

## **BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL GLAN ABER, Bagillt, on Wednesday 11<sup>TH</sup> September 2013.

**PRESENT : Councillor M.A. Reece (Chairman)**

**COUNCILLORS :** R. Davies, B.T. Doleman, A. Griffiths, G. Hotchkiss, R.K. Jones, S.J. Moore, C.P. Owens, T. Renshaw, C.R. Williams, Mrs. D.J. Williams and J. Williams

**APOLOGIES :** Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones and Mrs. N.M. Jones.

**IN ATTENDANCE :** Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), Mr. M. Taylor, Flintshire County Council (Minute No. 62).

### **60. 9/11 ANNIVERSARY**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that this was the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the tragic event in New York and requested Members to stand in silent tribute before the meeting commenced.

### **61. POLICING MATTERS**

The Chairman advised that PCSO Harvey had apologised for being unable to attend the meeting. The Police surgeries taking place at the Community Centre for this month had been previously circulated to Members. The Chairman made reference to the comments at the last meeting on motorbikes and updated the meeting accordingly.

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to problems being caused by the anti-social behaviour of a gang of youths in the Village, and to the damage that had been caused to the former Library building guttering and the need for the Fire Service to remove one of them from the roof. In addition, he expressed concerns that there were other serious issues taking place and he hoped there would have been a presence at today's meeting so that he could apprise him accordingly. He deplored the fact that the allocated local Policeman never seemed to be in the Village and had not attended a Council meeting, although it was noted that there was a PCSO presence. It was agreed that these concerns should be forwarded to the Police accordingly by the Clerk, with a request that they contact the Member concerned.

### **62. BAGILLT FORESHORE**

Following discussion at the July meeting, with particular reference to dog fouling and litter issues, Mike Taylor, Head Ranger of The Countryside Service at Flintshire County Council, had been invited to the meeting to update Members on Foreshore issues. Mike Taylor thanked the Council for inviting him to attend and commenced

by referring to the dog fouling issue. Whilst the situation had improved along some stretches of the Dee Foreshore, it was a particular problem at others, including the Bagillt area, and he indicated that this in part was due to the success in encouraging more visitors due to the coastal path who in turn walked their dogs. Councillor A. Griffiths referred to the issue of siting of dog bins, particularly the need for the area in the vicinity of the Dragon feature to be better provided to encourage responsible ownership, whilst Councillor G. Hotchkiss felt that further dog bins in general would assist. In response, the Officer made reference to the fact that they needed to be at locations which could be accessed by the appropriate Flintshire vehicle responsible for emptying and replacing the bin bags, a point which was supported by Councillor R.K. Jones. Reference was also made by Councillors R.K. Jones, M.A. Reece and C.P. Owens to access issues, both in the Lyons Den Fitness Centre area, and in general, to the Foreshore, whilst Councillor B.T. Doleman indicated that he had already been informed by one of the local Schools that, unless there was safer arrangements for crossing the dual carriageway, any interpretative centre as a result of the Heritage Trail would be difficult to access.

Mr. Taylor then went on to refer to the big D-Day which was the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual celebration and clean up of the coastline, which was taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013. He made reference to the role of volunteers and the help and support from numerous other organisations and as well as addressing litter problems and fly tipping there would be other projects, such as painting. In relation to Bettisfield, he acknowledged the help and assistance from the Friends of The Bagillt Foreshore, who had assisted with tree planting on the site.

Unfortunately, the Bettisfield Vintage Vehicle event, due to take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2013, had had to be postponed. The Officer indicated that the number of vehicles, which were military in nature, had risen from 10 to 40 and there had been discussions regarding the problems of access under the bridge and also the need for coning on the A548 on highway safety grounds. The latter was estimated to cost in the region of £1,200, and it was felt that there was insufficient time to organise funding and work out precise details with County colleagues. It was now hoped the event would take place in March 2014. He was hopeful that there would be various sources for funding, and he praised the organiser for his efforts to date and that he had been in agreement with this decision.

Members were then advised of discussions which had been taking place regarding the future of the Bettisfield Winding House and Lamp Room, with a view to it being preserved, and this included the owner of the site. To date, there was no planned relocation of the Scrap Yard and in the opinion of the Officer, the presence of this business assisted in deterring vandalism at the Winding House, due to their presence, as it was felt this could be a problem if they left the area before plans for securing the future of the building could be finalised.

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to the litter left on a particular access to the Foreshore, and was advised by Mr. Taylor of the assistance given by local

people, including the fishermen, in tidying up the area. Councillor G. Hotchkiss made reference to a particular public footpath access to the Foreshore on which there was only limited fencing and to the fact that fields often contained cattle, including an occasional bull, and he was advised of the legal position in relation to grazing animals and on the responsibility for fencing.

**RESOLVED :**

1. That Mr. M. Taylor be thanked for attending the meeting and reporting on various Foreshore issues, which were noted.
2. That representations be made to Flintshire County Council regarding vehicle access to the Foreshore in support of Councillors R.K. Jones and M.A. Reece in their County Member role.

**63. MINUTES**

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

**a. Minute No. 41(b) – Springfield Quarry**

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to discussions with a Flintshire Officer and representative of the major landowners Veolia. Whilst there was a mixed ownership situation at the site, Veolia had agreed to put in some fencing and signage, which should improve the situation.

**b. Minute No. 43(b) – Local Development Plan**

The Chairman advised that the appropriate Planning Officer at Flintshire County Council would be contacting the Clerk concerning the attendance of an officer at a future meeting of the Council.

**c. Minute No. 48 – Bagillt Foreshore**

Subject to noting that it was Councillor B.T. Doleman who had raised the issue of inviting Mike Taylor to a Council meeting and not Councillor J. Williams.

**RESOLVED :**

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **64. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman advised that he had presented Community Awards for the selected pupils on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, at Ysgol Merllyn and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at Ysgol Glan Aber. On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July he had laid a wreath at the War Memorial, Flint, together with the Flint Town Mayor, in memory of Drummer Rigby, and later in the morning he represented the Council at the RWF Freedom Ceremony in the town. He had also walked part of the Coastal Path with the Chair of Flintshire County Council and attended the visit to Bagillt Bowling Club on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

The Chairman indicated that he had used part of his allowance to meet the cost of a gate at Ysgol Glan Aber, including its painting (£300) and would also be using part to help with the provision of a car park facility at the Bowling Club.

## **65. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES**

### **a. Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)**

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the fact that as from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, Flintshire County Council would take over responsibility from North Wales Police for parking enforcement management throughout the County. From this date CPE Officers employed by that Authority would be on patrol on the streets and Council car parks, and would issue penalty charge notices to drivers of vehicles who had parked in contravention of any regulations in force at that time. This would include not being parked appropriately within a marked bay and all areas of the County would be covered as the staff concerned would be working shift patterns, including evenings, so this would include villages like Bagillt. In relation to the fines, these would be at the rate of £70 or £50, with the latter being for prompt payment, and Local County Councillors could not be approached to intervene. Whilst car parking charges from this date would be removed in Holywell, following the decision of their Town Council, they would remain in Mold.

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to the Off-Street Parking Places Order, on which the Community Council were being consulted and on which details had been circulated to Members during the Recess. In particular, reference was made to the inclusion of Victoria Road and to the views of the vast majority of residents to support some action and further discussions with Officers concerning certain matters. In particular, it related to the intended Off-Street Parking area, in the vicinity of the garages, and whether there were sufficient spaces available and the need for them to be clearly marked. It had been agreed that there would need to be further discussions in relation to this particular proposal, although it was noted that there was support for double yellow lines on one side of the street, and reference was also made to the position concerning disabled badge holders. Councillor J. Williams made particular reference to the parking area at the

rear by the garages and the usage made at present, but noted that it was to be reviewed.

In relation to the issue of double yellow lines, Councillor M.A. Reece also made reference to requests he had received from local residents regarding inappropriate parking in the vicinity of Ysgol Glan Aber during School opening and closing times, and also for their provision in the High Street, in the vicinity of the convenience store, to encourage customers to use either the store car park at the rear or the nearby public car park.

**RESOLVED :**

1. That the situation in relation to the change in CPE arrangements, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, be noted.
2. That in relation to the Off-Street Parking Places Order, Victoria Road, the views expressed by the local Member including the need for the overall scheme to be reviewed by Flintshire County Council, be supported.
3. That the views expressed by the local Member regarding double yellow lines in the vicinity of Ysgol Glan Aber, and also being extended in the vicinity of the convenience store, High Street, also be supported.

**b. Flooding – Regent House**

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to discussions held concerning alleviating the flooding problem, which involved Clwyd Alyn Housing Association. As it had been further established that much of the area concerned, which was needed for a wayleave for drainage, was in Welsh Assembly Government ownership, there would need to be further discussion, but in the meantime a temporary arrangement would be put in place to alleviate the situation.

**c. Former Library Building**

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to the letter which had now been forwarded to the Group, which involved Councillors B.T. Doleman and C.P. Owens, concerning the fact that they would shortly be granted a lease to take over the building. In response, Councillor B.T. Doleman welcomed the news and indicated that he had in fact received the letter referred to.

**d. Bagillt Heritage Society**

Councillor B.T. Doleman updated the meeting concerning progress in relation to the Heritage Trail and Information signs, which had now been erected, and to the fact that they were applying to the grant making body for a short

extension of time, due to the problems they had had earlier in the year with the bad weather, which had delayed matters.

## 66. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### a. Applications Determined – Recess Period

No.	Location	Detail
051005	1 Blodwen Cottages Highfield Road	First floor bedroom extension/ Loft conversion

It was noted the application had been supported.

051037	Land side of Sunnyside Top Hill	Vary condition No.1 of 045258 to extend planning commencement
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It was noted that this application had been supported.

051084	Former Congregational Church, High Street	Conversion of rear of former Church to two bed apartment
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It was noted that there was an objection to this partial development as there was a need for an overall scheme for the building. Concern had also been expressed regarding the pointing carried out to the front of the building.

### b. Applications

No.	Location	Detail
051154	8 Abbots Close	Single storey extension to form garden room
051155	'Hers', New Brighton Road	Loft conversion/rear dormer
051159	Land side of 24 Wern Avenue	Renewal of permission 046450 to allow siting of caravan for a further period of 12 months

### RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to application 051154, the proposal be supported.
2. That in relation to application 051155, the proposal be neither supported nor objected to and be left to the Planning Authority to determine.

3. That in relation to application 051159, this be neither supported nor objected to but concern be expressed that, in view of the previous applications, there should be no further extensions after this with the applicant being urged to complete the necessary work.

**Note :** Councillor T. Renshaw declared a personal interest in this item and took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon.

**c. Flintshire Local Development Plan**

The meeting considered the consultation letter and document which had been circulated to Members during the recess.

**RESOLVED :**

That consultation be noted.

**d. Changes to Householder Permitted Development Rights**

The meeting noted the information contained in a previously circulated Welsh Government e-mail received via One Voice Wales, which comes into effect on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**67. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED :**

That the following accounts be paid.

<b>Name</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Expenditure Powers</b>
Bagillt Bowling Club	480.00	101571	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976 (S.19)
Delyn Press	134.00	101572	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Mr. G. Roberts	838.55	101573	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	149.12	101574	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
North & Mid-Wales Association of Local Councils	25.00	101575	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

**68. COMMUNITY CARETAKER**

The meeting considered a report by the Clerk, copies of which had been previously circulated. In particular, it referred to a meeting that had been held shortly after the last Council meeting with the line manager for the Estate Caretaker Service in Flintshire Housing Department, from whom the Community Caretaker draws its

personnel, and this Authority had been represented by Councillors R.K. Jones and M.A. Reece. It had been agreed that the existing arrangements for notifying work required and having a week per month with no monitoring of the hours worked should cease at the end of July 2013. As from 1<sup>st</sup> August all work required to be carried out for this Authority would be sent in to the line manager by e-mail, and this would then lead to tickets being raised for forwarding to the Caretaker, with the actual hours worked being recorded and subject to the agreed schedule of rates. Thus, the Council would in future only pay for actual hours worked in the month, up to the maximum of 37, which was the equivalent of one week per month. As a result, the old system of paying £3,150 per six months had ceased and for the months of April to July the Council had paid the pro-rata rate of £2,100.

If there was no work required to be carried out by the Caretaker for this Council in this new arrangement then he would continue with Flintshire County Council duties, and when he had completed a job for this Authority and there was no further jobs to be attended to then he would return to Flintshire work. The views of Flintshire County Council on the Draft Service Level Agreement, which included the revised arrangements referred to above, were still awaited. In addition, the Clerk pointed out that in an e-mail he had forwarded to the line manager for the Caretaker a request to undertake the agreed seating arrangement at the Manor bus shelter as a priority, and had also spoken to the Caretaker but, to date, there had been no response. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that he would contact the Officer concerned to see if the agreed work ticket arrangement had been issued and advise the Clerk accordingly.

Councillor T. Renshaw advised that he had been in contact with a local contractor concerning undertaking the seating arrangement at the bus shelter and he indicated the work involved and the likely cost. He could supply the Clerk with the details if the Community Caretaker arrangement was not able to provide this facility at the priority the Council requires.

In relation to the old arrangement, the Clerk advised that during the month of July the Community Caretaker had arranged for the clearing and disposal of ivy and brambles on School walls, sprayed weed killer on the Community Centre car park, cleaned and disinfected the Council's bus shelters and cleaned the Notice Boards, cleared conifer branches (2 trailer loads from a lane at Top Hill) and removed cut down branches from the rear of Trem Afon (3 trailer loads).

**RESOLVED :**

1. That the report on the new arrangements concerning the Community Caretaker be noted, together with the duties undertaken in July, as now reported.
2. That if the Community Caretaker has not been issued with the appropriate works ticket for providing the seating at the Manor Estate bus shelter, the



Clerk be authorised to use the local contractor referred to at the meeting in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, at an estimated cost of £230.

**69. COMPARISON – ONE VOICE WALES (OVW) AND NORTH AND MID-WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NMWALC)**

The meeting considered a report by the Clerk on a comparison between the OVW and NMWALC organisations, as requested at the last meeting of the Council. In relation to OVW, it indicated the cost to the Council and its working arrangements. In relation to the Wrexham and Flintshire Area Committee, Councillor C.R. Williams had attended the latest meeting held in July and advised of the confusion there had been concerning its Charing. It was noted that OVW issued quarterly news magazines, had its own website and also sent regular e-mails advising of particular matters of interest, including Welsh Government consultations, to Member Councils. It also offered training for Councillors on relevant topics at venues throughout Wales and worked in conjunction with the Society of Local Council Clerks. The Clerk had made use of the advice services on a small number of occasions due to the fact that they had specialist advisors and had also been able to obtain model copies of the latest Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, which were used to update those used by the Council and were adopted in 2012. As to whether the Council got value for money of the membership fee, it was perhaps more of an insurance should the Authority every need particular legal or other advice, as well as ensuring that Members were kept up to date with all relevant issues that affected their part of the Local Government sector.

In relation to NMWALC, it had recently changed its name and currently had 33 Member Councils throughout North and Mid-Wales, and details were given of the current Members from the Flintshire area. The Council would be eligible for membership, based on population. The Secretary was the Clerk to Welshpool Town Council and they had a section on their website concerning this body. It held quarterly meetings for all Members and an Annual Conference. With regard to the latter, this had been attended in July by Councillor C.R. Williams, who indicated that it was a well organised arrangement and he had enjoyed the experience, apart from the address and manner used by the Police Commissioner.

The Clerk indicated that he had discussed the Association with a fellow Clerk of a member Council and its value as a networking and lobbying Group and the fact that it managed to keep its fees low as it did not directly employ any staff or offer any advisory type services to members.

Whilst the two organisations were not directly comparable, due to the different format and services, the Clerk suggested an option in the light of the information in the report and the reports made by Councillor C.R. Williams.

**RESOLVED :**

1. That the suggestions of the Clerk, that the Council join the North and Mid-Wales Association of Local Councils, with the fee for 2013/14 of £25.00 being paid accordingly, and that at the November Council meeting, when discussing initial budget issues for the next financial year, a decision be made on whether to be members of both or either in order to make appropriate provision in estimates for the next financial year, be agreed.
2. That C.R. Williams be the Council's representative at the NMWALC quarterly meetings.

**70. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13**

The meeting considered a letter received from the external auditor, Hacker Young, copies of which had been previously circulated. The letter indicated that there were no issues arising that the Council should consider, prior to approving the Annual Return, a copy of the relevant section also being previously circulated.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**71. MEETING WITH FLINTSHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED :**

1. That Councillor C.R. Williams, together with the Clerk, represent the Council at the meeting, which will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Connah's Quay.
2. That in relation to the further offer of training for Community Councillors on Code of Conduct, a place be requested for Councillor G.R. Hotchkiss, which was to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at Flint Town Hall.

**72. RECESS PERIOD**

It was noted that during the recess period the Chairman and Vice Chairman were consulted on the report concerning the Community Caretaker and future membership of Council organisations, agreed the visit to Bagillt Bowling Club, which took place on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013, approved the attendance of Councillor G. Hotchkiss at two OVV training courses, and also the response to the Post Office Consultation.

**73. BAGILLT POST OFFICE – PROPOSED RE-OPENING**

All Members were consulted on the proposed re-opening at the new premises, (McCull's, High Street) during the recess, and in the light of the views received, it was agreed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman that it should be fully supported, with reference made to the alternative opportunities for parking at the rear of the premises and the nearby public car park.

**RESOLVED :**

That the report be noted.

**74. DESIGNATED PERSONS' ORDER CONSULTATION**

The meeting considered information received from the Welsh Government, copies of which had been previously circulated. In particular, reference had been made to the fact that Town and Community Councils were also named Community Planning partners and given their democratic mandate views were being sought on whether and how they could contribute to local collaborative scrutiny and if it was necessary to designate them in their first phase.

**RESOLVED :**

That the consultation document be noted.

**75. CLERK'S SALARY**

The Clerk reported to the meeting on a national salary award, on which he had been notified.

**RESOLVED :**

1. That for the purposes of the existing contract arrangements with the Clerk, the increase in the current salary scale be endorsed, subject to 2 below.
2. That in the light of the request made by the Clerk concerning personal circumstances, the increase be not implemented and that his salary remain at the present level, as requested.

**76. FOOD SUPPLIERS – FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Reference was made by Councillor C.R. Williams to the fact that it appeared that Flintshire County Council were only allowing large companies to tender for the provision of food supplies to their various establishments, which worked to the

detriment of local smaller firms. Councillor R.K. Jones suggested that the Clerk contact the Procurement Officer in the Lifelong Learning Directorate for the necessary information in relation to this matter and report back to the Council.

**RESOLVED :**

That the Clerk contact Flintshire County Council accordingly and report back to the Council.

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

<b>Date of Council Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013</b>
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<b>Member</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Minute No. Refers</b>
Councillor T. Renshaw	Planning application 051159	66(b)

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**Chairman**