

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 14th September 2016.

PRESENT: Councillor G. Hotchkiss (Vice Chairman in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS: R. Davies, A. Griffiths, Mrs. S.L. Jones, Councillor C.P. Owens, M.A. Reece, T. Renshaw, C. Williams, Mrs. D. J. Williams.

APOLGIES: B. T. Doleman, K. Rush, C. R. Williams and J. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. L. Wood (Clerk), PCSO Hulse and Mr. D. Charlton, Flintshire Operational Manager - North & Trunk Roads.

48. PLANNING APPLICATION

This item was brought forward to the start of the meeting by the Chairman due to a number of Members of the Public in attendance.

App. No.	Location	Detail
055423	Field to South of Old London Road Bagillt, CH6 6BP	Erection of agricultural building, private stables for livery use, formation of manage and access track

The Chairman reported that this Application has been withdrawn and that the agent is preparing a Coal Mining Risk Assessment report and once that has been completed, the application will be resubmitted to Flintshire County Council who will in turn re-consult with the Council.

App. No.	Location	Detail
055423	Former British Legion Site, Gadlys Lane	Amendment to permission 049273 for 10 dwellings

The Chairman reported that an amended Planning Application had been received from Flintshire Council County and an extension for comments has been given to allow the Council to discuss the application at the Meeting.

A number of Members of the Public attended, all were 'against' the Planning Application. The Chairman asked for a spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the amended plans made no difference to the views of the local's residents, they were still totally against the development. The spokesperson

explained the new properties are 7 metres too close and the existing residents would have approximately 50/60 windows from the new properties looking directly into their houses and blocking all views.

As well as privacy issues they also have grave concerns regarding day light to the existing properties. If the trees and fences were to be planted / erected, this would totally restrict the day light. Another member of the public expressed concerns regarding the tree roots growing near to their properties if large trees were planted as proposed in the amended plan.

Local residents said the local authority should not have granted permission for this development and want these new house to be knocked down.

The Chairman explained to the members of the public that the Council can only pass comments and not make Planning decisions.

Councillor T. Renshaw fully agrees with the local resident's issues and confirmed with members of the public that the Council did not give approval for this development.

Councillor T. Renshaw explained the Unitary Development Plans (UDP) states that there must be at least 22 metres between properties on a level plain, then for every rise of a metre the properties should go back 2.2 metres. The distance between these properties are 20.02 metres therefore breaches the UDP. Councillor T. Renshaw said the new properties are very intrusive and removes all privacy for the local residents.

Both Councillor M. A. Reece and Councillor T. Renshaw have met with Flintshire County Council's Planning Officer and Enforcement Officer to discuss the issues. The Officer's detailed the proposed amended plan, which is to erect a 3 metre fence and 12 metres trees at the back of the new properties.

Councillor A. Griffiths also shared concerns regarding the privacy and blocking of day light issues and also had concerns about the tree's dropping leaves in drains. Councillor A. Griffiths stated this development should never have started and needs to be taken down.

Councillor M. A. Reece was unable to comment due to being a member of the Flintshire County Council Planning Committee and abstained from voting.

RESOLVED: The Council unanimously agreed for the Clerk to write to the Planning Officer at Flintshire County Council and object to this Planning Application and await a response.

NOTE: Councillor M. A. Reece declared a personal interest in this item and whilst staying in the meeting, Councillor. M. A. Reece did not vote thereon.

49. POLICING MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Hulse. PCSO Hulse reported two positive warrants in the area.

PCSO Hulse explained about the Community Speed Watch scheme and asked for volunteers. The volunteers be trained on using a speed gun and would spend approx one hour a week on the roadside with the speed gun and logs details of any offenders, including registration numbers. Then this information would be passed onto the police who will write to offenders up to three times and police would also monitor the area if the offender does not respond.

Councillor C. Williams reported a speeding issue near Tyddyn Messham. PCSO Hulse said registration numbers of offenders can be taken and passed onto the Police.

Councillor M. A. Reece reported an abandoned vehicle near Reece's Terrace. The vehicle was unlocked and had no road tax.

Councillor. C. P Owen reported an issue around the Community Library area. Namely litter, beer cans, bottles and chip paper being left and also reported an incident of children climbing on the roof of the Library.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hulse for attending.

RESOLVED: That it be noted, Councillor T. Renshaw volunteered for the Community Speed Watch and PSCO Hulse will investigate all other issues.

50. BY-PASS CROSSING

The Chairman welcomed Mr. D. Charlton, Flintshire Operational Manager - North & Trunk Roads to the meeting.

Mr. Charlton reported if funding can be secured, the proposed Toucan Crossing would be installed between Station Road off the High street (Stag Public House) and Station Road leading to the railway footbridge.

Councillor. C. P. Owens asked why this location was prioritised, Mr. D. Charlton stated it was due to a number of accidents.

Councillors stated the preferred locations were Bettisfield as this has an underpass for wheelchair users, Station Road and Lady Smith Bridge and that this information was shared with Mr. S. O Jones, Flintshire Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation).

Mr. D. Charlton informed Councillors that the access to the bridge would be altered and ramps would be installed to assist wheelchair users and prams.

Councillor T. Renshaw said we need a safe crossing to the Coastal Path which needs to be accessible by everyone including disabled / wheelchair users and prams. Millions of pounds have been spent on the Coastal Path and should be accessible by all.

Councillor. M. A. Reece suggested although this was not the Council's first choice of location, now the plans include ramps to assist wheelchair users and prams, the Council should consider supporting this location as a crossing in needed.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to the proposed location and Mr. D. Charlton will report back to Mr. S. O. Jones, Flintshire Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) to take this matter forward.

51. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th July, 2016.

a. Minute No. 32 – Community Transport

Councillor T. Renshaw informed the Council that he had met with Kate Wilby, Flintshire Transportation & Logistics Manager and Jessica Pritchard Flintshire Regional Travel Plan Co-ordinator to discuss this matter. It was reported currently no routes will be effected in Bagillt. Councillor. T. Renshaw proposed that until such time as routes in Bagillt were effected, the Council put this scheme on hold.

RESOLVED: The Council supported the recommendation regarding the Community Transport Scheme and the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held 13th July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

<i>Name</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Expenditure Powers</i>
Mrs. L. Wood	657.04	101840	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
- September			
HM Revenues & Customs	125.40	101841	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
- September			
Clwyd Pension Fund -	118.86	101842	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
- September			
Bagillt Bowling Club	480.00	101843	Loc.Govt.(MP) Act.1976(S.19)
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	114.00	101844	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Cllr. C. P. Owens	48.73	101845	Loc.Govt.(MP) Act 1976 (S19)
- August			
Cllr. C. P. Owens	14.75	101846	Loc.Govt.(MP) Act 1976 (S19)
- July			

RESOLVED: That the above mentioned accounts be paid.

53. HIGH STREET – TRAFFIC CALMING

The Council discussed letters received from Hannah Blythyn, AM for Delyn and Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure which explains part of the application process for this scheme was for local authorities to provide collision data for the last three available years and the main criteria against which bids are scored is the number of collision resulting in death or serious injury. The information that Flintshire County Council submitted reported three serious incidents in three years and Mr. Skates confirmed causation factors are not formal criteria within the assessment process.

Councillor. T. Renshaw said Bagillt has not had 3 serious incidents and believes the information supplied to the Welsh Government by Flintshire County Council was not accurate. The Council had previously asked Flintshire County Council for KSI's with information regarding the type of injury and if speed was a relating factor, the authority refused to give this information saying it would breach Data Protection regulations, however North Wales Police did provide the information. One of the KSI's given was of a person who was drunk and fell in the road.

Councillor T. Renshaw also said the speed humps and the chicane are serving no purpose other than to aggravate the locals. The tables are causing no issues. Due to problems with iron works on speed humps, the local authority are due to spend approximately £20,000 to rectify the issue but this money would be better spent on removing the humps and chicane.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed the speed humps and chicane should be removed and for the Clerk to reply to Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure and copy to Hannah Blythyn, AM for Delyn then wait for a response before preparing to take this matter to the Ombudsman.

54. WAR MEMORIAL – COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Council discussed an email received from Mrs. S. Hollins, Flintshire County Council Legal Officer which explained the Council must sign the lease prior to the remedial works being carried out. The Chairman also read out a letter dated 18th April, 2016 from the previous Clerk to Mr. G. Owens, Flintshire Chief Officer (Governance) detailing the Council would only sign the lease once the lighting unit at the War Memorial had been repaired.

Councillor C. P. Owens reported that the damage to the light had been caused by Flintshire County Council and both he and Councillor B. D Doleman doubted if the Council signed the lease, that Flintshire would repair the light.

Councillor T. Renshaw agreed with Councillor C. P. Owens views and said the Council cannot sign the lease and then immediately have to spend money on repairs.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed that the Clerk should write to the Flintshire Legal Officer stating the Council will not sign the lease prior to the remedial works being carried out as previously stated.

55. PLAY AREAS – COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Council discussed a letter received from Mr. I. Bancroft, Flintshire County Council Chief Officer (Organisational Change). The letter provided an update on the proposed plans for maintaining play areas in 2017/18 and sustaining play area from 2018 onwards.

The local Authority propose to break discussions down into a number of stages that will take place over the next 12 months and the letter detailed the play area grant scheme.

Councillor C. P. Owens does not believe maintenance of play areas would cost the amounts the local authority have stated.

Councillor A. Griffiths has previously worked in this area and said the costs are not just maintenance but take into consideration Health & Safety checks, repairs due to vandalism etc, both of which are very timely and expensive.

Councillors shared concerns that they did not want to lose play areas as this would affect the local children and community.

Councillor T Renshaw shared concerns on the impending boundary changes to Town and Community Councils, if we should go ahead with taking over play areas this could have cost implications on those new Councils.

Councillor M. A. Reece is concerned if the Council take on these play areas the costs could impact on the local residents Council tax rates.

RESOLVED: The Clerk after consultation with the Vice Chairman will inform the Flintshire County Council that at the present the Council have decided to take no action and but have noted the proposals.

56. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Council considered the letter from North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils which asked for Councillors views on this matter.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted and views will be forwarded in due course.

57. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2015/16

The Clerk reported the Annual Return as required by BDO External Auditors and shared the two issues the BDO had raised with the Council. The Clerk advised the issue concerning the Asset Register discrepancy has now been rectified and matches the Annual return figure. The issue regarding the Internal Auditors comments relating to Financial Controls to be checked with the Councils Internal Auditors JDH to ensure they confirm what is being drawn to the Council's attention by BDO are the two issues of the Asset Register format and the need for each donation to have a separate voucher number which was reported and action agreed at the May 2016 meeting. The Clerk also advised the conclusion of audit was being advertised as required by BDO.

RESOLVED:

1. That the annual return be approved.
2. That with regard to the issues arising from the BDO Audit, the actions of the clerk concerning the amendment in the Asset Register to now correspond with the Annual Return and the actions taken to address the financial controls as dealt with at the May Council Meeting be supported.
3. That the actions of the Clerk concerning giving Notice of Conclusion of the audit as required by BDO be noted.
4. That the Clerk advise BDO accordingly in relation to the above items subject to consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman on the response to the internal audit issue following the reply from JDH.

58. BANK BRANCH CLOSURE

The Clerk suggested the Council moving to on-line banking following recent notification of many HSBC Branch closures with in Flintshire. The Clerk also reported that advice had been sought form JDH Internal Auditors and that they had no objections pending the Councils Financial Regulations and Standing Orders, if appropriate, were updated accordingly. The Clerk also shared with the Council a form which would be used for Councillors to sign to approve the Clerk can make the monthly payments via internet banking.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed and two Council signatories signed the Bank forms to authorise internet banking for the Council's accounts. It was agreed the Clerk updates the Financial Regulations accordingly.

59. CLERK ITEMS

The Clerk reported to the meeting on the undermentioned:

- a. Attendance at a SLCC Agenda and Minute Course on 18th August 2016.
- b. Binding of the Minutes – the cost to the Council, every two years is approximately £166.00. The Clerk advised many other Town and Community Council's store the Minutes in date order in a file therefore asked Council's approval to cease the binding of Minutes.
- c. Clerk advised for approval from the Council for Clerk to attend iLCA & CiLCA Courses, at the cost of £99 + VAT and £500 + VAT

RESOLVED:

- b. The Council gave approval to cease the binding of Minute.
- c. The Council gave approval for the Clerk to attend the iLCA & CiLCA Courses.

60. HOLYWELL LEISURE CENTRE - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Clerk circulated information which was received from the Chair of the Holywell Leisure Centre Community Asset Transfer Working Group.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 14th September 2016
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
Councillor M. A. Reece	Planning Application 055423	48

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Chairman