

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Park Community Primary School,
Llay/Resource Centre
Date Wed 27th Jan/Thu 4th Feb 2016
Time 1830/1830

Name	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Bryan Apsley Chairperson	√	N	√	√	√	√	√					
Dave Adams	√	O	√	√	√	A	√					
Sandra Apsley	√		√	√	√	A	√					
Terry Boland	A	M	√	A	√	√	A					
Ken Cupit	√		√	√	A	√	√					
Maldwyn Davies	√		√	√	√	√	√					
Peter Evans	√		A	A	√	√	√					
Sharon Roberts	√		√	√	√	√	√					
Rob Walsh	√		√	√	A	√	A					
Vera Wineyard	A	H	√	√	A	√	√					
John O'Keefe		E		√	√	√	√					
Dennis Owen		L		√	√	√	√					
Jan Osborne	X	X	X	X	X	√	√					
Mark Williams (Clerk)	√	D	√	√	√	√	√					

Due to time restrictions, the Minutes below are an amalgamation of two meetings, held on separate nights, but relating to business listed on one Agenda.

In Attendance: 7 members of the community, PCSO L Davies (& 1 colleague) Malcolm Williams

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs R Walsh, T Boland

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the December were accepted as a true record: Proposed by: PE Seconded by: MD

3. Public Questions: Prior to discussing the questions raised, the Chair informed all that he wished to discuss the **Cemetery extension** and had invited Malcolm Williams(MW), a former community councillor of many years standing, to speak at the meeting. MW introduced himself and gave a broad overview of his knowledge of cemetery matters going back forty years. He confirmed that the community council had always believed that the field where the cemetery will be extended does belong to the community, which is why ground rent is charged to a local farmer, and a telecoms company paid a one off fee to erect the mast. Mention was made of successive community councils in Llay ensuring that a sufficient amount of money was saved for when the extension was needed. It was his belief that the land originally belonged to the Church and was gifted to the community many years ago. With regard to **Foregolf**, MW gave historical background relating to the original driving range being leased out by WCBC as it was being run at a loss. The new company wished to change the direction of play and planning applications were forwarded for

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a new golf range, café and toilets. This application did not get completed and a new application was made. MW asked that WCBC introduce a bond to ensure that works promised were carried out. This figure was set at £50k, with an additional £25k for the erection of toilet facilities. MW believes these bonds are still in place. The Chair thanked MW for attending and providing this useful information.

The Chair then informed all that the lack of clarity regarding the cemetery extension had been an outcome from contact made by the clerk. He stated that he felt that contact made by the Clerk with WCBC regarding both the cemetery extension and the position of councillors PC and EV had not been advisable or helpful and he had concerns that WCBC should not be allowed to interfere with Llay CC business. In response, the Clerk stated that with regard to the cemetery extension, he felt he was carrying out the instructions of council to produce a current costings document for when the extension is required. During this process WCBC had stated that the ownership of the piece of land where the extension is due to go was unclear. Regarding the recent departure of councillors PC and EV, this had been brought to the clerks' attention by RW who had spoken to the legal advisor within WCBC and the clerk had acted on this legal advice. The Chair felt that the treatment of the 2 councillors had varied, with one receiving notification of the issue of attendance and one had not, which he felt was unfair. In response, the clerk made reference to one councillor being reminded of his obligations, due to the six month date having passed in November 2015, whereas the more recent councillor was only subject to the six month rule two days prior to this meeting. Two notices for election will be placed on the Llay CC Notice Board as soon as practical. Some confusion had arisen as advice received from the Electoral Services Officer at WCBC regarding the number of meetings missed/six months' unauthorised absence from meetings, which was regrettable. However, the Local Government Act of 1972, section 5 made clear that the councillors previously mentioned could no longer sit on the council.

The Chair then referred to the listed questions from the public. C Archer referred to the lack of clarity regarding **Open Space Assessments** and was concerned that currently, it would remain possible for the community to only find out about intended uses for open space areas within Llay through reading local newspapers and did the council think this was fair. Specifically, Ms Archer wished to know what rights the community council had, regarding advance notification of any plans regarding open spaces. In response RW stated that, as he understood, there were no actual statutory rights to be informed specifically, as the law currently stood. A number of councillors spoke regarding this and in conclusion, the clerk was instructed to write to the Chief Executive of WCBC, requesting that as much notice as possible regarding open space usage, be given at the earliest stage to the local Community Council affected by it. The final question from M Smith, referred to **recent changes of dates for the monthly meetings**, which had resulted in the last three meetings not taking place on the third Thursday of the month. The Chair stated that the changes are always regrettable, but equally important is the availability of councillors and guest speakers and allowances had to be made on occasion when this caused a problem. JO stated he felt it was important to be able to listen to the guest speaker this evening as it was an important matter, namely the cemetery, that affected the entire community. However, in concluding, the Chair stated that all future meetings would be held on the third Thursday of each month, unless there were exceptional reasons not to.

4. Matters Arising: The Chair referred to the **Playscheme** financial figures, which had been distributed by the clerk, following WCBC's decision to withdraw their financial contribution towards this scheme. He asked for comments from councillors as a decision needed to be made whether or not to renew this for 2016/2017. VW stated she felt it was expensive, PE mentioned that he felt not many attended and MD stated he was against this scheme in principle. After a short discussion MD proposed that the council should cancel this scheme which JO seconded. The

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Chair asked if there were any other amendments to the proposal and there were not. He then called a vote on the proposal which was carried unanimously. The clerk was instructed to inform WCBC of this decision. The Chair enquired about the cemetery groundsman and the clerk informed all that he was back full time and feeling well. MD raised the issue of purchasing a memorial tree in memory of Llay Miners, which could be tied in to PE's request for a tree to be installed as a permanent Christmas Tree for the village. After discussion, this was felt to be a good idea and the clerk was instructed to contact Prices of Llandegla to ascertain some prices and report back. The matter will then be considered further.

5. Police Matters: The latest figures, distributed prior to the meeting, were discussed. DA asked about recent motor bike activity within Alyn Waters CP that had resulted in terrible damage to the football pitches. DA informed all that he rang the police at 7.15pm and by 9.00pm there had been no response. PCSO Davies stated she was aware of the incident and suggested council considered a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The Chair stated he would ask the county councillors to bring this matter up with WCBC. When discussing the issue of priorities for the community, SA suggested that Alyn Waters could be a priority for Gwersyllt CC which would then cover both communities, as Llay CC already had their 2 permitted priorities. SR asked that, as one priority out of the three listed is reserved for the Police, what exactly is the police priority. On the same subject the Chair asked that the Inspector consider making Alyn Waters the police priority. PCSO Davies informed all she would enquire about this and also report back regarding the recent spate of anti- social behaviour within Alyn Waters. The Chair thanked PCSO Davies and her colleague for their attendance.

6. Finance and Appeals: The Clerk presented the finance figures for December, which were approved by councillors present. The following **appeals for Grants** were listed and considered:-

Llay Clwyd Morris Dancing had appealed for funding to continue their efforts in representing the village at various events. SR stated that her enquiries had shown there were 50 members of this group, and after a further discussion MD proposed a grant of £250 which was seconded by RW. There were no amendments to the proposal and this was carried unanimously.

K2 ESU, an Explorer Scout Group, which drew its' membership from the Wrexham area, had appealed for funding towards a planned expedition to the Czech Republic later this year. Various councillors expressed concern that it was unclear how many of the group actually lived in Llay. DO proposed that this application be refused, seconded by JO'K and carried unanimously. However, when informing the organisers of this decision, the clerk was instructed to invite any members of the group who lived in Llay to consider re-applying at a future meeting.

Following the conclusion of the appeals, the Chair asked that councillors approve the new **Grant Application Form**, prepared and distributed last month by the clerk, to be completed by all future applicants for grants. SR and others suggested that the form may appear complicated to small groups applying and there is a risk of the form being a barrier towards appealing for funding. The clerk stated that the form was based on others used by local communities in the area and, if council wished, he would ensure that any applicants would be able to ask for his assistance in completing the form. This was agreed unanimously and future applications for funding would only be considered if the application forms had been completed in advance.

VW informed all that, due to the recent closure of the **Community Centre**, a sum of money (£1721.07p) had remained in the funds and the three remaining committee members had decided to donate this money to the local school. VW had received advice that this fact should be recorded officially, and as the committee no longer met, VW requested that this matter be recorded in the community council minutes. This was approved unanimously and is duly recorded.

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- 7. Street Lighting:** RW mentioned that street lighting was the issue that caused most residents to contact him. A lengthy discussion followed with various councillors expressing their dismay with the lack of urgency displayed by the contractors in repairing lights. JO'K referred to WCBC website which indicated lights would be repaired within five days of being reported. He had reported a light before Christmas which has still not been repaired. Although the current contract for repairs and maintenance is due to end in March this year, overall, the councillors felt the service was not good enough and very poor value for money. Mention was made of a recent incident involving a resident receiving an injury caused by not seeing a blockage on the pavement due to lack of lighting. VW suggested that a letter be sent to the head of this section within WCBC expressing the councils' dismay. This was supported by all councillors and the clerk will draft a letter for approval.
- 8. Planning:** Prior to discussing the planning application listed on the agenda, RW signed a **DOI** and left the room. This is due to his membership of the WCBC planning committee as a county councillor. The application by **Platts Ltd**, situated on Llay Ind. Estate, to remove surface water via the public sewerage network was considered. Although there were no objections in principle, PE mentioned that as he believed this factory produced large quantities of sawdust, he would like WCBC Planning to be aware of the possible risk of future blockages when considering this application. The clerk will ensure this is passed on to the planning department.
- 9. Burial Matters:** The clerk mentioned that the groundsman now has a **winter programme** of work to adhere to and will be ensuring all machinery is serviced and checked in readiness for the busier period. In addition, the groundsman had requested a new leaf blower as the current one is not fit for purpose. It was agreed that the groundsman can make enquiries, including testing the machines, and request funding in the future. VW mentioned that whilst the new **water towers** are an improvement on the previous tank system, it was felt that some form of soakaway would be useful as splashback of water was a problem when used. The clerk will ensure this is attended to. SA mentioned that during a recent visit, various items had been found alongside a perimeter fence, including personal items (teddy bears etc.) along with expensive man made flower arrangements. These had been given to Albert for safekeeping, in case the owners wish to reclaim them.
- 10. Reports:** RW was invited by the Chair to expand on his written report that had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. In response RW mentioned that **refuse bins** were desperately needed around the village, but would require local funding at a cost of £250 per bin. This price would include the emptying of any new bins agreed. On the same subject, DO mentioned a long standing issue on Gresford Road regarding the location of one bin, which RW was aware of. He will attempt to finalise this matter in time for the next meeting and include it on the agenda if this is achieved. Regarding **Foregolf**, RW mentioned that he had attended a meeting with officials within WCBC recently and nothing was finalised as yet. However, it has been agreed that both RW and TB will be consulted before any final agreements are approved. MD expressed his continued disgust over the entire project which he feels, with support from others on the council, has been badly managed throughout. Regarding **Open Space** policies and **Statutory Rights**, RW recently met with Trevor Coxon, Legal Adviser to WCBC, and would support the agreed sending of a letter to the Chief Executive of WCBC to highlight this issue further. There is an issue regarding some **pathways in the local woods**, where tarmac leads to loose stones, which can be slippery on occasions. Again, local funding of around £2k would be required to resolve this. Also within the woods, there have been a number of complaints about **littering**, which RW will address initially by speaking to the PCSO. He also asked all councillors to report any littering/anti- social behaviour as soon as possible, to allow the police the maximum opportunity to catch the offenders. The long standing issues of **speeding and car parking** are still resulting in

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RW receiving complaints and he will, once again, speak to Highways to try and improve this. The **overgrown hedge** along the main road has now been cut. Finally, RW mentioned that a very busy section of the main road (from 3rd Avenue to the Miners Welfare) was **badly potholed** and as this is an arterial route to and from Wrexham, RW intends insisting that repairs for this section of road are given the highest priority. This item concluded RW's report as county councillor.

11. Correspondence: There was no correspondence on this occasion. However, SR asked to raise issues regarding the conduct of all at council meetings. The Chair stated that as this was not listed on the Agenda, it should be brought up at the February meeting, once properly listed. SR agreed to do this.

There being no further business the Standing Orders were moved and accepted. The Chair declared the meeting (27th Jan) closed at 2010, and the meeting (4th Feb) closed at 1940. The next meeting is on

THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2016 at 1830

Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley
Chairman
18TH February 2016