

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 14th January 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, T. Renshaw, K. Rush, C. Williams, Mrs. D.J. Williams and J. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk), PC Kerry Smith-Williams, PCSO Tom Hulse (minute No. 102) and Mr. John Williams, Flintshire County Council (minute No. 103).

100. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM

The Chairman referred to the large number of local residents who were present and wished to make comment and receive information in relation to the on-going resurfacing works on the High Street, and also to the intended traffic calming. They had been advised that, as their attendance all related to the same issues, they would need to appoint a spokesman to speak on their behalf. This had been agreed and would be dealt with in the next item on the agenda.

101. HIGH STREET ROAD WORKS

At the request of the Chairman the Clerk read out to the meeting a copy of an e-mail from Flintshire County Council, which had been received by Councillor M.A. Reece and who was making the information available to the meeting. The e-mail pointed out that the decision had been made to extend the current works along the High Street from sections of resurfacing to a complete resurfacing from The Blossoms to Pentre Bach. As this was a substantial change to the original programme of works, there would be an impact on the resourcing and duration.

The next operation would be to continue to plane-off the remaining sections of the road on the south-bound carriageway. Unfortunately, due to the short notice of these changes, the contractor was unable to provide a resource for this operation until this Friday, which meant there would be no, or very little, work on-going over the next few days and, due to the current site conditions, it would not be safe to remove the one-way system for this long a period. The additional works would now increase the duration of the scheme, which was now being estimated to another three weeks.

During the coming weekend there would be an effect on the junction at The Blossoms with works on the highway under two-way traffic control. There would also be an effect on the junction at Gadlys Lane and during this period the one-way system would be taken down.

The Chairman then requested the spokesperson for those residents present to make comments. Initially, this related to the intended traffic calming scheme, which those present did not favour, the aspect of public consultation in relation to obtaining the views of residents and the limited numbers which did receive letters from the County Council. In relation to the difficulties being caused by the one-way system required for the resurfacing work why was no communication received regarding the effect on the bus services, the fact that the contractor had gone off-site from the 10th-14th January, meaning that no work was being undertaken and, would it have not been better to have installed temporary traffic lights to prevent some vehicles going the wrong way and causing problems. In addition, why was it necessary to carry out the resurfacing works in the winter, having regard to the difficulties some faced on particularly wintry mornings, due to the icy conditions, and then the bus service being unavailable. There had been an effect on the elderly residents of Bagillt who relied on the bus service to get around, and why was this not considered accordingly. Lastly, the effect on local business.

Councillor R.K. Jones referred to the original decision to only resurface sections, and why this had now been extended to the whole highway between the indicated sections. There were on-going discussions to see whether local bus operators could provide a shuttle service up to four times a day, between Monday and Friday, and to the fact that, when the other side of the highway was being worked on, the one-way system would be in the reverse direction.

Councillor M.A. Reece advised the meeting in relation to the consultation exercise undertaken by the County Council regarding the traffic calming scheme, and the differing views which had been expressed concerning those in the East and West Wards, and to the majority in favour of work. The Chairman advised the members of the public present that the Council had unanimously objected to the scheme at its November meeting, and advised the Highway Authority accordingly.

Councillor T. Renshaw expressed the view that, having regard to the performance of the contractor on the resurfacing scheme to date, and the role of the County Council, that representations should be made to the latter. This concerned the need for co-ordination to ensure that the scheme was carried out as efficiently and promptly as possible so as to minimise the disruption being caused to local residents. He was supported in these comments by Councillors C.P. Owens and G. Hotchkiss. Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that, in his role as a County Councillor, he had not been kept informed by County Officers as to what was going on. In relation to why the work has been undertaken at the present time, Councillor R.K. Jones advised the public present that this was to ensure the available monies were expended before the end of the present financial year, which was in March.

PC Smith-Williams made reference to the comments which had been made regarding vehicles going in the wrong direction of the one-way system and some

inappropriate parking by the shops, which she had noted, and would endeavour to make a presence available in order to deter such actions as far as possible.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk make representations to Flintshire County Council concerning the comments made at the meeting, and the need to ensure that the re-surfacing works were now completed in an efficient and prompt manner.

102. POLICING

The Chairman welcomed PC Kerry Smith-Williams and PCSO Tom Hulse to the meeting. PC Smith-Williams indicated that she had been in the Police Service for ten years before being appointed to a new Neighbourhood Policing role for the area. Whilst as yet she did not have any contact detail cards to hand out, she indicated that, for the information of Members, her mobile number was 07896 171682, and information could also be passed to her colleague, PCSO Hulse, who would ensure that she was kept informed. PCSO Hulse enquired whether Members would wish him to try and re-start Police Surgeries at the Community Centre, on a monthly basis, and he was advised that this would be welcomed. PC Smith-Williams indicated that she would remain for the rest of the meeting, whilst her colleague would leave. Both were thanked by the Chairman for their presence.

103. STREETSCENE SUPERVISOR FOR BAGILLT AREA

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John Williams, Area Supervisor for Streetscene, for his quarterly visit to listen to any matters raised by Members, and also to respond to issues which had been raised previously. Councillor G. Hotchkiss referred to an issue he had raised previously concerning problems with the lighting at the junction in the Boot End, both coming on at inappropriate times and not at all, and was advised accordingly by Mr. Williams regarding the problems in addressing this issue and the progress to date. Lighting issues were also raised by Councillor B.T. Doleman in respect of the War Memorial and also by Councillor Mrs. D.J. Williams at New Brighton Road.

Mr. Williams then updated the meeting regarding issues that had previously been raised with him, in particular concerning the trees at Bron y Wern, the link road at Abbots Close and the problems notified at the New Brighton Cemetery. In relation to the lack of dropped kerbs at the Mayfair House, High Street development, Mr. Williams passed a copy of an e-mail to Councillor T. Renshaw concerning this issue, which advised that, despite attempting to contact the developers on numerous occasions, they were receiving no response and it had been decided it would not be expedient to pursue formal action. In response, Councillor T. Renshaw made reference to the Bond issue, which had not been addressed in the e-mail and which was intended to cover all highway works and multiple occupation developments to ensure that they were up to adoptable standards for the Highway Authority. There

was also the issue that, unless the kerbs were dropped, then it was an inappropriate access for residents wishing to reach their properties from the High Street. It was agreed that further representations on this issue be made by the Clerk to the County Council.

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones regarding the barrier issue, which had been raised at the last meeting. It was not going to be dealt with as previously indicated and that the repair would still need to be undertaken to ensure that vehicles could not cross the grass verge from the A548 to the High Street.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Williams for attending the meeting and it was noted that he would next attend in April 2015.

104. MINUTES

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 12th November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

105. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman advised that, together with Councillor M.A. Reece, he had presented a bouquet to Mr. and Mrs. F. Holloway, as agreed at the last meeting. Unfortunately, the meeting were informed by Councillor M.A. Reece that Mr. F. Holloway had since passed away.

106 PLANNING

a. Applications Determined – Recess Period

There were no applications determined during the recess period, using all Members in the appropriate Ward.

b. Applications

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

c. Flintshire LDP – Candidate Sites

Members had received copy of a letter from Flintshire County Council advising that the number of Candidate Sites received had exceeded that expected, with the processing taking longer and resulting in a delay of the publication of the register of Candidate Sites. As in interim measure they were making available, before the formal publication, a map showing each of

the Candidate Sites in a particular area, and three copies were circulated at the meeting for Members' information, showing those received both inside and adjoining Bagillt and also the intended purpose.

Reference was made by Councillor B.T. Doleman to the meeting attended last year by the Officer responsible for the LDP process, when he had raised the issue concerning the inclusion of the community garden project on the Foreshore at the site of a former sewage works. At that time the Officer had indicated this could be included and he had received notification to this effect but the map did not show the site as being included. Councillor T. Renshaw reminded the meeting of the Candidate Sites' process, which had a deadline for submission of entries and would in due course be available for public consultation and comment. Councillor B.T. Doleman indicated that he would take this matter up with the Officer concerned.

RESOLVED :

That the information be noted.

d. Crematorium Proposal

A letter received from Mr. J.E. Davies & Sons, Funeral Directors, concerning proposals for the erection of a Crematorium at Starkey Lane, Northop, had been previously circulated to Members. The proposal was being re-submitted and reference was also being made to another proposal for a Crematorium facility in the area. The letter indicated that they were urging the County Council, as Planning Authority, that the two applications be dealt with at the same time.

Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that he had also spoken on this issue at a recent Flint Town Council meeting, when he had made it known that one Member of the Planning Committee at Flintshire had taken part in the discussion and vote, when a view had already been expressed on this issue at a prior Community Council meeting. This was inappropriate, and had been brought the attention of the relevant Officer. Regarding the letter received from Mr. Davies, he felt that the Council should support the contention that both applications should be dealt with at the same time. Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that he understood that the other application had been put back for consideration by one month.

RESOLVED :

That Flintshire County Council be advised that this Council is of the view that both applications concerning Crematoria proposals should be dealt with at the same meeting of the Planning Committee, and that Mr. Davies be advised accordingly.

107. ACCOUNTS

a. Recess

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Flintshire County Council	2,296.40	101685	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976 (S.19)
Delyn Press	24.00	101687	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
NAMWALC	15.00	101691	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Flintshire County Council	10,000.00	101690	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976 (S.19)

RESOLVED :

That the actions of the Chairman and Vice Chairman in approving the above payments during the Recess, be endorsed.

b. For Payment

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
Soc. of Local Council Clerks	131.00	101692	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Clr. C.P. Owens	19.84	101693	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976(S.19)
Tennyson Insurance Ltd.	347.64	101694	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act 1976(S.19)
Mr. G. Roberts	865.13	101695	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	146.12	101696	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	1,000.00	101697	Loc.Govt.Act 2000 (S.2)

108. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk, and further information received from Flintshire County Council, and requested Members to consider authorising him to forward an expression of interest in respect of the War Memorial planted area. This would be without commitment and would also enable the possibility of obtaining a costing as part of the process and would assist in any future decisions.

The meeting attended by the Chairman and the Clerk in relation to Holywell Leisure Centre was noted, in particular the repairs to be undertaken at the centre and the decision to offer moral support to the continuance of the facility.

RESOLVED :

1. That the Clerk be authorised to forward an expression of interest in relation to the War Memorial planted area.
2. That the other information in relation to CAT issues be noted.

109. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The meeting considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on Estimates for 2015/16, with an Appendix containing particular items prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. As well as suggested levels of expenditure for the next financial year, details were included in relation to probably/ actual income and expenditure for 2014/15. Members were reminded of the discussions and decisions made at the November meeting, as well as other factors taken into account in preparing the schedule, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The report indicated the projected small increase in the precept if the proposals, as submitted, were approved. With regard to the factors taken into account, it had been assumed that the Council would wish to continue with the practice brought into force this year concerning the Chairman's fund, and that the Clerk's salary would remain the same for next year, even though another increase was to be reported in the National Scale, which was at his request with the continuance of the out sourced payroll facility. Sums had been included in relation to raised beds, War Memorial, miscellaneous schemes and Urdd Eisteddfod, to be held in Flint in 2016. The decisions taken at the November meeting in relation to once again supporting Bowling Green maintenance, Community Centre, Community Library, Play Scheme/Summer Activities participation and Play Area improvement, had also been included. Whilst confirmation was still awaited from Flintshire County Council concerning possible Play Area improvement, Councillor R.K. Jones indicated that a letter was on the way to confirm that the existing Play Schemes for the summer would continue for a further year.

RESOLVED :

1. That a precept of £39,345 be made on Flintshire County Council for 2015/16, which equated to a Band D charge of £26.89, an increase of 0.79% (£0.21) on the last financial year.
2. That the amounts indicated in the previously circulated expenditure heads for estimates purposes for 2015/16, be approved as circulated.

3. That the level of funding agreed at the last meeting be formally included in the budget for the next financial year to enable maintenance of the bowling green at the Bagillt Bowling Club.
4. That in relation to the Community Centre, the Bagillt Community Association be advised that the Council will once again be making appropriate provision to continue the financial assistance, subject to the previously agreed criteria concerning Accounts and to be advised when meetings were to be held.
5. That the continuation of the Play Schemes programme, with the Council once again providing expenditure to cover four weeks at both sites, be noted and that, whilst appropriate provision had been made for the Play Area Improvements scheme, confirmation of any possible match funding scheme was awaited, with the proviso that if it were to proceed then a decision on the site to be chosen would be made at a later date.
6. That in relation to the provision to assist the Community Library, the Council would once again be taking responsibility in the next financial year for meeting the insurance and electricity costs.

110. LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS 2015/16

The meeting considered a report of the Responsible Financial Officer on Local Government Investments, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. The Appendix to the report advised that all excess funds were to be held in the Business Money Manager Account.

RESOLVED :

That the Annual Investment Strategy for Bagillt Community Council, as prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer and circulated as an Appendix to the report, be adopted for meeting the requirements for this Authority for 2015/16.

111. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Responsible Financial Officer indicated that during the recess he had prepared a more detailed monitoring report, in accordance with the audit changes reported to the last meeting and in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. A copy of the more detailed monitoring report, in relation to both expenditure and income, had been circulated for Members' information for the third quarter of the financial year, together with a Bank reconciliation statement for the same period.

RESOLVED :

That the details circulated for the third quarter be noted.

112. AUDIT CHANGES 2015/16

The Clerk referred to the report made to the last meeting of the Council and that during the recess he had consulted with the Chairman and Vice Chairman concerning the matter of the engagement letter for the internal auditor. A copy of the revised engagement letter had been previously circulated for the approval of Members. In addition, the Clerk indicated that in accordance with change in audit regulations, this would be a matter which would have to be considered on an annual basis.

RESOLVED :

That the engagement letter, as circulated, for renewing the current arrangements with JDH Business Services Limited, concerning internal audit, be accepted and signed by the Chairman and Clerk and forwarded to the Auditor for comment.

113. BAGILLT FORESHORE

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to the fact that works being undertaken by the Countryside Services were causing problems for users of the area in relation to the manner in which it was being done and he suggested that Mr. Mike Taylor be requested to attend the next meeting of the Council concerning this issue. Councillors B.T. Doleman and C.P. Owens made reference to the Steering Group, which had been referred to when representatives of the Countryside Services had attended a meeting of the Council last year, and to the make-up of the membership, which did not include any bodies they were involved in. Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that a Steering Group was a useful format for being in a position to obtain grant opportunities.

RESOLVED :

That Mr. Mike Taylor of Flintshire Countryside Services be requested to attend the next meeting of the Council accordingly.

114. HIGH STREET – TRAFFIC CALMING

A copy of the response from Flintshire County Council on the objection agreed at the last meeting, had previously been circulated for Members' information. After contacting the relevant County Officer, he was advised that they were requesting views prior to this meeting of the Council when the Council were next due to meet. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had been consulted on the content of the letter and they decided to reiterate the stance previously taken by the Council concerning objections to the proposal.

Councillor T. Renshaw made reference to the information in the letter concerning statistics and to the fact that, when proposals had previously been brought forward by Councillor M.A. Reece concerning the re-introduction of a Pedestrian Crossing in the High Street, there had not been the criteria available for such a scheme to go ahead, whilst there did seem to be the necessary information for traffic calming to proceed. He suggested that the County Council be requested to indicate why the statistics warranted one scheme and not another, and this was accordingly agreed.

115. RECESS PERIOD

The actions of the Chairman and Vice Chairman in relation to Accounts for Payment, Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the next financial year, financial information, audit changes and High Street traffic calming, were noted.

116. CLERK

a. Salary

The Clerk reported to the meeting on a National Salary Award, on which he had been notified.

RESOLVED :

1. That for the purpose of the existing contract arrangements with the Clerk, the increase in the current salary scale be endorsed, subject to 2 below.
2. That in the light of the request made by the Clerk concerning personal circumstances, the increase be not implemented, and that his salary remain at the present level, as requested.

b. Conference

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk be authorised to attend the joint event being organised by the Society of Local Council Clerks and One Voice Wales in May 2015, which would be held in Llandrindod Wells and that the cost of the event of £69.00 plus VAT be paid accordingly.

117. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Empty Properties

Reference was made by Councillor R. Davies to the issue of empty properties in the Village, with particular reference to the Bagillt Arms, which was at least in the process of being sorted, the paper shop in the High Street, which

backed onto his property, and other properties on the Manor Estate. In relation to housing properties, Councillor R.K. Jones advised accordingly, whilst Councillor M.A. Reece would be able to pass information on concerning the matter of the empty paper shop.

b. Footbridge

Councillor K. Rush made reference to the fact that there needed to be a safe way of crossing the dual carriageway, in order to ensure local residents could fully enjoy the facilities of walking on the Foreshore. Councillor R.K. Jones indicated in response that, whilst there was little chance of such a facility in the future, he was hopeful there would be a controlled crossing at an appropriate point over the dual carriageway for both pedestrians and cyclists and made reference to progress to date, the contents of which were noted. Councillor B.T. Doleman expressed the view that, as and when such a scheme did come forward, there would be appropriate consultation with the community.

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

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 14th January 2015
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of Personal Interest		

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Chairman