

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Llay Resource Centre, Llay
 Date Thu 20th July 2017
 Time 1830

Name	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Bryan Apsley Chairperson	√	N										
Dave Adams	√	O										
Sandra Apsley	√											
Terry Boland	A	M										
Ken Cupit	√	E										
Nathan Hughes	A	E										
Sharon Roberts	√	T										
Rob Walsh	√	I										
Stacey Watson	√	N										
John O'Keefe	√	G										
Dennis Owen Vice Chair	√											
Jan Osborne	√	H										
Lisa Jones	√	E										
Pat Taylor	√	L										
Wynn Austin	√	D										
Mark Williams (Clerk)	√											

In Attendance: 7 members of the public. 1 member of the press.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs T Boland, N Hughes

Declarations of Interest : BA, SA, KC and RW

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The Chair asked for approval for the June Minutes which was proposed by DA and seconded by PT.

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

4. **Matters Arising:** The subject of the **Beacon in memory of WW1** was relisted for further discussion. The Chair thanked Christine Archer for her extensive research into this matter which had been read by all councillors. Following a general discussion, where possible sites for the proposed Beacon were discussed, this matter was relisted for the September meeting, to enable further decisions to be considered. The Chair then introduced the subject of **Standing Orders**, emphasising the need to conclude this matter which had been discussed at varying lengths for over a year. The minutes of the June meeting stated this matter would be relisted for July and the Chair felt that Council should get on with it. The Chair made reference to further amendments that had been recently proposed by SR, but he felt the Standing Orders as they currently stand, were worthy of

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acceptance. He proposed the Standing Orders were passed as currently printed. SA seconded. SR proposed an amendment that Standing Orders be discussed further to ensure they conform to local government legislation. This was seconded by SW. A further discussion then took place with numerous Councillors expressing their opinions. The Chair asked for a vote on the amendment as proposed by SR. This resulted in 5 votes for and 8 against. The proposal to accept the Standing Orders as they are was therefore passed.

5. Police Matters: In the absence of the PCSO, the figures were presented to all and had been distributed ahead of the meeting. RW mentioned that, following a spate of **anti social behaviour** as minuted last month, he and BA had held meetings with local Police and the Manager of the Resource Centre, which had been productive, but it was proving difficult to actually achieve any real results. RW wished to place on record his gratitude to Sandra Davies, the new Resource Centre Area Manager, who had worked tirelessly to try and solve the problems around the school area. SW asked RW if it would be possible to paint yellow lines, to deter youngsters parking cars in the area. RW explained the issue with this is the enforcement of parking restrictions after 5pm. SR asked if collapsible bollards could be a solution. RW noted this and will investigate further. On a more positive note, RW stated that now **speeding on the Llay New Road** has been listed as a police priority, he was hopeful that further resources would be utilised to reduce this problem.

6. Finance and Appeals: The Clerk presented the **June income and expenditure** figures, showing expenditure of **£9,454.15p**. This higher than normal expenditure for the month was due, in the main, to the purchase of expensive equipment for the cemetery, along with expensive repairs/inspections to play equipment in the play area. These figures were approved unanimously. The Clerk then presented the **External Audit report from Grant Thornton** and this report was accepted unanimously. The Clerk highlighted the minor pick up points which will be implemented for next year. BA and KC then left the room, having signed DOI's prior to the meeting, which allowed the Vice Chair to then present the appeal for funding from **Llay Walking Football Organisation**. Following a lengthy discussion, where the finances of the organisation were placed under scrutiny, DA proposed an award of £50 seconded by PT. RW then proposed an amendment, awarding £25 which was seconded by JO'K. SR then proposed a further amendment, seconded by SW, to award nothing at this stage, due to the financial position. SW asked for a recorded vote. The Vice Chair, having ensured there were no more amendments, called for a vote. The amendment by SR gained two votes (SR & SW), the amendment awarding £25 received two votes (RW & JO'K) and finally the award of £50 received 7 votes (WA, JO, SA, PT, LJ, DA & DO). Therefore, the Clerk will arrange payment of £50 and will inform all concerned. The Chair then resumed control of the meeting. The Clerk raised the issue of **renewing One Voice Wales membership**, which lapses on 1st August, during the summer recess. Following a discussion regarding the merits of membership, JO'K proposed that membership was not renewed, which was seconded by PT. SR proposed an amendment renewing the membership which was seconded by SW. The Chair asked for a vote for the amendment, which was carried by 9 votes to 3. The Clerk will now arrange renewal, from August to 1st April 2018, when the matter will be reconsidered. The Chair then raised the matter of future **venues for Council meetings**. This had arisen as public interest meant the current venue was unsuitable going forward. He referred to the information provided by the Clerk ahead of the meeting, involving the Church Hall option or the main hall of the Resource Centre. The Chair stated he would not contribute to the discussion or take part in any voting, along with SA, as they had been involved in Resource Centre business in the past. However, as the matter also involved the possible changing of meeting dates he would remain in the room. This was accepted by all. Following a short discussion, where Wednesday night was agreed as a solution to remaining within the Resource Centre and avoiding Youth Club nights, PT proposed and DA Seconded remaining within the Resource Centre and moving to the third Wednesday of each month. This was carried unanimously,

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with SR pointing out that Standing Orders would also need amendment to reflect this change. The Clerk will inform all concerned, and will thank Rev Huw Butler for his kind offer. The Clerk then informed all that WCBC had withdrawn Payroll Services from all non essential services, which included community councils. He had already arranged for a replacement within Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW), who offer a similar service to non profit making organisations. The cost will be £21 per month, an increase of £6 per month on the previous provider, which was proposed by DA and seconded by PT and carried unanimously. The Clerk will ensure this is fully set up before 1st September, in readiness for the cessation of the WCBC service on 31st August.

7. Street Lighting: DA referred to the individual light report that the Clerk had obtained from 2014, through WCBC Lighting Department. This had highlighted a small number of street lights that had been considered in need of urgent replacement. The Clerk explained that these are being replaced when regular inspections show the need, as reflected in two that had been done recently. Others will be changed as and when needed. RW noted various comments regarding ongoing light issues within Llay.

8. Planning: There were no planning matters to discuss on this occasion.

9. Burial Matters: The Chair and WA gave a brief report following their recent inspection when, generally speaking, they had found the cemetery to be in good order. Weed issues around the grounds and on the paths had already been addressed. **Inspections for August** will be carried out by **KC and SA**, and **JO'K and DO** agreed to carry out the **September inspection**. The Clerk asked for permission to purchase some kneelers and folding chairs for visitors who wished to either tend graves or to sit and spend time at a graveside where a bench was not in the location. The cost was expected not to exceed £50, with SR mentioning that kneelers were available within Poundshops. KC proposed and BA seconded this initiative and this was carried unanimously. The Clerk will now purchase the equipment and will ensure that a form of disclaimer is also published within the cemetery. It was agreed this equipment would only be available when the cemetery groundsman was in attendance. SR mentioned that she had been made aware of some petty thefts from the cemetery recently. The Clerk will investigate further. SR also mentioned that a resident had asked if it was possible to have various large skips within the cemetery to separate non biodegradable waste from general waste. The Clerk had also discussed this matter, but at present, it would involve the Groundsman having to separate all the rubbish within the black bins and would be too time consuming.

10. Reports: RW mentioned the recent approval, by the First Minister, of the **Gresford Road** development. RW expressed outrage that this decision went against all the recommendations from local government planning committees. JO'K felt that Wrexham Planning were to blame for their actions throughout this process. DO informed all he had sent a letter to the First Minister, highlighting issues he felt were important, which had been received. Meetings to further discuss had been arranged with the local MP, but had been postponed. BA will find out when a rearranged date has been agreed. On the subject of development, SR asked RW if he was aware of any development within **Ballswood Quarry**, showing photographs she had taken that appeared to show walls of sand that had not been visible previously. RW gave a brief report on the background to this site, which involved certain powers of control having been historically retained by Flintshire Council. He hoped that in the near future, these powers of investigation and control would rightly pass to WCBC, when more local involvement regarding this site would be possible. BA then gave a report regarding county council matters. Some matters, involving the **anti social behaviour**, had already been discussed. He mentioned that, as a member of the **Fire and Rescue Authority**, he was now aware of the major budget issues this group were facing. There is an issue ongoing involving **large trees** overlooking

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Trewern Close, discussions are also ongoing about **reducing the salaries** of senior Councillors and housing environment budget talks are continuing, with RW and BA intending to tour the village with the Housing Officer. The shale tip is starting work again, and BA expressed some concern regarding the 7am starts, but assumed this was in the agreement. Finally he mentioned he intends starting surgeries once the main holiday season is over.

11. News/Website: DA sought permission to publish a pie chart showing the annual expenditure of Llay CC for the previous year, demonstrating how it would look. DA was thanked for his work on this and it was unanimously agreed to publish this. The Clerk will also pass on the Standing Orders for publication on the website as well. The Code of Conduct is already listed.

12. Correspondence: The Chair read out a **thank you letter**, received from the Head of Park CP School, for their recent Grant Award. Finally, the Chair asked for the Public and Press to leave before the final matter listed, involving the use of social media, to be discussed. SR stated she felt that the public should remain in the room. A short discussion resulted in a vote to resolve the issue. This was 3 in favour of the public remaining and 9 against. The Public and Press then left the room.

There being no further business, Standing Orders were moved and seconded and the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2052. The next meeting will be held on :-

WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2017 at 1830

Main Hall Llay Resource Centre

Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley
Chair
20th September 2017