

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on Wednesday 12th March 2014.

PRESENT : Councillor M.A. Reece (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillor B.T. Doleman

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk)

142. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were two members of the public present, one of whom was from the local press. The other a member of the public indicated that he wished to speak. He made reference to the petition regarding the removal of the bollards referred to at the last meeting. The Clerk confirmed that he had recently received two pages of petition signed by 40 members of the public, covering the areas of Wern Avenue, Bron y Wern, Wern Ucha and Vicarage Road. He then requested an update concerning the speed indicator at Bryntirion Road and was advised by Councillor R.K. Jones that he had taken this matter up with the appropriate Officer in the Highways Department. This particular indicator sign was solar powered and the speed calibration would be checked. The final issue concerned work which had been undertaken at Chancel Drive and the mess which had been left behind, resulting in debris which could wash away into the drainage system.

143. POLICING

There was no Officer present from the Police service, despite the Clerk sending an e-mail to the local PCSO, following a request from Councillor A. Griffiths in accordance with the procedure agreed at the last meeting and previously conveyed to the Officer. Councillor A. Griffiths explained the instance involving a member of his family and the request for Police assistance, making particular comments regarding the delay in receiving an appropriate response, despite the threatening nature of the incident, the attitude of the Officer concerned when contact was eventually made and the response of an earlier Police presence in the Village in connection with another matter.

Councillor J. Williams referred to a recent incident he had witnessed in Holywell concerning an anti-social problem, and the response it had received from both Police Officers and vehicles when compared to the incident reported in Bagillt. Councillor C.R. Williams felt that the dissatisfaction of the Council concerning the way in which the area was being policed should be conveyed to the Police

Commissioner, a view he had previously expressed, and this was accordingly agreed.

Reference was made by the Chairman to requests he had received from residents in Thomas's Row concerning the speed of vehicles passing the Feathers public house, High Street, and that there was need for a speed check. The Clerk indicated that he would convey the comments made at the meeting to the local PCSO for passing onto colleagues, in addition to writing to the Police Commissioner, as agreed earlier.

144. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 19th February 2014.

a. Minute No. 130(a) – High Street Car Park - Barrier

Councillor R.K. Jones advised the meeting that all of the areas used for recycling purposes, including the car park, High Street, were being reviewed, which would include the matter of appropriate access by relevant vehicles.

b. Minute No. 130(d) – Bagillt Bowling Club

The Clerk advised Members that, following the last meeting of the Council, the Chairman indicated he wished to complete and sign a declaration form concerning this matter, given that he had paid the reduced planning application fee out of his allowance, and this had accordingly been forwarded to the Monitoring Officer. Members were also advised by the Clerk that the planning application had now been submitted by the Council on behalf of the Bowling Club, and it was currently being validated.

c. Minute No. 131 - Chairman's Communications – Sixth Form Provision

Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that a meeting had been held between the Cabinet at Flintshire County Council and the Heads of the two Flint Schools. Whilst some further work was required, he was hopeful that there would be a positive outcome.

d. Minute No. 139(a) – Victoria Inn, Walwen

Reference was made by the Chairman to further ongoing work at the Victoria Inn, and to the discussion held with the landowner concerning possible future plans for the area. Councillor J. Williams referred to the latest development being suggested by the landowner for a three storey residential provision, which would be subject to a planning application, whilst Councillor G. Hotchkiss made reference to the need for pest control on the site, due to its current use and was advised by the Chairman that this was in hand.

e. Minute No. 141 – Electronic Banking

The Clerk advised the meeting that HMRC were continuing to permit the Council to pay by cheque and payslip facility, therefore the need to apply for an electronic banking facility was no longer required, for the present.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 19th February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

145. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman advised that the current case used to store the Chain of Office when not in use was no longer fit for purpose and he had been in contact with former Councillor S. Manfredi, who was arranging for it to be a project undertaken at Deeside College.
2. The Chairman requested the Clerk to give Members some statistical information concerning the position of Bagillt, when compared with other Town and Community Councils in Flintshire regarding the precept agreed for the next financial year. The Clerk indicated that in the schedule of lowest to highest percentage amounts, Bagillt was second with a figure of minus 4.88%, the lowest being Shotton with minus 6.49% and the highest being Northop with plus 42.86%, when compared with the figure for last year. In relation to the actual amount of precept Bagillt had the fifth lowest in the County of £26.68 for the next financial year with Gwernaffield being the lowest at £15.67 and Mold the highest at £51.83.

146. BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Clerk reminded Members that at the last meeting of the Council it had not been possible to reach a conclusion on the motion of giving further assistance to the voluntary Library Group (minute No. 139 (c)) and that a motion would be required to be moved to further consider this matter. Councillor T. Renshaw referred to the motion he had moved at the last meeting and to the voluntary efforts being made to not only provide a Library facility in the Village but also the use of the building for other community purposes. In addition to books being donated by local residents, assistance had been given to the Group from the neighbouring Flint Town Council by way of a donation of chairs, and also the assistance from their new Town Clerk in relation to the legal complexities of the lease document which had now been received. It was therefore felt that the Council should offer to meet the electricity costs for the first twelve months, following which there would be a review and this was accordingly moved. The precise cost could not as yet be determined, given that the building had been closed for more than two years and that previous information would be based on the cost at that time and also the hours of opening permitted by

Flintshire County Council. Councillors A. Griffiths, R.K. Jones and C.R. Williams indicated that they fully supported the view expressed concerning further financial assistance to the Voluntary Group.

Councillor T. Renshaw also proposed that the Council should consider using the Community Library for future Council meetings, given that it was located in the centre of the Village. The Clerk suggested that Members should consider using it for perhaps the next Council meeting and afterwards decide if they wished to make it a permanent arrangement, prior to changing the current system of alternate use of the two Primary Schools.

In relation to the Library building being used once again as a Polling Station, the Clerk indicated that he had been in contact with Electoral Services at Flintshire County Council. Unfortunately, in relation to the European elections due in May, they had already agreed arrangements and would therefore be using Beechcroft House on this occasion. However, they would be reviewing Polling stations in the County later in the year and would then consider the possibility of once again using the Library facility for polling purposes.

RESOLVED :

1. That it be agreed that the Council will meet the electricity costs for the Community Library facility for the next twelve months, and then review the matter, with initial consideration being given at the next estimates meeting in January 2015.
2. That the next meeting of the Council, due on 9th April 2014, be held at the Library building, and that at that meeting consideration be given to this becoming the permanent venue instead of using Ysgol Glan Aber and Ysgol Merllyn on an alternate basis.
3. That the report concerning using the Library building once again as a Polling station be noted.

147. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Bagillt Community Centre

Councillor J. Williams made reference to the comment made at the last meeting regarding the assistance given by this Council towards the running costs of the Community Centre. He advised the meeting that this facility, which had formerly been a Church Hall, would later this month have been 30 years in existence. It was run by the Bagillt Community Association and had originally been bought in 1980 with the financial assistance from the then Flint Town Council, of which Bagillt had been a part, hence the involvement of the Community Council by way of financial assistance since the early 1990's due

to its taking over the liability of the local council when it came into being in 1985.

b. North and Mid-Wales Association of Local Councils

Councillor C.R. Williams made reference to the recent meeting of this Body, which he had attended and that took place at Connah's Quay. In particular he referred to the issues raised at the meeting regarding the Williams' Commission Report and the Future of Local Government in Wales. It had also been agreed to set up a Working Group relating to a Health Study for North Wales. Councillor R.K. Jones expressed the view that there seemed to be some contradiction in the Williams' report concerning not changing boundaries and, whilst that may be the intended case for external ones, there would need to be changes internally if they were reducing the number of Councillors, and they also had to address the situation concerning the difference between multi-Member and single Member Wards.

In his view, it was likely to be a number of years before the change could come to fruition and, in the meantime, the Welsh Government were looking to Councils to undertake collaboration. Councillor T. Renshaw referred to the comments he had made at the last meeting on this issue, when the two previous speakers had been unable to be present. He referred in particular to the importance of service delivery and being affordable and that any reduction in the number of Authorities would reduce both the numbers of Councillors as well as senior Officers. In relation to the position of the suggested merging of some Town and Community Councils, it had been the view of the North and Mid-Wales Association that clustering of smaller Councils would be the appropriate way forward, thereby retaining their individual identity as well as working together.

148. PLANNING

a. Applications

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

b. Flintshire Local Development Plan

The meeting considered a letter from Flintshire County Council on Delivery Agreement Approval and Call for Candidate Sites. Reference was made by Councillor T. Renshaw to the completion of the UDP process and to the role now being played by LDP. The matter in relation to Candidate Sites was giving the opportunity for people to put forward land for development by the 20th May 2014, which would then be considered.

The Chairman made reference to the fact that the Council were still awaiting a visit from the appropriate Planning Officer in relation to the LDP process, despite a number of reminders, and he felt that this should again be pursued.

RESOLVED :

1. That the letter received from Flintshire County Council on Delivery Agreement Approval and Call for Candidate Sites, be noted.
2. That the Clerk again pursue the possibility of a Planning Officer addressing a future meeting in relation to the Local Development Plan.

149. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid.

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Information Commissioner	35.00	101619	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Flintshire County Council	5,000.00	101620	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976
The Gatemaker	355.00	101621	Parish Council's Act 1957
Mr. G. Roberts	833.70	101624	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	149.12	101623	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)

Note: The Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru invoice for the Community Centre was imminent and would require prompt payment when received. The Clerk would consult the Chairman and Vice Chairman when it was received and report the details to the next meeting.

150. BUS SHELTERS

a. Manor Estate

The Clerk reported that the contractor had undertaken and completed the works to repairing the roof on Tuesday 11th March 2014. In addition, he had also undertaken the requested painting of the bus shelter at the same time. It had previously been agreed that the estimate of £300 for repairing the roof be accepted, the additional costs for the painting works amounted to £55.00.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

b. Riverbank

The Clerk advised that he was still awaiting a response from the landowners as to whether the Council would be permitted to install the seating, given the previous discussions regarding the conditions relating to its removal in the event of inappropriate behaviour and public liability for the shelter.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk further request the landowners to confirm whether the Council can be permitted to erect seating at this shelter, subject to the previously agreed conditions.

151. BAGILLT FORESHORE

The Chairman made reference to continuing problems concerning gate removal and fencing damage, which had been discussed with the Countryside Service Rangers, who were dealing with the matter. Councillor J. Williams made reference to a meeting with the Friends of Bagillt Foreshore, held on 4th March 2014, when the Head Ranger, Mr. M. Taylor, had indicated that he was unhappy with the nature of the works carried out to repair the breaches in the sea defences. As a result he had instructed his staff not to undertake any works in relation to the stretch of Foreshore from the Holy to the Recycling Centre in Greenfield. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that the Officer could not, as a matter of course, give such an instruction off his own volition and he would be taking the matter up with the Head of Service and suggested that a letter also be sent from the Community Council in support of this action. In relation to the repair to the sea defences by the owner of the adjacent agricultural land, reference was made by the Chairman of the need to undertake the work as a matter of urgency before the Spring tides, and to the initial delays of gaining permission for access from the Natural Resources Agency. Councillor G. Hotchkiss indicated that he supported the comments made in relation to the attitudes expressed by the Head Ranger.

In relation to the funding announced by the Welsh Government regarding damage to sea defences, Councillor R.K. Jones indicated it remained to be seen whether any funding would be given to Flintshire, which could help the sea defence issue.

RESOLVED :

That comments made in relation to Foreshore issues be noted, and that the Clerk also write to Flintshire County Council in support of the views expressed regarding the attitude of the Head Ranger.

152. RESIGNATION – COUNCILLOR S.J. MOORE

The Clerk reported that on 26th February 2014 he had received a letter from Councillor S.J. Moore, resigning with immediate effect, due to work and personal reasons. This created a vacancy in the East Ward, and a copy of the Notice commencing the procedure of filling the vacancy, which would be displayed on Council Notice Boards from Friday 14th March 2014, had been enclosed for Members' information. A copy would also be forwarded to the Returning Officer at Flintshire County Council, who would advise after the due date has passed whether there had been an election request or that the matter be referred back to the Council to undertake the co-option procedure. If this was the case the Clerk would circulate the co-option notice the Council were now obliged to display inviting expressions of interest.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

153. SUMMER PLAYSCHMES 2014

The Clerk reported that Flintshire County Council had confirmed that they had the funding in place to continue this scheme for 2014, in co-operation with the Town and Community Councils. Further details would follow in due course regarding the precise arrangements for the summer period.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

154. PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

The Clerk reported that Flintshire County Council had advised that the improvement scheme to the Trebor Avenue Play Area would be completed by the end of this month, hence the invoice being received for the Council's contribution of £5,000, which could then appear in the accounts for this financial year, as intended.

In relation to the bid made for Bron Haul for 2014/15, the outcome from Flintshire County Council was not expected to be known until the end of this month and would be reported to the April meeting.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

155. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The meeting considered copies of a Traffic Notice relating to a temporary closure in Sandy Lane, and a Traffic Regulation Notice relating to a proposed 50mph speed limit at A5026 Boot Hill, copies of which had been previously circulated. The Notice relating to the A5026 invited the Council to express a view by 20th March 2014 on the proposal.

Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that he supported the reduction in the speed limit on the A5026 to 50mph, and that there should also be measures taken to check the speeds being recorded once it had been introduced. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that the issue of concern with this highway, in his opinion, related to the surface, which needed attention, whilst the Chairman indicated that, in his capacity as Local County Councillor, he had expressed views in relation to this matter that the speed should be reduced to 30mph, given the bends in the road.

RESOLVED :

That in relation to the proposed speed limit at A5026 Boot Hill, Flintshire County Council be informed that this Authority supports the proposal, with the provisos that there should be speed limit checks carried out and also attention given to the surface of this highway.

156. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Double Yellow Lines

Councillor J. Williams made reference to the fatality which had occurred some ten years ago to a child outside Ysgol Glan Aber, and to the measures which had been undertaken at the time to improve the situation to restrict parking. He indicated that he had felt at the time that a greater area should have been covered and made reference to the views expressed by the Police that parked cars were used as a form of traffic calming. In response, the Chairman reminded the Member that the Council had already made its views known concerning the extension of double yellow lines at the School, which would be undertaken in due course.

b. Recycling

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to problems with residents and recycling in parts of the Village, and to the steps that were being taken. He felt that there would be merit in the Council inviting the Recycling Officer at the County Council to a future meeting to address Members on this issue, which he felt would be beneficial.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk request a visit from the Flintshire Recycling Officer to address a future meeting of the Council.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 12th March 2014
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of personal interest.		

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Chairman