

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on Wednesday 8th January 2014.

PRESENT : Councillor M.A. Reece (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillor R.K. Jones

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) and Mr. J. Williams, Flintshire County Council (minute No. 115)

113. VACANCY – EAST WARD – CO-OPTION

The Clerk reported to the meeting that he had received one expression of interest to be co-opted, from Mr. C. Williams, a former Member and past Chairman.

RESOLVED :

That Mr. Collin Williams be co-opted to fill the vacancy in the East Ward.

As the new Member of the Council was present, he signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Officer in the presence of the Clerk, which now enabled him to take part in the remainder of the meeting. The Clerk passed documents over to Councillor Williams relating to Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED :

That Councillor C. Williams be welcomed to membership once again of the Council, and that the forwarding of information in relation to the Authority, as indicated by the Clerk, be noted.

114. POLICING

PCSO Harvey was not in attendance and Members noted the arrangements for Police Surgeries at the Community Centre for January.

115. STREESCENE SUPERVISOR FOR BAGILLT AREA

Mr. John Williams, Area Supervisor for Streetscene, was in attendance to update Members and respond to any issues. He made reference to issues raised at the last

meeting he had attended in October, concerning dog fouling and fencing of Footpath No. 75 on the Foreshore, issues which he had brought to the attention of colleagues at the County Council. In relation to the footpath matter Councillor G. Hotchkiss advised that, whilst the farmer had replaced a section of the fencing, there still remained more to be done to replace what had been removed when work had been carried out in the area by the Environment Agency, which had led to the removal of the original fencing. The Clerk indicated he would take this matter up again with the County Council.

Reference was made by Councillor T. Renshaw to the issue of sewerage getting into a storm water drain at the rear of the Convenience Store in the High Street, an issue he had raised on previous occasions. It was understood that, at a recent visit by a representative of Natural Resources Wales, they had merely looked at the situation which, with the recent wet weather, had looked clear, but had not taken a sample. Mr. Williams indicated that he had visited the site with the Local County Councillor, and also discussed the matter with other colleagues. The Chairman advised that it was the view of Natural Resources Wales that nothing further would happen until they received complaints regarding a smell emanating from the storm water drain. In relation to Natural Resources Wales, Councillor G. Hotchkiss made reference to their inadequate response when there had been the factory fire, which had affected plants and metal work in his garden area.

Councillor R. Davies enquired if the mini-sweeper also cleaned pavement areas as well as roads, and he was assured by Mr. Williams that this was the case and that it worked in conjunction with the larger sweeping machine. The Officer noted that the area around the Members' property required attention. Reference was made by Councillor C.R. Williams to a disturbed grid in the High Street, in the vicinity of the Post Box, and was advised by Mr. Williams that he had himself on a previous occasion put it back and it appeared the problem was being caused by a particular vehicle, which he had brought to the attention of the local PCSO. In addition, he referred to the cost of replacing the grid if it became too damaged.

Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams made reference to the lamp post issue at Tyddyn Mesham, which she had raised at the last meeting and which still required attention. She was advised by the Officer that there could be a delay if it was a Utility Company issue but, if it were a County Council matter, he would ensure that it was brought to the attention of the appropriate person. In relation to lighting, the Chairman referred to a light damaged by vehicles at Upper Riverbank, and also to the fact that attention was required at some of the newly tarmaced area at Riverbank in relation to water accumulations, following the recent wet weather. Councillor J. Williams referred to an item later on in the agenda concerning bus shelters, and to the matter of re-surfacing a driveway entrance and lowering of a kerb. In response, the Officer confirmed that any such work would need to be carried out with the consent of the Highway Authority, for which there would be a time delay and in relation to the lowering of kerbs in the prescribed manner, the cost was likely to be in the region of £1,400. Reference was made by Councillor S.J. Moore to the issue of

the location of the dog bin at Merllyn Lane, which required better siting and which was noted by the Officer. On the issue of dog fouling, Councillor A. Griffiths made reference to the problem on the footpath that children use going to Ysgol Merllyn, and for the need for attention from the Warden Service, which was also noted by the Mr. Williams.

The Chairman thanked the Mr. Williams for attending the meeting and it was noted that he was next due at the April meeting.

116. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th November 2013.

a. Minute No. 93(b) – High Street Car Park – Barrier

Councillor A. Griffiths indicated that the barrier issue at the High Street car park had still not been sorted in order to prevent inappropriate vehicles entering the car park area.

b. Minute No.104 - Bus Services – Changes Request

Councillor C.R. Williams referred to the issue of the bollards, which was raised during the discussion of this item at the last meeting from a member of the public who had been present. It was noted that a petition was being organised through The Blossoms public house to present to the Local County Councillor for the retention of the bollards.

The Clerk advised that he had received a response from the County Council advising that, although their subsidised bus services were currently under review owing to funding cuts, they could consider requests for improvements to services where viable. They would ensure the concerns raised by the Council were brought to the attention of the bus operators and investigate whether the requests were feasible when they next undertook a review of services.

c. Minute No. 107 – Bus Shelter Seating

The Clerk advised that, although Councillor R.K. Jones could not be present at the meeting, he had asked him to raise the issue of a complaint received about the bench in the Manor Estate bus shelter, which was taking up too much room, and causing the public to get soaked as they were unable to get far enough into the bus shelter. There were also complaints of broken bottles and glass fragments and undesirables using the facility as a doss house and toilet. The Clerk suggested that these concerns be brought to the attention of Councillor D. Cox, a Member of Flintshire County and Flint Town Councils,

who lived in this area and had initially raised the issue on behalf of local residents with Councillor R.K. Jones, and that a report be made to the next meeting, which was accordingly agreed.

d. Minute No. 111(a) – Footpath No. 10 – Obstruction

The Clerk read out to the meeting a response from Flintshire County Council indicating that this was a very complex matter and on which extensive research had been undertaken in the past. The matter had been delayed for some time due to the lack of resources, which was regrettable and for which they apologised. However, a Rights of Way Officer has now been appointed to work on the case and further documentary evidence was being obtained to assist and it was hoped that early in the New Year they would be able to report to the Council with an update as to the progress made.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th November 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

117. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman made reference to the fact that there had been five breaches of the sea defences, which had led to flooding the of field areas and to the work being undertaken by the landowner to repair. He was particularly concerned on the view of some County Officers regarding this issue and to the fact that, unless proper remedial action was taken, it could have an impact on the embankment and affect the railway line, bypass and lead to flooding of local residents property. He suggested that representations should accordingly be made to the County Council for support of the work being undertaken and was supported in these comments by Councillor C.P. Owens. Councillor Owens also referred to a medieval monument being affected by the flooding, and to the fact that the Heritage Society were hoping to obtain grant aid to make improvements. The Chairman indicated that he had held a meeting with the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Environment Director concerning this matter, and to the free stone that could be made available from a nearby site to make repairs. The landowners and tenant farmer were not supportive of matters being left which would result in flooded fields.

RESOLVED :

That the Chairman be supported in the views he had put forward as Local County Councillor and that representations be made to Flintshire County Council accordingly.

2. The Chairman indicated that he had been invited to attend a meeting at Flint High School concerning the Sixth Form situation and the changes proposed by the Education Authority. Other Members indicated that they would also like to attend to support the Chairman and it was agreed that as soon as a date had been notified the Clerk would advise all Members of the Council.

118. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Community Review

A report prepared by the Clerk had previously been circulated advising that, together with the Chairman, he had attended a meeting held on 12th December 2013 at Flint, encompassing the Councils of Bagillt, Connah's Quay, Flint, Halkyn, Holywell, Northop, Northophall, Queensferry, Sealand and Shotton. The purpose of the area meeting had been to remind those present of the purpose and why a Community Review had been undertaken in Flintshire, as well as the process. In relation to the latter, Flintshire had produced draft proposals, following initial comments received from Local Councils, and had commented on what was achievable and there was now another opportunity to make representations. The meeting proceeded to go through the draft proposals for each area covered and in relation to Bagillt it was to agree with the Council that there should be no change to the present warding or Council numbers, as it was considered that the current arrangements provided effective and convenient local government. The intended approach by Flintshire had been previously reported to the Council in November and it was noted that a comments form concerning this authority's position had been forwarded.

b. Councillor Training

Councillor G. Hotchkiss commented upon the One Voice Wales training session he had attended at Mold on 21st November 2013 concerning the Council meeting, which he had found to be both interesting and helpful as a new Member.

On the issue of Councillor training, the Clerk advised that he had received the programme from One Voice Wales for the next six months. He had consulted Councillor C.R. Williams on a session relating to Charing skills, which was to be held at Mold in early March, and on which the Member had expressed an interest in attending.

RESOLVED :

That Councillor C.R. Williams be authorised to attend the One Voice Wales training session to be held at Mold on Charing skills, which it was noted would cost £30, as the Council at that time would still be in membership of that organisation.

c. Save The Library Group

Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that the planned opening for the Library was on Friday 7th February 2014, but that this was subject to completion of legal formalities between the County Council and the Group. The Group were looking for more volunteers to assist with the running of the community facility. In relation to furniture for the premises, reference was made by Councillor T. Renshaw to the surplus chairs available from Flint Town Council.

Councillor A. Griffiths wondered if the Library facility would once again be used for Polling Station purposes once it was up and running, which could in turn generate some income. The Clerk indicated he would draw this matter to the attention of the Electoral Office at Flintshire County Council.

In relation to insurance of the premises once the legal formalities had been completed, the Clerk advised had had been in consultation with Councillor C.P. Owens and Tennyson Insurance. An insurance quotation, in the sum of £337.51 had been received, which was acceptable to the Group, and he reminded Members that at the November meeting the Council had agreed to financially assist by way of meeting an appropriate cost, such as insurance.

RESOLVED :

That the intended opening date of the community facility at the Library, subject to completion of legal formalities, be noted and it was agreed, subject to this being satisfactorily concluded, the Council would meet the cost of the insurance premium, as now reported by the Clerk.

119. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Determined – Recess Period

No.	Location	Detail
051325	Betting Office, No. 11 Bagillt Arms, High Street	Demolish existing and erect five apartments

Given the reduced number of flats, each with parking, it was the view of Ward Members it now seemed acceptable and the Council no longer objected.

051523	Unit 1-2 Manor Industrial Estate	Erection of three external silos 4m dia. x 12m high
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The proposal was supported.

b. Applications

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

120. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

a. Recess

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
C.P. Owens	160.00	101597	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
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Flintshire County Council	2,996.40	101599	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976

RESOLVED :

That the action of the Chairman and Vice Chairman in approving the above accounts during the recess be endorsed.

b. For Payment

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Flintshire County Council	750.00	101601	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976 (S.19)
Ysgol Merllyn	138.49	101603	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Soc. of Local Council Clerks	129.00	101604	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
One Voice Wales	30.00	101605	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
North & Mid-Wales Assoc. of Local Councils	14.50	101606	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Ysgol Glan Aber	93.52	101607	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Mr. G. Roberts	871.60	101608	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	149.12	101509	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)

121. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on Estimates for 2014/15, 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 2013/14. Members were reminded of

the discussions and decisions made at the November meeting, as well as other factors being taken into account in preparing the schedule in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

In relation to the Chairman's allowance which had been set at the current figure as had happened for the past three years, the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Report indicated that the level for 2014/15 would again be left to Councils to decide. The Clerk's salary again remained the same for next year, even though there may be another increase as this year in the National Scale, which Members had noted and did not apply at his request but, for next year, the figure for expenses had been slightly increased as it had been the same for the past three years.

Regarding playschemes, the Council were awaiting a decision from Flintshire County Council for next year, and had offered again to participate for four weeks at both schemes in the Village.

In relation to play areas, a letter had been received from Flintshire County Council indicating that match funding was being proposed for 2014/15 in their budget and requesting a bid by 1st January 2014. In accordance with the decision taken at the November meeting, and in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, a bid of £10,000 in respect of Bron Haul was submitted and it would be March before it was known if it had been successful. The letter pointed out that there were no sites in Bagillt ranked red or most urgent, but that there were five in the amber category at Pen Lon, Bron y Wern, Manor Estate, Trebor Avenue (which was being improved in this financial year) and Bron Haul (which has been classed as in the most need of investment).

In relation to play area improvements for the future, the Chairman and Vice Chairman were recommending the Council to increase the amount available in balances by up to a further £5,000, which would still mean that the precept would be lower than last year. The effects of this and also in terms lesser increases were detailed in the report.

RESOLVED :

1. That a precept of £38,925 be made on Flintshire County Council for 2014/15, which equated to a Band D charge of £26.68, a decrease of 4.88% (£1.37) on the last financial year.
2. That the amounts indicated in the previously circulated expenditure head for estimates purposes for 2014/15, be approved as circulated, subject to an increase of £5,000 for play area improvement expenditure being placed in balances.

3. That the level of funding agreed at the last meeting be formally included in the budget for the next financial year to enable maintenance of the bowling green at the Bagillt Bowling Club.
4. That in relation to the Community Centre, the Bagillt Community Association be advised that the Council would once again be making appropriate provision to continue the previous financial assistance towards the running of the Centre for the next financial year, subject to the previously agreed forwarding of financial details and being advised as to when future meetings were held on Community Centre issues to allow the Council the opportunity to be represented.
5. That in the matter of playschemes and play areas, it be noted that Flintshire County Council had been notified of the Council's participation for the next financial year, with the amounts required being included in the expenditure heads in the report as previously agreed.

122. LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS 2014/15

The meeting considered a report of the 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 the 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 2014/15.

123. 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 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED :

That the details circulated for the third quarter be noted.

124. BUS SHELTERS

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk, copies of which had been previously circulated. At the November meeting the Council considered the issue of seating provision in bus shelters, following the installation at the Manor Estate, and the purpose of this report was to update Members on this and other issues.

a. Riverbank Bus Shelter

The landowners had agreed in writing to seating being installed, subject to conditions on which the Chairman and Vice Chairman had been consulted. These related to the Council being responsible for erection and maintenance and ensuring it does not affect the wall, which acted as a garden boundary. In addition, and in the event of the seating leading to behavioural issues, and not being resolved to the satisfaction of the landlords, then following a notice in writing the Council would arrange for its removal within 21 working days of the said receipt of the notice. The contractor had advised that the cost of installing the seating would be £230, and be of the same size and type as that on the Manor Estate, except it would be bolted to the wall at the back and not the floor.

The landlords had requested that the Council consider funding the repair of the tarmac pathway leading to the driveway as a good will gesture. They were asked to indicate the likely cost and had replied that it would be around £400. This would include topping the existing tarmac and dropping the left hand side of the kerb. The driveway had been widened due to safety concerns as this was situated near the entrance and due to the bus shelter the visibility was restricted when entering and exiting the property. Members were reminded of comments made by Councillor J. Williams and the Streetscene Supervisor earlier in the meeting, particularly in relation to the role of the Highway Authority, and the issue of kerbs. Councillor T. Renshaw confirmed the role of the Highway Authority in relation to access to and from properties across pavements and that it would require a formal application from the landowner.

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to the seating conditions required by the landlords, the action of the Chairman and Vice Chairman be approved and that the estimate from the contractor for the cost of installation also be accepted with details of what was planned being forwarded to the landlords for comment.
2. That the landlords be advised in relation to the goodwill gesture request concerning the tarmac pathway, that it was inappropriate at the present time for the Council to consider such an issue as it would require the formal consent of the Highway Authority, particularly in relation to the kerb issue.

b. Boot End Stone Shelter

It was noted that during the recess the Chairman and Vice Chairman had agreed to a request from Dangerpoint, a Charitable Interactive Safety Education Centre in Talacre, for permission to erect a small sign advertising their establishment, subject to conditions notified in the report. It was noted

that the contractor had advised that the cost of installing the seating at the shelter would be £210, and was shorter than that provided at the Manor Estate to allow for a pushchair. In addition, he provided a cost for changing the observation hole to enable it to be used sitting down and this would be £110 and involve being made longer with a steel plate as a lintel.

RESOLVED :

That the quotations received from the contractor be accepted for estimates purposes for the next financial year but that a formal decision on whether to proceed be deferred for the time being until the outcome of the complaints concerning the Manor Estate seating had been resolved.

c. High Street/Tyddyn Mesham – Stone Bus Shelter

The contractor had advised that the cost of installing the seating would be £230 and the same as the one at Manor Estate.

RESOLVED :

That the quotation from the contractor be accepted for estimates purposes for the next financial year but that a decision on whether to proceed be deferred for the time being, pending the outcome of the complaints concerning the seating installed at the Manor Estate bus shelter.

125. COMMUNITY POLLS

The meeting considered a consultation document from the Welsh Government, copies of which had been previously circulated. The document explained how a Community Poll could arise and how the Parish and Community Meetings (Polls) Rules 1987 presently applied. It was in relation to the 1987 Rules that the Welsh Government wished to consult, with a view to amendment. The consultation document asked for comments on four questions. The Clerk advised that this was an item to be considered at the meeting later this month of the North and Mid-Wales Association of Town and Community Councils and he indicated the suggested responses, which had been prepared by the Secretary of that organisation.

RESOLVED :

1. That the following responses be agreed to the questions raised in the Consultation document :-
 - a. That the minimum notice of five days before a poll was held, be agreed as sufficient in principle however, the period should refer to five working days, which would not include weekends or Bank holidays.

- b. That voting at a Community Poll should only be by attending a Polling Station, with postal voting not being allowed as it would add to the cost, and if people were really interested they would turn out to a Polling Station.
 - c. If people can only vote by attending a Polling Station, then the Station should be open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. to allow all to be able to attend, including those working during the day, and not the present five hours.
 - d. That the same facilities for disabled voters be available, as required for other Polls.
2. That Councillor C.R. Williams, when he attends the next meeting of the North and Mid-Wales Association advise them that Bagillt Community Council supports the suggested responses prepared by their Secretary, and would be conveying this to the Welsh Government in response to their consultation.

126. RECESS

Other than issues referred to on the agenda regarding Accounts for Payment and Estimates of Income and Expenditure, the Chairman and Vice Chairman were consulted on agreeing for a sign to go in a bus shelter, to make representations to Flintshire County Council Planning Department concerning the present state and activities being undertaken at the former Victoria Inn, and to request the possible introduction of double yellow lines at Park Road with its junction with Bryntirion Road.

In relation to the Victoria Inn issue, Councillor G. Hotchkiss requested an update and was advised by Councillor M.A. Reece that, due to the fact the appropriate Enforcement Officer was on extended sick leave, he had taken the matter up with the Head of Planning and another Officer had been allocated this work and was due to visit the premises and report accordingly.

127. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Pump House – Access to Foreshore

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that, rather than pursue three issues at the same time, the Rights of Way Section at the County Council wished to deal with each separately and would be commencing with getting the Pump House access to the Foreshore placed on the Definitive Map, following the signed statements which had been received by the Authority.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be noted.

b. Planning Application – Bagillt Bowling Club

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he was suggesting that the Community Council apply for planning permission, on behalf of the Bowling Club, for an area of land which was surplus to County Council requirements and could be converted for use as a parking area. In doing this the planning application fee would be halved and that he himself would be paying this cost out of his Chairman's allowance.

RESOLVED :

That the suggestion be agreed and that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, submit the necessary planning application on behalf of the Bagillt Bowling Club.

c. Units 6/8 Manor Industrial Estate

Councillor T. Renshaw referred to these Units, which were used for double glazing purposes, and to the fact that the emergency access at the rear was overgrown, and it had not been possible to get the landlords, Flintshire County Council, to take the necessary action.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made to Flintshire County Council to attend to this issue accordingly.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 8th January 2014
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of Personal Interest.		

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Chairman