

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Llay/Resource Centre, Llay
 Date Thu 16th June 2016
 Time 1830

Name	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Bryan Apsley Chairperson	√	N	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√	√
Dave Adams	√	O	√	√	√	A	√	√	√	√	√	√
Sandra Apsley	√		√	√	√	A	√	√	√	A	√	√
Terry Boland	A	M	√	A	√	√	A	√	A	√	A	√
Ken Cupit	√	E	√	√	A	√	√/A	√	√	√	√	√
Maldwyn Davies	√	E	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√	√	A
Peter Evans	√	T	A	A	√	√	√	A	√	A	A	A
Sharon Roberts	√	I	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Rob Walsh	√	N	√	√	A	√	A/√	√	A	√	√	√
Vera Wineyard	A	G	√	√	A	√	√	√	A	√	√	√
John O'Keefe		H		√	√	√	√	√	A	√	√	√
Dennis Owen		E		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Jan Osborne	X	L	X	X	X	√	√	√	√	A	√	A
Christine Archer										√	√	√
Pat Taylor										A	√	√
Mark Williams (Clerk)	√	D	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

In Attendance: 11 members of the community & PCSO

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs P Evans, J Osborne and M Davies

RW (Planning), KC (Park CP School), Chair (LIP), SR (Park CP School) and TB (Park CP School) and SA (LIP) all signed a DOI.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: SR asked that the issue regarding the election of the Chair and her specific comments regarding this matter had not been minuted fully. VW mentioned that the procedures had remained the same going back to when it was a Parish Council. TB stated he had not attended but was unhappy with proceedings as stated. The Chair stated that following the distribution of the minutes, although he was aware of various e mails, this specific matter had not been mentioned prior to the meeting. The Chair also stated that as he had not had prior notice of the statement read out by SR, he had not had an opportunity to prepare a reply. The Chair also felt that the clarification issue, as listed on the Agenda, had been manipulated. This matter is listed to be discussed in matters arising, so the Chair asked if the minutes could be approved. This was proposed by DO and seconded by RW.

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

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4. **Matters Arising:** With regard to the listed item of **Difficult Decisions**, the Chair had stated that he did not wish to lead on this matter, but was prepared for other comments if required. There were no comments. SR then spoke at length regarding the recent **AGM** and the **process** that had followed with specific regard to the position of Chairman. SR stated that she had sought advice from Mr T Coxon of WCBC and felt that Council were not acting lawfully. All councillors had a duty to contact the Ombudsmen for Local Government if they were aware of any actions that could be deemed illegal. DO mentioned that he had tried to arrange a meeting, as Vice Chair, between himself, SR and the Chair to resolve the issue of election of a Chair/AGM but SR felt that all councillors should be in attendance when matters as important as this are being discussed and that private meetings which do not involve all councillors should be avoided. SR stated that it is not within the gift of any councillor to ignore local government rules and regulations which she believed had occurred at the AGM. SR also asked if the Clerk could be instructed to contact SLCC and seek some guidance from this organisation. The Clerk was instructed to so do. The Vice Chair had carried out some research with other community councils and this had shown that there were slight variations in most community councils as to how they elected a Chair. He then gave examples from a small number of local councils, explaining that their Chairmen were elected for differing periods of time. The Vice Chair stated that in his opinion, if there had been a simple proposal, seconder and vote to elect the Chair, it would have not been opposed and this matter could have been resolved. PT mentioned that she felt the number of e mails regarding this matter should not, in most cases, have been sent and it should have been discussed at a formal meeting. In response, the Chair stated that at the AGM in May, all councillors could have challenged the process that had been followed, but apart from SR, no-one had spoken out. The Chair also felt that it was unfair to select one paragraph from Standing Orders, when he was aware that strictly speaking, over thirty were not strictly adhered to. He also reiterated that, in his view, as the substantive Vice Chair, it was accepted practice that he would become Chairman, and this practice had been followed for many years. The Chair stated that he strongly felt that there were more important matters to discuss, regarding serving the local community. A number of councillors commented that the discussion had generally been unedifying and did not show the council in a good light. CA asked why the simple voting process for the position of Chair, as stated in standing orders, had not been adhered to. SA quoted from the AGM of 2010, where she had been elected Vice Chair, and subsequently, had received notification of a complaint regarding her conduct at the same AGM to the ombudsmen. SA stated she had been completely exonerated following this complaint and felt this was a continuation of the attacks on the Chair, who only wished to do the best he could for Llay. JO'K stated that he felt a special meeting should be called, in accordance with standing orders, to discuss this matter fully and allow the council to move on. The Chair and all councillors agreed. A member of the public made some comments regarding the process of elections of Chair/Vice Chair and was asked to be quiet and sit down by the Chair on more than one occasion. After another comment regarding the LGA Act 1972, he then left the room. The Clerk will contact the Resource Centre to find free dates in the next two weeks and will then inform the councillors. In concluding this matter, the Chair stated that he wished all standing orders to form part of the agenda for this meeting.

Regarding the **Skate Park** CA mentioned that she remained unclear why the insurance for this facility lay with Llay CC. The Clerk explained that the e mail he had forwarded regarding the recent damage and liability from M Howarth of WCBC had explained this. The Chair asked the Clerk to forward this e mail onto all councillors. PT mentioned that there had been a lack of action concerning some recent anti social behaviour in the Skate Park. TB confirmed he is aware of this and will report back in July.

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Finally, in matters arising, SR mentioned that over 20 entries had been received for the Poster Competition and judging was soon to take place. It was agreed unanimously to invite the winners and the judges to the next meeting, which could present a positive photo opportunity as well.

5. Police Matters: PCSO D Jones distributed the figures but due to the length of time previous business had taken, had to leave the meeting at this point. The Clerk asked him to pass on to PCSO Hughes, that Cllr MD would wish to discuss the ongoing issue of parking on Mayville Avenue at the July meeting.

6. Finance and Appeals: The Clerk explained the May **income and expenditure** figures, which were discussed and agreed. The figures presented were approved by KC and DA. The Clerk raised the issue of **appointing Internal Auditors** formally for the forthcoming financial year. After a short discussion it was unanimously agreed to re-appoint **JDH Business Services** for 2016/17.

The appeal by **LIP** was read out by the Chair and discussed fully by all councillors. Some mention was made of reducing costs by producing an electronic version of this magazine, but there were concerns about this local magazine then reaching the whole community. There were some expressions of disquiet regarding LIP and recent rumours of issues involving the running of the organisation. Finally, DO proposed, with VW seconding that the £330 requested to cover printing costs for the next two issues was carried by a majority of 4-3 with 3 abstentions. The Chair and SA, having signed DOI's, did not vote. The Clerk will arrange payment.

The second appeal was from **Park CP School**, to cover numerous educational visits during the summer. Before this matter was discussed, KC, SR and TB left the room. There was a discussion relating to how any grant awarded is used to assist schoolchildren who attend these trips, and in conclusion SA proposed awarding £650 which was seconded by DO. The Chair asked for any amendments to the proposal and when there were none, he called for a vote. By a majority of 7-1, the proposal was carried and the Clerk will inform the school and arrange payment.

7. Street Lighting: RW gave an update regarding some lighting issues in **8th Avenue**, which he was hopeful would be resolved very soon. The other issue that RW is currently dealing with is a significant number of "**burners**" (**lights remaining on in the day**) and will report back. Finally, TB asked that the Clerk contact WCBC to ascertain costings for switching Llay street lights to the **LED bulbs** that could save money long term regarding power costs. The Clerk will contact street lighting at WCBC and ascertain and report back.

8. Planning: Prior to commencing this item, councillors who had signed DOI's left the room. The only listed planning application related to new windows being fitted to a listed building (**part of Llay Hall**) which was passed without comment. Following the discussions and objections noted by the Council regarding the **Mobile Asphalt Plant** planned for the Llay Ind Estate, DO gave an update report regarding forthcoming meetings, both on site and at WCBC and asked for maximum support. It was generally agreed during the following discussion, that this application appeared to be moving through the planning process at a fast pace, unlike previous attempts to open a similar site on the Wrexham Industrial Estate, which took 18 months to proceed through the same process before being rejected. DO also mentioned that the legal requirement to place 2 clear signs in advance had not been adhered to, as nobody had seen these signs, although WCBC claimed they were posted and they are not responsible if they subsequently disappear. Finally DO mentioned that it was a fact that a lot of local businesses had not been aware of these plans and that the comments received from the community by WCBC appeared to come from residential areas. CA also produced a document from "Sell 2 Wales" which showed that planning applications

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for this site were made on 7th March, and the contract awarded to the applicants by WCBC on 15th March. In summary, the Chair asked for maximum support at the meetings starting on 17/6.

9. Burial Matters: The Chair referred to his ongoing research, along with SA regarding the ownership of areas around the current cemetery. Having ascertained that Llay CC did own the land in question, due to no formal documentation, nor official ownership being recognised by the Land Registry, he felt this was the **right time to seek formal legal assistance**. CA asked why it was necessary to spend money on a solicitor but the Chair stated that legal ownership of land was a highly technical matter and this would be best served by proper legal advice and assistance. After a few more comments, DA proposed and TB seconded engaging a solicitor to carry out this work. The Clerk was instructed to **contact three local firms and gain quotes**. The firms agreed were Slater and Gordon, Cyril Jones and McCluskeys. The Clerk will inform all councillors when he has estimates of costs before proceeding. SA mentioned she had carried out a **recent inspection** with the Chair, and this report was read out to all present. The Clerk will discuss issues mentioned in the report directly to the cemetery groundsman as soon as practical. VW asked if care in removing cut grass from grave spaces could be mentioned to the groundsman. A brief discussion followed regarding some **overgrown grave** spaces within the cemetery. SR mentioned the current rules which allow action to be taken where a grave is not kept in good order. It was agreed that it may be difficult to contact the grave owner, especially with older graves, but the Clerk will discuss this with the groundsman, whose experience may assist in this regard. Finally, the Clerk mentioned a recent story in the local press regarding opening hours at WCBC cemetery in Pandy and particularly the quoted costs of burial. The Chair confirmed that there had been no review of prices for some time now and he would like this matter to be listed for future discussion. The Clerk was instructed to **ascertain exact prices** for burial plots locally.

10. Reports: RW informed all that the **Public Open Spaces** meeting would now be held prior to the July meeting of Llay CC and he would send this report to all councillors once he had a copy. RW mentioned that the **old school car park** issue was ongoing. CA asked what was causing the delay in finalising this and RW responded that he hoped it would be resolved very soon. RW was aware of serious overgrown path areas, in the **Dingle and the Black Path areas** which have been reported and are due to be cut in the next week or so. The recent wet weather has accelerated plant growth and WCBC are trying to get around as many areas as possible at present. The new **bins** is still progressing with no news to report at present. Finally, areas of Llay will shortly be having **new kitchens and bathrooms** fitted as part of an improvements programme. PT mentioned this could not commence too soon as she was aware of a resident with a disgraceful bathroom.

11. News/Website: DA confirmed that there had been nothing passed on to update the website, but he remained ready to do so should any councillor feel there was information that would enhance the site. This item remaining on the agenda would ensure it was always fresh in the minds of all councillors going forward.

12. Correspondence: Other than matters already discussed, there was no correspondence on this occasion.

There being no further business the Standing Orders were moved and accepted. The Chair thanked members of the public for their attendance and the councillors for their efforts and the meeting closed at 2052. The date of the next meeting is

THURSDAY 21st JULY 2016 at 1830

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Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley
Chairman
21st July 2016