

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held on 9th July 2009 at
Cartrefle, Cefn Road, Wrexham

Cllr P M Williams (**Chair**)

Cllr M. Allum (**Vice Chair**)

Cllr A K Gregory
Cllr B Halley
Cllr J Howell
Cllr N Hughes
Cllr J M Humberstone
*Cllr M A Humphreys
Cllr M King

*Cllr C Lloyd
Cllr D G Mitchell
*Cllr C Powell
Cllr R Prince
Cllr B R Pritchard
Cllr T Thomas

*Absent

Also in attendance: Sgt D. Jacks & Pc. R. Stevenson – North Wales Police
County Councilors C. Harper & M. Jones
One member of the public

47. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. C. Powell and C. Lloyd.

48. POLICE MATTERS

Crime statistics for June were presented with comparable data from previous months. Once again, it was noted that the Queensway Ward was recorded with the highest number of anti social behaviour incidents with Smithfield Ward having the highest number of incidents involving criminal damage. Sgt Jacks advised that some of the anti social behaviour could be attributed to a small number of addresses and action against the occupiers was being considered under available legislative powers. Some of the criminal damage encountered in Smithfield was attributed to individuals passing through the area late at night probably returning home and damaging car mirrors etc. Recorded thefts from vehicles and burglaries had shown a decrease for the period.

Other matters

- (i) Still concern expressed over incidents of vehicle racing and chasing around Eagles Meadow and Caia Road particularly late at night and on Sunday afternoons. Whilst Pc Wedley had contacted one of the complainants, Sgt Jacks agreed to monitor the situation.
- (ii) Playing of golf on open spaces adjacent to Coed y Bryn and Gwenfro School even though there are signs stating that it is prohibited. Sgt Jacks reported that some action had been taken in the past but if the problem is developing again he would monitor the situation.
- (iii) Sgt Jacks circulated rotas for the CBMs covering period 13th July – 26th July. Whilst these are accurate at the time of printing there may be some changes due to abstraction etc. It was agreed that a rota for PCSOs would also be provided and forwarded to the Clerk of the Council.
- (iv) It was noted that the non emergency number for contacting the Police (101) was now operational from mobiles or landlines.
- (v) Members were advised that the Neighbourhood Policing meeting would take place on Wednesday 29th July at 7pm

49. OPERATION POLICE ISSUES (PM 152 (08/9) 9 & 12, 30)

The Clerk advised that he had received an acknowledgement from the Divisional Commander following further representations made after consideration at the June meeting regarding abstraction rates and the policy relating to seized assets under the proceeds of crime. Sgt Jacks commented that abstraction rates had been as high as 40% at times during staff shortages particularly after the initial recruitment to the new Police “Quest” initiative. Further recruitment had resulted in the recent reduction in abstraction rates for CBMs operating within Caia Park.

50. CHAIR & MEMBERS REPORTS

- Cllr. B. Halley Attended several meetings held at The Venture to discuss its future funding arrangements and Smithfield Tenants & Residents Meeting. Concern was expressed over the condition of Crescent Road car park as it was looking very unkempt. Similarly weeds and vegetation around the perimeter fence of Queensway Sports Complex was creating difficulties for the litter picker to effectively clean the footpath and surrounding areas. It was agreed to refer the matters to Pride in your Streets Team.
- Cllr. M. Allum Attended Hafod y Wern School to discuss drainage works currently being undertaken to the field. He commented that significant improvements were being made. Concern was expressed over the neighbouring footpaths crossing The Dunks as these were very unkempt .
- Cllr. N. Hughes Attended public meetings at The Venture to discuss funding and closure.
- Cllr. B. Pritchard Had attended Sports day at Hafod y Wern School
- Cllr. K. Gregory Smithfield Tenants & Residents Meeting – concern expressed over the lack of weed control in the area.
- Cllr. R. Prince Reported that the footpath leading from Price Charles Road (adjacent to Caia Park Partnership) had an uneven surface making it difficult for mobility vehicles to access the path.

51. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2009 be received and adopted as a correct record.

52. HIGHWAY SAFETY BENJAMIN ROAD/ HIGHTOWN ROAD. PM29 (v)

The Clerk reported that contact had been made with Wrexham CBC Highways Dept. who has agreed to monitor the situation once the ring road around the Eagles Meadow Development is open to two way traffic (estimated mid July). It was noted that a direction arrow indicating “left only” had been painted on the entrance road leading from one of the commercial premises.

53. FENCING AROUND FOOTBALL PITCH (PM 158 & 161 (08/9) & 14 & 15 & 33)

The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from Wrexham CBC indicating that they do not provide fencing around pitches but clubs can do so at their own expense if it is a requirement of the league. Some Members felt that the Community Council had fulfilled its obligation by funding the materials to fence the one pitch last year and that it was not a requirement for users of the second pitch to have a fenced off pitch. Concern was expressed over cars which are regularly driven onto the second pitch often causing damage. It was ***resolved:*** *to monitor the situation and to consider funding fencing at some point in the future should it be considered to be absolutely necessary.*

Members noted the reply regarding the clearing of dog excrement from the pitches. The practical difficulty appeared to be that The Venture F.C. commences their matches at 1pm and the pitch is cleared in advance of their game however the users of the second pitch start at 10.30 am. It was agreed to advise Wrexham CBC accordingly. Cllr. Pritchard commented that the problem was even more acute at Ysgol Morgan Llwyd playing fields together with the added problem of a considerable amount of litter being left by football supporters.

54. BENCHES BELLE VUE PARK (PM 158 & 161 (08/9) & 14 & 15 & 33)

Wrexham CBC had responded and has no plans at present to re-instate the benches in the shelters. They were removed some years ago as a result of anti social activity taking place. As this still continues, they are reluctant to re-instate them. Members felt that the public generally were disadvantaged because of this. It was felt that as the park is locked in the evenings, has park rangers in attendance and is subject to alcohol control orders levels of anti social activity should be controlled. It was **resolved: to make further representations to Wrexham CBC.**

55. YOUTH SHELTER – PRINCE CHARLES ROAD (PM35)

It was anticipated work would now commence in the Summer holidays although this had not been recently confirmed given the uncertainty over the future of The Venture. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

56. SIGNAGE CAIA PARK (PM25 & 36)

Preliminary designs had been received from Wrexham CBC detailing two alternative signs. Members were of the opinion that the smaller signs were more appropriate with the addition of “Welcome to” and it was agreed to request quotations accordingly.

57. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Wrexham CBC – Tidy Towns Project.

Members were pleased to note that the Community Council had been awarded a grant of £5000 to enhance landscaping at Montgomery Road as part of a larger environmental scheme proposed for the area.

(ii) Wrexham CBC – Traffic Orders

Members noted the new Traffic Orders relating to Salop Road and Smithfield Road (prohibition of waiting) and St Georges Crescent South (Off street parking place – Number Two)

(iii) Wrexham CBC – Wrexham Play Development Tea, - National Play Day

Noted

(iv) Wrexham CBC / Age Concern – Lunch Club grants.

Noted

Additional correspondence Received:

(i) Wrexham Police and Community Forum

Notification of meeting to be held at Guildhall on 16th July at 7pm - Noted

58. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS / REPORTS

(i) Ombudsman Annual report 2008/09

The report was received and noted.

59. ANNUAL FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk of the Council submitted a report and associated documents relating to the annual fire risk assessment for both Cartrefle and St Peter's Hall.

It was **resolved**: *to endorse the recommendations and adopt the annual fire risk assessment.*

60. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members considered the following applications for planning permission submitted for their observations by Wrexham CBC:

Resolved: *that no objection be raised on the following applications:*

P2009/0504 – Holt Road – land opposite Bickleywood Drive

Renewal of temporary permission for disabled parking.

P2009/0514 - Land adjacent to Goodwood Grove and Abenbury Road

Prune south eastern side of crown by up to 2.5 m in length to 1 Sycamore tree.

P2009/0544 – 5 Cefn Road, Wrexham

Demolition of flat roof extension and erection of two storey extension.

P2009/0545 – 20 Cefn Road, Wrexham

Two storey extension.

P2009/0559 – Units B1B, B3, B4a , Eagles Meadow, Wrexham

Installation of new shop fronts

Resolved: *that an objection be raised to the following applications:*

P2009/0536 – The Tie Centre, Whitegate Road, Wrexham

Conversion of existing factory building into 8 residential units and erection of 2 new residential units (prev. granted P2004/0448)

Reason: Prejudicial to highway safety and visibility onto Whitegate Road. If the Planning Authority are mindful to grant permission, any renewal should reflect the current requirements for agreements in relation to school contributions, open space etc.

P2009/0573 – The Malt House, 31 Caia Road, Wrexham

Erection of free standing sign

Reason: The location of the sign is inappropriate and may set a precedent for other directional signage facing the new Eagles Meadow development. It will detract from the area

61. FOOTWAY LIGHTING SCHEMES 2009/10

The Clerk presented a report giving details of schemes completed during 2008/9, and invited Members to submit areas for consideration in the current financial year. Areas already submitted for consideration included:

(i) Garage area at Smithfield Road near to Queensway roundabout.

(ii) Gwenfro area by 142 Gwenfro.

Other areas suggested at the meeting included:

(iii) Path alongside Queensway Sports Complex leading to Price Charles Road – needs improved lighting and trees cutting back.

(iv) Upgrade lighting on Albert Street

(v) Area adjacent to footbridge crossing Gwenfro

62. COMMUNITY ADVICE SERVICE

Members received details of the benefits obtained and debts written off during 2008/09 as reported by clients. The total sum amounted to £681,490.30 endorsing the need for the service in the area. Members noted that the Advice Service had been operational for some 21 years. They expressed their thanks to the staff for their continued good work and agreed that the 21st anniversary should be marked in a suitable way.

63. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Clerk submitted the provisional financial statements for period ending 30th June 2009. **Resolved:** *That the financial statement be received and adopted.*

64. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved: *That the following accounts be approved:*

				£ . p	Authority
D.D	British Gas (elect)	Cartrefle	*	362.86	
D.D.	Pace Telecom	General Admin	* 55.92		
		CAS	* <u>127.57</u>	183.49	

D.D.	Dee Valley Water	St Peter's Hall		7.53	
D.D.	Wrexham CBC	Cartrefle		721.00	LGA 1972 s133
D.D.	Wrexham CBC	St Peter's Hall		117.00	LGA 1972 s133
5451	Graphic Office Systems	General Admin	*	21.70	
5452	Church in Wales	St Peter's Hall		964.00	
5453	Wrexham Civic Society	General Admin		25.00	
5454	Richard Rayworth	General Admin		360.00	
5455	Hallam Heating	St Peter's Hall	*	1539.00	
5456	WNW	St Peter's Hall	*139.79		
		Cartrefle	* <u>33.43</u>	173.22	
5457	Lexis Nexis	General Admin		72.45	
5458	Clwyd CHC	General Admin		123.61	
		Cartrefle	<u>46.65</u>	170.26	
D.D.	CAB	CAS		138.00	
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	Cartrefle		14.66	
D.D.	Nat West Business Card	General Admin	*	31.04	
	P. Emery (Sal Jul)	CAS			
	G. Evans (Travel Jul)	CAS			
	P. Donellan (Travel Jul)	CAS			
	K. Walker (Sal adj/travel Jul)	CAS			
	M. Morris (Travel Jul)	General Admin			
	J. Francis (Sal Jul)	St Peter's Hall			
	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Jul)			
	FCC	Pensions (Jul)			

(*Includes recoverable VAT of £332.15)

65. AUGUST RECESS

It was **resolved:** *that accounts for August be authorised by the Chair and Vice Chair*

66. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE VENTURE

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Manager of The Venture enquiring if the Community Council would consider, in principle, the possibility of granting a loan to The Venture should it become necessary at some point in the future as an option to enable them to maintain services.. The letter also commented that the Parent Toddler group was under imminent threat of closure irrespective of any arrangements for funding agreed between The Venture and Wrexham County Borough Council.

Members were concerned that the letter gave no indication of any amount, when it would be required (if at all) and what it would be used for. They were also concerned that it could set a precedent for other groups facing financial difficulties in the future and that it would essentially be an unsecured loan with a high risk of The Venture not being in a position to repay. Support in the community for assisting The Venture was recognised, however the Community Council had a responsibility to the whole community and had already given The Venture a grant of £8,000 per annum over a number of years to assist with their core costs.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Community Council are legally empowered to make loans in certain circumstances as detailed in s19 of The Local Government Act 1976, Members **resolved:** *that the Community Council does not support the principle of providing loans to organisations from its funds.*

(Cllrs P. M. Williams, B. Halley and J. Humberstone as members of the Management Committee of The Venture declared a personal interest under s12 (2a) of the Code of Conduct and a prejudicial interest under s12 (2c) and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.)

Cllr. M. King as Manager and employee of the Venture declared a personal and prejudicial interest under s10 of the Code of Conduct and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.)

Cllr. R. Prince advised that he had a relative employed at The Venture and declared a personal and prejudicial interest under s10 of the Code of Conduct and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.)