Minute No. 42 – Website

Reference was made by Councillor C.P. Owens to previous comments he had made regarding a digital mapping trial, to which the Council had agreed, and to the advantages that could accrue concerning the delineation of Council assets and allowing public access to show such things as areas of flooding concerns. In particular, he referred to the link aspects and that to allow public access it would need to be available via the Council's website by means of a layering system. This could involve the use of more hours than the Council had already paid for in advance for website maintenance with their contractor. He would need to have a detailed discussion with IT Sector concerning this matter so that if necessary the Council could consider increasing the budget for the next financial year. Councillor C.P. Owens also reminded Members that this Authority had agreed to trial this system, with a view to reporting to the

County Forum and it was his intention that when the next one was held on the 24th October 2012, he would report accordingly.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a. The Chairman advised that he had attended the Holywell Town Council Civic Sunday on 9th September 2012.
- b. The Chairman made reference to his visit to the Isle of Man in July, along with representatives of the Heritage Society to the Laxey and Lonan Heritage Trust. He referred to the warm welcome that had been given to those attending, which had also involved a representative of the Isle of Man Government, and all those attending had had an excellent day.

54. POSSIBLE TWINNING ARRANGEMENT

Arising out of the report made by the Chairman in the previous minute, reference was also to an e-mail from the Clerk to the Laxey Village Commissioners, which touched on the possible aspect of a Twinning arrangement between Laxey and Bagillt. This had been raised at their Commissioner's Board in August, and they wished to start discussions with the Community Council and the Heritage Society but were looking for advice regarding any formal processes.

The Clerk advised that he had been making contact with colleagues concerning Twinning. The advice he had received to date was that areas considering Twinning should be roughly of equal size and that it was the norm for any Twinning to be continued by another body, such as an Association, once it had been formally set up, with the Local Authority only being involved in any official visit.

With regard to financing, the Council could incur expenditure on a Twinning arrangement by making some funds available to another Organisation. As far as this meeting was concerned, he had discussed the issue with the Chairman and Members were asked to indicate whether, in principle, they wished to make further enquiries regarding setting up a Twinning arrangement with the Village of Laxey in the Isle of Man. If the decision was to go ahead then the Clerk would make further enquiries with colleagues regarding the appropriate procedure, so that this information could also be passed on to Laxey.

Councillors C.R. Williams, C.P. Owens and T. Renshaw felt there was merit in agreeing this aspect, in principle, to enable further discussion.

RESOLVED :

That the principle of setting up a Twinning arrangement with the Village of Laxey in the Isle of Man, to also involve the Bagillt Heritage Society and/or other local organisations, be agreed in principle, and that the Clerk make further investigations regarding appropriate procedure with fellow Clerks who had experience of Twinning.

55. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Determined – Recess Period

No.	Location	Detail
049876	13 Romans Way	Adaptation to roof for added accommodation with dormer.

It was noted that the proposal, including an amendment had been supported by East Ward Members, with it being noted that Councillor R. Davies made no comment.

049967	Alma Lodge, Bryntirion Road	Installation of an LPG gas tank.
--------	--------------------------------	----------------------------------

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

b. Applications for Consideration

No.	Location	Detail
050071	Land side of 24 Wern Avenue	Variation of Conditions to return caravan for one year

Members were reminded that in October 2011, they had expressed the view that the second request for an extension of time should be final for the temporary caravan siting. It appeared to Members that work had been substantially completed on the property, at least from the outside, and that the prior disruption to neighbours was now considerably lessened.

RESOLVED :

That application 050071 be supported.

(Note : Councillor T. Renshaw declared a personal interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or voting)

56. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Mr. G. Roberts	829.50	101494	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	151.42	101495	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Bagillt Bowling Club	480.00	101496	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976 (S.19)

57. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

The meeting considered revised Standing Orders, prepared by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, copies of which had been previously circulated. The Clerk advised the meeting that the Council's existing Standing Orders were last reviewed in 2005, and it was a requirement of the External Auditor that they were reviewed periodically. They were based on the latest National Association of Local Councils Model format, as forwarded by One Voice Wales, and were recommended for adoption.

RESOLVED :

That the revised Standing Orders constitute the periodic review, as required by the External Auditor and be approved with immediate effect.

58. BAGILLT FORESHORE

At the commencement of the meeting Members had been requested by the member of the public, in his capacity as Chairman of The Friends of Bagillt Foreshore, to support them. Reference had been made to the initial Feasibility Study, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members at the July meeting and deferred to this meeting for consideration. The object of the Study was to suggest ways of improving and enhancing the Bagillt foreshore area for the development of a permanent slipway, and other projects. In particular, the attention of Members had been drawn to the issue of coastal erosion, and the decision to protect/defend the existing line of the Coast, or to manage a withdrawal, that was pivotal to the future of the current harbour. The Council were therefore being urgently requested to support the Friends in raising this issue with relevant organisations as indicated in the Study. It was felt that without further coastal protection, there would be serious damage and loss of the harbour and the tip, and it would not be possible to undertake any improvements to the foreshore.

With these thoughts in mind, Members then gave consideration to the Feasibility Study which had been deferred from the July meeting. Both Councillors C.P. Owens and R.K. Jones felt that the Council should support the Friends in their aims, but expressed the view that it was unfortunate the Consultant's report did not give more detailed information. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that he had been in contact with the Environment Agency and they had undertook to confirm areas on the foreshore which were their responsibility and similarly he had also had discussions with the Property Section at Flintshire County Council. There was also the matter of the area owned by Veolia to be considered.

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to discussions initially held with the Delyn AM concerning the future of the Winding House at the former Bettisfield Colliery, which in turn had led to Cadw and then Flintshire Local Voluntary Council. A site meeting had been held with representatives of the latter to discuss ways forward. The co-operation of the owner of the building was needed and the involvement of a voluntary group, which had access to grants which were available from sources such as the Coalfields Regeneration Fund, and there was also the matter of the stability of the Winding House building itself. Councillor J. Williams indicated that he had been endeavouring to contact a knowledgeable former mining contact for advice.

The Chairman concurred with the view expressed, that the Study itself was lacking in some detail but, given the cost which had been incurred by the former Delyn Borough Council when requesting a particular report on this area, it was not surprising. Councillor T. Withington referred to the comment in the conclusions and recommendations concerning ownership issues preventing any scheme progressing.

Councillor A. Griffiths raised the aspect of dog fouling and, given the number of animals which were walked in the area from the Scrap Yard, there was a need for a further dog bin facility. He was advised by Councillor M.A. Reece that they would only include a facility which could be accessed by a vehicle and therefore any request would have to relate to the car park area, in the hope that it would encourage owners to behave responsibly.

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to the Feasibility Study, and the comments made by their Chairman at the commencement of the meeting, they be fully supported in their aims for the future of the Bagillt foreshore.
2. That the comments made with regard to the future of the Winding House at Bettisfield, be noted.

3. That in relation to the dog fouling situation in the vicinity of the Scrap Yard, the Clerk make representations accordingly to Flintshire County Council for additional bins.

59. GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHECK LIST

The meeting considered a document prepared by the Clerk, using the Wales Audit Office Check List, which was last reviewed in 2009, copies of which had been previously circulated. It had been the subject of consultation by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED :

That the revised Governance and Financial Management check list be noted.

60. MEETING WITH FLINTSHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED :

That the Chairman represent the Council at the next meeting with the Flintshire Standards Committee, to be held in Buckley on 1st October 2012.

61. POWER TO PROMOTE OR IMPROVE WELL BEING – CONSULTATION

The meeting considered a Welsh Office Consultation Document on Economic, Social or Environmental Well Being, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was under the Local Government Act 2000, as it affected Community Councils, which had the power conferred upon them by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

Councillor R.K. Jones expressed the view that, whilst the Government were giving the power to Local Authorities, it was not the case with regard to resources. The Clerk indicated that this matter was to be the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Clwyd Branch of Society of Local Council Clerks later this month and, given that any response on the document was not required until the 23rd November 2012, he could report back to the next meeting with any useful comments from his colleagues.

RESOLVED :

That consideration of the Consultation Document be deferred until the next meeting so as to enable the Clerk to report on the outcome of the meeting with fellow Clerks.

62. HEALTH CARE IN NORTH WALES

A letter from the Betsy Cadwaladar Health Board Trust on a Changes Consultation had been previously circulated to Members. Full details of the service areas subject to the Consultation was available from the website address indicated, as well as the comments form to complete and return.

The Clerk made reference to a Special County Forum which had been held on 12th September 2012 to discuss the proposals, at which Health Service representatives were present. At the presentation reference had been made to particular changes included in the document relating to Neonatal Intensive, Vascular Services, Older People's Mental Health, Community Services and Hospital Hubs. During the discussions that followed, issues had been raised regarding the Countess of Chester Hospital and the position after the 14 day Care at Home option and its effect on the Local Authority. The travelling aspect was also considered, particularly public services for those areas which were losing services at existing Community Hospitals, and whether the Holywell Community Hospital, especially in relation to bed spaces, could cope with being expected to deal with those presently using Flint Hospital.

Councillor T. Renshaw made reference to the series of meetings which were being held in Flint next Tuesday, and to the restrictions in numbers which could attend. In relation to the proposed new Primary Care Resource Centre for Flint, there was not as yet even an area designated and that before any existing facility was removed the new resource should be available.

The Clerk suggested that, as comments could be made on the Consultation until the 28th October 2012, it would perhaps be beneficial if he made contact with Flint Town Council to see what observations they intended making on the consultation, given that any changes to their Community Hospital also affected residents in Bagillt.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk contact Flint Town Council accordingly, and that further consideration of the consultation document be undertaken at the October Council meeting.

63. ONE VOICE WALES – TRAINING FOR COUNCILLORS

The Clerk advised that notification had been received of the training programme for Councillors for the remainder of 2012. The cost of each course as a Council Member was £30, and the Council would qualify for a bursary of up to £50 from the Welsh Government. Details had been included on the agenda of local courses at the Town Hall, Mold and other areas, and the topics covered.

RESOLVED :

That the information be noted.

64. NIGHT OUT SCHEME

The meeting considered a letter received from Flintshire County Council, copies of which had been previously circulated. Town and Community Councils in Flintshire were being contacted concerning the Night Out Scheme, which was a way of bringing high quality performances and which would normally cost audiences in the region of £20-£50 per seat, to local venues for a fraction of the cost. They were offering to attend a future meeting of the Council to explain the scheme more fully if the Council were interested.

RESOLVED :

That the letter be noted.

65. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12

The meeting considered a letter from the external auditor, Hacker Young, copies of which had been previously circulated at the meeting. The letter apologised for the delay in returning the form as, unfortunately, the documentation which had been hand delivered by the Clerk in June had been misfiled in error after receipt. It was therefore fortunate that it had been received in time for this meeting to enable the Council to undertake procedures required by the external auditor.

The auditor advised that there were no issues arising that the Council should consider prior to approving the Annual Return, the copy of the relevant section had also been circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED :

That the Annual Return be approved and signed by the Chairman in the appropriate section and forwarded to the external auditor, Hacker Young, by the requested date of 20th September 2012.

66. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Boot End

Reference was made by Councillor C.R. Williams to the condition of the roads in this area, particularly the surfacing, and referred to examples. Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he was aware of the situation and had held a site meeting with the Streetscene supervisor of the area, with a

view to rectifying the situation and would be approaching this Officer once again to ascertain what action was intended.

b. General Village Neglect

Councillor C.R. Williams indicated that there had been some improvements since he requested the Clerk to put this item on the agenda in July. However, some of the issues he had had been referred to in the comments made at the commencement of the meeting by a member of the public, in particular the condition of some buildings, overhanging trees and the whole length of the High Street needed attention.

With regard to the buildings issue, there was a particular property causing concern in the High Street and this had been the subject of a discussion between Councillor M.A. Reece and the Planning Department regarding possible action under Section 215, which now seemed an option and which could lead to enforcement if there was a failure to demolish. With regard to another old building, which has been derelict for more than 20 years, there was the possibility of a compulsory sale.

It is therefore felt by Members that with regard to the High Street, representation should be made to the County Council for work on the whole length to be included in their future works programme, especially given the evidence earlier on in the meeting by the Police concerning speeding vehicles.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk make representations to Flintshire County Council accordingly.

c. Zebra Crossing – High Street

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that, after consultation with the Clerk during the recess, a letter had been forwarded to McColl's requesting them to consider making a financial contribution to the installation of a Zebra Crossing, which would be close to their shop premises, but to date there had been no response. However, the Member felt that perhaps a letter should be sent to other local businesses, such as Roadrunner, to see if they were prepared to contribute.

Councillor C.R. Williams referred to the fact that it had been Flintshire County Council that had removed the previous Zebra Crossing in the High Street, notwithstanding the quotation they had given for a replacement, and that perhaps the former wiring would still be available for use. Councillor R.K. Jones suggested that further representations should be made to the County Council concerning the Zebra Crossing issue and

using the evidence provided by the Police from their speed survey to support its reinstallation.

RESOLVED :

1. That the Clerk, in consultation with Councillor M.A. Reece, consider which other local businesses could be approached for a possible financial contribution to reinstall a Zebra Crossing in the High Street.
2. That representations be made to Flintshire County Council requesting them to reconsider their previous decision concerning the Zebra Crossing, given the speeding traffic evidence reported to this meeting by the Police.

d. Community Caretaker – Play Equipment

Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams suggested that the Community Caretaker could be utilised to carry out periodic checks on play equipment as to whether any needed repair, in order that they did not get beyond the condition that led to the County Council removing them at short notice. In response, Councillor A. Griffiths indicated that it was the duty of the appropriate Section of the County Council to arrange for scheduled inspections of play equipment and that if this issue were raised with them they would undoubtedly point out that the Community Caretaker was not qualified to carry out such work. The Clerk suggested that he request the County Council to advise as to their inspection procedures for play area equipment and report to a future meeting.

RESOLVED :

That the suggestion of the Clerk concerning requesting further information from the County Council be approved.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Friday 14th September 2012
--------------------------------	--

Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
Councillor T. Renshaw	Planning application 050071	55(b)

.....
Chairman