

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Location: Llay Resource Centre
Date & Time: 17th January 2018 @ 18:30

In Attendance:

Councillors B Apsley (Chair), D Owen (V Chair), S Roberts, S Watson, S Apsley, N Hughes, L Jones, J O'Keefe, R Walsh, W Austin, P Taylor, K Cupit & D Adams & Clerk
7 members of the public. 1 member of the press, 2 PCSO's.

Before the start of the meeting, the Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked those members of the public attending their first meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J Osborne

Declarations of Interest : PT (Grant Appeal) RW (Planning)

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The Minutes of the December meeting were accepted as a true record, proposed by DA, seconded by RW and carried unanimously.

3. **Public Questions:** On this occasion, no questions had been received by the Clerk.

4. **Matters Arising:** RW gave an update regarding the **Red Telephone Box issue** previously discussed. The Chair invited comments. A number of councillors spoke, with SR proposing that suggestion boxes be placed around the village for local residents' ideas to be considered. This was seconded by RW and carried. The Clerk will ascertain the costs of purchasing a telephone box and associated costs with BT. The Chair gave an update on the costs of replacing brown signs at the entrance to the village with **new signage**. This would be in the region of £8k for 4 signs. After a general discussion, which confirmed that local schoolchildren have already started preparing some artwork, it was agreed that the Clerk would find out the costs of changing the sign to wood instead of metal. Once these were known, the possibility of purchasing one sign a year going forward could be discussed. This will be relisted for the next meeting. The Chair asked for any updates regarding the possibility of a WW1 **Beacon** being in place in Llay in November. LJ stated that Bethel Chapel would be interested in being involved. The Chair asked that this matter remains ongoing. RW gave a brief update regarding litter bins.

5. **Police Matters:** The Chair asked that the Police matters be discussed ahead of New Matters to allow the attending officers to continue their duties. He started by welcoming the new PCSO for Gresford who was attending with PCSO Harris to observe the work that community councils do. PCSO Harris read out the **latest figures** which were discussed briefly. SR asked about the follow up action that occurs after someone has received a warning for **anti social behaviour**, following a recent incident outside the shops involving 30 youths. PCSO Harris explained the warning procedures and follow up actions that can then occur.. PT stated that the recent **stop and search** in relation to catching drug users was most welcome. JO'K asked about **speeding**, which remain a source of continued worry for many residents. PCSO responded by stating that speed cameras will be continuing to monitor this. RW asked about recent increase of misbehaviour in the **shops area** after a quiet period. PCSO Harris stated he is aware and this is being looked into to. PCSO Harris apologised that the **CCTV** company from Minera were unable to attend this evening as planned. However, due to the nature of their equipment, he suggested that a group of community councillors may wish to visit the company to see the equipment in action. The Chair felt this was a good idea and asked for liaison between the council and PCSO to arrange dates/numbers etc. SR requested that perhaps two groups could go, allowing those working during the week to see the equipment. This was agreed and the PCSO will arrange these meetings.

6. **New Matters:** The **CCTV** matter is dealt with by the Police shown above. Regarding the proposed **Car Parking charges** for Alyn Waters, DA led the discussion, speaking about his involvement in this matter, which greatly affects over 200 children and their parents, who use this facility regularly. Other Councillors spoke about their grave concerns regarding this matter. In conclusion, the Clerk was instructed to write to WCBC expressing these concerns. DA also led the discussion regarding recent figures, which showed that **Kingdom Security Ltd**, in partnership with WCBC, had not visited Alyn Waters once during the reporting period, and their 4 visits to Llay had not produced any tickets for litter offences. Other councillors contributed, highlighting the apparent wish of Kingdom, to attend most regularly in areas where there was the strongest possibility of issuing tickets, particularly against the dropping of cigarette butts. Again, the Clerk was instructed to write to WCBC to ask for clarification on visiting to both Alyn Waters and Llay in general. SR mentioned that **School Crossing Patrols** had not occurred since Sept 4th but we have paid WCBC Invoices since then. It was also mentioned by SR that no advert for this vacancy was on the WCBC website and the hourly rate required investigation. The Clerk will write to WCBC to discover what has happened.

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- 7. Finance and Appeals:** The Clerk sought approval for the financial expenses authorised for payment in **December of £5266.58p**. This was proposed by DA, seconded by RW and approved unanimously. The Chair then introduced the **Investment Strategy** matter, which concerned the planned use of financial assets for the year ahead and was a statutory Audit requirement. The Clerk explained the reasons for this and after a short discussion, DO proposed and JO'K seconded the motion that the extension of the Cemetery, along with ongoing and expensive replacements of ageing street light columns will remain the strategy. In addition, the cash assets held will remain within the safe and secure banking structure as presently, with no desire to look for other avenues that would carry more risk. The Chair then raised the issue of the Audit requirement to **minute both salaries and any pay rises** that may or may not be awarded. It was unanimously agreed that this would be discussed in March, prior to the Audit, to allow financial decisions taken to be after the most up to date information is known. The Chair then raised the previously discussed **appeal regarding the Xmas Float**. Prior to this discussion, PT, having signed a DOI, left the room. A lengthy discussion on the merits of this appeal, along with conforming to guidelines contained within standing orders and the appeal paperwork issued by the community council then ensued. In conclusion, the Chair sought proposals. Following both a proposal and an amendment, by a margin of 7 to 4 with 1 abstention, it was the decision of the council not to award funding on this occasion.
- 8. Street Lighting:** RW gave a brief update on street lighting, with various councillors also passing details of problem lights to RW, including the long standing issue regarding the light that is still not working outside the health centre. (Post Meeting Note: This light is now working)
- 9. Planning:** Following the Welsh Government decision to approve the **Gresford Road** development, opportunities have now arisen for all interested parties to pass on their observations on specific matters within the application. DO gave much information to all present regarding this matter and other members of the council also contributed. This was to highlight specific issues within the plans that required further consultation and the Chair encouraged everyone to make their thoughts known in a timely manner. Members of the public in attendance also spoke passionately about their concerns for some of the plans as they currently stand.
- 10. Burial Matters:** SR and SW gave a brief report for their January inspection which, overall, had found the cemetery in good order. The February inspection will be carried out by PT & LJ.
- 11. Reports:** BA expanded on his report that had been distributed to all councillors ahead of the meeting, paying particular attention to the problems that had arisen with the incorrectly filed application (twice) by the Co-Op for a licenced premises application. RW also contributed to this discussion, regarding the application to serve alcohol from 0600 until 2300 each day. Other reports from the County Councillors had been previously distributed.
- 12. News/Website:** Nothing to report on this occasion, other than the Agendas and Finance Figures are now on the website ahead of each meeting.
- 13. Correspondence:** Other than matters already discussed, there was no correspondence. Standing orders were moved and seconded and the meeting closed at 2106.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st February at 1830 in
Main Hall Llay Resource Centre

Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley
Chair
21st February 2018