

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Llay/Resource Centre, Llay
 Date Thu 21st April 2016
 Time 1830

Name	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Bryan Apsley Chairperson	√	N	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	A		
Dave Adams	√	O	√	√	√	A	√	√	√	√		
Sandra Apsley	√		√	√	√	A	√	√	√	A		
Terry Boland	A	M	√	A	√	√	A	√	A	√		
Ken Cupit	√	E	√	√	A	√	√/A	√	√	√		
Maldwyn Davies	√	E	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√		
Peter Evans	√	T	A	A	√	√	√	A	√	A		
Sharon Roberts	√	I	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
Rob Walsh	√	N	√	√	A	√	A/√	√	A	√		
Vera Wineyard	A	G	√	√	A	√	√	√	A	√		
John O'Keefe		H		√	√	√	√	√	A	√		
Dennis Owen		E		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
Jan Osborne	X	L	X	X	X	√	√	√	√	A		
Christine Archer										√		
Pat Taylor										A		
Mark Williams (Clerk)	√	D	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		

In Attendance: 6 members of the community & PCSO D Jones

Prior to commencing the business for the evening, the Vice Chair asked all present to **observe a minutes' silence in memory of Mr Charles Higgins**, a former Community Councillor, who had passed away recently and was fondly remembered by all who knew or had met him.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs B Apsley (Chair), S Apsley, P Evans, J Osborne & P Taylor. At this point, the Vice Chair also welcomed Cllr C Archer to her first meeting since being co-opted onto the council.
 2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The March Minutes were accepted as a true record.
 Proposed by: DA Seconded by: DO
- RW signed a DOI in relation to Agenda Item 8 (Planning). The Vice Chair also informed all that as is traditional, the Annual General Meeting would be held in May, provided this was approved by council. After a short discussion on the business discussed at the AGM, this was agreed by all. The AGM will therefore be held as part of the May meeting.
3. **Public Questions:** On this occasion, no questions had been received by the Clerk.

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

4. Matters Arising: RW raised the issue of **School holiday playscheme**, and recent correspondence that had elicited from the decision to withdraw payment for this service. DA stated that correspondence regarding this had now been concluded and the matter was closed. This was agreed by all. RW mentioned the **Public Open Space** meeting was due to be held tomorrow evening at WCBC. Although it is being held in private, he will ensure that reports are sent to all as soon as practical. It was mentioned that the agenda item relating to **difficult decisions** will be held over to May, when the Chair is available to lead on this item. RW then started a discussion regarding the **purchase of extra litter bins for Llay**, agreed in principle at the last meeting. DO and others spoke about the problems caused by litter in general, and RW stated that due to costings, the agreed purchasing figure of £1250 would now purchase 6 bins. However, DA mentioned, as a point of order that the agreement had been for 5 bins and this number should be adhered to. This was agreed by all and RW will liaise with Streetscene to get 5 new bins produced, and locations would be decided at a later date once the bins were ready to be put in place. SR stated that the poster competition, regarding litter, was now complete and this was displayed for all to see. SR stated that a closing date for the competition was needed, to ensure the winning poster was displayed throughout the village ahead of the school summer break. After discussion it was decided that the closing date would be 14th June. KC mentioned a small concern regarding the wide age range (7 to 11) would result in differing levels of ability, but after another discussion it was felt overall, that the best poster could eventually be produced by someone of 7 years of age, as well as 11 years of age. Judges for the competition will be nominated nearer the closing date. MD referenced the recent highly successful event at **Park CP School**, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Llay Colliery closing. MD proposed a **letter of thanks** be sent on behalf of the Council to the school, acknowledging their outstanding efforts on the day. This was agreed and the Clerk will send a draft letter to councillors for approval asap. In addition, MD suggested a donation be made to the school of £250. A discussion followed and it was felt that as the school already receive generous donations on an annual basis from the council, this donation would not be appropriate at this time. It was also considered that a plaque be placed in the school. MD also referenced the installation of a **Christmas/Llay Colliery Memorial tree** that has been previously discussed. The Clerk mentioned that he had met with a tree expert at the proposed site and had e mailed some time ago, pictures of suitable trees and costings for councillors to consider. This item would be placed on the may agenda with a view to finalising the choice.

5. Police Matters: PCSO David Jones (Holt PCSO) introduced himself and explained the latest crime figures to all councillors and the public. DA asked if there had been any significant drug activity in Nant Y Gaer woods, as this was one of the Councils' priorities and he wished to propose changing this to a new priority. PCSO Jones stated that recent police visits to the area had not witnessed drug use. DA then suggested that this priority be changed to reflect the recent upsurge in general damage to areas of recreation within the village. DA mentioned the recent criminal damage at the skate park, football changing rooms and even upturned broken bottles being planted in the pitches. RW stated that he supported this proposal and after a short discussion it was unanimously agreed to ask the Police to change the priorities for Llay CC to reflect this. PCSO Jones would pass this on to PCSO Hughes. PCSO Jones reiterated the need for everyone to report crimes or damage as soon as practical after discovery, to enable the Police to have the best opportunity to apprehend offenders. JO'K mentioned **road signs** adjacent to the Resource Centre which had been tampered with and, in some cases, guidance arrows indicating "one way" traffic were pointing in the opposite direction. PCSO Jones stated that this would need to be reported in the first instance to Streetscene who would liaise with Highways to repair. RW asked about numbers of PCSO's for local villages but was informed there were no final decisions yet. On the same subject, CA asked what the **numbers of regular beat officers** was for the area,

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

but PCSO explained that, in the main, beat officers were response officers reacting to 999 calls and that PCSO's were the more regular old style beat officers throughout the area. Costings mean this is unlikely to change in the near future. Finally, MD mentioned some **parking issues** in Mayville Avenue that were long standing. PCSO stated this would be investigated and that whilst PCSO's do not have the power to seize vehicles causing obstruction etc etc, they could and would place advisory signs on any vehicle deemed to be causing problems. The Vice Chair thanked PCSO Jones for attending on behalf of our regular PCSO.

6. Finance and Appeals: The Clerk explained the latest **income and expenditure** figures, which were discussed and agreed. VW mentioned that she felt it would be appropriate if the community council made a **donation to the Doctors' Surgery** in Llay in memory of the late Mr Charles Higgins as that is where donations at his Funeral were also being donated. A short discussion followed and it was unanimously agreed to donate £50. The Clerk will arrange this payment. The Clerk asked for permission to renew the annual **waste collection SLA** with WCBC for the 1100 litre bin situated at the cemetery. This was agreed by all present. The Clerk then explained the **Internal Audit Report**, a copy of which was at the meeting and mentioned the various items that required attention. The Clerk explained that once these items were clarified, the Annual Return would be complete and would then be signed by the Chair and sent to the new External Auditors (Grant Thornton) in Bristol. One of the items identified in the Internal Audit involved the **current system of payments via the internet**. Although members of the council had remote access to the bank accounts without the Clerks' knowledge and all invoices, bank statements and lists of income and expenditure are presented at each meeting, from now on the **Clerk would require 2 councillors to approve any payment** before invoices are paid. Councillors agreed this would be advantageous and it was agreed that the Chair and DA would receive e mails from the Clerk asking for authorisation to make payment from now on. These e mails would form part of the paper trail before the end of year audit in April 2017. The Clerk made reference to the document he had produced this year for monthly budgeting against the Precept. This document showed that there was a £5k overspend against the precept income only, which did not include income from burial services. It was agreed that this form would continue to be used going forward, to allow the precept figure to be decided when set against a budget. The Clerk sought approval to **pay for the installation of an electric point at the cemetery**, to allow the ride on mower to be trickle charged over the weekend. During recent repairs to the same machine, it had been recommended that this action would extend the battery life of the machine. Estimations show the cost to be £95 for this work to be carried out and this was approved.

7. Street Lighting: Other than the numerous ongoing repairs issues, being dealt with by WCBC through the efforts of RW, there were no other reports.

8. Planning: The porch replacement at St Davids Way was approved without comment. The second planning matter, relating to a **mobile asphalt plant** being installed on Llay Industrial Estate, led to a lengthy discussion. MD spoke first, expressing deep concerns regarding the possible long and short term health issues involved with the smoke and tar particles associated with this type of operation. SR showed pictures of the site that she had downloaded. SR also mentioned that a similar site had been built near Heathrow and residents in Ealing, some 8 miles away, had complained of the smell of burning tar. DO supported those that claimed the possible medical issues should be considered very carefully. Overall, there was a unanimous feeling that this application warranted more research before the council could consider whether to object or not. There was also comment that a possible similar site on the Wrexham Industrial Estate had not received planning permission and that, once again, Llay as a community was being treated differently. The Clerk was instructed to ensure that WCBC planning department were aware that

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

the council wished to correspond in due course and to ensure that an extension is gained on the current timeframes to allow this to happen.

9. Burial Matters: The Clerk confirmed that all the work to repair the recent damage had been completed and the insurance cheque, as mentioned during finance, had been placed in the bank account. There was also a minor staff issue that required discussion. In accordance with Standing Orders, the Vice Chair invited members of the public to depart for this to be addressed by councillors only.

10. Reports: RW mentioned that some addresses in Oakfield Park would be changing. RW had met with the head of Streetscene to ensure that **funding be sought to improve** the road surface on New Road. He was also still receiving **complaints of speeding** along this stretch of road. Another speed survey, involving the piping across the road, would be carried out. DO made reference to a recent meeting that Llay CC had not been aware of, which related to possible changes to how community councils will be administered in the future. It had been called by another community council in the Wrexham area, but it was apparent that a number of community councils had not received the e mail invitation due to technical difficulties. However, at this stage there is no impending issues that require immediate action and Llay CC will be made aware of any future meetings that may be held.

11. Correspondence: The Clerk confirmed he had received a letter from WCBC acknowledging receipt of the letter sent by the Chair, on behalf of the council, regarding development plans for the village. The letter confirmed that the comments made would be considered. He had also received a thank you letter from the local flower arranging group, in recognition of their recent grant.

There being no further business the Standing Orders were moved and accepted. The Vice Chair declared the meeting closed at 2026. The next meeting is on

THURSDAY 19th MAY 2016 at 1830

Signed:.....

Mr T Boland
Vice Chairman
19th May 2016