

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 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: Pc. G. Wedley, M. Hanmer and L Parker – North Wales  
Police

**27. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. G. Howell and C. Lloyd.  
Apologies were also received from Sgt D. Jacks

**28. WREXHAM AREA CIVIC SOCIETY**

The Chair welcomed Mr. G. Foy who gave a brief presentation of the role and work of the Civic Society. The Civic Society is affiliated to the Civic Trust and has good links with Welsh Assembly Government.

Mr Foy reported that the Civic Society had been actively considering consultation documents prepared by the County Borough Council, most recently, draft character assessments for conservation areas in the town and draft design guidance. The aim of the Society is to promote higher standards in built development. The Society holds an Annual Awards Evening where examples of new build, conservation etc are considered and recognised. It also identifies locations and secures funding for recognition plaques on buildings of historical importance and has a small budget to encourage tree planting. A general discussion followed on the condition of Wrexham town centre and the need to preserve and enhance the older buildings, particularly on Hope Street and High Street and not necessarily just those protected by the statutory listing process. Mr. Foy offered the Society's assistance, if required, when the Community Council is considering planning applications in the area.

Mr. Foy was thanked for his attendance and presentation.

**29. POLICE MATTERS**

Crime statistics for May were not available due to the absence of Sgt. Jacks. It was reported that an additional police dog had been acquired and would be trained up in due course. Brief details were given on the recent National initiative regarding combating drug crime.

**Other matters**

- (i) Cars parking on the junction of Sutton Drive and Fenwick Drive impeding visibility. Pc Hanmer to monitor and advise owners that it is an offence to park within 15m of a junction.

- (ii) Concern over lack of Police and/or Council involvement with potentially dangerous dogs. In the case referred to, the owner was present and the dog was within a garden curtilage and therefore the responsibility rested with the owner.
- (iii) Whilst it was acknowledged the statistics for May had not been presented concern was expressed over the incidents in Queensway Ward. It was noted that the new Community Beat Manager (Pc Robert Stevenson) had been appointed and would commence duties on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009.
- (iv) Concern expressed over incidents of vehicle racing and chasing around Eagles Meadow and Caia Road particularly late at night and on Sunday afternoons. Pc Wedley agreed to contact one of the complainants.
- (v) Concern over highway safety when leaving Benjamin Road to access Hightown Road. Often there are vehicles parked on Hightown Road which impede visibility and since Hightown Road has been one way, vehicle speeds appear to have increased. There had also been instances of vehicles turning right onto Hightown Road when exiting from local businesses.

***Resolved:***

*To bring to the attention of Wrexham CBC and discuss possible solutions (traffic calming etc)*

*Police to monitor speeds and general traffic violations in the area*

*Request that Wrexham CBC provide left or right turn only signs (as applicable) at strategic locations.*

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

The Clerk advised that following the last meeting a reply had been received in relation to abstraction rates and recruitment, work rotas and deployment of seized assets.

It was noted that the CBM for Queensway Ward was to commence on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and stability issues should be addressed as the appointed person was prepared to sign a contract outlining a time commitment to the post (hopefully 3 years)

With regard to abstractions, the response indicated that these should be reduced as more staff have been recently appointed. Members felt that this reply was not satisfactory and felt that Caia officers were often the first called upon for cover in view of their proximity to the town centre. It was ***resolved:*** *to write again requesting abstraction rates for each of the five Caia CBMs to be provided on a regular basis to ensure that the 20% maximum is not exceeded.*

It was noted that staff rotas can be provided via Sgt Jacks. Whilst this could be useful, it was felt that accuracy was also important and that if adjustments were made following the preparation of rotas this should also be conveyed. ***Resolved:*** *Clerk to discuss with Sgt Jacks on his return.*

With regard to assets seized as a result of crime, the reply indicated that Force policy dictated its deployment. ***Resolved:*** *To enquire what the policy is and if necessary raise the issue at the next Wrexham Police and Community Forum meeting.*

It was also ***resolved:*** *to pursue a reply from the Police Authority regarding the perceived use of Police Community Support Officers rather than the employment of Community Beat Managers.*

**31. CHAIR & MEMBERS REPORTS**

- Cllr. B. Halley      Attended several meetings held at The Venture to discuss its future funding arrangements and Smithfield Tenants & Residents Meeting various matters were of concern and had been referred to Pride in your Streets Team.
- Cllr. D. Mitchell      Meeting of St Anne's School Governing Body and Sustainability Forum (new officer appointed for 3 days per week and based at Groundwork)
- Cllr. M. Allum      Attended the Mayor Making Ceremony, Army Presentation and Flood Defence Meeting.
- Cllr. K. Gregory      Smithfield Tenants & Residents Meeting – concern expressed over the lack of weed control reported that Pride in your Streets operatives have not received appropriate training and therefore unable to spray/ treat weeds. Clerk to contact Pride in your Streets.

**32. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

***Resolved:***

*That the minutes of the ordinary and Annual General meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009 be received and adopted as a correct record.*

**33. FENCING AROUND FOOTBALL PITCH & BENCHES BELLEVUE PARK (PM 158 & 161 (08/9) & 14 & 15)**

The Clerk reported that he had received an acknowledgement but more time had been requested for a detailed reply to be prepared.

**34. FOOTPATH PRINCE CHARLES RD TO QUEENSWAY (PM 20)**

This had been cleaned although there was more evidence of glass and litter as this is a well used path. The clerk reported that he now has photographic evidence of the area of flooding and will pass this on to Pride in your Streets. A general discussion followed on suggested remedies to overcome the problem.

**35. YOUTH SHELTER – PRINCE CHARLES ROAD**

Cllr King advised that there had been further delay in commencing works and that it was anticipated work would now commence in the Summer holidays.

**36. SIGNAGE CAIA PARK (PM25)**

It was reported that Wrexham CBC had no objection in principle to the erection of community signage. Members considered various designs and ***resolved:***

*To obtain costings for signs as discussed*

*To seek the views of Wrexham CBC for the erection of signs at the following locations:*

*Abenbury Road / Queensway junction*

*A525 junction with road leading to Kings Mills*

*A525 at the junction of Whitegate Road*

*Smithfield Road at its junction with Hightown Road*

*Montgomery Road at its junction with Holt Road*

*Cefn Road adjacent to Fenwick House*

### 37. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Wrexham CBC – Opening of new cemetery**  
Noted
- (ii) **Wrexham CBC – Invitation to Mayor’s Civic visit to Church**  
*Resolved: that Cllr. M. Allum attend on behalf of the Council*
- (iii) **Wrexham CBC – Review of footway lighting charges consultation letter**  
Members considered the historical funding arrangements for footway lighting and referred to the special charge levied on council tax in the four town community councils of Acton, Caia, Offa and Rhosddu. It was noted that in other areas Community Councils fund footway lighting in its entirety whilst a small number do not and the costs are borne by the County Borough Council. It was noted that as a Community Council we are also responsible for part of the town centre, the definition and number of lights regarded as footway lighting is not clear or whether the levy actually covers or exceeds all costs. Following discussion, it was *resolved: that the Clerk responds accordingly.*
- (iv) **Wrexham CBC / Age Concern – Lunch Club grants.**  
Noted

#### Additional correspondence Received:

- (i) **WAG – Consultation on proposed changes to the Account and Audit Regulations 2005**  
It was reported that Section 2 of the document referred to thresholds and timescales for the handling of Community Council accounts. As Caia Park was audited under the intermediate audit requirements because of the precept level the proposed changes were of little consequence. It was *resolved: that the Clerk responds accordingly.*
- (ii) **Wrexham CBC – Prohibition of U turn order 2009 (Eagles Meadow Link Road)**  
It was noted that the Order came into force on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009
- (iii) **Inequalities in Health Project – request for two Community organisation nominations**  
The Clerk reported that he had recently met with representatives from the Local Health Board and AVOW to consider the nomination process. A Community Council representative had been asked to take part in the selection process in the event of several nominations being received. If the Community Council decide to submit a nomination to sit on the Management Committee then it would not be appropriate to take up the offer of sitting on a selection panel. Members felt that nominations should be considered by the Caia Park Together group to ascertain the most suitable candidates for nomination. *Resolved: If a Community Council nomination was not progressed then the Clerk should represent the Council on the selection panel.*

### 38. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS / REPORTS

- (i) **AVOW Newsletter – Social Care Health & Well being**  
The newsletter was received and noted.
- (ii) **Clwyd Community Health Council Annual Report 2008/9**  
Noted

**39. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2008/09, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Clerk of the Council submitted the accounts and supporting documents for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 and the risk assessment for 2009/10. The risk assessment was discussed in detail, particularly the implications for loss of precept income upon the implementation of the Wrexham (Communities) Order 2009 which will transfer properties from Caia into the community of Abenbury.

It was *resolved*:

- (i) *That the accounts, annual governance statement and supporting documents including variance analysis be approved and adopted subject to audit.*
- (ii) *That the risk assessment as presented and discussed be approved*

The Clerk was thanked for producing the accounts and for explanations given. The Chair duly signed the Accounts and the relevant sections of the Annual Return.

**40. 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:*

**P2009/0407 – 11, Broom Grove, Wrexham**

Amendment to planning application P2009/0197 (refused) rear single storey extension with flat roof (in retrospect)

**P2009/0409 - 26 Eagles Meadow, Wrexham**

Installation of new shop front and grill to rear elevation

**P2009/0423 – Unit 45 Eagles Meadow, Wrexham**

Erection of one fascia sign (Shopmobility)

**P2009/0425 – 48 Cefn Road, Wrexham**

Single storey extension to front elevation

**P2009/0353 – Unit C8 Mountain Warehouse, 8 Eagles Meadow, Wrexham**

New aluminium shop front in retrospect

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

**P2009/0372 – Lidl Supermarket, 50/52 Salop Road, Wrexham**

Consent to display advertisement

**Reason:** The size and proposed location will be visually intrusive.

**41. UPDATE ON THE VENTURE ICC (PM 26)**

Cllr M. King was invited to address the meeting in his capacity as Manager of The Venture and to update Members on the current position with regard to funding arrangements.

Cllr King explained that a review of funding to voluntary organisations had been undertaken by Wrexham CBC resulting in the withdrawal of funding to The Venture and the tendering of services as recommended by the Chief Prevention and Inclusion Officer at Wrexham CBC. It was noted that Wrexham had continued to fund the first quarter of 2009/10 financial year as an interim arrangement and had offered to support The Venture with a further £40k for the remainder of the financial year provided they were not successful in being awarded a tender for any services to be advertised. This still represented over 50% reduction in funding.

Cllr King commented that to operate and provide all the services currently offered by The Venture would be impossible. Certain costs had to be met irrespective of the level of activity (mainly premises related) and whilst staff redundancies could be

implemented this would lead to a reduction in the level of services which, in turn could result in other funders withdrawing or re-aligning their funding arrangements. Cllr. King advised that young people from 16 wards within the County Council area attend The Venture or avail themselves of the services provided. There is also close working with staff and referrals from the local schools (Rhosnesni, Alexandra and Hafod y Wern).

Cllr King referred to actions taken to raise public awareness including fund raising by supporters to finance posters etc and a supporters march to the Council offices. He further advised that The Venture Management Committee had lodged a formal complaint against Wrexham CBC and this was currently being considered by an independent investigator appointed by Wrexham CBC. The outcome may not, however, be known for several months. At the request of other Local Members representing the Caia area, a public meeting was to be arranged with officers of Wrexham CBC and The Venture being present. However, Cllr. King had recently received a letter from the Chief Executive Officer informing him that officers would not be attending and that Council premises would not be available as a venue. In addition, The Venture Management Committee has sought legal advice and is in the early stages of instituting a judicial review of the decisions made. Members were advised of the alternative services to be provided based on the information contained within a decisions paper issued by Wrexham CBC.

At this point and prior to any debate, Cllr King declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Manager of The Venture and left the meeting. Cllrs B. Halley and P Williams declared a personal but not prejudicial interest as representatives on The Venture Management Committee

Members expressed concern over the future provision of services and the impact on the community should The Venture close. They were also concerned that the new services as outlined may not be in place for some time. It was unanimously **resolved:** *To advise the Chief Executive of their dismay and request that funding should continue at the 2008/9 rate until a sustainable alternative is introduced*

#### 43. **REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

It was unanimously **resolved:**

*That the Council, in accordance with its powers under S137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:*

Gwenfro Valley ICC - £8,000

(Cllr C. Powell as an employee of Gwenfro Valley ICC declared a personal and prejudicial interest and Cllr. B. Halley as a member of the Management Committee of Gwenfro Valley declared a personal and prejudicial interest (grant in excess of £500) in this matter and withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the voting thereon)

#### 44. **REPLACEMENT PHOTOCOPIER**

The Clerk advised that the lease on the current photocopier expires in September 2009 and gave details of prices obtained for a replacement. Following consideration, it was **resolved:** *to follow the course of action as outlined in the report presented to Members.*

#### 45. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Clerk submitted the provisional financial statements for period ending 31st May 2009. **Resolved:** *That the financial statement be received and adopted.*

#### 46. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

*Resolved: That the following accounts be approved:*

			£ . p	Authority
D.D.	British Gas (elect)	Cartrefle	* 360.55	
		St Peter's Hall	* <u>83.31</u>	443.86
D.D.	Pace Telecom	General Admin	* 21.22	
		CAS	* <u>21.69</u>	42.91
	Austin Eames	St Peter's Hall	*	48.00
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D.D.	Dee Valley Water	St Peter's Hall		7.53
D.D.	Wrexham CBC	Cartrefle		721.00
D.D.	Wrexham CBC	St Peter's Hall		117.00
5437	Graphic Office Systems	General Admin	*	14.01
5438	NIBBS	General Admin	*4.68	
		CAS	* <u>9.79</u>	14.47
5439	Wrexham CBC	Cartrefle	*	673.90
)	Church in Wales	St Peter's Hall		964.00
5440)	Church in Wales	St Peter's Hall (insurance)		852.93
5441	Walker Fire	St Peter's Hall	*	128.50
5442	Zurich Insurance	General Admin		2189.24
5443	CPAG	CAS		23.99
D.D.	BT	St Peter's Hall	*	94.38
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	Cartrefle		14.66
D.D.	Nat West Business Card	General Admin	*	31.04
	P. Emery (Sal Jun)	CAS		
	G. Evans (Travel Jun)	CAS		
	P. Donellan (Travel Jun)	CAS		
	K. Walker (Sal adj/travel Jun)	CAS		
	J. Francis (Sal Jun)	St Peter's Hall		
	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Jun)		
	FCC	Pensions (Jun)		
	Unison	St Peter's Hall		29.12

(\*Includes recoverable VAT of £187.60)