

MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Park Community Primary School, LLay
 Date Thursday 17th September 2015
 Time 1830

Name	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Bryan Apsley Acting Chairperson	V	N	V									
Dave Adams	V	O	V									
Sandra Apsley	V	M	V									
Terry Boland	A	E	V									
Paul Crewe	A	E	A									
Ken Cupit	V	T	V									
Maldwyn Davies	V	I	V									
Peter Evans	V	N	A									
Sharon Roberts	V	G	V									
Eunice Vincent	V		A									
Rob Walsh	V	H	V									
Vera Vineyard	A	E	V									
Sheila Woolrich	V	L	A									
Mark Williams (Clerk)	V	D	V									

In Attendance: 9 members of the Community

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs P Evans, P Crewe, E Vincent

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Vice Chair announced that resignation letters had been received from David Broderick and Sheila Woolrich since the last meeting. Although, as Vice Chair, BA was due to take over in May 2016, the situation required formal clarification. After discussion, VW proposed that BA remain as Chair, seconded by DA and carried unanimously. The Chair then stated a new Vice Chair was required. RW nominated Terry Boland and this was seconded by SR and carried unanimously. Finally, the Chair suggested that letters of appreciation should now be sent to all recently resigned Councillors. The Clerk was instructed to draft a suitable letter for signature by the Chair.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the July Meeting were accepted as a true record: Proposed by: MD Seconded by: KC

3. Public Questions: On this occasion, there were no questions from the public.

4. Matters Arising: The Chair mentioned that a **number of questions** that were put to council at the July meeting, and which were to be answered tonight by the County Councillors. RW and TB agreed to address this as part of their report later in the meeting. The Clerk was asked to confirm that, as instructed, the **Barclays account** had now been opened and monies transferred

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from Lloyds. He confirmed this had now happened and the first Barclays statement was available to council for inspection at the meeting. MD mentioned the recent passing of **Gwyneth Skeffington**, who had contributed to life in Llay enormously, with fundraising initiatives. All Councillors present agreed with these sentiments and the Chair will also send a letter of condolence on behalf of the Council.

5. Police Matters: In the absence of the local PCSO (called away on duty at the last minute), the Chair went through the figures that PCSO Hughes had sent to the Clerk. SR mentioned that some local residents had complained to her about **anti social behaviour** of some youths in the local woods. The Clerk was asked to contact the Police and request some extra patrols in this area. MD, TB and others then discussed the issue of **gates in Alyn Waters** being left unlocked at night. Following this discussion, RW agreed to find out the costs to Llay CC from WCBC to enable this gate to be locked at night at a suitable time to reduce activity in this area. Finally TB mentioned that based on the current figures, **crime overall in Llay is down by 20%** on the previous year which has to be viewed positively.

6. Finance and Appeals: The Clerk presented the finance figures for July and August, which were approved by councillors present. He also presented, as requested by council, a breakdown of the costs for the **recent election** held in Llay, which had resulted in an invoice of £2.2k for Llay.

There were no appeals on this occasion.

7. Street Lighting: RW mentioned an ongoing problem in **Llay Green Estate**, where some lights were back on and others were not. This matter has been reported. A short discussion followed, where numerous councillors mentioned general dissatisfaction with the overall state of street lighting in the village. RW and TB agreed to pursue this matter through WCBC.

8. Planning: The following applications, as listed on the Agenda, were considered by council:-

- P/2015/0532 Conservatory Extension at 1, Treweryn Close Llay
- P/2015/0419 Install cricket nets at Llay Miners Institute
- P/2015/0557 Install new driveway 33 Llay New Road.
- New Police Headquarters at Davy Way, Llay Ind Estate
- New single storey extension at 10 St Davids Crescent.

With the exception of (d), the applications were passed after brief discussions. However, with regard to the proposed new **Police HQ on Davy Way**, Llay Industrial Estate, SA mentioned the potential issues involving traffic, which were considerable. In addition, SR mentioned concerns regarding the release of people brought in for questioning and/or detention. It is presumed that they would be released at various times during the day and night. This might then involve them wandering around the village with no means of moving on immediately if late at night. In conclusion, the Clerk was instructed to pass on these concerns to the planning officer dealing with this application.

9. Burial Matters: The Clerk gave a brief update on the cemetery Groundsman, who is recovering well after his recent illness. The Clerk mentioned that there was suitable space down the sides of the cemetery grounds to consider **ashes only burial plots**. This would reduce the speed at which existing spaces were used up. SA and others mentioned that this had been raised before and it was agreed that it would be considered by all outside the meeting for further review later in the year. The Clerk is awaiting written quotes for **refurbishing the exterior** of the building, having only received one quote so far. Finally, as most of the council were aware, there was an urgent need to **replace the existing water tank**, which has developed a large hole due to rust and natural wear and tear. The quotes to replace the tank all exceed £1.2k, the plastic option,

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whilst cheaper, may be prone to vandalism. The final option was to follow the lead of WCBC and other cemeteries, with **small brick towers containing push button taps**. The Clerk showed pictures of one taken at Wrexham Cemetery. The cost for 3 of these within Llay cemetery (which would be placed so as to reduce the required walking of visitors tending graves) was estimated to be just under £1k. After discussion it was agreed to proceed with this option and the Clerk was instructed to start this construction. The Council expressed satisfaction with the **temporary grass cutting procedures** in place whilst the groundsman is recovering. Finally, the Chair asked the Clerk to write a **thank you letter** to Mr and Mrs Elson, who had recently carried out some tidying up at the cemetery, which was appreciated by all.

10. Correspondence: The Clerk read out a letter from Rev P Walker, inviting all Councillors to attend the annual **Service of Thanksgiving** on Sunday 11th October. This Service will also be attended by the Mayor, local MP and local AM's. There was also a letter from the Mayors' Office, inviting the Council to attend the Annual Charity Ball being held at the Ramada Hotel in October. After discussion, it was agreed that as no-one was available on the night in question, a £40 donation would be made, as previously, to the Mayors' chosen charity. The Clerk was instructed to arrange this payment.

11. Reports: As discussed earlier, the Chair invited RW and TB, as Llay County Councillors, to give a report on the various issues that were raised during the July meeting. RW responded on each point as follows:-

With regard to the **Community Centre closure**, various councillors expressed disappointment that monies spent on equipment for this facility, to purchase various kitchen and sundry items, was being lost to the village. Most of these items had been purchased with money raised directly by the Management Committee of the Community Centre. RW responded by stating that most of these items would, at least, benefit other community centres in the area that are functioning. VW asked that the plaque displayed at the centre, be given to former Mayor David Griffiths, whose name is on it. RW agreed to look into this. RW had spoken to Streetscene regarding **Dog Bins**. Whilst there was no problem erecting these where a clear need has been identified, the expense of this would be the responsibility of Llay CC. RW was asked to get quotes on the cost and report back before proceeding. The ongoing issue of **Foregolf** was discussed next. RW confirmed he had met M Howarth (WCBC) and is hopeful of receiving an update by the end of September, following MH's meeting with the owners of Foregolf. RW stated he was having difficulty getting a copy of the lease for this site and the Clerk was asked to also contact WCBC Legal and request this item. MD spoke passionately about this matter and the frustration everyone felt about how this beautiful area of land was being treated by the current developers. He made reference to an extensive document produced by C Archer, which showed in fine detail how this application had proceeded dating back fifteen years. In summary, the Chair asked TB and RW to continue to press WCBC authorities on this matter. TB suggested that M Howarth might be able to attend a meeting in the near future to answer questions directly. He will approach the relevant authority and try to arrange this.

RW reported that the site of the **Old Infant School** had not attracted the interest from developers and others that was originally hoped, with only one interested party requesting information. This matter is ongoing. Regarding the **trust management of the Café**, TB and RW have met the lead councillor handling this matter. Whilst possible that the Resource Centre and Library may come under trust control, the future of the Café is still not clear. Again, an invitation to M Howarth might clarify things.

The **naming of the Skate Park**, without consulting the Community before naming this was the next matter discussed. RW stated that WCBC regard the Skate Park as part of the Alyn Waters

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site overall, and not belonging to any one area. Numerous councillors expressed dismay at this, with DA highlighting that Llay community have to pay a contribution towards this area, whereas his understanding is that Gwersyllt community do not, due to the method of funding raised. In conclusion, RW stated that he felt that WCBC would not be moved on this matter.

RW stated that the dangerous **condition of a wall** in the community was still ongoing, due to holiday absence, although he had spoken to the originator of the letter received by the council. RW mentioned a **litter pick** that would be taking place in the woods on Sat 26 Sep, with all interested parties meeting at the **Resource Centre at 10am**. He hoped to elicit some press involvement for this event. RW stated that the Gresford Road development planning meeting is due to take place on Mon 5th Oct. Due to the nature of the application, he understands that if it is approved it will then require ratification at ministerial level of Welsh government.

The Chair thanked both TB and RW for their efforts and continuing work on behalf of Llay CC.

The final business of the evening was to **elect two new councillors** to replace those who had recently resigned, via co-option. This decision follows the notice for an election having been posted for the requisite time and no call for an election having been made. Five candidates had applied, and their details along with letters of application had been forwarded to all councillors some time ago. The Chair explained the procedure for voting to all, which required councillors to indicate on their voting slips, their preferred candidates. He further explained that a simple majority would suffice and in the event of a tie, a further vote would take place with those candidates who had tied. Two members of the community, in attendance at the meeting, agreed to oversee the count. On completion of the vote, there was a clear majority for two candidates and the Clerk was invited to inform all concerned with the outcome as soon as possible via e mail and telephone.

Post Meeting note:- **Dennis Owen and John O'Keefe** have been co-opted onto the council.

There being no further business, the standing orders were passed by KC and DA and the meeting closed at 2031. Date and time of the next meeting is:-

THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER 2015 at 1830

Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley
Chairman
15th October 2015