

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Park Community Primary School, LLay
 Date Thursday 15th October 2015
 Time 1830

Name	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Bryan Apsley Chairperson	V	N	V	V								
Dave Adams	V	O	V	V								
Sandra Apsley	V	M	V	V								
Terry Boland	A	E	V	A								
Paul Crewe	A	E	A	A								
Ken Cupit	V	T	V	V								
Maldwyn Davies	V	I	V	V								
Peter Evans	V	N	A	A								
Sharon Roberts	V	G	V	V								
Eunice Vincent	V		A	A								
Rob Walsh	V	H	V	V								
Vera Vineyard	A	E	V	V								
John O'Keefe		L		V								
Dennis Owen		D		V								
Mark Williams (Clerk)	V		V	V								

In Attendance: 24 members of the Community

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs P Evans, P Crewe, E Vincent T Boland

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the 2 newly elected Councillors, Mr D Owen and Mr J O'Keefe, to their first full meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the September Meeting were accepted as a true record: Proposed by: DA Seconded by: KC

3. Public Questions: On this occasion, there were no questions from the public. The Chair welcomed Mr M Howarth and Ms L Phillips from WCBC who had attended to discuss Foregolf with the Council. They had also agreed to discuss the locking of gates at Alyn Waters and the Skate Park in general. A number of councillors raised their concerns over the Foregolf development. Before taking these questions, M Howarth outlined the background to this site, stating that planning was granted in 2010, and the lease on the land runs until 2027. He stated a bond had been deposited by Foregolf, which would be forfeited if they failed to meet their obligations. L Phillips stated that it was important to realise that the planning aspects and the lease were separate issues and whilst progress may be slow, that is not an issue for planning as the lease actually runs for another 12 years. MD stated that he felt that this development has been badly handled by WCBC from the outset and he firmly believes that Foregolf are not carrying out the

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improvements that were initially promised. There is little sign of a golf course developing and the community have simply lost the use of a hitherto area of natural beauty. A number of Councillors (SR/MD/VW) questioned the height of the development, which would appear to have far exceeded the previous height. LP responded that it had been laser measured on a number of occasions and the height is within the stipulated allowances on the planning application, being 106 metres above the base line. SR produced a number of very recent photographs, showing the site to contain various items of landfill amongst the soil. She asked if any landfill tax was being paid – LP replied that this was not required to be paid. VW mentioned that deadlines must have been missed after all this time but MH responded that the bond was in place to cover deadlines and none had yet been missed as the lease still had time to run. However MH is intending to meet with Foregolf to clarify the way ahead but he could not say when this meeting might take place. KC mentioned that as the weather was likely to worsen into the Autumn, a lake is developing on the site, due to the movement of earth, and this could easily present a danger to children as has happened in the past. MH agreed to discuss this. Whilst many of the councillors present wished to continue, the Chair brought this matter to a close due to the timing. MH then mentioned the locking of the gates at Alyn Waters. He informed all that it would cost approximately £4k for the gates to be locked each evening and another £5k for extra signage. This money would have to be spent by the Llay CC. In addition, the gates could not be locked if a car was still in the car park and he felt this was not a good idea to proceed with as it will be very difficult to enforce.

On the subject of the Skate Park, MH mentioned that the opening date would be 3.30pm on either 12th, 13th or 18th November and he would be grateful if any councillors with a preference could let him know. Finally, PCSO mentioned at this stage, that his plans to utilise the services of a graffiti artist to engage with local youngsters to paint the skate park, was £320 short of the target amount. After a short discussion, following numerous discussions via e mail outside the meeting, it was proposed by DA and seconded by RW that £320 be granted towards this worthwhile project. This was unanimously supported and the Clerk is to arrange payment as soon as possible.

The Chair thanked MH and LP for their attendance and they departed. The Chair thanked those councillors who had raised questions. There was a general feeling that nothing new had been forthcoming unfortunately, and the Foregolf development remains a worrying cloud on the horizon of Llay village.

4. Matters Arising: RW mentioned some ongoing problems with lighting at Llay Green and near the Croeshowell. Also erratic lighting within school car park. He will continue to pursue these with Paul Rogers at WCBC. The Chair mentioned that he had sent letters of condolence regarding Gwyneth Skeffington and the late husband of Pat Taylor. The Clerk informed al that the tanks would be replaced in early/mid November as the builder contracted to carry out the work has been held up on another job. He is also awaiting further quotes from interested parties to carry out minor refurbishment work to the main building as he has received only one quote so far. He asked all present to inform anyone locally who might be prepared to do some minor painting and decorating work. RW had presented the plaque from the old community centre to Cllr Griffiths who had been very touched by this gesture. The Chair, SA and RW had attended the recent church service for those serving the public and it had been a pleasant experience. RW mentioned the recent litter pick had been a success.

5. Police Matters: PCSO Hughes received confirmation after a short discussion, that speeding and arson will remain the two top priorities going forward, arson being especially relevant with the approach of Bonfire Night. PCSO Hughes then outlined the current crime figures to all present, which were received without specific comments on this occasion.

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6. Finance and Appeals: The Clerk presented the finance figures for September, which were approved by councillors present. He also presented the Quarterly figures, showing a £1.2k surplus against budget predictions so far this year. There were no appeals on this occasion.

7. Street Lighting: MD mentioned a flickering light near the zebra crossing on the main road, which RW will bring to the councils' attention along with the other lights he mentioned earlier.

8. Planning: The Chair thanked all who attended the recent meeting at WCBC, which resulted in the rejection of the planning application for 365 homes on Gresford Road. He made particular reference to DO who gave a superb presentation on behalf of the residents on the night. DO stated that the community spirit was what had shone through with as many people outside the room as there was in it.

Prior to discussing the proposed planning applications, DOI's were duly completed and signed by KC and RW, with both councillors remaining in the room as no vote was taking place.

The following applications, as listed on the Agenda, were considered by council:-

a. P/2015/0669 Erection Of 24 dwellings on land at Miners Welfare Institute Llay

SR mentioned that there was a potential loss of 16 mature trees as part of this development, which would be regrettable. It would be nice if the plans could move ahead with consideration being given to allowing some of the trees to remain. DO stated that a precedent has been set with the Drill Hall development and he feels this will obviously benefit Llay Miners Welfare. DA mentioned that within the planning application WCBC mentioned that no approaches had been made regarding the football pitch – this was not true as he personally knew that approaches about the pitch had been made on numerous occasions. Overall the councillors agreed that this development was needed in the village and provided the concerns about the trees were passed on by the Clerk to Planning at WCBC there were no objections.

b. P/2015/0703 Erection of wooden shed/dog kennel 5 Meadow Barns Llay

Passed without comment.

c. P/2015/0723 Work on Oak Tree (pruning and thinning) at Heddwch St Martins Mews Llay.

SR mentioned that previous attempts to remove this tree had been turned down by WCBC and it was felt that the planned pruning and crowning was designed to remove the tree by stealth. The Clerk was instructed to inform WCBC that Llay CC would wish to see the Oak Tree remain untouched.

9. Burial Matters: The Clerk gave a brief update on the cemetery Groundsman, who is recovering well after his recent illness. It is hoped that he will be back in work by the time of the next meeting as he continues to recover. The only other matter regarding water supply had been covered earlier under matters arising.

10. Correspondence: The only correspondence received had been an application for the vacancy that now exists due to the recent resignation of SW. The Clerk informed all that the date for an election to be called had passed and as of Monday 12th October, a notice to co-opt had been posted on the Llay CC Notice Board. This would now allow local qualified residents to

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consider applying and therefore, with the councils' approval, it was agreed that this matter be held over to the November meeting for further discussion.

An outstanding piece of correspondence related to the subject of the existing Llay Colliery memorial. MD confirmed this memorial is in the process of being improved and he was actively involved on the committee to enhance the memorial of Llay Colliery as, in March 2016, it will have been 50 years since coal was last produced and the pit closed. MD is on the steering committee and looking for support. JO'K and the Chair agreed to accompany MD at the next meeting of the committee on 20th Nov at 1200.

11. Reports: The Chair thanked SR for her outstanding research and paperwork carried out regarding the Open Space Assessment reports that had recently been issued by WCBC. This sterling work was appreciated by all and all councillors present agreed with the Chairs' words. SR confirmed that she recently met LS (Senior Planning Officer) along with TB and LS Had agreed to pass on her comments and concerns but the reply is still awaited. SR and other councillors stated that the report was badly written, inaccurate in content and actually contained figures that had been simply added up wrong. SR is using the FOI system to find out the cost of the report. In supporting SR in all she has done RW agreed that the report was poorly prepared and written and simply not acceptable for a document of such importance. On a separate matter RW thanked JO'K for informing him so promptly about a recent burst pipe in the village.

The Chair made a point of thanking all those attending from the public for their patience this evening.

There being no further business, the standing orders were passed by KC and DA and the meeting closed at 2018. Date and time of the next meeting is:-

THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2015 at 1830

Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley
Chairman
19TH November 2015