

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 11th June 2014.

PRESENT : Councillor C.R. Williams (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), Messrs T. Woodall and M. Taylor, Flintshire County Council (minute No. 23) and PCSO Rushton (minute No. 24).

22. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There was one member of the public present, who indicated that he wished to speak. Reference was made to Ysgol Merllyn, which he felt was failing the children attending, and the Village, when other Schools in the area were achieving better standards and preparing pupils with the necessary skills. In addition, he referred to the standard of head teaching in recent years and the incidents of indiscipline, as reported to him by parents.

In his capacity as Chair of the Ysgol Merllyn School Governors, Councillor C.P. Owens disputed the allegations concerning falling standards and the lack of discipline and referred to the fact that if any parents had concerns then there was a grievance procedure. Councillor T. Renshaw suggested that the way forward would be to obtain the information contained in the most recent School Inspection Report and this was accordingly agreed.

23. BAGILLT FORESHORE

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Tom Woodall, Head of Countryside Services, and Mr. Mike Taylor, Head Ranger, to the meeting, who were to address Members in relation to their role and foreshore issues. Mr. Woodall commenced by making reference to the role of Countryside Services in relation to the route of the Coastal Footpath throughout Flintshire, including the section within Bagillt, and to the lease of the former landfill site at Bettisfield, which they were managing for the benefit of both visitors and wildlife. In relation to the latter, the aim was to achieve a panoramic walk with shallow slopes, giving good views of the Estuary whilst looking after the needs of wildlife, such as skylarks. Reference was also made to the formation of a Steering Group with local representation to assist in the formation of a Management Plan, which would then go out to public consultation.

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the sign on the gate that allowed vehicular access and was advised of the discussions and agreement which had taken place with the fishermen. This had led to them taking over the responsibility of locking the gate, after being provided with the necessary keys, together with any other organisation which had a need of vehicular access and, in turn, this had eased prior problems such as thefts from boats. Mr. Taylor indicated that access needed to be safe, whilst discouraging inappropriate usage. At the present time, there was no budget for its maintenance and he also referred to the disabled access aspect. With regard to the signage, Councillor G. Hotchkiss felt that it could be worded better to make the situation clearer and that he was pleased with the information given regarding the skylarks situation. Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to the continued nuisance of dog fouling, which detracted from the recreational use available, and was advised by Councillor R.K. Jones of the enforcement situation. Councillor J. Williams referred to the fact that the mound, mentioned earlier by one of the Officers, was known as “Condies Bonc”, and clarified the situation regarding the location of the clink’s on the foreshore.

On the matter of heritage, Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the roles of the Steering Group and that of the Bagillt Heritage Society, a view that was also shared by Councillor B.T. Doleman. Councillor C.P. Owens requested clarification as to the make-up of the Steering Group referred to by the Officer and how they were selected. In response, Mr. Taylor indicated that they were local people, including landowners and Friends of the Bagillt Foreshore, and the intention was that they would meet prior to the scheduled meetings of that organisation and report direct. To date there had only been one meeting of the Steering Group, and not all of those invited had been able to attend. Mr. Woodall indicated that when the Steering Group had formulated a draft Management Plan then he was prepared to attend another meeting of the Community Council to discuss what was being suggested for the area. Mr. Taylor made reference to a recent incident on the foreshore concerning the use of air rifles to shoot at wildlife. He indicated the registration number of the vehicle concerned, which was noted by the Police presence at the meeting, and requested Members to be aware of this matter.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Woodhall and Mr. Taylor for attending the meeting.

24. POLICING

PCSO Phil Rushton was in attendance as PC Tony Gray was unable to be present due to work commitments. He indicated that he was the PCSO responsible for areas in neighbouring Holywell and if Members had any concerns he would be able to pass them on to PC Gray.

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to the damage caused to the barrier at the entrance to the High Street car park and was advised he would be kept aware of any progress in relation to this issue.

Councillor R.K. Jones raised the persistent issue of Tyddyn Messham being used inappropriately by vehicles as a rat-run. He requested the Officer to bring this to the attention of PC Gray, as previously there had been a couple of bookings in what was meant to be for access only for residents and it had improved the situation for a period.

Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams made reference to the mention in the previous item concerning the use of air rifles and commented on an incident in her area. She was advised by the Officer that you had to be over the age of 16 to possess such a weapon and that you were entitled to discharge it on your own property but outside of that area it became a firearm incident.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Rushton for attending the meeting.

25. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 14th May 2014.

a. Minute No. 7 – Flintshire LDP

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, he had, in consultation with Councillor M.A. Reece, submitted a candidate site form in respect of housing at the former Canton Depot, and receipt had been acknowledged by the County Council.

b. Minute No. 21 – Victoria Inn, Walwen

Councillor G. Hotchkiss was advised that, to date, no planning application had been submitted for change of use at these premises.

26. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman advised that it was his intention to represent the Council at the Flintshire County Council Civic Sunday on 29th June 2014.

27. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Training Seminar

The Council had been represented at the joint Society of Local Council Clerks and One Voice Wales Training Seminar in Llandudno on 15th May 2014, by the Chairman and Clerk, and a report had previously been circulated on the proceedings. In particular, there had been presentations in relation to the work of the National Assets Group and Devolution of Services, Insurance Implications for Local Councils, Ensuring Strong and Effective Financial

Governance in Local Councils and Challenges and the future role for Local Councils following the Williams' Report. They had also attended one of the Workshops in relation to Financial Governance and Accountability.

b. Bagillt Heritage Society

Councillor B.T. Doleman indicated that the Society had now submitted a change of use planning application form to Flintshire County Council in relation to the land they had taken over at the former sewage works for the purpose of a Community Garden.

28. PLANNING

a. Applications

No.	Location	Detail
052121	Springfield Cottage, Top Works	Side and rear extension
052176	Isllyn, Bagillt Road	Double garage
052144	Glendun, High Street	Proposed new dwelling

RESOLVED :

That the three applications referred to above all be supported.

b. Bagillt Bowling Club

It was noted that the application submitted by the Council on behalf of the Bowling Club for a parking area, had received permission.

c. Fracking

The Clerk advised that there was to be a report on this issue at the next meeting of the Flintshire County Forum, to be held on 12th June 2014, and the Council would be represented at this meeting by the Chairman and himself.

29. ACCOUNTS

a. Bagillt Web Design

The Clerk advised that he had held a discussion with Councillor C.P. Owens, who ran Bagillt Web Design that undertakes the maintenance of the Council's web site. In previous years the Council had paid for four hours pre-paid

maintenance. As a result of changes required by the Welsh Government, and which would be reported later in the meeting, it was being recommended that the contract be renewed, but with six hours to cover the time needed for the next twelve months.

RESOLVED :

That the recommendation of the Clerk concerning the renewal of the contract with Bagillt Web Design, with six hours pre-paid maintenance on the Council's website, be agreed.

b. Community Library, Bagillt

Members were reminded that at the February meeting they had agreed to meet the cost of electricity at these premises for the first twelve months. Councillor C.P. Owens had set up a direct debit with the energy company through his own Bank account and, having submitted copies of the invoices received, was now seeking reimbursement.

RESOLVED :

That the arrangement now reported by the Clerk for meeting the costs of electricity at the Community Library, be agreed.

c. For Payment

That the following be approved for payment :-

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Cllr. C.R. Williams	31.95	101637	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
C.P. Owens	240.00	101638	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Cllr. C.P. Owens	18.31	101639	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976(S.19)
Mr. G. Roberts	831.88	101640	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	146.08	101641	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Delyn Press	31.20	101642	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Shaw & Sons Ltd	70.80	101643	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

RESOLVED :

That the accounts be paid.

Note : Councillor C.P. Owens declared a pecuniary interest in minute No. 29 and left the meeting while the items were being discussed.

30. CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

The Clerk made reference to the form now issued by Flintshire County Council for Declaring Interests at Meetings, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. He indicated the changes in relation to the previous form, particularly with regard to a Member's decision concerning whether the personal interest was prejudicial.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

31. ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Clerk reported to the meeting on a consultation document from the Welsh Government on draft statutory guidance regarding Local Council websites and information available electronically for the public. There had been a discussion with Councillor C.P. Owens on the implications as his firm maintained the website on behalf of the Council.

In relation to Council contacts, the Council already complied in relation to the Clerk and Members of the Council, the Wards they represented, telephone numbers and those who were County Members. There was also information in relation to who were Chairman and Vice Chairman. A new provision required under the Guidance was to show political affiliation and, in the information that had been forwarded to Councillor C.P. Owens for changing what was already on the website, following the co-option of a new Member and new Chairman and Vice Chairman, this information had been added by using what candidates had entered on their election nomination forms. Another additional item concerned a Register of Members' Interests which, whilst kept in electronic format, was not currently on the website. This had been forwarded to Councillor Owens and it had been agreed that access to it could replace what had previously been used for information on the Community Caretaker, a function which the Council no longer undertakes. This was something which would from time to time require updating as Members recorded further interests.

The guidance also required that agenda information should be published electronically and also, as far as possible, any associated information. This would include minutes and any Clerk generated reports. It was felt that this could be met by having similar to what is already used for changing the news, with a facility for anyone interested to request further details from the Clerk, which would be returned electronically. It would also require that minutes of previous meetings were loaded onto the website on a monthly basis, rather than in batches, as at present. The final matter which the Council did not comply with at the moment related to audited accounts, and a copy of the last Annual Report had been forwarded to Councillor Owens for inclusion on the website, and this was something which would only have to be changed on an annual basis.

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to the consultation document issued by the Welsh Government, the requirements to be placed on Local Councils websites in relation to electronic information be noted.
2. That the report of the Clerk regarding the present compliance of the Council's website and requirements for meeting additional items, as reported, be endorsed.

32. BUS SHELTERS

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the contractor who was to undertake installation of seating and painting at the Riverbank bus shelter. The seating was presently awaiting galvanisation of the metalwork and it was intended that the painting would be undertaken in the meantime. There had been damage to the guttering due to vandalism, which Councillor M.A. Reece had temporarily repaired, and the contractor was to make a permanent repair when undertaking the painting work.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

33. COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Clerk reported that both Ysgol Glan Aber and Ysgol Merllyn once again wished to be involved in the giving of an engraved shield to a pupil selected by them at the end of the summer term. In addition, he indicated that he had received the name of the pupil for Ysgol Merllyn and when they wished the award to be presented, and he was hopeful that he would have the same information from Ysgol Glan Aber in a few days so as to arrange for the engraving of the shields. As in the past, the shields would be presented by the Chairman and, if he was not available, a Member of the Council who was a School Governor.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

34. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a. Top Hill, Bagillt – Damage to Highways by HGV's

Reference was made by the Chairman and Councillor M.A. Reece to a meeting which had been held with local residents since the Council last met,

when they had expressed their concerns about the difficulties they were facing due to roads being blocked when inappropriate large vehicles were trying to access the Nursing Home at Top Hill due to the building works. The involvement of the local MP was also advised. The Clerk had circulated at the meeting a further letter from Flintshire County Council, indicating that they appreciated the views expressed by this Authority concerning two signs indicating 'Unsuitable for Long Vehicles' being appropriate. However, they felt that drivers who had driven a considerable distance in order to make a delivery were unlikely to abort due to the presence of an advisory sign. It was once again suggested that an alternative course of action was to undertake a letter-drop to all properties in Top Hill reminding the occupiers to inform delivery companies to use a smaller vehicle suitable for the nature of the lane. The Chairman felt that most residents in the area who were expecting a delivery tended to inform those carrying it out of the nature of the highway in this area and that a letter-drop would be of no benefit. In relation to the lay-by referred to at the last meeting, this was being investigated to see if it was constructed to adoptable highway standard.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be again advised that the Council were of the view that two signs indicating 'Unsuitable for Long Vehicles', although advisory, was the way forward.

b. Fron Deg

The Clerk had circulated at the meeting a copy of a temporary Traffic Notice, received from Flintshire County Council, that later this month there would be a temporary restriction on through traffic along Fron Deg from its junction with High Street.

RESOLVED :

That the matter be noted.

35. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. High Street – Overgrown Area

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the area on the opposite side of High Street from the Memorials' firm, which was now under the responsibility of the Streetscene Department. Whilst he would be able to get the area a winter clear up, it may be necessary for the Community Council to consider funding the cost of appropriate planting as there were no funds available. In relation to maintenance of areas in general, Councillor A. Griffiths expressed dissatisfaction with the standards, both in terms of not being maintained and

that when strimming in particular was undertaken it was not being done in the correct manner.

RESOLVED :

That the position in relation to the High Street area be noted and that the other concerns indicated be brought to the attention of Streetscene.

b. Local Resident Recognition

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to the achievements of local resident, Mr. Edward Arthur Davies, who was 96 years old and lived in Upper Riverbank, Bagillt, and on which there had been local press features. The articles made particular reference to the medals he had received from his service during the Second World War, and also in relation to the award of the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta Medal.

Mr. Davies had been married to his wife, Mary, for 73 years and he felt it fitting that the Council should recognise this local person by awarding him an appropriately engraved shield bearing the Council's logo. The Clerk indicated there was a limited space for wording to be engraved onto the shield but it was hopeful that, as well as the person's name, when presented it could include reference to the Malta George Medal. The Council supported this recognition and then went on to discuss the best method of presentation.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements for the engraving of a shield with the wording being agreed by the Chairman and Councillor G. Hotchkiss, who would also undertake the presentation to Mr. Davies at his home next month.

c. Ysgol Merllyn – School Governor Vacancy

In his capacity as Chair of the Ysgol Merllyn governors, Councillor C.P. Owens reminded Members that Councillor C. Williams had previously given notice of his resignation from the governing body of this school, and requested consideration of a nomination from the Community Council. In addition, he made reference to a requirement of the Welsh Government, to be effective from September, that all school governors, whether new or existing, would have to undergo compulsory training and indicated that he was not prepared to comply. Councillor T. Renshaw, who was a governor at a school in Flint, indicated that he held the same view on the compulsory training. Councillor R.K. Jones advised that this was a matter outside the control of the Local Education Authority and that the likelihood was school governing bodies would struggle to find those willing to stand or continue due to this new factor.

RESOLVED :

1. That Councillor K. Rush be nominated to fill the vacancy on the school governing body at Ysgol Merllyn, following the resignation of Councillor C. Williams.
2. That the matter of the compulsory training of governors, as now reported, be noted.

d. Traffic Calming, High Street

Councillor R.K. Jones updated the meeting on the discussions that were on-going concerning the type of traffic calming measures to reduce speed along the High Street, and that it was a matter of designing a scheme that would fit in with local circumstances. There would be public consultation when the draft scheme had been finalised and he confirmed that all properties in the High Street would be consulted. Councillor J. Williams expressed the view that a reduction in the road width, as had been undertaken in Bryntirion Road, was preferable to any form of speed hump, due to the noise that could be generated particularly by empty lorries going over them.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 11th June 2014
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
Councillor C.P. Owens	Bagillt Web Design – Contract Renewal/ Payment	29

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Chairman