

BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in BAGILLT COMMUNITY LIBRARY on Wednesday 8th July 2015.

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

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

APOLOGIES : Councillors R.K. Jones and C. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) and Messrs. J. Williams and N. Hickie, Flintshire County Council (minute No. 30).

29. POLICING

The Clerk advised that PCSO Tom Hulse was unable to be present due to shift arrangements, following the first of the Police surgeries held this afternoon at the Community Library. Copies of the Police surgeries arranged for the next six months had previously been circulated to Members and were also on display on the Council notice boards. Unfortunately, PC Tapley, who was a temporary Neighbourhood Policeman, was also unable to attend as he was on sick leave.

Councillor B.T. Doleman made reference to the Police surgery which had been held at the Community Library earlier today and to a discussion with PCSO Hulse concerning the accident statistics that had been forwarded by Flintshire County Council in connection with the High Street Traffic Calming Scheme. The Officer had looked into each accident and of all those that had been listed none were considered to be speed related. Councillor T. Renshaw reminded Members of the points he had raised in relation to the accidents statistics at the informal meeting with Flintshire County Council representatives and in particular why it had taken so long to forward the information to the Council.

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to assistance being sought by the Police concerning increased vigilance to protect schools during the forthcoming summer holidays and he reminded Members of the significant problems which were already occurring at Ysgol Merllyn.

30. STREETSCENE SUPERVISOR, BAGILLT

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John Williams to the meeting, who had until recently been the Streetscene Supervisor for Bagillt, and his colleague, Mr. Neil Hickie, who had now taken over the role. Mr. Williams indicated that he had been transferred to a new position in Waste and Recycling, which would also cover CCTV monitoring, and that it was a significant learning curve from his previous role. If Members had

particular concerns on waste collection issues then he could be contacted on his mobile number, which the Clerk and Councillor M.A. Reece had.

In relation to Streetscene issues, Councillor B.T. Doleman made reference to the damaged light fitting at the War Memorial, as a result of the use of a rotovator by a County Council employee, and that this needed to be replaced, particularly as this Authority were in negotiation with Flintshire County Council regarding a community asset transfer for the planted area surrounding the Memorial. Mr. Hickie noted this information for attention. Councillor J. Williams thanked Streetscene for attending to a number of problem potholes in his area. The Clerk advised Mr. Hickie that his colleague, Mr. Williams, attended Council meetings on a quarterly basis to give an update on what had been happening since the previous meeting and to take note of any issues brought up by Members. In response, Mr. Hickie indicated that, although he also attended two other Community Councils, he would be happy to do so with Bagillt on the same basis, and he passed over his contact details to the Clerk accordingly.

As well as thanking the two Officers for attending the meeting, the Chairman also thanked Mr. Williams for the work he had undertaken whilst he had been Streetscene Supervisor in Bagillt for the past two years and wished him all the best in his new role with the County Council.

31. MINUTES

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th June 2015.

a. Minute No. 28a - Footpath – Merllyn Lane

The Clerk indicated that the County Council had responded that the footpath was temporarily closed on the basis that the retaining wall running alongside was deemed to be unsafe. Arrangements were being made to discuss this matter in detail with the Rights of Way Section and possibly the Building Control Section. It was anticipated further investigations may be necessary to establish the level of works required to the site so that a decision may be made as to how to progress the matter.

b. Minute No. 28b - Footpath No. 10 - Blockage

The Clerk advised that a response had been received from the County Council indicating that, whilst some progress had been made, it had not been possible to obtain all the information anticipated and, had access to the information been available it would have assisted in this case. At the present time resources were not available to determine the position of the footpath with the evidence currently to hand and therefore undertaking enforcement action to make the footpath open and available to the public. This was

regrettable but it was certainly hoped that progress could be made at some stage in the future once other cases had been resolved. Councillor B.T. Doleman informed the meeting of the history of this matter, which led to the blockage at the High Street end, whilst Councillor M.A. Reece expressed the view that, in all probability, the only way this matter was going to be resolved was by way of a court case.

c. Minute No. 28c - Raised Beds

Councillor M.A. Reece reminded the meeting of the additional containers which were being built following the framework he had constructed. He was being helped in this matter by Stuart and Howard Jones, who were freely giving their time and concrete to fill in the frames to benefit the community and, at his suggestion, it was agreed that a letter of thanks be forwarded to them from the Council.

RESOLVED :

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Chairman advised that she had attended the Flint Town Council Civic Sunday, which took place on 5th July 2015.
2. The Chairman advised that she had attended the County Forum meeting held on 25th June 2015 at Pantasaph. Amongst the issues discussed were the Community Transport Workshop, the notes of which were included on another item on the agenda. There was also the possibility that some time in the near future Town and Community Councils were going to be requested to take over assets such as play areas and cemeteries, by way of Community Asset Transfers, or face the fact that they could be closed, due to the significant financial cutbacks being faced by the County Council. Councillor M.A. Reece concurred with these comments. Councillor T. Renshaw expressed the view that the problem of funding for Local Government and the significant cut-backs being faced by all Unitary Authorities in Wales stemmed from the total amount received by the Welsh Government from Central Government.

33. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVESB

a. Planning Aid Training

Councillor C.R. Williams indicated that he had attended this event, which was held at County Hall, Mold on 23rd June 2015. Unfortunately, the significant

amount of complicated information made it difficult to absorb in the time available for the training session. Councillor T. Renshaw expressed the view that planning was a complicated issue and pointed out that if County Council Members wished to serve on the Planning Committee then they had to receive significant training, which was updated from time to time.

b. Traffic Calming, High Street – Informal Meeting

The notes prepared by the Clerk on the meeting held on 29th June 2015 between all Members of the Council, some Community invitees and representatives of the County Council, had previously been circulated. The notes covered the comments made by the County Council representatives on the information they had previously circulated to this Authority, the comments made by Community Councillors and other invited representatives, together with the responses of the County Council representatives. It had been noted that all the issues covered would be considered in any revised scheme, which had to achieve the outcome of reducing speed and improving road safety. Once this had been completed a revised scheme would be drawn up and the community would be consulted before any further formal consideration was given by the County Council, prior to any subsequent bid to the Welsh Government for funding, if deemed appropriate in terms of the criteria.

The Clerk informed the meeting that, to date, he had received no response from the County Council following this meeting and that if this information was made available during the recess then he would ensure that it was circulated to all Members of the Council.

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to the temporary traffic cones, which were meant to be in lieu of possible bollards, and to the fact that on occasions they were being moved. In response, Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that they had been located by the County Council on the lowest areas to prevent cars mounting the pavement to avoid the speed cushion.

34. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

App. No.	Location	Detail
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053841	Ty Coch, High Street	Siting of timber structure for use as office space
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RESOLVED :

That application No. 053841 be supported.

35. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED :

That the following accounts be paid :

Name	£	Cheque No.	Expenditure Powers
UHY Hacker Young	354.00	101736	Loc.Govt.(Finance)Act 1982
NAMWALC	15.00	101737	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Bagillt Bowling Club	480.00	101738	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act.1976(S.19)
Clr. M.A. Reece	55.35	101739	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Mr. G. Roberts	863.78	101740	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	144.46	101741	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
Delyn Press	86.40	101742	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.111)
Mr. G. Roberts	749.20	101743	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	144.26	101744	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
C.M. Scott	29.65	101745	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.5)

36. BAGILLT FORESHORE

Reference was made by Councillor B.T. Doleman to the Tourism Guide which was being considered to cover the area, including the industrial aspects, which would cost £3,500.00. Councillor J. Williams indicated that permission would now be required for anyone who wished to put fish into Condie's Pool.

Reference was made by Councillors T. Renshaw and J. Williams to the fact that a pedestrian crossing was urgently needed across the A548 to enable safe access to the Foreshore. Such a facility would aid usage of the area by both Schools in the Village in a safe manner and, having regard to the significant expenditure which had been made by the Welsh Government concerning the Coastal Path and Cycle Way, then representations should be made to the appropriate Minister, Mr. Carl Sargeant, with a copy to the local AM, Sandy Mewies, for information and support.

Reference was made to the fact that the nearest pedestrian crossings with access to the Foreshore were Greenfield and Flint, and to the fact that the village of Ffynnongroyw, further up the A548, had such a facility.

RESOLVED :

That representations are made to the Welsh Government and the local AM concerning the need for a pedestrian crossing over the A548 to gain safe access to the Foreshore.

37. SUMMER PLAYSCHMES – BAGILLT

The Clerk advised that he was still awaiting the information from the County Council and once it was received he would circulate it to Members and place the information on the Council notice boards.

38. COMMUNITY AWARDS

It was noted that engraved shields would be presented by the Chairman to Emma Greenall of Ysgol Merllyn and Charlie Gudger of Ysgol Glan Aber, on Thursday 16th July 2015.

39. AUTHORITY FOR ACTION DURING THE RECESS PERIOD

RESOLVED :

1. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, acting as a Sub-Committee, be given power to act on matters of an urgent nature during the recess period.
2. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, together with a local Member(s) (excluding planning applications), acting as a Sub-Committee, be given power to act on matters where local Member involvement would be helpful during the recess period.

40. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The meeting noted the Budget Monitoring report and Bank reconciliation statement for the first quarter to 30th June 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members.

41. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15

The Clerk advised that notification had been received from the external auditor, Hacker Young, concluding the audit process for the last financial year and returning the Annual Return, duly signed. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been displayed on the Council's notice boards and referred to on the website and, after the set period required by the auditor, a statement of assurance was forwarded to him. A copy of the audited accounts for 2014/15, by way of the Annual Return, was now on the Council's website.

RESOLVED :

That the successful conclusion of the external audit and the action taken by the Clerk, be noted.

42. URDD EISTEDDFOD, FLINT 2016 – PROCLAMATION CEREMONY

A copy of a letter from the Eisteddfod organiser had previously been circulated to Members, advising that the Proclamation Ceremony would be held on Saturday 3rd October 2015. The letter contained details of the procession arrangements and it was noted that the Community Council would receive a formal invitation to participate in due course.

RESOLVED :

That the Proclamation Ceremony information be noted.

43. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (CAT) – WAR MEMORIAL, BAGILLT

The Clerk reported that the Panel meeting held last month had considered the Council's Stage 2 Business Plan for the potential Community Asset Transfer, and had agreed that it could proceed to legal completion (Stage 3), subject to clarification as to the funding of on-going maintenance. In the document reference had been made to the fact that no details had been received from Flintshire County Council concerning the present maintenance costs for the planted area, or electricity usage. Having made contact, it had been pointed out that Flintshire County Council were unable to provide the requested information concerning the planted area and it had been suggested the Council could approach a private contractor to obtain a likely indication. However, the Council had previously expressed the view that if the CAT transfer was finalised then consideration would be given to flagging over the planted area, thereby removing the need for this type of maintenance. With regard to the electricity usage, there was no separate meter at the facility and the small amount that was used was unknown.

Councillor B.T. Doleman expressed the view that, in relation to the planted area then, given that the plan was probably to pave over the area, the Council could accept responsibility without knowing the cost requested from Flintshire County Council. With regard to the lighting, Flintshire County Council needed to ensure that the damaged lamp in the planted area was replaced, as had been carried out by one of their workmen, with this Authority then being responsible for any future replacements if the CAT came into being. In relation to the use of electricity, in the absence of a separate meter, that Flintshire County Council should absorb the cost as at present.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk advise Flintshire County Council and FLVC that they would be prepared to proceed to legal completion stage on the basis indicated above.

44. PUBLIC/COMMUNITY TRANSPORT WORKSHOPS FEEDBACK

A copy of feedback from Public Transport and Community Transport Workshop, held at County Hall, Mold on the 2nd and 5th June 2015 had been circulated previously for Members' information. It was noted that there had been general agreement that Town and Community Councils would need to consider and agree whether they should contribute to the future funding of Community Transport Initiatives, and this would apply to all and not just the larger ones. That a partnership approach would be preferred with Local Councils working collaboratively in relation to community based transport for a wider geographical area. It had been felt that the best engagement approach would be for the County Council to initially meet with Local Councils to determine potential future funding and identify the needs of the communities.

RESOLVED :

That the contents of the feedback report from the Workshops be noted.

45. PENSIONS AUTO ENROLMENT

The Clerk advised that, further to the decision made at the May meeting following the comments in the internal audit action plan, he had made contact with the Clwyd Pensions Fund Manager regarding the Local Government Pension Scheme. It had been confirmed that it was possible for Bagillt Community Council to gain admitted body status into the Clwyd Pension Fund, following the passing of a resolution. However, before then certain details were required in order for an employer contribution rate to be set. Details had been received of a breakdown on information that was required by the Pension Fund Manager and then they would request their Actuary to calculate the relevant rate. It had been pointed out that there would be a cost for the Pension Actuary service, which was approximately £1,200 to provide this information, and this would be charged to the Community Council.

The Clerk further indicated that he had hoped to receive some information from the Society of Local Council Clerks regarding this issue on the best way forward, but this was still awaited. However, he had received an information booklet from the Pensions Regulator and, in relation to submission before the staging date, which in the case of this Authority was 1st June 2016, there was a need to find out who could enrol. In relation to the current salary of the Clerk, that person would have a right to opt in. The Clerk reminded Members that there were further pension opportunities, such as a private provider, or being part of the Government's NEST scheme, and for the time being he requested Members to note this information.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

46. MEMBERS' ITEMS

a. Wern Play Area

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to a recent press report concerning an improvement scheme carried out at the Wern Play Area, and requested to know how this had been funded. In response, Councillor M.A. Reece indicated that the funding for this scheme had been made available by the Welsh Government.

b. Japanese Knotweed

Reference was made by Councillor A. Griffiths to the continued and increased problem of Japanese Knotweed on the Manor Industrial Estate, and he offered to meet with the Streetscene Officer on site to show him exactly where the problem was. Councillor C.P. Owens indicated that the problem near to his property was re-occurring, despite previous treatments. Councillor T. Renshaw indicated that he had recently attended an event and had taken the opportunity to obtain some information leaflets on invasive non-local species, such as Japanese Knotweed, with copies available at the Town Hall, Flint.

RESOLVED :

That the Clerk advise Streetscene accordingly of the problems indicated, as well as the offer of Councillor A. Griffiths to meet their representative on site.

c. Vicar - Bagillt

Councillor M.A. Reece introduced the Reverend John Geary, who was attending his first meeting of the Council. Reverend Geary indicated that, whilst he was only a part-time Priest, he would endeavour on occasions to attend other meetings of the Council, and welcomed the opportunity of being introduced to Members.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Date of Council Meeting	Wednesday 8th July 2015
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Member	Item	Minute No. Refers
There were no Declarations of Personal Interest		

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Chairman