

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 10TH February 2016.

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

COUNCILLORS : R. Davies, B.T. Doleman, A. Griffiths, G. Hotchkiss, C.P. Owens, M.A. Reece, T. Renshaw, K. Rush, C. Williams and C.R. Williams.

APOLOGIES : Councillors R.K. Jones, Mrs. S.L. Jones and J. Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) and PCSO Hulse (minute Nos. 121 and 122)

120. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were nine members of the public present, 8 of whom were attending to listen to the debate on traffic calming in the High Street and, because of this, the Chairman indicated that she would bring this issue forward on the agenda. A further member of the public wished to speak, but after it became clear that it was not being addressed to agenda items, as required in the criteria, the Chairman indicated this would have to cease, although the person was welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting and received an agenda from the Clerk.

121. POLICING

PCSO Tom Hulse was in attendance but indicated that he had little to update the meeting on as he had been away on leave and the prior issues of problem youths seemed to have gone quieter, possibly due to the weather pattern in recent weeks.

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to a recent burglary in the Village, which the Officer was unable to update with information. Reference was made by Councillor G. Hotchkiss to an incident of speeding he had witnessed and was advised by Councillor T. Renshaw that such issues should be reported immediately to the Police by ringing the 101 service. In addition, he gave an example of an incident he had reported in the High Street, despite the traffic calming measures.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for attending and noted that he would remain for the next item.

122. HIGH STREET – TRAFFIC CALMING

With the Agenda Members had received a copy of the three Freedom of Information requests made to the County Council, North Wales Police and Welsh Government, together with their responses. In addition, copies had also been circulated of further enquiries sent to the Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council, after

consultation between Councillor T. Renshaw, the Clerk and the Chairman. A further copy of the letter from the County Council sent during the recess had been forwarded together with another indicated that work was due to start on the revised scheme at the end of this month.

Councillor T. Renshaw made reference to the inadequacies of a number of the responses made in the reply from Flintshire County Council, together with a repeated date error, hence the further request for clarification made to them on a number of points. Councillor C.P. Owens concurred with this view by highlighting particular issues in the response from the County Council, and the seemingly reluctance to answer particular points. As the information contained in the Welsh Government response did not seem to tally with that of the detailed accident statistics received from the Police, a copy of the latter's response had been sent to them, with the request that they indicate whether from this information the scheme would have been approved under their criteria. In relation to the details on the accidents received from the Police, of the 11 indicated only 3 were serious, with only 1 of these indicating it being speed related. It was unlikely therefore that in relation to the other 10 incidents the introduction of speed cushions would stop them re-occurring.

Councillor M.A. Reece made reference to the mention of both Local Members in the response from the County Council and reiterated what he had made clear previously that the funding was already in place before he had been invited to a meeting, and had expressed his opposition to speed cushions and suggested chicanes as an alternative. Whilst there had been less speed humps included in the West Ward section of the High Street, it had only been possible to achieve one chicane. Councillor B.T. Doleman referred to a discussion with the Arrive Alive officer responsible for traffic calming issues and he had indicated he had been consulted and advised Flintshire he did not support the scheme for High Street.

RESOLVED :

That, whilst noting the County Council were intending to introduce the previously notified amendments to the scheme, which was not supported by this Authority, they be advised as follows :

- a. that the speed cushions along the High Street do not have the support of the Community Council or the community at large, and it is still the view of this Authority that all should be removed.
- b. that the information contained in the debate regarding the accident statistics and then being forwarded to the Welsh Government to see if it still met their criteria, and the view expressed by Arrive Alive officer opposing such a scheme when consulted, be conveyed to Flintshire County Council.

- c. that in relation to the awaited further reply on the Freedom of Information response, Flintshire County Council be informed that, dependent on what was received in relation to the issues raised, the Council may pursue the matter further with the Information Commissioner.

123. MINUTES

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 13th January 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

124. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman advised that, at the March meeting, it was her intention to recommend to the Council that the funds remaining in the Chairman's Fund in this financial year be passed over to the Bagillt Heritage Society, towards the running costs of the Community Library.
2. The Chairman read out to the meeting a letter received from the Clerk confirming his intention to retire on the 31st May 2016 and giving formal notice, as required under his contract of employment with the Council.

125. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

a. By-Pass Crossing

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to the fact that, despite there being a number of fatalities on the By-Pass over the years, it had not achieved any score in the criteria to achieve a crossing, whereas the statistics for the High Street, where there had been none, had achieved a sufficient score to obtain Welsh Government funding for the traffic calming scheme that had been installed last year.

b. NAMWALC

Councillor C.R. Williams indicated that, due to vehicle difficulties suffered by the Secretary to the Association, very little business had been able to be discussed at the meeting held last month in Rhos on Sea.

c. Change of Polling Station

Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he had been approached concerning the use of Trem Afon as a Polling Station to replace the Youth Centre, due to the fact that it was now to be used by the School for lunch time purposes. This alternative may only be a temporary solution. The Clerk indicated he had also received a request from Electoral Services at Flintshire County Council

for the views of the Council on this issue, and it was agreed that the change be supported.

126. 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 indicated that, following on from the decisions at the October 2015 meeting, there was a sum of £1,100 remaining in the budget for this financial year. In addition to the information contained in the report on the six applications received, the Clerk had sent an e-mail to all Members giving further information in relation to the one from Bagillt Royal Stars.

RESOLVED :

1. That in accordance with Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, the following donations be agreed :

Organisation	£	Cheque No.
Bagillt Playgroup	180.00	101789
Bagillt Royal Stars	500.00	101790
New Brighton Chapel Action Group	100.00	101791
Wales Air Ambulance	200.00	101793
Marie Curie Cancer Care	120.00	101792

2. That in relation to the application from KIM-Inspire, no donation be made.

127. PLANNING APPLICATONS

a. Application Determined – On-Line Consultation Period

App. No.	Location	Detail
054807	Land rear of Grosvenor House, Sandy Lane	Outline for erection of 5 dwellings

It was noted that the application was supported.

b. Application for Consideration

App. No.	Location	Detail
054614	Petrol Heads, Dee Bank Industrial Estate	Change of use to car wash, valeting/external alterations

054836

Cedar House, Merllyn Lane

Erection of extensions to rear and front

RESOLVED :

That applications 054614 and 054836, be supported.

128. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the undermentioned accounts be paid.

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Clr. C.P. Owens	82.10	101784	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976(S.19)
Clr. C.R. Williams	31.50	101785	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Zurich Insurance	1,047.68	101786	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976(S.19)
Mr. G. Roberts	815.40	101787	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	144.46	101788	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)

129. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT ISSUES

The Clerk advised that Flintshire County Council wanted one of their Officers from Streetscene and Transportation to attend the March meeting of the Council, to update Members on community transport issues. The Officer would need between 20-30 minutes to make the presentation and respond to any questions.

RESOLVED :

That the request be approved and that the County Council be advised accordingly.

130. WAR MEMORIAL – HIGH STREET

In his absence, Councillor R.K. Jones had forwarded an e-mail to the Clerk indicating that discussions had been held with the appropriate County Officers, and he would shortly be conveying further information.

In relation to the wreath holder, the Gatemaker had advised that he had since taken on further work and could not make such a structure if required within the previously notified timeframe. Councillor B.T. Doleman read out to the meeting part of a copy of research, carried out in relation to the War Memorial, which indicated the designer, stonemason and that the erection was undertaken by direct labour, at a cost of £370. In addition, in an endeavour to raise monies for the Memorial fund, a match had been played in 1921 between Bagillt Hotspurs and Everton FC on the

Bettisfield football ground at Walwen. In the research there was more information in relation to those who had lost their lives from Bagillt during the First World War.

RESOLVED :

That the reports be noted.

131. BAGILLT FORESHORE

Reference was made by Councillor M.A. Reece to a request he had received from the Ranger, Tim Johnson, to the effect that, in the event of complaints regarding dog fouling, that these should be reported to the appropriate Section at Streetscene, and not himself.

Councillor G. Hotchkiss made reference to the skip located at Greenfield and Bagillt boundary and to the fact that, during the recent high winds rubbish was blowing over to the Bagillt side and that this was also exacerbated by other items coming from the nearby factory. Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he would take this matter up with the Streetscene Supervisor.

132. MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The changes to the Mobile Library Service in relation to the Bagillt area had been previously circulated to Members, and were accordingly noted.

133. CLERK POSITION

The meeting considered the recommendations of the Working Group on filling the impending vacancy, and also copies had been circulated of the job description and person specification and job advert.

RESOLVED :

That the recommendations of the Working Group be agreed as follows :

1. The salary scale to be on LC1 SCP 23-25 for 14 paid hours per week, equating to £7,887 to £8,404 per annum, plus expenses to cover working from home of £1,440 per annum (£120 per month) to be reviewed annually at estimates time, with the Council being responsible for the purchase of a suitable lap-top computer/printer, in consultation with the successful candidate.
2. That in relation to Auto Enrolment Pension requirements, it be agreed that the Council will seek entry into the Local Government Pension Scheme, after noting the likely actuarial fee for a single employee would be £900 plus VAT.

3. That the job vacancy, as circulated, be advertised as recommended with effect from 11th February 2016, with a closing date for applications of 11th March 2016.
4. That the Working Group be responsible for drawing up the shortlist of applicants for interviewing, and the questions to be asked, at a meeting to be held on 12th March 2016.
5. That the Council meeting to be held on 9th March 2016 be deferred until 16th March 2016, to enable a report on the applications received and shortlisting.
6. That the interviewing of shortlisted candidates be by way of all available Councillors at a Special meeting to be held at the Community Library on Monday 4th April 2016.
7. That the successful applicant, subject to acceptance of the terms offered, be invited to attend the Council meeting on 13th April 2016, and to be paid from 1st May 2016 to work in tandem with the current Clerk before taking over on 1st June 2016, and therefore expected to be in attendance at the Annual meeting on 11th May 2016.
8. That the job description be approved, as circulated, subject to the changes required by the decisions referred to above.

134. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Caravan Usage

Reference was made by Councillor C.P. Owens to an occupied caravan alongside a cottage by the Boot and Ship Inn, which was understood to be an occupation without the necessary permission. Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that there had been problems concerning enforcement, due to the lack of being able to find the owner.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk refer the matter to the Planning Authority for action.

b. Highway Surfaces

Councillor C.P. Owens referred to the present unsatisfactory condition of the highway at the Poplars, where he lived, and requested that some action be taken, even if only patching work. Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that the Streetscene Supervisor was aware of this matter and was seeking funding for filling in the potholes.

Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that the road from Bagillt to Holywell had received attention by way of patching but pot holes were now appearing by where the work had been carried out and needed attention.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk advise the Streetscene Supervisor for the area of the Council's concern.

c. Phone Box, Boot End

Reference was made by Councillor C.P. Owens to the damaged phone box by the bus shelter at Boot End, and to the fact that this particular area had a poor mobile signal.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk take the matter up with British Telecom.

d. Street Lamps

Councillor A. Griffiths indicated that there were two street lights by Rising Sun Cottages, Merllyn Lane that required attention and when he had reported the matter to the County Council he had been informed it was not their responsibility. This was refuted by Councillor M.A. Reece, who indicated that they had been repaired in the past and he would take the matter up with Streetscene accordingly.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 10th February 2016
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of personal interest		

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Chairman