

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 9th September 2015.

PRESENT : Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams (Chairman)

COUNCILLORS : R. Davies, B.T. Doleman, A. Griffiths, G. Hotchkiss, Mrs. S.L. Jones, T. Renshaw, K. Rush, C. Williams, C.R. Williams and J. Williams

APOLOGIES : Councillors R.K. Jones, C.P. Owens and M.A. Reece.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) and PCSO Hulse (minute No. 49).

47. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

There were two members of the public present, the Vicar of Bagillt, Reverend John Geary and Mr. Carl Renshaw, with the former indicating that he would like to address the Council in relation to issues concerning the Bagillt Parish Churchyard. As there was an item later on in the agenda in relation to the Churchyard, it was agreed that this item should be discussed next.

48. BAGILLT PARISH CHURCHYARD – WATER SUPPLY AND GRAVEYARD

Reverend Geary firstly commented upon the water supply at the Churchyard, which had been leaking and was now turned off and which was inconvenient for visitors having to bring their own supply. In addition, there was the intended improvements at the Church, which would require a water supply to the Church building. In relation to the graveyard itself, he circulated a letter in which he was requesting Members to consider at their next meeting and related to reclaiming land at the south end of the graveyard to prepare it for consecration to provide additional burial facilities. The land itself would require much work to get it into a condition for such a purpose and the present difficulty concerned access, particularly for machinery to assist volunteers. He was hopeful that the Council would assist in seeking permission for an alternative access facility, as well as possibly being able to offer some financial support.

The Clerk read out to the meeting an e-mail he had received via Councillor M.A. Reece concerning the problem of the leaking stand-pipe. Members were reminded that this water supply was connected to the meter at the community centre. Under the terms of the title deeds when the community centre building was purchased from the Church Authorities prior to conversion to a community centre, it was a condition that the Community Association covered the water supply costs, as the Church building itself had no other water facility. In addition, the Clerk reminded Members that there was also another condition in that legal document that, if the Bagillt Community Association, which was a charity, ceased to exist then the

building would pass over to the Community Council. It had therefore been agreed in the early 1990's that, in order to assist the Association to continue and benefit from being a charitable organisation, the Council would cover the insurance costs and water/ sewerage, which would be reviewed on an annual basis, subject to certain conditions. The outcome of this meant that this Authority had a direct interest in the leakage problem to the stand-pipe and that, once again for this financial year, it would be meeting the costs incurred at the community centre.

In relation to the water supply issue, Councillors T. Renshaw and C.R. Williams felt that the Council should support the Church Authorities financially, both in terms of enabling the stand-pipe facility to be repaired and put back into use, given that any new arrangement at the Church may not be available for some time, and to also offer financial assistance with regard to this matter in due course. Councillors A. Griffiths and G. Hotchkiss also expressed the view that the Council should support the Church. The Chairman suggested that perhaps the Chairman's fund could be utilised to meet the cost of the repairing the existing stand-pipe facility and this was accordingly agreed. In relation to the graveyard extension issue, this should be on the agenda for the next meeting, as requested by the Vicar. Councillor B.T. Doleman made reference to the situation at the New Brighton Cemetery, and to the fact that the County Council had land in its ownership adjoining the facility which could also provide further burial facilities.

RESOLVED :

1. That the Parochial Church Council be advised that, in relation to the water supply at the Churchyard, the Council will offer to meet the cost of repairing and reinstating the existing stand-pipe facility, given the present inconvenience to visitors having to bring their own water supply, and to the fact that it may be some time before a new facility is provided by the Church building.
2. That the Parochial Church Council be advised that in relation to the new water supply being required for the new facilities to be provided at the Church building, then the Council would also offer financial assistance.
3. That in relation to the extension to the graveyard, this item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to see what assistance the Council could offer, particularly in overcoming the alternative access difficulty, with the proviso that the proposal be supported in principle.

49. POLICING

PCSO Tom Hulse attended the meeting and advised that in the past twelve months there had been a reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents. Once again he reminded Members that in the event they become aware of youths congregating

which could lead to such a problem they should use the 101 service to advise the Police accordingly.

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to an area within the Church where youths were congregating, judging by the amount of litter left behind. In support, the Vicar indicated that, on a number of occasions it had been necessary to replace the padlock which prevented such access, but it kept being removed. The area of concern was noted by the Officer.

In relation to the Merllyn School, the Officer indicated that there had been no damage reported during the holiday period. However there was the on-going problem of the fact that the CCTV cameras were not functioning, a situation which had existed for some time, and unfortunately the School did not have the funding to sort the matter out.

The Clerk enquired as to the usage made of the Police Surgeries, which were now being held twice monthly at the Community Library. He was informed by PCSO Hulse that they were getting visited by some members of the public to discuss matters. Councillor B.T. Doleman expressed the view that this was a good facility for the community. The Chairman thanked PCSO Tom Hulse for attending the meeting.

50. TRAFFIC CALMING – HIGH STREET

The meeting considered amendments proposed to the scheme in relation to the letter received from Flintshire County Council, which had been circulated to Members during the recess, as well as the invitees to the informal meetings, together with copies of Action Plans and a map showing the suggested changes. Whilst retaining the integrity of the scheme and providing the desired outcome, any scheme must achieve a reduction in the average speed of vehicles using the High Street in order to improve the safety of the road and reduce road accident casualties, they were prepared to make changes to the current scheme. These would include the introduction of a Zebra crossing, extension of the 30mph zone in the easterly direction, relocation of the vehicle actuated signs towards the eastern gateway to the village, moving two sets of speed cushions which was an additional one to that offered at the formal meeting held on 10th August 2015, and also removal of a third set, with it being replaced with a flat-top table. In addition, the provision of permanent features on the footways to prevent vehicles overrunning to avoid traffic calming features, kerbs at property crossing points that are now below the level of the carriageway would be raised, all remedial work required to the resurfacing scheme would be carried out by the original contractor and they would speak to the shop owners along the High Street and share details of the proposals and listen to their concerns regarding the impact of the features. The cost of the work listed could be accommodated from within the County Council's maintenance budget and all could be completed within a few weeks, subject to the agreement of the proposals by the Community Council.

Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that the revised proposals did not address the aspect required by both this Authority and local residents, that all of the speed cushions should be removed, whilst retaining the two flat-top tables, which would need appropriate marking to deter parking vehicles. In addition, he made reference to previous comments he had made concerning the statistics used to warrant the scheme and the request for further information, which had been promised in relation to the details of the accidents to establish whether speed itself had been a feature in any of the cases.

Councillor C.R. Williams indicated that, as far as he had been able to establish, there had as yet been no contact made with shop owners in the High Street, as promised at the August informal meeting and confirmed in the letter. In addition, the Clerk pointed out that at the informal meeting last month he had once again raised the issue of a public meeting to explain the revised proposals and listen to local residents' views, and this had again been promised by the Officer present.

RESOLVED :

1. That in relation to the revised proposals, Flintshire County Council be advised that the Community Council does not support them, as it does not achieve the declared aim of this Authority and local residents with the removal of all speed cushions, whilst the two existing flat-top tables could remain with appropriate markings to deter parking vehicles.
2. That the County Council be requested to adhere to its previous commitment to attend a public meeting to present its revised proposals and listen to the views expressed by local residents, which would be held at the Community Centre, High Street as it had a much greater accommodation facility than the Community Library.
3. Reference be made to the fact that, as far as this Council were concerned, there had as yet been no approach made by County Council Officers to shop owners along the High Street to share details of their proposals and listen to their concerns regarding the impact of the present features.
4. That in relation to the statistics used on the accidents which led to the scheme meeting the criteria, that the details once again be requested in relation to their causes, with particular reference as to whether the speed of these vehicles was determined to be a cause.

51. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th July 2015.

a. Minute No. 43 – Community Asset Transfer – War Memorial, Bagillt

Councillor B.T. Doleman advised that the County Council were now refusing to replace the damaged lighting unit, which they had broken when rotovating the area prior to planting. In response, the Clerk indicated that the repair of this unit was one of the conditions placed concerning the latest stage of a possible community asset transfer to this Authority of the War Memorial area in question and upon which a response was awaited.

b. Minute No. 46(b) – Japanese Knotweed

Councillor A. Griffiths indicated that there had still been no contact from the appropriate Department at the County Council. The Clerk indicated that, following Streetscene advising that the area of concern was not their responsibility, an approach had been made to the Housing Department, which also included property management on behalf of the Council, and he would forward a reminder accordingly.

Reference was also made by Councillor A. Griffiths to the issue of Himalayan Balsam, which he was raising due to the absence of Councillor M.A. Reece, and was causing a problem in many areas, including the stream at New Brighton cemetery and Victoria Park. The Clerk indicated that Councillor Reece had spoken to him prior to going on holiday about this issue, and indicated that he had made various approaches to the County Council and Natural Resources Wales, the latter indicating they were only endeavouring to address the problem in relation to main rivers at the present time. It seemed that the County Council did not have the manpower to attend to this issue, and it would require volunteers, and perhaps an approach could be made to the Probation Service for some assistance from their Offender Training Programme. Councillor T. Renshaw expressed the view that Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam were invasive non-native plants and, in view of the reluctance of various Authorities to get involved, that the Clerk approach the Welsh Government Department for Natural Resources for guidance as to the responsibility for these species. The two suggestions for action were accordingly supported.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 8th July 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman advised that she would be attending the Mold Town Council Civic Sunday, which would take place on 27th September 2015.

2. The Chairman advised that she would be attending the Urdd Eisteddfod Proclamation Ceremony, which would be held on 3rd October 2015, in Flint.

53. PLANNING

a. Applications Determined – Recess Period

App. No.	Location	Detail
053922	Land east of Grosvenor House, Sandy Lane	Access, landscaping layout and scale

The above proposal was supported.

053878	Vicarage Drive	Extension to rear dormer, porch and conservatory
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The above proposal was supported.

053852	Greenfield Industrial west of Estate	Develop waste handling depot to existing composting facility
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No objection, but reservations about increased smell due to prevailing winds, heavier vehicle movement, due to access, and increased safety concerns for children crossing the highway for school buses

b. Application

App. No.	Location	Detail
054113	Land side of Glendun, High Street	Erection of dormer dwelling
054033	English Congregational Church, High Street	Erection of single storey, side extension

RESOLVED :

That the proposals concerning applications Nod. 054113 and 054033, be supported.

c. Flintshire Local Development Plan – Settlement Survey

Members had previously been circulated with details concerning a Settlement Service Audit from Flintshire County Council, and were requested to indicate if any of the information had inaccuracies. It was agreed that the information

was correct at the time it had been undertaken with the proviso that the reference to the name of the convenience store was now out of date.

54. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

a. Recess

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Clr. C.P.Owens	38.55	101746	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act.1976(S.19)
MANWALC	35.00	101747	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)

b. For Payment

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Bagillt Bowling Club	480.00	101748	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act.1976(S.19)
Clr. C.P.Owens	47.43	101749	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act.1976(S.19)
Mr. G. Roberts	937.53	101750	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	144.46	101751	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)

55. BAGILLT FORESHORE

The Clerk reported that, following representations made to the Welsh Government at the last meeting concerning the pedestrian access on the A548 to the Foreshore, the Minister had advised that this was a local road, which was the responsibility of Flintshire County Council. Funding was made available to a local authority to improve active travel links and create safe route in the community. Funding for 2015/16 was fully allocated, although there may be opportunities in future years. It was the responsibility of local authorities to choose which schemes to apply for funding. The current National Transport Finance Plan set out the potential trunking of the A548 between its junction with the A550 and Mostyn, to begin within the next three years. Until then it would remain a local road and the responsibility of Flintshire County Council.

RESOLVED :

That the response from the Welsh Government be noted.

56. STREETSCENE CHANGES

The Clerk reported that details had been received from Flintshire County Council that confirmed that the existing contact centre number would remain as 01352 701234, and they and the Area Co-ordinator would deal with enquires on

highway maintenance, winter maintenance, grounds maintenance and cleansing. The Area Co-ordinators would work in pairs, with Nigel Seaburg being the cover if Neil Hickie was not available. All strategic issues in relation to traffic calming requests, traffic order requests or reviews, requests for highway improvement schemes, re-surfacing work and street works activities for utilities, would be dealt with by the line manager.

The Clerk reported that Neil Hickie was due to attend the next meeting of the Council for the quarterly update on Streetscene matters, and it was intended that on this occasion he would be accompanied by his line manager.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

57. ROAD TRAFFIC ORDER – A5026

It was noted that Flintshire County Council had advised that the Order extending the 30mph speed limit from Rose Hill, Holywell to Sunnyside Close, Bagillt, came into force on 24th July 2015.

58. RECESS PERIOD

It was noted that during the Recess period the Chairman and Vice Chairman approved payments, as listed in minute No. 54, and were also consulted on the arrangements for the informal meeting in August, referred to in minute No. 50.

59. WELSH GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

It was noted that the Welsh Government had published guidance on the Playing Fields (Community Involvement and Disposal Decisions) Regulations, which had come into effect on 1st October 2015. After this date all Local Authorities, including Local Councils, must have regard to the Guidance when considering the potential disposal of a playing field.

60. STANDARDS ISSUES

a. Standards Conference Wales 2015

It was agreed that no nomination be made to attend the Conference, which was due to be held at Cardiff on 21st September 2015.

b. Standards Committee Meeting with Town and Community Councils

It was noted that this was due to be held on 5th October 2015, and that the Chairman would represent the Council.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 9th September 2015
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of Personal Interest		

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Chairman