

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 11th February 2015.

PRESENT : Councillor C.R. Williams (Chairman)

COUNCILLORS : R. Davies, B.T. Doleman, 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 : Councillor T. Renshaw

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), Mr. Mike Taylor and Mr. Alistair Hemphill, Flintshire County Council (minute No. 119)

118. POLICING

The Clerk advised that PCSO Hulse had intended to be present, but he had received an e-mail earlier today indicating that, due to unforeseen circumstances, he was no longer able to do so. A letter from the District Inspector had been circulated at the meeting concerning North Flintshire Policing and requesting that an update from them be placed as a standing agenda item at Council meetings, which would take a few minutes but would also allow for questions.

At present Police attendance was only by request and they would arrange to send a representative from the Neighbourhood Engagement Team to give an update on the work carried out in the area and on any local issues. This would increase awareness on what the Police were currently doing to make North Wales a safer place and, where necessary, seek assistance and support from the Council.

RESOLVED :

That the District Inspector be advised the Council already has an item on Policing at each Ordinary meeting of the Council, to enable the local CBM or PCSO to attend when available, and would be pleased to also extend this to a representative from the Neighbourhood Engagement Team.

119. BAGILLT FORESHORE

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Mike Taylor and Mr. Alistair Hemphill of the Flintshire Countryside Services to the meeting, following a request made at the last Council meeting concerning works they had been undertaking in the Bettisfield area. Mr. Taylor indicated that he would shortly be moving to a new role in Countryside Services and his colleague, who was present at the meeting, would take over responsibility for management of the Foreshore area.

Councillor A. Griffiths, as the Member who had raised the issue at the last meeting, expressed his concern to the Officers concerning the manner in which works relating to the cutting of gorse and the depositing of sand adjacent to the tarmac area, had been undertaken, which was making it difficult for users. In response, Mr. Taylor advised that the work that had been undertaken to date, and still needed to be completed, related to the formation of an appropriate area for Natterjack Toads to be located. The work undertaken to date had relied in part on volunteers and it was acknowledged that it needed to be completed. Reference was made by both Officers to the removal of long established rubbish in the area and it was acknowledged that further work needed to be carried out, which would also involve machinery, and that had in part caused the problems, as referred to by the Member in relation to the sanded area. He also explained the process for establishing an area which could be utilised by Natterjack Toads and, in response to a question from Councillor M.A. Reece, the probable cost to date, and also to the fact that they had received most of the funding from a grant from the Kingspan Company.

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to a recent announcement by the appropriate Welsh Assembly Minister regarding significant sums of money for projects in relation to the Coastal Path, some of which were in the Flintshire area, and one which was included related to the Bettisfield area. In response, the Officers indicated that they were not aware of this particular matter and would investigate accordingly with colleagues, but advised that, in relation to the Coastal Path, they were able to seek funding of 75% of the cost of maintenance and referred to what had been secured to date. In addition, if there were any new path sections to be installed then 100% funding was available.

Councillor M.A. Reece requested an update to the buildings on the Bettisfield site, and was advised by Mr. Taylor that no progress had been possible. The Officers circulated copies of the Ranger's report, which had been presented at the recent Annual meeting of the Friends of The Bagillt Foreshore, and it was noted that, in relation to the access issue, events in the Bettisfield area would once again be held, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Kite Flying Day, Conservation Day and Guided Walk. Reference was also made to the Flintshire Countryside Park project, which also included the Foreshore at Bagillt. In relation to the access issue, Councillor R.K. Jones reminded the meeting of his earlier comments regarding significant funding, and that this was a possible issue which could be addressed.

Reference was made by Councillor G. Hotchkiss to prior concerns he had made regarding the footpath that went from the Ladysmith Bridge to the Coastal Path. In particular, he reminded the meeting of the work that had been undertaken on the site and which had not placed it back in its original route, and also that part of the fencing on one side had not been replaced. This caused problems for users due to the state and presence of cattle. He was advised by Mr. Taylor that this was a matter which was being addressed by the Footpath Inspector at the County Council, but he had noted the concerns expressed by the Member.

Councillor A. Griffiths made reference to the continuing problem of dog fouling in the Bettisfield area, and requested Councillor R.K. Jones to pursue the possibility of Enforcement Officers visiting the area, as had recently been done in Flint.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for attending the meeting, the information they had given and the responses made to issues raised by Members.

120. MINUTES

a. Minute No. 103 – Streetscene Supervisor

Councillor R.K. Jones expanded upon the comments he had made at the last meeting in relation to the damaged barrier. He indicated that, due to present regulations, it could not be done as previously erected, however, the necessary work would be carried out.

b. Minute No. 106(c) – Flintshire LDP – Candidate Sites

Councillor B.T. Doleman indicated that, following on from his comments at the last meeting, he had contacted the County officer and been advised that the community garden site would be included at a later date.

c. Minute No. 117(a) – Empty Properties

The Clerk read out to the meeting an e-mail he had received from Councillor M.A. Reece concerning the former newspaper shop in the High Street and which advised that the owner had been issued with a second warning letter, and, should the County Council receive no further co-operation, they were considering an Enforcement option under the Town and Country Planning Act.

With regard to the Bagillt Arms, reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to contact he had made at the premises with the new owner, following his investigation of wood burning on the site. He referred to the new owner's proposal for a shop, restaurant and take-away, which was expanded on by Councillor M.A. Reece, who also confirmed that this would be subject to a further planning application as permission at present only related to converting the premises into residential accommodation.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14th January 2015, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

121. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman advised on invitations he had received concerning charity events from the Chairman of Flintshire County Council and the Town Mayor of Saltney Town Council, to be held in March and April respectively, which unfortunately he was unable to attend.
2. The Chairman advised that at the next meeting he would bring forward recommendations for donations in relation to monies still available in the Chairman's Fund for this financial year.

122. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting he had attended of the North and Mid-Wales Association of Local Councils. In particular, he made reference to issues which had been discussed regarding the Living Wage, Zero Hours and Blacklisting of Employees. In relation to the last item he advised that a report was available for other Members to peruse.

123. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk reported that since the agenda was printed no applications had been received to be reported to the meeting.

124. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Tennyson Insurance Ltd.	929.17	101697	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976(S.19)
Clr. C.P. Owens	123.00	101698	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976(S.19)
Mr. G. Roberts	790.93	101699	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	145.92	101700	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)

125. 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. The report pointed out that there were five applications for consideration, two of which had been deferred at the October meeting. In addition there remained £700 in the budget, following on from the decisions made in October 2014. However, the Clerk made reference to the fact that, at the last meeting of the Council when the budget was agreed, a sum of £750 had been included for expenditure in this financial year for the summer activities, in conjunction with the County Council for older children, which this Authority has been meeting for a number of years. The Education

Department at Flintshire had confirmed that no such activities were undertaken in the 2014 summer period and therefore there would be no contribution to pay. As the expenditure had already been assumed in the budget calculations, the Council could use all or part of the £750 to increase the amount available for financial assistance, up to a maximum of £1,450.

Members were reminded that under the Code of Contact only donations exceeding £500 would require a Declaration of Personal Interest and non-participation in the discussion and vote.

RESOLVED :

1. That, for the purpose of funds remaining for which to consider the applications included in the report, the available funds now be increased to £1,450, by transferring £750 from the Summer Activities budget heading accordingly.
2. That in accordance with Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, the following donations be agreed :-

Organisation	£	Cheque No.
Bagillt Heritage Society	500.00	101701
Bagillt Parish Church	300.00	101702
Marie Curie Cancer Care	75.00	101703
Flintshire Disability Forum	75.00	101704

3. That in relation to the application from the Friends of Bagillt Foreshore, as there had been no update concerning the outstanding matters referred to at the October meeting, consideration be deferred once again, with the proviso that a sum of £500 would be carried over to the next financial year for consideration against their project and that they would also be entitled to make application to the Council for funding from the 2015/16 budget when applications received were considered at the October 2015 meeting.

126. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS

The Clerk advised that the only update he had concerning Community Asset Transfers related to Bagillt Bowling Club, who had informed him that they were not submitting an expression of interest to the County Council in relation to the Bowling Green.

127. HIGH STREET – ROAD WORKS/TRAFFIC CALMING

Since the last meeting of the Council, Members had received a copy letter from Flintshire County Council concerning the decision to proceed with the traffic calming scheme, and were also informed by e-mail of an offer from that Authority to include a

crossing as part of a traffic calming feature. This would be in the vicinity of the prior crossing by the shops and the Council had previously supported its re-introduction. In relation to the road works, which were the subject of discussion at the last meeting, it was noted that the resurfacing of the highway had now been completed, together with the withdrawal of the one-way traffic system.

In relation to the provision of the dropped kerb facility at Mayfair House, High Street, discussions had taken place involving Streetscene, with the intention of carrying out this work in-house during the current road works which controlled traffic. Councillors M.A. Reece and R.K. Jones commented on this matter in relation to what had been completed to date, the reason for a delay and what still remained to be done that would be undertaken.

RESOLVED :

That the details in relation to the High Street be noted.

128. AUDIT CHANGES 2015/2016

The Clerk reported that he had now received a response from the internal auditor, JDH Business Services, who were content with the letter of engagement, which had been agreed at the last meeting and forwarded to the Company for comment. In relation to the internal audit on the 2014/15 accounts, it was noted that the cost would increase from £86.40 to £112 plus VAT, and that dates had already been indicated in early April for bringing in the accounts papers and collecting them, which were acceptable to the Clerk.

RESOLVED :

That acceptance of the letter of engagement by JDH Business Services be noted, and that they be formally appointed to undertake the internal audit of the Council's accounts for 2014/15 financial year, with the increase in fees being agreed.

129. SUMMER PLAYSCHMES PROGRAMMES 2015/16

The meeting considered a letter from Flintshire County Council which confirmed the scheme would run in 2015, as for the past two years. Following on from the decision at the January meeting on the budget, they had been advised that this Authority wished to again have two schemes of four weeks duration staggered over five weeks, as for last year. The cost of this would be £2,320, which was included in the budget agreed for 2015/16.

The letter then went on to explain the funding position for 2016, and how this could be approached in preparation for the potential loss to the County Council of the Families First Grant. They were suggesting the formation of a Working Group, to include Town and Community Council representatives, to meet and discuss the way

forward from 2016, and to also explore Local Councils commissioning the Play Development Team to deliver summer playschemes, building on existing partnership arrangements. There was also the suggestion of recruitment of local community members and volunteers to deliver summer playschemes in 2015, which would ensure the necessary skills and knowledge were available for the following year and to also engage with the third sector and volunteer organisations to support or deliver community based play provision in 2015 and beyond.

RESOLVED :

1. That the continuation of the summer playschemes for 2015 be noted.
2. That the County Council be advised that this Authority would be prepared to engage with them and other Local Councils to discuss the way forward in 2016.

130. PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that, whilst he was hopeful there might be some form of match funding available to continue improving play areas, the County Council had not yet made a final decision in relation to this matter. He reminded Members however that, in the event of it proceeding in the 2015/16 financial year, the decision in relation to which play area in Bagillt could be put forward would be dependent upon priority criteria, which was brought into effect for the schemes undertaken in this financial year. The Clerk reminded Members that at the budget meeting last month they had agreed to put a sum of £10,000 towards a play area improvement, and that they also had in balances a further £5,000 for this provision.

RESOLVED :

That the reports be noted.

131. REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNING – POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE

Reference was made by the Clerk to the White Paper issued by the Welsh Government, and to the extracts of information that had been circulated with the agenda for the information of Members. The pages extracted related solely to Community Council issues, as the vast majority of the document was only pertinent to County Councils. The Clerk and Councillor R.K. Jones made reference to the large number of issues which were being referred to in the document, both in relation to merging of Community Councils and the competence angle which was being suggested would require a budget level of £200,000, as well as issues relating to Members themselves in terms of serving on more than one Authority and the number of years in membership. The Clerk suggested deferring the item to the next meeting, which would enable him to prepare a short report, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to highlight the issues which particularly affected

Community Councils and to enable the Council to agree a response before the deadline in April. In the meantime, he suggested that Members should access the White Paper and also the Consultation Survey online, which made it easier to understand the issues being considered.

RESOLVED :

That consideration of the White Paper be deferred to the next meeting of the Council with the Clerk preparing a short report on the main issues, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to enable this Authority to agree a response.

132. CLERK'S POSITION – PENSION REGULATOR

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Council had received official notification from the Pension Regulator that they, as employer, had new legal duties in relation to pension provision for staff.

Every employer with at least one member of staff must automatically enrol those who were eligible into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it, with the Regulator being responsible for ensuring employers complied. It was noted that the staging date for this Authority would be 1st June 2016 and that, in the meantime, it was necessary to nominate a contact by the end of this month to ensure that that person received all necessary communications. This needed to be done on-line.

The Clerk confirmed with Members that, in relation to his particular situation, he would not be eligible and, as Members have previously been informed, it was his intention to retire from the position in March 2016. In this event the pension situation in relation to any new Clerk would be relevant.

RESOLVED :

That the report by the Clerk be noted, and that he be the nominated contact to receive any further communications from the Pension Regulator and that the Council be kept informed accordingly.

133. RAISED FLOWER BEDS

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had contacted a local garden centre with a view to obtaining costings for such a facility and would report back. It was noted, provision for raised beds had been included in the budget for 2015/16.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 11th February 2015
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of Personal Interest		

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Chairman