

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Llay Resource Centre, Llay
 Date Wed 20th Sep 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	A									
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	A									
Mark Williams (Clerk)	√		√									

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

The Chair highlighted fire exits as this meeting took place in a changed venue.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs T Boland, W Austin

Declarations of Interest : There were no DOI's signed for this meeting.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The Chair asked for approval for the July Minutes. SR raised a couple of issues that required minuting before the July minutes could be formally approved. Para 6 Line 12, noted that SR had requested a recorded vote and it was agreed this was actually SW. Also SR felt that some expansion relating to Para 12 Line 2 should be added, namely the reason for the Public remaining in the room. The matter being discussed was not listed under the exclusions in the LGA 1972 Act nor the Good Councillor Guide. Under Para 91 of Standing Orders, no reasons for exclusion had been given, thus SR's request for the Public to remain. Following these amendments, the Minutes for July were proposed by RW and seconded by JO'K and approved.

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

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4. **New Matters:** The **Red Telephone Box Regeneration** matter was introduced by the Chair, who then welcomed Ms Sarah Jones (Cadwy Clwyd) to the meeting and invited her to speak. Ms Jones gave an enlightening and informative presentation regarding her organisation relating to villages reusing their red telephone boxes when these were surplus to BT's needs. Ideas included conversion to mini museums or defibrillator stations within villages. Ms Jones also mentioned that any ideas requiring minor funding that enhanced village life would also be considered. In conclusion the Chair asked for this matter to be relisted for October by the Clerk, to allow all facts and information to be considered before deciding on a future plan. The Chair raised the issue of organising **Training Course Attendance and payment for the same**. A general discussion followed, with agreement that training was designed to improve the knowledge of all councillors and should be encouraged. SR suggested that a budget could be set to allow for this training in various subjects. This was agreed by all as a good suggestion. The Chair also encouraged everyone to attend the forthcoming Code of Conduct training at WCBC as this was deemed important to the role and was also both local and free. The Chair asked all councillors to consider their thoughts on this to allow a training plan to be put in place. Item 4C, relating to the use of Social Media was withdrawn from the agenda by the Chair following legal advice he had received. There were no other comments.

5. **Matters Arising:** The subject of the **WW1 Beacon** was raised again, having been relisted. There were no further observations made so the Chair asked all to contact organisations they have close involvement with, to ascertain if any remembrance events are planned. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter requesting information once the Chair has liaised to produce a list. RW then raised the issue of **purchasing new bins** for the village and a general discussion followed regarding areas that are being blighted by litter in Llay. It has been noted by SA and others, that areas where litter is found have bins nearby that are not being used. In conclusion JO'K proposed, seconded by DO, that 6 new bins be purchased. The Chair asked for any amendments and DA proposed, seconded by JO that before bins are purchased, councillors consider the locations first. The Chair called for a vote on the amendment first which was 11 in favour. Therefore, the Chair asked for this matter to be relisted for October, so councillors could consider their options. In conclusion, SR, in support of comments made by KC, suggested looking into the schoolchildren at Park CP School, producing an anti-litter poster as this had had some success elsewhere. All considered this an excellent idea and SR will take the matter forward.

6. **Police Matters:** PCSO Harris gave an overview of police crime figures since the July meeting which were discussed at some length by councillors. Of particular concern is continued **drug taking and anti- social behaviour** in certain areas of the village which is a major concern for everyone. Examples were given by individual councillors relating to drug paraphernalia being found close to and within school grounds. RW raised the issue of the **MUGA being closed at weekends**, in attempting to reduce issues, but DA spoke strongly against this as he felt that the MUGA was one of the few places that children could safely play ball games and to lose this vital facility every weekend is not acceptable. RW stated that he would take on board the comments made and report back. PT asked the PCSO if the **new police HQ in Llay would increase the police presence** as both she and others felt that the responses were slow at best and sometimes non-existent. PCSO Harris replied saying that it was important that whenever possible, any behaviour or issues causing concern are reported to the police as soon as possible. Regarding the new police HQ, PCSO Harris stated that whilst large numbers of departments would be based in Llay, they would be going out to their areas of operation around Wrexham daily. Finally, PCSO Harris gave statistics relating to **speeding issues** mentioning how often the speed monitoring vans had been in Llay since April and the number of tickets issued (74). On the same subject RW raised an issue reported to him about **loud moped/motor bike activity** late at night and the noise these machines made. Again, PCSO Harris asked for this to be reported straight away, so a pattern could be monitored to try and solve the issue.

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It was mentioned that a **Police Inspector had recently attended another community council meeting**. The Clerk was asked to contact the Inspector concerned to enquire whether they could attend one of our meetings in the near future. This will be done.

7. Finance and Appeals: The Clerk sought approval for the financial expenses authorised for payment in **July and August of £1844.49 and £4885.01** respectively. This was proposed by DO, seconded by RW and approved unanimously. The issue of the broken **see saw within the play area** was then discussed. After a number of councillors had spoken, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact WCBC and find out what alternative equipment might replace the see saw prior to committing over £3k of finances, as proposed by DA. This was generally agreed as a good idea. KC suggested that perhaps it was time to set aside some form of **budget annually to maintain and improve** the one Play Area in the village. Again, this was agreed as a wise suggestion and will be taken further. SW mentioned that she was aware there were some concrete repairs required at the **Skate Park** and the Clerk will ensure this is forwarded onto WCBC also. The Clerk then raised the agenda items referring to **Capital Expenditure, Earmarked Reserves, Financial Controls and Risk Assessments**. He explained that this listing and discussion was an annual audit requirement. Whilst it was agreed that the £24k for replacement street lighting and approximate costs of £80k for extending the Cemetery in the future would remain, Council will also look at earmarking smaller amounts for both Training and, as previously mentioned by KC, Play Area upgrades. The Financial Controls and Risk Assessments were discussed briefly and it was agreed that the operating systems in place, some as recommended by the most recent audit, were suitable for the task and were unanimously approved.

8. Street Lighting: After a lengthy period SR mentioned that the light on Nant Y Gaer Road has finally been repaired and is working. RW mentioned that he was aware of a recent power cut in the village that caused some lights to go out which is actively being repaired by Scottish Power.

9. Planning: There were no formal Planning Applications to be discussed. RW mentioned that, as a member of the WCBC Planning Committee, he was aware that the **Gresford Road development** would be coming to committee for discussion early in the New Year. At this point, residents would have an opportunity to comment, albeit following the decision by Welsh Government to approve the scheme.

10. Burial Matters: JO'K gave the most recent **inspection report** on behalf of himself and DO. He had found the Cemetery to be in excellent condition. A minor issue involving the store room will be resolved by the Clerk. The Clerk mentioned he was awaiting a couple more quotes to carry out some **winter tree/bush pruning** and will report back when all quotes are received. He also mentioned that the new ride on mower was performing well, but noted that it had increased slightly the use of fuel as it was a larger machine than the previous mower. This was accepted by all. Finally, SA mentioned that SA and KC will carry out the next inspection.

11. Reports: The Chair stated that the **housing and environment budgets** for Llay were being finalised within WCBC, but, as widely publicised, cuts were expected across all areas of government. He mentioned that recent tours of the village had noted the concerns of residents regarding cuts to main services. RW mentioned that the environmental budget would allow **for improvements to social housing**, for example dropped kerbs, improvements to damp walls etc and this is currently being finalised. **Bus Services** continue to be a worry for a lot of areas including Llay. Speed issues are being discussed within WCBC but funding shortfalls mean that **20mph limits** within villages is unlikely in the near future, because current accident levels do not warrant the expense of new road/upright signs. Finally, RW asked to be informed if any social housing **hedges** were impinging onto the pathways and pavements as this could be dealt with quite quickly. JO'K mentioned that one

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area was approaching the cemetery where people have to cross the road to avoid overgrowing bushes. RW was aware of this area and will take forward.

12. News/Website: SR gave a report on areas where she felt the website could improve, highlighting other community councils who included more information than us on their websites. This would include **agendas, police/finance figures and audited accounts**. As the website manager, DA expressed concern that putting pdf documents etc on the website could incur hefty costs. However, going forward, the Clerk will ensure that DA has copies of the final Agenda, Minutes and Finance figures one week before each meeting to place on the website as this was agreed by all. The Clerk will check **regarding police crime figures document as this is a police matter** that would require their approval. Some councillors recalled that when this was requested over a year ago, the answer had been negative. Regarding **audited accounts**, the Clerk will check with OVW/Welsh Audit Office as previously he had received contrary advice about audited accounts. He will report to all councillors as soon as possible. SR had other matters to discuss but advised these would be raised at a future meeting due to the lack of time this evening. The Chair thanked SR for her research.

13. Correspondence: The Chair read out a **thank you letter**, received from the Llay Walking Football organisation, thanking the Community Council for the recent grant awarded.

There being no further business, Standing Orders were moved and seconded by RW/DO and the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2055. The next meeting will be held on :-

WEDNESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2017 at 1830

Main Hall Llay Resource Centre

Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley

Chair

18TH October 2017