

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL GLAN ABER, Bagillt, on Wednesday 19th February 2014.

PRESENT : Councillor M.A. Reece (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillors R.K. Jones, S.J. Moore and C.R. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) and PCSO Smith (minute No. 129)

128. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

There was one member of the public present who indicated that he wished to speak on issues covered in the minutes of the January meeting. He made reference to the speed sign at Bryntirion Road, which required better calibration as he had passed it at 35 mph and it had not lit up. This was noted by PCSO Smith and also the Clerk, who would take the matter up with the Highway Authority. The request he had made previously concerning double yellow lines on the junction of Park Road and Bryntirion Road had been responded to by Flintshire County Council, who indicated that they were reluctant to do so in residential areas but it would be considered at some future date after the large backlog of requests had been dealt with. The member of the public present noted the comments made in the minutes concerning the matter of a petition supporting the retention of the bollards, which he had suggested for removal as it could facilitate a change to the present bus service route.

129. POLICING

The Clerk advised that PCSO Harvey, the Officer for the Bagillt area, was unable to be present due to the fact that the scheduled meeting due last week had been cancelled because of adverse weather conditions. He had however arranged for his colleague to attend, and the Chairman welcomed PCSO Mike Smith to the meeting. Reference was made by Councillor C. Williams to the recent firearms incident in the Village, which had been responded to by the Police, and was advised by the Officer that he had no further information to report in relation to this matter. Councillor T. Renshaw expressed the view that the Council could not expect their PCSO to attend every meeting, and perhaps it would be better if it was left as an open invitation with the caveat that if there was a particular issue a Member wished to raise, then he should bring it to either the attention of the Clerk or Chairman, who could request attendance. In addition, if the Officer himself wished to report a particular matter to Members at a meeting then he could use the open invitation to come along and do so accordingly. The Chairman reminded Members of the Police

surgeries which were held regularly at the Community Centre and would, on occasions, be undertaken at Trem Afon and upon which they received notification. He indicated that Council Members were also free to attend these sessions and were welcome to do so.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Smith for attending the meeting.

130. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2014.

a. Minute No. 116(a) – 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, and it was agreed that the Clerk once again take this matter up with Flintshire County Council.

b. Minute No. 116(d) – Footpath No. 10 - Obstruction

The Chairman advised that an Officer was now actively involved concerning making progress on the longstanding obstruction to Footpath No.10. In relation to Footpath No. 75, which had also been raised at the last meeting, Councillor G. Hotchkiss indicated that he had made further contact with Flintshire County Council on this issue and had pointed out the original route from which the footpath had been diverted and had been advised that it would take some time to sort out this particular problem. Whilst on the matter of footpaths, the Chairman advised that the present obstructed route between the former British Legion Club and Merllyn Lane was now to receive attention from Flintshire County Council by way of a contractor, and was expected to cost in the region of £5k.

c. Minute No. 121 – Estimates of Income and Expenditure

The Clerk reported to the meeting that Flintshire County Council was awaiting news from the Welsh Assembly Government regarding the grant which enabled them to fund their part of the Summer Playscheme Programme, and reminded Members that they had agreed to make provision in the budget for next year at the last meeting, in the hope that the scheme would be able to continue. The Clerk had previously circulated information on the numbers that had used the two Schemes in the Village in 2013.

d. Minute No. 127(b) – Bagillt Bowling Club

The Chairman advised that the planning application would be submitted shortly to the County Council.

e. Minute No. 127(c) – Units 6/8 Manor Industrial Estate

The Clerk reported that a reply had been received from Flintshire County Council indicating that, whilst they did not own the Units concerned, they did own the surrounding amenity area of land and had arranged for vegetation to be cut back to remove the impedance of egress to the emergency doors located to the rear of Unit No. 8. Having regard to their further comment concerning similar circumstances in the future, Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that the problem had been reported to the County Council but no action had been taken until approached by this Authority.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

131. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman made reference to the meeting held at Flint High School concerning sixth form provision, which Councillors T. Renshaw, B.T. Doleman and C.R. Williams had also attended. Reference was made by Councillor T. Renshaw to the fact that both High Schools in Flint collaborated in relation to sixth form provision as they were within walking distance and did not wish to be part of the Deeside Hub. It was hoped that this arrangement could continue for at least a further twelve months, whilst Councillor C.P. Owens also referred to the collaboration by other High Schools in the Flintshire area concerning sixth form provision.
2. Reference was made by the Chairman to the re-opening of the Library, which took place on the 7th February 2014, and had been well attended, including by Members of the Council and the local press. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that, for the present, until they had sufficient volunteers to hopefully open the building on six days a week, they were doing so initially on a Friday between from 10.00 a.m. for six hours and for two hours on a Saturday from 10.00 a.m. They had received contact from a number of other organisations who were interested in also using the facility for other than a Library, such as a Credit Union and WEA.

132. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Determined - On-Line Consultation Period

No.	Location	Detail
051601	Land adj. Cambrian Station road	Change of use of vacant land for car park extension

It was noted that the proposal had been supported.

051693	20 Cannon Drive	Front porch extension
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It was noted that the proposal had been supported.

b. Applications

The Clerk reported that no applications had been received since the agenda had been printed.

133. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :-

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Tennyson Insurance Ltd.	337.51	101610	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976 (S.19)
North & Mid Wales Local Councils Assoc.	14.50	101611	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Tennyson Insurance Ltd.	929.20	101612	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976 (S.19)
Mr. G. Roberts	794.35	101613	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	149.12	101614	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)

134. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The meeting considered a report by the Clerk on applications for financial assistance, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. In addition to the three applications detailed in the report, the Clerk reported that the Chairman had agreed to a further application that had been received since the agenda was despatched to also be considered from the Flintshire Diabetes Voluntary Group.

There was currently a sum of £400 remaining in the budget for such applications in the current financial year.

RESOLVED :

That in accordance with Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, the following donations be agreed :-

Organisation	£	Cheque No.
New Brighton Chapel Action Group	50.00	101616
St. Kentigern Hospice, St. Asaph	100.00	101617
Marie Curie Cancer Care	50.00	101618
Flintshire Diabetes Voluntary Group	50.00	101615

135. BUS SHELTERS

Members considered a report by the Clerk, copies of which had been previously circulated at the meeting.

a. Riverbank Bus Shelter

Since the last meeting the Chairman had met with the landowner and the issue of the question of liability was raised in the event of a claim from public usage of a shelter. The Clerk had checked this matter with the Council's insurers, who confirmed cover subject to there being risk assessments and records. The latter made it possible for the Company to defend inappropriate claims and ensured future premiums were not necessarily raised. The Chairman had undertaken an inspection of the four shelters and advised Councillor T. Renshaw of matters that required attention, as he was in the course of preparing risk assessment paperwork, which he would pass on to the Clerk for record purposes. The Clerk indicated that, following the meeting, he would convey the information on liability to the landowner.

RESOLVED :

1. That the matter of risk assessment for all bus shelters, and the action now proposed, as reported, be supported for insurance company purposes.
2. That, in relation to the Riverbank bus shelter, that the landowner be informed the Council were still of the view that it wishes to provide seating, notwithstanding the previously agreed condition regarding its removal and, a prior site meeting with the contractor with Councillors M.A. Reece and T. Renshaw to establish the precise width and length, which was appropriate.

3. That Mr. Tony Lloyd (the Gate Maker) be engaged to undertake the provision of seating once the landowner has confirmed acceptance, and at the same he also be requested to undertake the pointing works required, as identified in the risk assessment for this shelter.

b. Manor Estate Bus Shelter

A survey had been undertaken by Councillor D. Cox of 70 properties in the area, and had received responses from 20, with 15 being in favour of retention and five, located in Reynolds Road, requesting removal. Councillor Cox feels this should be retained for the present.

The Clerk advised that Councillor R.K. Jones, who was unable to be present, had sent an e-mail advising of another issue of unacceptable activity and disgusting mess as a result of late night behaviour in the shelter, and had asked that consideration be given to removing the seating and re-locating to another shelter.

The risk assessment, referred to above, had revealed a serious fault with the roofing, which is prone to further wind damage. It had been inspected by the contractor who had installed the seating, in the company of the Chairman, and he had quoted a price of £300 for removing the damaged sheeting and replacing with galvanised corrugated sheeting plus adding two roof supports to prevent future sagging. It was probable that it would take two weeks to complete due to the dependence on the supplier. The Chairman indicated that there was also need for the undersheeting which would remain to be painted.

RESOLVED :

1. That, notwithstanding the comments received from Councillor R.K. Jones, it was agreed that the seating provided at Manor Estate bus shelter should remain for the present.
2. That Tony Lloyd (the Gate Maker) be engaged to undertake the emergency roof repairs for the quotation of £300, and that when carrying out this work he also be requested to undertake the painting required of the undersheeting on the remaining roof.

136. BAGILLT FORESHORE

The meeting noted correspondence received from Sandy Mewies AM on flood defences, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. The Clerk reported on a consultation received on the Welsh National Marine Plan, which was available for the perusal of Members.

Councillor C.P. Owens made reference to the Ropewalk which was in urgent need of attention, and on which he had had consultation with the landowner. In particular, it was felt that if the Ropewalk could be listed then it would enable the landowner to have possible access to funding for preservation purposes and requested the Council to support this issue which was agreed. He also made reference to the work undertaken by the landowner concerning repairs to the sea defences. On the sea defence issue, Councillor M.A. Reece also commented on the work undertaken by the landowner, following subsequent permission from National Resources Wales for access to areas under their ownership. Councillor G. Hotchkiss also reported on this issue in relation to particular high tides which could breach the defences and the need for continued maintenance. Councillor A. Griffiths raised the issue of Greenpark Lake and was advised by the Chairman accordingly.

137. COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY

The Clerk indicated that this document had been published on the Welsh Government website on 20th January 2014, and he had included relevant pages of this large publication for Members' information as it related to merging the of Unitary Authorities and also to Town and Community Councils,. Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that he supported the reduction of Unitary Authorities on the lines being suggested by the Williams' Commission, even if necessary also adjusting external boundaries, which at present was not proposed. However, there should be a Commission on senior officer appointments to ensure that appropriate people were appointed to the new Authorities, thereby ensuring affordable service delivery.

He also indicated that he supported the merger of some Town and Community Councils, given that some were very small in terms of population and resources and were therefore as a matter of course limited in what they could achieve.

RESOLVED :

That the reduction in the Unitary Authorities, as proposed by the Commission, be supported, and also the merger of some Town and Community Councils, subject to the senior officer appointment caveat in relation to the former.

138. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY – CONFERENCE

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk and, if he wishes to attend, also the Chairman, be appointed to attend the joint Society of Local Council Clerks and One Voice Wales Conference, to be held in Llandudno on 15th May 2014, and that the cost of £59 plus VAT per attendee be met accordingly.

139. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Victoria Inn, Walwen

Councillor G. Hotchkiss indicated that, although fencing had been arranged, there was still an inappropriate mess around the adjoining houses and garden, and there was also a business being carried out and that it had spread to the area on the other side of Victoria Road. The Chairman advised that he had brought this to the attention of the appropriate Department at Flintshire County Council, and that enforcement action could be taken in relation to change of use.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk make representations to the Planning Department at Flintshire County Council accordingly.

b. Dog Bin Request

Councillor A. Griffiths made reference to a telephone call received by the Clerk from a resident in Bryn Aber requesting the provision of a dog bin facility in the cul-de-sac. He had visited the area in question and spoken to the resident and witnessed first hand the mess that was being caused on the small green area by inconsiderate dog owners. He indicated that he would support a dog bin provision if an appropriate siting could be agreed and also that there should be a 'No Dog Fouling' sign erected in the area.

On the issue of dog bin provision, Councillor G. Hotchkiss reported on the need for a further bin to be provided in the vicinity of Ladysmith Bridge.

RESOLVED :

That representations be made accordingly to Streetscene at Flintshire County Council concerning the dog bin issues raised by Members.

c. Bagillt Community Library

Councillor T. Renshaw made reference to the voluntary efforts being undertaken under the auspices of the Bagillt Heritage Society concerning the re-opening of the Library in Bagillt, which was also to be used as a community facility. He felt that it would be appropriate for the Council to consider offering further financial assistance, should it be required, by way of agreeing to meet the electricity costs for twelve months and for it to be reviewed thereafter. In 2011 the Council had endeavoured to keep the Library open by meeting the costs incurred by Flintshire County Council but it had only been possible to continue this for six months due to the expenditure involved. The Clerk

advised that in relation to any Member wishing to declare a personal interest that they were unable to discuss and vote if any particular sum involved on each occasion was no more than £500.

Councillor B.T. Doleman indicated that, whilst such a financial cushion would be welcomed by the volunteers, he did not know whether this would be required as, due to difficulty with the County Council in completing the lease arrangement and getting the necessary financial detail. As the building had been closed for more than two years, any figures to cover a charge of electricity could only be based on old information such as the hours of usage and utility supplier at the time.

Councillor J. Williams made reference to the survey which had been undertaken by the Council in 2011 during its efforts to keep the Library open and to the poor response which had been received in terms of completed forms that had been returned. He felt that it would have been more appropriate if further details had been given concerning what was intended in adding this item to the agenda, and also if all Members of the Council were present to consider the issue. He also referred to the consideration of applications for financial assistance at the October and February meetings. Councillor C. Williams made reference to the financial assistance given by this Authority towards the running costs of the Community Centre and Bowling Club green maintenance. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that the situation was very different to that of 2011, when much of the high costs then in keeping the Library open was due to salaries and on-costs, including being connected to the Flintshire mainframe. The Group now running the facility were unpaid volunteers and he made reference to the excellent response from local residents concerning the donation of books and computers and to the fact that it was intended to be used for other community purposes, as well as a Library

Following a proposal by Councillor T. Renshaw, and seconded by Councillor A. Griffiths, that the Council should offer to meet the electricity costs for the first twelve months, following which there would be a review, Councillors R. Davies, B.T. Doleman, C. Williams, Mrs. D.J. Williams and J. Williams indicated that they were not prepared to vote on this issue. As Councillor C.P. Owens had previously left the meeting during discussion on this item, there only remained four Members present who were prepared to vote. In view of the fact that a quorum required five Members, the Chairman indicated that the proposal could not be considered and would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, and hopefully those who could not attend tonight would be present to make their views known.

140. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT AND INSPECTION FEE SCALE 2014/15

The Clerk reported on a Consultation Document received from the Wales Audit Office inviting comments by 28th February 2014 on their proposal of fee scales for the 2013/14 audit of accounts. It was noted that in the case of Bagillt the proposed fee for the audit due in the next financial year would reduce slightly.

RESOLVED :

That the fee proposals be supported.

141. ELECTRONIC BANKING

The Clerk indicated that it appeared HMRC maybe withdrawing the facility to pay by cheque and payslip book for the next financial year and, if that was the case, the Council would need to be able to pay the monthly amount due on the Clerk's salary to cover income tax deduction plus employer's National Insurance by electronic means such as the use of BACS. Contact had been made with the Council's Bankers, HSBC at Flint, and the necessary paperwork obtained for completion, should this be necessary.

RESOLVED :

That authority be granted to the Clerk to complete an application for internet banking on behalf of the Council and also to be signed by the Chairman, if this should become necessary, and that in terms of maximum daily amount permitted for making payments be set at the level of £1,000.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 19th February 2014	
Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of Personal Interest.		

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Chairman