

## **BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the Special meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 13<sup>TH</sup> May 2015.

**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), Councillor B. Attridge, Mr. K. Everett, Mr. S. Jones and Mr. A. Stamford (Flintshire County Council) and PCSO Tom Hulse.

### **161. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM**

There were many members of the public in attendance and, whilst they had appointed a spokesperson to speak on their behalf, the Chairman indicated that during the debate on the next item he would permit further questions from others that were present. The Chairman advised that he had been handed a letter that had been received by Councillor M.A. Reece concerning the traffic calming scheme, which was anonymous. He indicated that if the person who had written the letter was a member of the public and was present he would permit the letter to be read out but, as this was not the case, it would merely be noted and passed to the Clerk.

### **162. HIGH STREET, BAGILLT – TRAFFIC CALMING**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the four representatives from Flintshire County Council who were, the Deputy Leader, Chief Executive, Chief Officer for Streetscene and Transportation, together with a colleague from his Department. The spokesperson was then invited to make the first comments, and reference was made to the letter which had been enclosed with a petition that had been handed in at County Hall, requesting removal of the road humps. Issues from the letter that were commented on included the levels of the road humps in relation to the pavements, as well as the spacing, and to the fact that this encouraged some motorists to avoid them by using the pavement, which was dangerous for pedestrians. Whilst motor cars tended to slow down to go over the humps, this did not always apply in the case of larger vehicles such as lorries and buses, with the consequence that there was additional noise generated. Reference was also made to some of the recently re-surfaced highway, which was deteriorating, and that some of the iron works had not been replaced at the proper heights. In the letter a request had also been made that there should be a public meeting at the Community Centre in Bagillt, which could better accommodate the large number of people who wished

to attend, this was confirmed by the numbers who were unable to access the Library and had to wait outside.

In response, Mr. Jones indicated that the High Street was assessed in accordance with the County Council's traffic calming policy, scoring well above the acceptable threshold in terms of qualifying for traffic calming measures, and that a total of eleven injury accidents had been recorded in the last ten years, six of which involved children and pedestrians, with three resulting in serious injuries. The route was further assessed in accordance with the 2014/15 Welsh Government road safety grant assessment criteria, and was successful in obtaining funding for the implementation of casualty reduction measures within that financial year.

Reference was then made to the publicising of the proposals and to the consultation process, with the majority vote in favour, with only two formal objections being received, one of which was from the Community Council. A number of residents who attended the public consultation event at the Community Centre highlighted the poor condition of the existing surface and requested the County Council to investigate further. A full investigation was undertaken, which highlighted many defects with it being re-surfaced as a consequence and which was separate to the traffic calming scheme. The reference to continuing defects had been noted and would be investigated and it was acknowledged that there had been problems with the contractor at the start, which he himself had become involved with.

Councillor T. Renshaw made reference to the fact that some 18 months ago, when Councillor M.A. Reece had requested reinstatement of a pedestrian crossing in the High Street, which was supported fully by the Community Council, he had been advised by County Officers that the accident statistics did not meet the criteria, yet it was now being stated that it did so to facilitate traffic calming. In addition, he felt that the objection by the Community Council, as it was supported by all Members who had been present at the meeting, it should not be counted as just a single objection. In conclusion, he requested that details be forwarded of the accidents statistics referred to by the Chief Officer and to also include the locations where they took place.

A number of issues were raised, with the Chairman's consent, by other members of the public. There was the issue that only part of those living in the High Street were consulted by a letter drop. This meant that the majority of residents who were now affected by the Scheme were unaware of the consultation and the fact that the road humps were deterring local residents from coming into the centre of the Village for shopping purposes. This in turn was having an effect on the businesses and could lead to their closure, and all those who had attended the meeting supported the views expressed by the petition and wished the road humps to be removed, with a view to an alternative being implemented, such as further chicanes to reduce traffic speed. There was also a concern for traffic flow, in that it had been witnessed larger vehicles overtaking motor cars that were going slowly over the humps, this was a potential traffic hazard in terms of other users. Mr Jones indicated that in

relation to replacement of road humps by a series of chicanes, which was being suggested by some of the public present at the meeting, that, what was a long length of highway, such as the High Street, this in fact increased some traffic speed as it encouraged motorists to take chances to get to a certain point before others.

Councillors C.P. Owens and A. Griffiths made reference to the accident statistics reported by the County Officer and were advised that these came from information supplied by the Police.

Mr. Everett indicated that the County Council itself had no monies to undertake a replacement scheme, as that being requested by local residents but, having regard to the strong feelings being expressed, investigations could be made to enquire whether such funding was a possibility from the Welsh Government. In the meantime, the issues concerning the height of the road humps would be investigated to see if changes were necessary. Councillor B. Attridge made reference to the strong feelings being conveyed at the meeting and indicated that, in his experience, this was the first time where the County Council were being requested to remove a traffic calming scheme rather than introduce one. However, he indicated that if a further public meeting was required then he gave an assurance that the County Council would be happy if it was held at a larger venue in the Village and that they would certainly attend, and that he supported the comments made by the Chief Executive.

The Chairman indicated that, whilst the members of the public present may not be satisfied with the outcome, he felt that there had been a good airing of feelings which had been acknowledged by the County Council representatives, who had made a number of undertakings regarding the future.

Concluding the discussion, he thanked the four representatives from Flintshire County Council for attending to listen to local concerns and responding accordingly.

**RESOLVED :**

That it be noted that Flintshire County Council, as Highway Authority, had given the following undertakings in relation to the High Street Scheme.

- a. That they will forward to the Community Council details of the accident statistics used over the past ten years which had made the scheme possible to also include their locations.
- b. That the reported shortcomings on the road surfacing scheme would be investigated and brought to the attention of the contractor as necessary, and that in relation to the traffic calming road hump heights, these would be investigated to see what can be achieved in relation to the concerns regarding pavement heights, which was encouraging vehicles to avoid the humps.

- c. That having regard to the strong feelings expressed during the meeting particularly by members of the public that the speed humps should be removed, the County Council would investigate the possibility of a further application to seek Welsh Government funding for an alternative scheme to include the removal of the road humps which, if it became a possibility, would be the subject of further consultation and that the Community Council, as representatives of the local community, be kept informed accordingly.

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

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| <b>Date of Council Meeting</b>                  |             | <b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015</b> |
| <b>Member</b>                                   | <b>Item</b> | <b>Minute No. Refers</b>                  |
| There were no Declarations of Personal Interest |             |   |

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**Chairman**