

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 8TH October 2014.

PRESENT : Councillor C.R. Williams (Chairman)

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

APOLOGIES : Councillors B.T. Doleman and T. Renshaw

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), PC Tony Gray and PCSO Tomos Hulse (minute No. 70) and Mr. J. Williams, Flintshire County Council (minute No. 71)

70. POLICING

PC Tony Gray and PCSO Tomos Hulse were in attendance, principally to introduce the latter officer to Members. PC Gray indicated that his colleague had now finished training and would, from tomorrow, be independent and therefore spending most of his time within the Bagillt area. It was hoped in due course to reintroduce the Police surgeries at the Community Centre, but Members were reminded that there was a surgery every Thursday morning in Holywell. PCSO Hulse circulated some contact cards and the Clerk indicated he would ensure each that Member had the necessary detail in due course.

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to the recent burglaries in the Village but was advised by PC Gray that he was unable to give an update at present. In relation to speeding, an issue previously raised by the Member, PC Gray indicated that training was intended for the local officer to also undertake this task.

The Chairman thanked the two officers for attending the meeting in their own time.

Reference was made by the Clerk to a telephone discussion he had recently had with Sergeant Williams concerning Police attendance at meetings. The officer had requested that he be informed a few days before a Council meeting if Members had particular issues they wished to raise with the Police and, in turn, he would do his best to ensure that there was a presence, even if the local police officer or PCSO was not available. It was intended that, whenever possible, the local officers would also attend, as they had this evening. The Chairman felt that the Council should be entitled to a Police presence at each meeting, if only for a short session, but was reminded by Councillor R.K. Jones that there were insufficient resources and that, unless it was for a purpose, it could be wasteful of Police resources. The views expressed by Sergeant Williams were accordingly noted by Members.

The Clerk also made reference to the Owl messaging service in association with the Police a copy of which relating to distraction burglaries in Flintshire had been previously circulated to Members.

71. STREETSCENE SUPERVISOR FOR BAGILLT AREA

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John Williams, Area Supervisor for Streetscene, to the meeting for his quarterly visit. Mr. Williams referred to issues raised at his last quarterly visit and updated the meeting in relation to Merilyn Lane, the flats access in High Street and standing water at Riverbank, which were noted by Members. In relation to a more recent issue of the crash barrier between High Street and the By-Pass, he indicated that the collapse was due to the need to replace a wooden support, and that would be dealt with in due course.

Councillor G. Hotchkiss made reference to a problem faced by a resident in Upper Riverbank, due to the height of trees at the rear of his property which were interfering with light. The property backed onto Canton Depot and was therefore thought to be the responsibility Flintshire County Council. In response, Mr. Williams indicated that height and light of trees were not highway issues, but interference with access and safety would be and he would get the tree expert to look into this matter. A further tree issue at Bron y Wern was raised by Councillor R.K. Jones, which was also noted by the officer.

Councillor G. Hotchkiss made reference to a lighting issue at the Boot End, which he had raised previously, and was affecting five lighting columns as well as a traffic island. Whilst there had been a visit made to the area, nothing had improved. In response, the officer indicated that he would speak to his lighting colleague regarding this matter, but indicated that if it was a utility company fault then there could be a further delay.

Councillor A. Griffiths thanked the officer for the work undertaken in relation to Merilyn Lane but expressed disappointment that there was no improvement concerning shrubs and beds in the Village, including dealing with weeds, and made reference to the area adjoining the Stag Inn car park. In response, Mr. Williams advised that he had given instructions for that particular area to at least have the hard packed soil broken up, to the role of the Housing Department in relation to this particular area, and to the fact that work would be commencing shortly concerning replacing summer bedding plants with the autumn variety. In relation to working patterns, he made reference to a schedule he was given concerning duties and staff. He once again confirmed that both he and the other Area Supervisors were required to release staff for refuse collection and cleansing duties in the priority areas, such as Holywell, Buckley, Mold and Connah's Quay, and were required to make do with what was left in the meantime to continue area duties. Whilst the staff he had under his control had received training on such issues as weed control, he had no trained horticulturists within his group. In relation to weed control, Councillor A. Griffiths made reference to the quad bike used and to the fact that the person seen in the

area recently did not appear to be using the necessary safety equipment. He was advised that the Council did also use a contractor, but nevertheless this aspect would be looked into.

Reference was made by Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones to the New Brighton Cemetery and, whilst the grassed area and hedges had received attention, the area where cars were parked had some brambles which required attention as they were scratching vehicles and this was noted accordingly. Councillor K. Rush requested to know as to the frequency of inspection of play areas and whether this done in-house or by a contractor. He was advised that this was a matter dealt with by Leisure Services and the Clerk would make enquiries and get back to him.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Williams for attending the meeting and responding to issues raised by Members and advised that the officer would next be in attendance in January 2015.

72. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th September 2014.

a. Minute No. 55.b – Fields in Trust – Victoria Road Recreation Ground

The Clerk advised that a date had been fixed for the erection of a plaque, and this had been notified to the Chairman and local Members.

b. Minute No. 64 – Riverbank Bus Shelter

The Clerk advised that the repair to the brickwork had been undertaken by the appointed contractor and it was to the satisfaction of Councillor M.A. Reece, who had originally identified the problem, and also the land owner.

c. Minute No. 69.a – War Memorial

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the need for some cleaning work to be undertaken prior to Remembrance Sunday. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that when previous work had been undertaken on the War Memorial the delicate nature had been stressed and that cleaning could be undertaken by carefully using soapy water. Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he would undertake this work and the Chairman advised that he would assist.

d. Minute No. 69.c – Raised Beds

In response to Councillor M.A. Reece, the Clerk advised that he had been in contact with Northop Community Council who had given him a person to

contact within a local group that had supplied and maintained the raised beds in their area. To date he had had no response from Holywell Town Council and he would pursue the matter again. Prior to the meeting he had discussed this issue with the Streetscene Supervisor who had indicated that those close to the Library had been installed prior to his present role and those which had been surplus to the Holywell Town Centre had gone back to County Hall and he would need to check if they had all been re-used.

e. Minute No. 69.d – Vandalism at Community Library

Councillor C.P. Owens indicated the he was still awaiting a quotation for the glass protection and would contact the Clerk as soon as it had been received.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th September 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

73. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman made reference to the Gift Day Service which had taken place at the Parish Church on the 4th October 2014, which unfortunately he had been unable to attend. He had however been contacted by the Flint Town Mayor, who wished to attend, and had consented to him wearing his Chain of Office for the event, after contacting the Clerk.
2. The Chairman advised that he wished to bring forward two recommendations for payment from the Chairman's Fund. The first concerned the War Memorial lighting and the purchase of four replacement bulbs by Councillor B,T. Doleman on behalf of the Heritage Society, at a cost of £72.00. The meeting concurred with this recommendation and it was agreed that the reimbursement be made and included in the Accounts for Payment.

The second concerned the application made by New Brighton Chapel Action Committee for financial assistance towards the purchase of plants, which was presently included on the Donations report later in the meeting. Having regard to the amount being sought, in relation to other applications from local organisations, and that the Group were now wishing to purchase long term plants, as previously mentioned by the Council, he recommended that the request be dealt with under the fund. The Group were seeking funding to enable four rose plants to be bought for this site and in their request indicated that they cost £20 each. Councillor G. Hotchkiss pointed out that, whilst he supported the aim of the proposal, rose plants could be purchased much cheaper than the cost indicated, either locally or through a national supplier. It was therefore agreed that the Group be advised the Council will meet the

cost of purchasing four rose plants, but required them to use a less costly supplier, as had been indicated at the meeting.

74. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. Flintshire County Council Big Budget Conversation

A report by the Clerk had previously been circulated to Members on the first of two meetings called by the County Council for representatives of Town and Community Councils on the subject of “Working Together in the Face of Austerity”, and the Council had been represented by the Chairman and the Clerk. The meeting had explained the likely financial position being faced by Flintshire for the next three years, on top of savings already made to explain the reality and offering the opportunity for local solutions, which included a low cost alternative method of delivery within local communities.

Whilst many Local Councils had limited capacity, some of the larger ones had the capability to run services and be the custodian of local services. There was a need to explore the role of community development with Local Councils at the hub of collective action. Reference had been made to the possibilities of community asset transfer of buildings, community hubs, multi- services from a single building and community interest groups running non-school based leisure centres and libraries, and services options, such as public toilets, community waste, recycling sites, litter bins and local heritage. Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the second of the two meetings held last week, at which many more Town and Community Council representatives had been present, when the issue of capacity had again been made evident. To date, the expected amount on the settlement for Flintshire had not yet been received but undoubtedly, given the protection offered to education and social services, it would have a significant impact on other departments and services. Unfortunately, any benefits which could be accrued from working together with Wrexham CBC in advance of any proposed merger not being forthcoming due to the present reluctance of the other Authority.

RESOLVED :

That the reports be noted and that further information would be due from Flintshire County Council in due course.

b. Freedom of Information (FOI)/Data Protection (DPA) Acts

A report by the Clerk had previously been circulated on a training course he had attended in Mold on 25th September 2014 on these two items of legislation organised by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and how they applied to Town and Community Councils. The intention being to ensure

obligations, such as keeping personal information secure, responding to FOI requests and to requests for personal information could be understood.

The FOI Act provided a right of access to official information and placed the obligation on public authorities to produce a publication scheme and to deal with individual requests for information within 20 working days, subject to exemption. Bagillt had complied with the former for a number of years and it was on the website in both English and Welsh. The different methods of FOI requests had been explained, the position when information included details of other individuals and the need to engage with the requester. If a requester informs that they are not satisfied by the response there needed to be an internal review conducted and, as this Council had only one employee, it would need to be undertaken by a Member, such as the Chairman. Details had also been given in relation to exemptions.

The DPA Act required personal data to be processed fairly and lawfully, obtained only for one or more specified purposes, adequate, relevant and not excessive, accurate and up to date and not kept for longer than was necessary. In addition, it had to be processed according to the individual's rights and kept secure. It must be registered with the ICO if personal data was being processed, and the Council has done so and renews annually. Access requests must be dealt with properly and logged and ensured that it was going to the right person by proof of identity and care should be taken if the information could identify a third party. Security was a main area of risk with physical means for manual files and technical for protecting electronic information.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

75. PLANNING

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

76. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Dwr Cymru/ Welsh Water	628.05	101664	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976(S.19)
S.P.Evans	260.00	101665	Parish Councils Act 1957
One Voice Wales	15.00	101666	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
NAMWALC	15.00	101667	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Clr. B.T. Doleman	72.00	101668	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

Mr. G. Roberts	834.85	101669	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	145.92	101670	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)

RESOLVED :

That the accounts be paid.

77. 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. All applications were required to have up to date financial information, apart from agreed Organisations. At the Estimates meeting in January 2014, a sum of £1,800 was allocated to this expenditure, with the former Section 137 now being replaced by the Power of Wellbeing, which had the same financial restrictions. There were six local organisations included in the report, one of which had been dealt with earlier from within the Chairman’s Fund.

In relation to the Bagillt Heritage Society, it was felt that the request for assistance to create the Community Garden would be better deferred to the February meeting to enable further information in relation to grant applications.

With regard to the application from Friends of Bagillt Foreshore, for support towards completing the design and purchase of materials to erect a Pithead Memorial adjacent to the Bettisfield Colliery site, a plan of the proposed work was circulated at the meeting by Councillor J. Williams who indicated that two different sites had been suggested. The preferred site was within private ownership and it was felt that the organisation needed to clarify legal and planning issues. The Council were however in support of the declared aim.

RESOLVED :

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

Organisation	£	cheque No.
Bagillt Royal Stars	500.00	101671
Ysgol Merllyn	300.00	101672
Ysgol Glan Aber	300.00	101673

2. That in relation to the application from the Bagillt Heritage Society, consideration of financial assistance for their Community Garden Project, be deferred to the February meeting.

3. That in relation to the application from Friends of the Bagillt Foreshore, they be requested to clarify the planning and legal position in relation to the Pithead Memorial, and that they also be advised that the Council support their aim and agree in principle to financial assistance, which could be further considered at the February 2015 meeting.

78. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The bank reconciliation and income/expenditure for the second quarter to 30th September 2014, as previously circulated to Members, was noted.

79. BAGILLT FORESHORE

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to the matter of the removal of fish from the pool and the draining of water to provide a source for a toad area, which had been unsuccessful due to it draining away. This had been undertaken by Countryside Services, who had been advised that the fish removal was not supported. Councillor J. Williams made reference to the matter of vandalism to trees and fencing, and the work due to be undertaken in relation to the latter concerning the effect on a section of the footpath by cattle.

RESOLVED :

That the matters be noted.

80. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

The meeting was informed that Flintshire County Council were undertaking a review and inviting representations on the current arrangements by the 17th October 2014. Information had previously been circulated to Members on the review, including the current schedule of polling districts and places, which showed the position in Bagillt.

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had been in contact with local residents concerning the use of the Community Hall, Beechcroft House, Highfield Road, and they had indicated that they wished it to be retained rather than being moved back to the Library building. In addition, there were better facilities for polling staff at Beechcroft House.

Councillor R.K. Jones indicated it was more likely that any changes in polling stations would be as a result of the decision to reduce them and thereby curtail costs.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be advised that the Council supports the existing arrangements for Bagillt.

81. PROPOSED PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS AT BRON HAUL, BAGILLT

The meeting considered a match funding scheme proposal received from Flintshire County Council, after undertaking consultation with pupils at Ysgol Glan Aber. In addition, a copy of each of the four pieces of equipment listed had been circulated. When Flintshire notified their contribution was limited to £8k, due to the demand across the County, the Council had requested to know what extra could be provided if they continued to offer £10k. It had been confirmed that the Rota Roka Dish Roundabout could only be provided if this Council continued to provide the £10k in the budget.

In relation to the equipment that could be provided for the cost shown, Councillor R.K. Jones expressed the view that it seemed to be a better arrangement than what had been done for Trebor Avenue in the last financial year.

RESOLVED :

That the funding scheme be supported and the Council continue to provide its previously agreed £10k contribution to enable all four items of equipment to be included.

82. WREXHAM AND FLINTSHIRE JOINT LOCAL HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT

A copy of a letter from Flintshire County Council had been previously circulated to Members, advising of a survey that had been carried out in Wrexham and Flintshire. The two Councils had jointly commissioned specialist housing consultants to undertake a local housing market assessment for the two areas to help understand the amount and type of housing needed over the coming years, including the need for affordable housing.

RESOLVED :

That the contents of the letter be noted.

83. MEMBER'S ITEMS

a. Public Bench, High Street

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had been approached by the daughter of the Chemist for the support to erect a public bench in memory of her father in the open area adjacent to the premises, which was owned by Flintshire County Council. She was not seeking financial assistance as it was

intended that the monies raised to provide what would be a metal bench in keeping with others in the area would be by way of public subscriptions. The matter had been discussed with Leisure Services and they were amenable to the proposal, providing a letter was forwarded by this Authority in support.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk forward a letter of support for the scheme, with a copy to the proposer.

b. Funding Opportunities

Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the Burbo Bank Extension Community Benefit Fund from the Company which had submitted a planning application for off-shore and on-shore consents on extension to the off-shore wind farm. If the site was developed the applicants, Dong Energy, would be committed to a community benefit fund worth up to £250k each year. A consultation exercise was being undertaken presently to get views from local people on how this money for the community should be allocated, the process starting by an on-line survey, which would be open until the end of October 2014. He felt that a response should be submitted on behalf of the Community Council, with the intention that environmental and heritage aspects should be supported in particular. If the scheme came to fruition then it could provide a useful funding source for local organisations and possibly for Community Councils.

Councillor R.K. Jones also referred to a letter which would be received shortly by the Council concerning the new landfill tax situation and grant prospects. It was understood that with the new arrangements it would also be open to Community Councils to apply but was intended mainly for community groups. However, it would still have the proviso that 10% of any award would have to be match funded from another organisation.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk complete an on-line survey in relation to the Burbo Bank Extension Community Benefit Fund Consultation, and the matter of the landfill tax opportunity be noted and that when it became available it be circulated to local organisations.

c. Community Centre, High Street

Councillor A. Griffiths referred to the present unsatisfactory situation concerning overgrowth at the adjacent changing rooms and car parking area, and enquired as to responsibility. With regard to the changing rooms, this would come under the remit of the Community Association as part of the Community Centre, but the parking area was still owned by the Church. In

relation to the latter, the Clerk reminded Members that some years ago they had arranged for the Probation Service to remove the overgrowth from the car park, with the support of the then Vicar, and for a short period afterwards had arranged for the Community Caretaker to place weed killer to keep the overgrowth down.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk make approaches to the Community Association and the Church Authorities regarding the matters now reported.

84. PAYMENTS TO COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

A copy of an extract from the Independent Remuneration Panel Draft Annual Report had been previously circulated, and in relation to the determinations Members were reminded of the current policy in relation to each.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

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

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

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Chairman