

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 8th March 2017.

PRESENT : Councillor K. Rush (Chairman)

COUNCILLORS: R. Davies, B.T. Doleman, A. Griffiths, G. Hotchkiss, Mrs. S.L. Jones, C.P. Owens, M.A. Reece, T. Renshaw, C. Williams and C.R. Williams.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs. D. J. Williams and J. Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. L. Wood (Clerk), PCSO Darren Chatham and Members of the Public

127. POLICING MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Darren Chatham the new Bagillt Community Police Officer to the meeting.

Councillor M. A. Reece asked about the broken window in Hammer Terrace, Bagillt High Street. PCSO Chatham said that there was no update on potential offenders to date but will update the Council as soon as more information is received.

Councillor M. A. Reece also asked about the Neighbour Meetings in Bagillt. PCSO Chatham said due to operational demands the Neighbour Meetings will no longer be held at a pre-arranged times and dates, however he will still be attending the library when possible to hold meetings and will advertise his attendance on social media and also put a sign outside the Library for residents to know he is there for any questions and concerns. PCSO Chatham also, provided his contact details to all Councillors.

Councillor T. Renshaw asked about the progress regarding the Community Speed Watch scheme which PCSO Tom Hulse asked for volunteers at the September Council Meeting. Councillor T. Renshaw said the village does not have a great problem with speeding but just a small minority who do speed, could be given a warning in order to protect others. PCSO Chatham said he would speak to PCSO Hulse regarding the Community Speed Watch and ask for an update and report back to the Clerk.

Councillor. C. R. Williams shared his disappointment regarding Police presence at previous Council Meetings and within the village. PCSO said he is based at Holywell Police Station and will be making every effort to regularly foot patrol the village and attend Meetings but advised he can be contacted via mobile number or email at any time. He will also display his contact details on the Community Library notice board.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Chatham for attending.

128. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 8th February 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

129. CHAIRMANS COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman advised that of the £825 which was in the Chairman's fund for 2016/17, a sum of £200 had been spent to date and given that March was the last meeting in the current financial year, he wished to make a recommendation for a donation of £625 be made to the Bagillt Community Library as the Library is need of new equipment.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to making this donation.

130. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

<i>Name</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Voucher No</i>	<i>Expenditure Powers</i>
Mrs. L. Wood	650.61	93	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
- March			
HM Revenues & Customs	125.40	94	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
- March			
Clwyd Pension Fund -	118.86	95	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
- March			
Opus Electricity	47.82	96	Loc.Govt.(MP) Act 1976 (S19)
Information Commissioners Office	35.00	97	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	300.00	98	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

RESOLVED: That the above mentioned accounts be paid.

131. COUNCILLOR J. WILLIAMS

The Council considered a letter which the Clerk circulated from Councillor. J. Williams regarding an extension of absence due to ill health.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to the extension of absence and the Clerk will respond to Cllr. J. Williams accordingly.

132. PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk, together with an extract from the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, so as to enable the Council to make determinations applicable for the next financial year. The report of the Clerk advised of the current situation in relation to previous determinations by the Council.

In addition, the report also pointed out that, in relation to payments to Members for this financial year then these would need to be listed and sent to the Panel as well as being displayed on the website and Council notice boards.

Councillor T. Renshaw said Councillors carry out their role as a Community Councillor as they believe in their Community and not for financial gain.

RESOLVED: That in relation to the 2017/18 financial year, the determinations required concerning payments to Members be as follows:

Determination 44 – Costs and Expenses – not to be paid by Council

Determination 45 – Senior Roles – not to be paid by Council

Determination 46 – Civic Allowance to Mayor/Chair – not to be paid by Council

Determination 47 – Civic Allowance to Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair– not to be paid by Council

Determination 48 - Reimbursement of travel when undertaking approved duties – that it again be payable at the HMRC rate and noting that the new arrangement will also cover travel costs for attending approved duties inside the area of the Council

Determination 49 – Reimbursement of Subsistence – not to be paid by Council

Determination 50 – Financial Loss Allowance – not to be paid by Council

Determination 51 – Care Allowance for Dependent Children or Adults – not to be paid by Council

133. BAGILLT FORESHORE

Councillor M. A. Reece informed the Council that on Wednesday 1st March, St. David's Day the Dragon was lit at 6.30pm.

Councillor B. T. Doleman asked the Chairman if the Council could invite Mrs. S. Price, Flintshire Transport Policy Officer to a meeting to update the Council on the Cycle Path.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Mrs. S. Price, Flintshire Transport Policy Officer inviting her to a Council Meeting.

134. HIGH STREET – TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

The Council considered the email from Mr. A. Stanford, Flintshire Highway Strategy Manager in relation to the request for an amended scheme on the High Street.

Mr. Stanford confirmed that Flintshire County Council will progress an alternative scheme design which will be shared with the Community Council in due course.

Any request to replace existing cushions with features of larger size or differing specification (i.e. raised platforms), the Authority will be legally required to publically advertise the proposals for a statutory minimum period of 21 days to ensure that any objections that may arise can be considered.

Provided that a revised scheme achieves the support of the local residents and statutory consultees, a replacement scheme can then be considered by Welsh Government for available funding in the forthcoming financial year.

Councillor T. Renshaw reminded the Council that a delegation from the Council met with Jo Stevens, Road Safety Senior Policy Advisor to discuss the scheme in December 2016. Ms. Stevens drove through the village to see the scheme to help understand the concerns the Council and residents have. We then met with Mr. Stanford in the Library. Ms. J. Stevens has asked Mr. A. Stanford to look at how much it would cost to remove the humps and replace them with tables as some preventative measures should be in place.

Councillor T. Renshaw said it was asked that all the humps and the chicane were removed except the humps at either end of the village, as these would let drivers know they are entering a village/built up area. We also said we would want the replacement tables to be to the same specification as the one by the Church as this was is not as severe as others within the village.

We hope Jo Stevens will authorise the grant for Flintshire County Council to replace the humps with tables but Flintshire County Council need to have a full consultation and allow all residents to voice their opinions. These humps are causing much concern for all in the Community and whenever residents ask questions, it is always 'what is happening with the speed humps'.

Councillor C. P. Owens agreed with Councillor T. Renshaw but added that looking back at previous notes relating to the existing traffic calming scheme, it stated all road humps are the same specification therefore it is assumed the current humps must have been fitted incorrectly which could explain why some humps in the village are more violent to drive over than others within the County.

Councillor B. T. Doleman said buses just go around the humps therefore tables will slow all traffic down.

The Chairman supports the suggestion of replacing the humps with tables, however a full consultation should be held and plans must be displayed within the village including specifications before any decisions are made.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk will respond to Mr. Mr. A. Stanford, Flintshire Highway Strategy Manager stating the Council support the suggestion providing a full consultation for residents and plans including specifications must be displayed before any decisions are made.

135. BY PASS CROSSING

To consider an update received from Mr. R. Nursaw, Flintshire Principle Engineer.

Mr. Nursaw provided an update on the recently submitted Road Safety Grant bid for a signalised crossing at the A548 / A5026, Lion's Den, Bagillt. The chosen location was due to the amount of serious accidents at this crossing and North Wales Police concern at the current situation at this junction. Therefore this would give the bid good support and evidence in respect of improving road safety at this location and greatly improve the success of receiving the Welsh Government funding. To date, no confirmation has been received from the Welsh Government on the grant application, when this is received the Council will be updated.

Mr. Nursaw also explained that Flintshire County Council are aware the Council would prefer a pedestrian crossing located at the centre of the Village and said this location would not score highly under Welsh Government bid criteria therefore Flintshire County Council will look for alternative funding streams to deliver a crossing at this facility.

Councillor T. Renshaw said he had a brief discussion with Jo Stevens, Road Safety Senior Policy Advisor regarding a Signalised Crossing by Lyons Dens as at that time a motor cyclist had a collision which required the Air Ambulance to be called. If a grant is received this will make that particular crossing area much safer.

Councillor T. Renshaw said he is complexed when Flintshire County Council say a central crossing point in the village would not score high for a grant but a full traffic calming scheme does score high, are they working on the same figures to consider the pedestrian crossing that they did when considering the traffic calming scheme.

Councillor A. Griffiths said there was a serious accident at the Lyons Dens last week therefore believes action does need to be taken at this location.

Councillor B. T. Doleman agreed the Lyons Dens area is a very bad for accidents but said we still need to address the issue that residents and school children from the village need a central crossing to access the Coastal Path.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Mr. R. Nursaw, Flintshire Principle Engineer to ask

about the figures used to obtain a grant when considering a pedestrian crossing compared to the figures used when the traffic calming scheme received the grant and indicate although the Council supports this crossing, a central crossing point within the village is still needed.

136. RAISED BEDS

The Council considered the email from Mrs. J. Morris, Flintshire Landscape Administrator regarding the purchase and planting of the raised beds around the village. The plants/flowers would be purchased from Pottles Nurseries.

There are currently 10 containers located in the Village, however one is planted up by the Women's Institute. The cost will be approx £56.60, Mrs. Morris advised cost may differ at time of purchase.

Estimates are:

8 Cordyline centre plants @ £2.20 each

100 Geraniums @ £0.39 each

Councillor M. A. Reece said he did not want Cordylines or Shrubs just flowers in the Raised Beds. The Council agreed and were satisfied with the estimate.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Mrs. J. Morris, Flintshire's Landscape Administrator to ask just flowers are planted and request a revised cost.

137. HOLYWELL LESIURE CENTRE

The Council had previously agreed to defer this item at the last meeting to discuss when more Councillors were present. The Council considered the letter from Mr. T. Jones, Chair of Trustees regarding offering financial assistance to the Leisure Centre which is now a registered charity.

Councillor B. T. Doleman said we need to consider that residents of Bagillt would use both Holywell and Flint Leisure Centres and does not feel the Council are in position to fund this.

The Chairman reminded the Council of Councillor C. R. Williams previous suggestion, that as Holywell Leisure Centre is now a registered Charity, they could apply for a donation from the Council at either the October or February Meetings providing the Council with up to date accounts.

Councillor G. Hotchkiss said as the Leisure Centre have charity status they will be able to access various grants.

Councillor C. R. Williams suggested maybe we should help in some way as residents from the Boot End of the village would probably use the Leisure Centre and asked how much of a donation are they requesting.

Councillor B. T. Doleman believes Flintshire County Council will be funding the Leisure Centre for the first 3 years and if in the future funds are needed to keep the Leisure Centre open and the public opinion is to support it, we can look at this again.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will respond to Mr. T. Jones, Chair of Trustees and ask how much of a donation is being asked for, when is the money needed for and what grants etc do they currently have.

138. BAGILLT YOUTH CLUB

The Council considered a letter from Mr. I. Budd, Flintshire Chief Officer, Education & Youth regarding the closure of Bagillt Youth Club.

Mr. Budd explained the Flintshire Integrated Youth Service has been subject to a reduction in funding of over 30%. This has affected our capacity to deliver in all areas. We are also finding it very difficult to recruit to some areas of the County. To offset this, we have ensured that we have highly qualified and experienced staff supporting our high usage clubs, such as Holywell. We are very conscious that we need to encourage the community to work with ourselves to recruit local people to train as future youth workers. The reality is that we have no qualified and experienced staff available for placement in Bagillt and the club was not securing sustainable levels of participation.

The Chairman confirmed the Youth Club is still closed and staff have been moved to Greenfield and Holywell Youth Clubs. The Youth Centre is being used by the School and potentially the School could take over the building under the Community Asset Transfer then the village will lose the Youth Club indefinitely. The children, especially in the winter time will have nowhere to go.

Councillor B. T. Doleman said the Youth Club has been open in the village for over 60 years. If funding is required the Council should consider this before funding centres outside the village.

Councillor T. Renshaw said our qualified staff have been taken to another club. Regarding lack of attendance, the Youth Club will not attract children unless the club attracts them, the Club does not offer enough activities. The Chairman added they have no facilities and where the children played football, it is filled with tables and chairs.

Councillor G. Hotchkiss said attendance is shaped by the quality of the Leaders and Leaders need to be 'in touch with the young generation'.

Councillor Mrs. S. L. Jones said the Boot End Tenants and Residents group (BETAR) which I was part of, took over the Youth Club during the School Holidays. We had approximately 40/50 children attending three nights a week. The children knew and respected us and would often confide in us. There is obviously a demand for a Youth Club in the village.

The Chairman expressed how very disappointed he is that the Youth Club, which has been there for many years is closed and it is hoped in the near future the Youth Club will re-open. The village need the Youth Club for our children.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to Mr. I. Budd, Flintshire Chief Officer, Education & Youth to express the Council's disappointment that the Youth Club is closed and request the Youth Club is re-opened.

139. BAGILLT COMMUNITY CENTRE – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk informed the Council that she had been in contact via both email and telephone with a Community Association Representative and had been unable to arrange a meeting of a Community Association Representative and Councillor C. P. Owens as agreed at the previous Council meeting. Due to the Community Association Representatives being unable to meet, they suggested any questions that the Council may have could be emailed.

The Chairman informed the Council that the Community Centre Insurance bill has been received by the Council for payment.

The Chairman asked as the Community Council are the custodians of the building, are we liable for insuring the building. Both Councillor C. R. Williams and Councillor Mrs. S. L. Jones shared concerns that if the insurance was not paid, this leaves the centre uninsured and stressed we need to ensure this building is insured.

Councillor C. P. Owens said his understating is that the Council do not own the building, however should the Community Association cease to exist, the building would transfer to the Council and we would then take on the responsibility for the building. Currently the Community Association are responsible for all bills, the running of the centre and any decision making. It is in the Council's interest to assist by way of giving financial assistance as the centre is a community facility. However, the Council need to see the up to date accounts and also ask representatives to attend our meetings before we commit to giving financial assistance.

Councillor T. Renshaw said as the building could come into the Council's ownership, the Council should ensure the building is being used properly, all people using the centre are safe, all gas and electricity supplies are safe and any insurances that the centre should have are in place and bills are being paid, however this does not mean the Council are liable to pay these bills. The Council representatives on the committee need to attend meetings to be assured all of this is being done so they can report back to the Council but they do not get invited to any meetings.

The Council are finding themselves in a very precarious situation therefore we need to take action, we need to see fully audited accounts and our representative's need to attend meetings to report information back to the Council Meetings before we give 'public money' to an organisation. It is a Councillors legal duty to ensure any money spent is being spent properly otherwise we could find ourselves with a financial problem which the local Ombudsman could seek to take action against Councillors on surcharge.

Councillor A. Griffiths said the centre should have an Annual Landlord Safety Checks and asked do we know if this is being carried out.

Councillor C. Williams asked if we could reimburse the insurance bill once we have seen the fully Audited up to date accounts and bank statements. Councillor C. P. Owens stated the Council need to address all issues before any bills are paid by the Council.

Councillor G. Hotchkiss said on the last account sheet that was sent to the Council, the Community Association had a reasonable amount of money in the bank, does the Council need to be paying the insurance bill when there is otherwise needy causes in the area.

Councillor T. Renshaw queried why the Council pay the Public Liability element of the insurance on the centre. We need to ensure we have insurance on the building to safe guard the building which in the future could become legally ours.

Councillors agreed that until fully Audited up to date accounts and bank statements are received by the Council and a representative attends a meeting, we will not be able to provide financial assistance. However, the Council will ensure the centre is insured.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact the Community Association and request fully audited up to date accounts and bank statements and ask that a representative attends the next meeting in order to continue with the financial assistance provided by the Council.

140. BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Clerk circulated a letter from Dwr Cymru regarding the Community Library water supply to the Library. The Clerk has been informed that no Dwr Cymru Water Bills

have been paid since approximately 2014 therefore an account does need to be set up and a back dated bill will be generated, however likely to only be back dated to 2015/16.

Councillor B. T. Doleman said the Bagillt Community Library Association have not signed a lease therefore are not responsible for the water bill. This issue regarding the lease has been ongoing with Flintshire County Council for at least two years.

Councillor T. Renshaw has sought Legal advice regarding the ongoing lease issue with Flintshire County Council. The lease has never been signed by Bagillt Community Library Association therefore they are not the tenants of the building.

Councillor T. Renshaw reminded the Council that Councillor. M. A. Reece attended a meeting at Flintshire County Council last month which was discussing grants for Community Libraries, however Councillor M. A. Reece was informed by Mr. N. Cockerton, Flintshire, Chief Officer, Organisational Change that Bagillt Community Library is not eligible for a grant as the Library was transferred before the Community Asset Transfer. The Chairman added as Bagillt Community Library have not signed an agreement, they should be considered for a grant.

Councillor C. P. Owens said the Dwr Cymru website is very informative to who is responsible to pay water bills therefore it is his understanding that Flintshire County Council are currently responsible to pay for the water bills.

RESOLVED: Councillor T. Renshaw is waiting for the contract to be returned from Flintshire County Council and will be checked by a Legal Advisor. The Dwr Cymru letter will be returned to Flintshire County Council.

141. CORRESPONDENCE & CLERKS REPORT

The following correspondence were received and circulated at the Meeting.

- Flintshire County Council Town & Community Council Election Packs
- The 2018 Review – Secondary Consultation Period

a. Annual Inspection of the Street Furniture

The Clerk advised the Council that the Annual Street Furniture inspection had been carried out by herself and Councillor M. A. Reece.

Councillor M. A. Reece informed the Council that:

The seat near the Feathers Inn required wood and metal work painting

The Notice Board by the High Street car park required 'a backboard' to avoid when knocked the magnets from falling off.

Councillor M. A. Reece informed the Council the previous contractor who did such works in the village has now retired.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will obtain quotes and report back to the next meeting.

142. MEMBERS ITEMS

a. Gadlys Lane Road Closure

Councillor A. Griffiths asked Councillor M. A. Reece for an update on the tree blocking Gadlys Lane which fell during storm 'Doris'. Councillor M. A. Reece said the bulk of tree has been moved but the road will remain closed until all the tree has been cleared.

b. Cherry Tree on Merllyn Lane

Councillor. A. Griffiths informed the Council that he had spoken to Flintshire Streetscene Officers regarding the removal of the tree however was informed it was the responsibility of the Flintshire's Landscape Office which is within Leisure Services.

c. Beechcroft Playgroup

Councillor. Mrs. S. L. Jones reported that Beechcroft Playgroup had been closed down and was concerned where the children will go and asked if any Councillors had ideas where the group could set up again.

Councillor. A. Griffiths said some children were attending Merllyn School. He agrees it is awful that the playgroup has closed down and is unaware if the reason is lack of funding or lack of attendance.

Councillor. Mrs. S. L. Jones believes is it due to lack of funding. Another concern is the minimum age to start at Merllyn School is 3 years old where as Beechcroft was 2 ½ years old. We have a large village with many young children, why should they have to go out of the village to attend a playgroup.

Councillor. A. Griffiths suggested we write Flintshire County Council to as why funding has been taken away from Beechcroft Playgroup.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Mrs. C. Homard, Primary Link Officer to ask why funding has been removed from this Playgroup.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 8th March 2017
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of personal interest		

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Chairman