

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Llay Resource Centre, Llay
 Date Thu 15th September 2016
 Time 1830

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

In Attendance: PCSO Hughes/Evans and 6 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs K Cupit, T Boland, V Wineyard
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** SR requested that a minor change be made to the Minutes where SA had been recorded instead of SR. The July minutes were then accepted as a true record, proposed by DO and seconded by RW.
3. **Public Questions:** On this occasion, no questions had been received by the Clerk.
4. **Matters Arising:** CA raised the issue of the **Resource Centre Café** and the uncertain future that it faces. CA was particularly unhappy with the communication that has emitted from WCBC to the community council regarding the decision making process on the café future. CA handed out a document outlining the timeframe for various documentation and e mails to illustrate this point, showing that information had gone directly to the Resource Centre Advisory Committee and then the LIP newsletter, but not the Community Council. RW stated that it was his understanding that interest had been shown from three sources to take on the running of the café, and that the self-service option had been considered a better prospect than complete closure of this popular facility. The same would apply to the library within the Resource Centre. Regarding communication to the community, the Chair mentioned that employment protocols would dictate that staff involved would have to be consulted first. Also, the LIP newsletter article was actually

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designed to inform as many of the community as possible. After various further discussions it was decided that CA would liaise with the Clerk, to send a letter to the Head of Education Services (Mr John Davies) outlining the concern felt by all. The other listed matter arising involved the **recent review of Standing Orders**. The Chair stated that as this was a lengthy matter, involving the review of 108 listed paragraphs, he felt a separate special meeting might be the most productive way to finalise and agree this matter. This was unanimously agreed by all and the Chair will arrange suitable dates outside the meeting in due course.

5. Police Matters: PCSO Hughes gave an overview of the July and August crime figures which were discussed by members of the council. SA asked about the **noted damage during** the last two months, to 9 vehicles, which is very worrying. PCSO stated this was unusual and enquiries were ongoing. SR asked why burglary was a stated NWP priority on the crime sheet, when this type of crime within Llay is relatively low. The general feeling was that **anti-social** behaviour was far more prevalent. PCSO Hughes will speak to his Inspector with a view to updating the NWP priority to reflect council feelings. CA mentioned that a “ceiling” style net would prevent the issue of footballs coming out of a play area into nearby properties, but it is believed that issue is being addressed at present. JOK mentioned that **speeding is still a major problem**, as always, with those transgressing speed limits appearing to get away with it. RW stated that there are proposals to introduce a 20mph limit on First Avenue, but JOK felt that regardless of any limits in place, those who speed would just ignore them. The Chair asked if there were any more issues for the PCSO and there were not. Prior to leaving, PCSO Hughes introduced PCSO Oliver Evans, who will shortly be replacing him as the Llay PCSO. On behalf of the council, the Chair thanked PCSO Hughes for his service to Llay and wished him every success for the future.

6. Finance and Appeals: The **July and August finance and budget figures** were presented to all and there were no questions. The Clerk then presented the **external audit report** which had recently been completed by Grant Thornton and highlighted the minor pick up points. He also explained that the time delay had been acknowledged by Grant Thornton who would endeavour to speed up returns in their second year of auditing in 2017. The Chair mentioned his recent meeting with the Solicitors regarding finalising **ownership of the proposed area of land** adjacent to the **cemetery**. The Chair reported that this matter is progressing well and the research work carried out by himself and SA had hopefully saved expensive legal costs. The Chair stated that due to restructuring of the Land Registry, it may take up to six months to finalise the production of deeds showing the Community Council as legal owners of the area in question. Before the final finance item involving the LIP newsletter was discussed, the Chair asked members of the public and press to leave the room due to the nature of the discussion. Councillors then discussed this matter.

7. Street Lighting: The Chair mentioned the recent correspondence involving the replacement of a defective column on Gresford Road. He had asked for this to be listed to clarify with all councillors, the preferred method of making payment for an **invoice exceeding £1k**. In particular, the Chair wanted agreement on payment systems for invoices of this size. After a short discussion, SR stated that it was important that any defective lights are repaired as soon as possible and DA spoke in agreement. It was agreed that the current system, where the Chair and DA confirm approval for the Clerk to pay invoices, would continue for all invoices, with the proviso that either DA or the Chair can defer payment of any bill they feel warrants full council discussion. The Clerk was instructed to contact WCBC Lighting and give approval to commence this work.

8. Planning: Prior to discussing planning RW, having signed a DOI, left the meeting. There were a number of planning matters (full details listed on the Agenda) to be discussed as follows:-

0680 Construction of new dwelling and access -passed without comment

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0759 – Reshaping of a protected tree between properties - passed without comment

CA asked council to consider the installation of a play area within the Rockery Gardens, for toddlers. CA felt that there was little or no provision of play facilities for children under the age of 5 within the village. RW mentioned that some residents had approached him to utilise the same fenced area for children to plant flowers. Following a discussion amongst councillors, it was agreed that further research would be done before any decisions would be considered.

9. Burial Matters: The Clerk made reference to the commencement of refurbishing the **council installed benches** within the cemetery. Following the completion of the first bench, at a cost of £50, it was generally felt that the others should now be completed on the same costing basis. SA had made reference to some issues involving some paint splashes and the overall area around the benches being checked before the work commences. The Clerk will ensure this is clarified before the remaining five benches are refurbished. CA, who had visited the cemetery recently, mentioned the untidy appearance and flimsiness of the black plastic dustbins situated around the grounds. The Clerk had contacted one company who quoted a very expensive price for just one of the planter style wooden boxes, within which the plastic bins could be concealed. He will gain further quotes and inform councillors as soon as practical. The next issue involved the planned removal of the unsightly hedging either side of the car park entrance. Two quotes were already in place and once a third quote was obtained, this matter will be finalised. Finally, the Chair enquired who will be conducting the next inspection of the cemetery by councillors. As this is being carried out on an alphabetical basis, the Clerk will ask TB and KC to complete this task prior to the October meeting.

10. Reports: MD gave an update regarding recent meetings he had attended regarding the plans for a **Christmas Carol Service** involving local children and their families. After consulting the Head Teacher of Park CP School, it was agreed that this service would be held during daylight hours on 16th December, due to the ages of the children involved. MD had also met with the WCBC Environment Officer responsible for tree planting and maintenance and agreed a way forward. This would involve a **tree being planted within the Rockery Gardens** in early December, with costings being around £400, which was a significant saving on previous proposals. The budget already agreed by council would allow for suitable lighting and installation of the same to be carried out. Finally, MD invited all councillors to join him in taking part in the Christmas Tree Appeal Committee, which the Chair felt was a worthy cause and asked MD to inform everyone when meeting dates were known.

11. News/Website: CA enquired whether councillors had to seek full council approval before asking DA to input information onto the website. After a discussion, the Chair stated that as long as it was purely information, then no prior approval was needed, but that if it was expressing a personal opinion on any matter, then that should be agreed by the full council before publication. This solution was agreed as sensible by all.

12. Correspondence: The only correspondence was a letter from a local resident, objecting most strongly to the installation of a new litter bin in the proximity of his property. A lengthy discussion followed with various councillors expressing opinions regarding this matter. RW will take on board all the comments and will report back when he has gained clarification from WCBC, who will be responsible for installing and then maintaining the new bins. The Clerk was instructed to inform the resident concerned.

13. Co Option due to vacancy: The final matter due for discussion, involved the co-option onto council of a new councillor. This had arisen due to the recent resignation of PE. The Chair outlined the procedure for co-option, which involved three applicants. The Chair also asked two

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members of the public to assist in the counting of votes. The applications of the three members of the community had been circulated to all councillors in advance of the meeting, so the Chair instructed the Clerk to distribute voting cards. Following the vote, Mr Wynn Austin was duly co-opted onto the council. The Clerk will inform all the candidates of the outcome as soon as possible and arrange to meet Mr Austin in the near future to pass on the necessary paperwork for signature.

There being no further business, Standing Orders were moved and seconded and the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2055.

THURSDAY 20th OCTOBER 2016 at 1830

Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley
Chairman
20TH October 2016