

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Park Community Primary School, LLay
 Date Wednesday 18th November 2015
 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	√							
Paul Crewe	A	E	A	A	A							
Ken Cupit	√		√	√	A							
Maldwyn Davies	√		√	√	√							
Peter Evans	√		A	A	√							
Sharon Roberts	√		√	√	√							
Eunice Vincent	√		A	A	A							
Rob Walsh	√		√	√	A							
Vera Wineyard	A	H	√	√	A							
John O'Keefe		E		√	√							
Dennis Owen		L		√	√							
Mark Williams (Clerk)	√	D	√	√	√							

In Attendance: 6 members of the Community

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs K Cupit, P Crewe, E Vincent, V Wineyard, R Walsh

In addition, JO, BA, MD, SR and TB signed DOI forms, with regard to matters listed on the Agenda.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the October Meeting were accepted as a true record: Proposed by: D A Seconded by: M D

3. Public Questions: There were two questions from members of the community. The first question was from Ms C Archer, who asked about the **recent staff changes within the Café** at the Resource Centre. It was felt that reducing the number of employees to one would severely harm the service to customers and the future of this popular facility. In response, the Chair read out written statements from the Resource Centre Manager, which informed all that a new member of staff, employed as part of an agreement with a local Work Options Team would shortly be commencing work in the café, along with a support worker, which would result in four members of staff being in place for the forthcoming Christmas period. On this issue, TB also mentioned that he was involved in discussions with those in charge, to ensure that the café was given every opportunity to prove how valuable it was to the community. The second question, from Ms J Sucleiff, related to a recent incident that occurred during a session of the **WCBC Playwork**

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Scheme. In response, the Chair read out a full reply from the head of this scheme, Mr M Barclay, which gave detailed responses to the question that had been asked. In summary, the Chair stated that once an agreement had been reached with the delivery of any service for the community, then it was expected that that organisation would be responsible for all aspects of the service paid for, which was also the case on this occasion.

4. Matters Arising: MD mentioned that the **Foregolf development** remained an ongoing problem, and the recent visit by WCBC officials had done nothing to allay his fears that this was becoming a long standing blot on the landscape of the village. Other councillors spoke in agreement of these sentiments. The Clerk was tasked to e mail the owners of the site, to query exactly what had happened recently, as there was little evidence that non soil debris had been removed as claimed by the owners in recent correspondence. The proposed **housing development** on land south of the Miners Institute was currently on hold, pending further investigation into the number of houses planned and some concerns regarding the removal of trees. Finally, SA mentioned that the **Skate Park** had been officially opened earlier today, by Mrs B Taylor, the widow of Councillor Malcolm Taylor, who had been such a driving force at its' inception. This opening had been attended by a number of local schoolchildren, along with members of the community and council officials.

5. Police Matters: Unfortunately, due to operational matters, there was no police presence at the meeting. However, the latest monthly figures were read out to all present. MD expressed a general concern at the levels of policing due to financial pressures. Also, SA mentioned that she had heard some unsavoury behaviour may be occurring within the cemetery after dark. This has been reported to the local PCSO.

6. Finance and Appeals: The Clerk presented the finance figures for October, which were approved by councillors present. He also mentioned that the overall expenditure figures were in line with the Precept figure granted in April 2015. It was also necessary for all Councillors to **consider the Precept figure they wish to set** for 2016/2017, as the Clerk is required to pass this information onto WCBC by 31st December 2015. The Chair asked all Councillors to consider their views in order to make a final decision at the December meeting.

The following **appeals for Grants** were listed and considered:-

Llay Senior Citizens Club requested £250 – This was proposed by MD and seconded by DO and agreed unanimously.

Annual Village Parade requested funding – After discussion regarding this charity, the sum of £200 was awarded after being proposed by PE and seconded by SA and carried unanimously. SR and others mentioned that it was their understanding that the Christmas Float, which forms part of this event, did not visit Gresford Road/Woodlands area last year. The Clerk was informed to contact the organisers to arrange for these areas to be visited if possible, this year.

Llay Miners Heritage Committee requested £1k – After a lengthy discussion, prior to which JO,BA and MD left the room, SA proposed and PE seconded a motion to award £1k as it was unanimously felt that remembering the endeavours of those who worked in Llay Colliery, and ensuring that all members of the community would appreciate what the mine meant to Llay. This was carried unanimously.

Llay Miners Welfare FC requested funding – MD expressed concern that due to the reduction in usage of local clubs, similar to Miners Welfare, this had resulted in funding difficulties for all clubs of this nature. However, after discussing the application in full, considering it was aimed at

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

retaining local youngsters within the club, SA proposed and DO seconded the award of £200. This was carried unanimously.

Park CP Primary School appeal for funding – Prior to discussing this appeal, SR and TB left the room. A number of councillors made comments during a short discussion, summed up by PE who outlined that there were over 300 pupils in the school and proposed awarding £700 towards the costs of christmas activities at the school. This was seconded by SA and carried unanimously.

7. Street Lighting: TB mentioned the extensive work that RW had carried out regarding **street light failures** within the village. TB also commented that he had walked around the village and noticed a number of issues regarding lighting. A number of councillors made reference to members of the community expressing dissatisfaction with both the length of time and standard of work in carrying out repairs, which often left supposedly repaired lights flickering. In general, it is felt that the current agreement with WCBC to maintain the street lights within Llay is not great value for money. The clerk was asked to invite a member of WCBC street lighting team to attend the December meeting to address these concerns directly.

8. Planning: The one application to replace a side extension building on a private dwelling was passed without comment.

9. Burial Matters: After giving all councillors a short update on the cemetery groundsman, along with updates on work due to be carried out to repair the main building and replace the water tank with a number of brick water towers, the clerk handed over to the Chair to discuss the new **Rules and Regulations** for the Cemetery. Copies of this new document had been sent to all councillors ahead of the meeting and paper copies were distributed at the meeting. Although there was a brief discussion on discovering what exactly constituted a “go-chair”, overall the new document was accepted as an acceptable document to use for all members of the community. The new Rules and Regulations will now be given to all Funeral Directors, Stonemasons and members of the public following interment. The Chair then raised the subject of “**ashes only**” **gravespaces**. He mentioned that this matter had been discussed some years ago but no firm decision taken at the time. It was generally accepted that there is plenty of suitable space along the side of the cemetery, to allow those families wishing to have ashes only interments to use this space. Headstones, if required, would also be allowed when these plots were used. It is estimated that there would be space for another 50 interments, thus allowing a longer time before the cemetery would need to be re-fenced and extended. This was unanimously agreed to be a suitable use of the space within the cemetery and carried unanimously.

10. Correspondence: Although the issue of renewing the **Playwork Scheme** was discussed during Finance and Appeals, it is listed during this section for the purpose of the Minutes. The clerk informed all that he had received the renewal notice for this item, showing an increase of 13% in overall costs. This would increase the Llay CC contribution from the current level of £2820 pa. to £3182 in 2016/2017. A discussion followed, during which MD spoke vehemently against the renewal of this scheme as he felt it was a form of subsidised childcare for some, while many others in the village were left to make their own arrangements. Other councillors questioned the validity of the activities and also there were some concerns regarding the numbers of participants listed in the official report. Overall, it was felt of value to invite Mike Barclay, as leader of the scheme, to attend a future meeting to answer the concerns of the councillors. The Clerk was tasked to arrange this meeting.

The Chair then raised the issue of the vacancy on the council and expressed a desire to fill this vacancy as there were now two candidates to consider. He felt it was unfair on those who had officially applied to wait further for a decision. The Clerk provided voting slips with the nominations

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

listed and, following a vote that was verified by a member of the public attending the meeting, Ms Janet Osborne was duly elected. The Clerk will contact all candidates and inform them of the outcome as soon as possible.

11. Reports: TB stated that he had no specific reports from the County Councillors to report on this occasion, other than the matters previously discussed. SA asked TB if he could assist regarding the re-introduction of a **Post Box on Pen Y Bryn** that has been removed. TB stated he was aware of this issue and is trying to resolve with all parties. He had been informed that using a post box in Burton might be an alternative !!! TB agreed to continue to try and get this popular post box re-installed. Finally, SA suggested that the next meeting be brought forward to 10th December as the planned date of 17th December was quite close to Christmas. This was agreed by all.

There being no further business the Standing Orders were moved by MD and seconded by DA and the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2035. The next meeting is on

THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2015 at 1830

Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley
Chairman
10th December 2015