

## MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Llay/Resource Centre, Llay  
 Date Thu 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016  
 Time 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	√	√/A	√				
Maldwyn Davies	√		√	√	√	√	√	√				
Peter Evans	√		A	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	√	√	√	√	√	√				

In Attendance: 9 members of the community

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs P Evans

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** SR highlighted a minor error, where her name had been attributed to a suggestion which was, in fact the Chairmans', after which the Minutes of the January were accepted as a true record: Proposed by: DO Secoded by: JO

Due to the unavailability of Llay Park CP School going forward, the Chair raised the issue of venues for future meetings as this was required for Standing Orders. After discussion it was agreed that Llay Resource Centre, which has indicated availability regularly for future meetings, would be the venue for all future meetings and the Clerk was instructed to amend Standing orders to reflect this change.

**3. Public Questions:** Ms C Archer asked her questions as listed on the Agenda. The first related to the public asking their own questions at meetings, which has been answered. The second related to usage of **Shones Lane** football pitch, as this would form part of the open space issues previously minuted. DA stated that he was not fully aware of how often the pitches were used, but was aware that Sunday League teams used it. The Chair asked TB to contact the relevant authority at WCBC to find out. The final question related to the dormant state of the **old school in Llay**, and whether this could be utilised for much needed parking in the village. Ms Archer believed this was the planned use for the old Grove Park School in Wrexham. In response

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RW stated that this proposal had been suggested to Education Department and a site meeting is due to take place to progress this matter. RW felt that it was an excellent idea although the overall fear is that the site may lie derelict for many years to come. RW will report back with an update once the site meeting has taken place.

**4. Matters Arising:** The Chair introduced the listed matter of **Fracking** and asked for comments with a view to formulating a policy for Llay CC. MD stated that he felt a lot more information was needed to be able to understand the issue. The Chair stated he has read a plethora of information and suggested that as there was plenty of available information on the internet, perhaps other councillors might like to do the same to form an opinion. SR stated her concerns regarding the amount of water needed during the process as this was the main method of the fracking process and the pressurised water had to go somewhere. DO stated that the main issue with fracking is that everyone tends to have polarised views, and this would be the case with invited guest speakers. The Chair suggested that council should invite guest speakers at a later date, once all councillors had researched the matter fully. DO/RW suggested that when speakers are invited, two should be asked with one speaking for and one against fracking. This was agreed by all.

RW then raised the matter of **new bins** in the village. He stated residents want more bins but Streetscene have indicated to RW and TB that there is no budget for purchase so the community council would have to pay at a cost of £250 per bin. RW stated these extra bins would be emptied by WCBC at no extra cost. DA asked that if these bins were damaged, who would be required to pay for replacements. SR asked if bins not used at present could be relocated where they are required. RW read out a list of seven locations where he felt bins would be useful. DO mentioned the recent relocation of a bin on Gresford Road which had resulted in litter problems increasing. In summary the Chair asked for proposals. MD proposed purchasing 4 extra bins. The Chair asked for other proposals. DO suggested increasing this to 6. KC seconded MD's proposal and JO seconded DO's proposal. The vote was 6 for each proposal and the Chair decided not to use his casting vote, but a compromise of 5 bins was agreed unanimously. RW will contact Streetscene and inform them of this decision. Finally, the Chair asked RW to emphasise that this purchase is a trial only. SR raised the issue of **conduct of meetings**. Before SR spoke, the Chair asked all present to consider asking members of the press and public to leave the room in accordance with standing order No. 56. This was agreed by all and the press and public, along with the Clerk, duly departed. This action was due to the sensitive nature of the matter to be discussed. On completion of this matter, the press and public returned and the meeting continued. JO raised the issue of Debris left behind by the bin collection teams, which she stated is becoming unacceptable. Numerous bottles are left in the street, on pavements etc. and the empty newspaper bags and green bottle bins are often found far away from the property they belong to. Other councillors spoke in support of JO stating the same issue arose in their areas. RW stated this matter had been reported to the lead officer for this service and he had expressed horror. He will chase up once again. RW stated **Keep Wales Tidy** have informed him there will be another **litter pick** on 12<sup>th</sup> March, meeting at Llay Resource Centre at 10am. The last one had been both popular and successful and he invited everyone to join him. SR suggested schoolchildren might like to have a competition to **produce a poster**, which have been proven to gain attention from everyone when placed around the area. Thus was agreed to be a good idea. Finally, MD mentioned the order of service on 11<sup>th</sup> March for the Llay Colliery Memorial, and he outlined the order in which all attendees would proceed which was agreed by all.

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- 5. Police Matters:** Due to training PCSO Hughes was unable to attend and the PCSO meant to stand in was absent (post meeting: this was due to operational requirements on the night). The latest figures were discussed at length and DO mentioned the outcomes were increasing which was good. JO asked about an update to councils' request to have Alyn Waters added as a high priority from the Police, given the 2 permitted priorities for the community remained speeding and drug use. The Clerk will mention this again to PCSO Hughes. DA mentioned the figures showed stones thrown at vehicles are listed as anti- social, and he feels that this should be listed as a crime as damage to vehicles is inevitable. Furthermore DA mentioned that he felt response times, once incidents are reported, can be very slow. Although this has been minuted, DA has still to receive a response.
- 6. Finance and Appeals:** The Clerk presented the finance figures for January, which were approved by DO and seconded by VW. The Chair then read out the Service Level Agreement received recently, for maintaining the Play Areas in Llay and the new addition of maintaining the Skate Park. This included maintenance of equipment, grass cutting and refuse collection. After discussing this matter at some length, it was agreed to renew this SLA and the Clerk is to ensure a reply is sent confirming this before the current agreement ends. The following **appeals for Grants** were listed and considered: **Llay Welfare Bowls Club appeal** for £500 to improve green surrounds ahead of hosting a national event. Before this matter was discussed further KC signed a DOI and left the room. The Chair then read out the appeal and gave details contained on the completed Grant Application Form, which had been correctly completed. MD stated that he thought the event would raise a lot of funding for the bowls club and that he felt the council should award £200, this being a similar amount that had been awarded to other sports clubs within Llay. DO proposed an amendment, suggesting a figure of £250, which, following a vote was carried by 6 votes to 5. The Clerk was instructed to inform the organisation and arrange payment.
- 7. Street Lighting:** The Chair asked all to consider the letter drafted by the Clerk, which is due to be sent to the Service Manager responsible for street lighting within Llay, due to the high number of complaints received over the last few months. KC expressed his concern that he felt there was a risk that WCBC would try and charge local communities more for street lighting by stealth, which was supported by the Chair. However, after a cordial discussion, it was agreed to send the letter in its' original form and the Clerk was instructed to do so. Once again, many councillors spoke about problems with lighting in their areas.
- 8. Planning:** The listed planning applications, involving parking spaces at **2<sup>nd</sup> Circle**, alterations to a **gymnastics facility** and an **extension** to a private property, were discussed and passed without comment. DO mentioned the recent distribution of public consultation documents regarding Open Space Assessments and WCBC Local Development Plans. DO was concerned that any responses from communities required a speedy response due to the timescales listed in the WCBC document. RW concurred that the timescales were tight and also that the methodology for commenting was not user friendly. RW and TB will attempt to get a consultation arranged within Llay and DO is prepared to carry out a leaflet drop on his side of the village, to stress to as many people as possible, the importance of this matter. SR mentioned that population figures for the village had ben reduced on the latest count, which SR found puzzling, but was due to how the settlement area boundaries for Llay had been defined. In concluding this issue, the Chair agreed with the points raised and suggested a specific meeting to discuss this one issue. This was unanimously agreed and the Clerk will arrange the venue for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 1830. VW asked that the public be allowed to attend and this was also agreed. (post meeting: the Resource Centre is booked for 25<sup>th</sup> Feb at 1830).

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**9. Burial Matters:** The Clerk informed all that the entrance sign to the Cemetery car park will be repaired and painted over the forthcoming weekend (weather dependant). He mentioned that the number of services over the last couple of months had greatly reduced in comparison with previous years. SA mentioned that the large bin was extremely full earlier in the day. The Clerk will check on collections with the Groundsman as soon as possible.

**10. Reports:** RW mentioned that he was pleased to report that the path leading from Nant Yr Gaer woods would now be completed as monies had been found within current budgets by WCBC. All other matters had been covered elsewhere in this meeting.

**11. Correspondence:** There was no correspondence other than that which had been dealt with as part of Finance/Planning earlier in the evening.

There being no further business the Standing Orders were moved and accepted. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2053. The next meeting is on

**THURSDAY 17<sup>h</sup> MARCH 2016 at 1830**

Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley  
Chairman  
17<sup>th</sup> March 2016