

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held on 11th December 2008 at
Cartrefle, Cefn Road, Wrexham

Cllr P M Williams (**Chair**)

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

Cllr A K Gregory	Cllr C Lloyd
Cllr B Halley	Cllr D G Mitchell
*Cllr J Howell	Cllr C Powell
Cllr N Hughes	Cllr R Prince
*Cllr J M Humberstone	Cllr B R Pritchard
Cllr M A Humphreys	Cllr T Thomas
Cllr M King	

*Absent

Also in attendance: Sgt D. Jacks – North Wales Police
County Councillors Carrie Harper and Marc Jones
Mr P Dines – Wrexham CBC Pride in Your Streets
1 member of the public

96. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J. Howell and J. M. Humberstone.

97. POLICE MATTERS

Sgt Jacks presented crime statistics for November covering the five wards. It was noted that incidents of anti social behaviour were still high in Queensway Ward and that there had been an increase in criminal damage in Wynnstay Ward mainly involving windows, fences and tyre slashing. It was of concern that burglaries had also increased slightly when compared to the previous month. Statistics were also presented indicating the deployment of the police dog, funded in part by the Community Council. Other matters discussed included;

Drug related crime – Some success during the past few weeks with warrants executed.

Motor cycles – Again causing problems on the open areas

Vehicular parking – Concern that offenders causing obstruction are not being prosecuted

Police staffing levels at weekend – Concern that there appeared to be minimal numbers on duty at any one time. Sgt Jacks explained that weekend cover is adequate and that the police operate to minimum staffing levels. Minimum levels do however only cover response and not proactive work. Arising from this, the Local County Councillor for Smithfield commented that he had received complaints from residents as the Community Beat Manager appeared to not be on duty. Sgt Jacks reiterated that any additional work by the CBM for Smithfield involving dog handling was as overtime and not part of his normal shift patterns

Damage to lighting – It was noted that there had been seven instances of damage to street lighting in the Pentre Gwyn area over the last few weeks.

98. DISCARDED SHARPS

Cllr Harper explained that as a fairly new Elected Member, she had concerns over the number of indiscriminately discarded sharps in the area and enquired what action had been undertaken to date. It was explained that the matter had been extensively discussed by the Community Safety Partnership and Joint Action Group via the County Council, had been raised by Communities First Community Safety Group as an issue in the area. The Community Council had been successful with a bid for funding sharps disposal bins two of which were now located in the community and are being used. Two are still available for installation subject to satisfactory site locations being identified. The matter had also been raised with the Harm Reduction Team who operate a mobile needle exchange in the community. Meetings had also been convened by Mr Malcolm Russell, Strategic Director Wrexham CBC with interested parties to discuss this problem. It was noted that the issue was not unique to Caia Park and similar issues arose across the town areas.

Mr Peter Dines (WCBC - Pride in Your Streets) advised that it was difficult to obtain and record exact information for monitoring purposes but advised that from April 2008 there had been 56 collections from open areas and 4 from play areas in the areas of the Borough (including Caia) that he has responsibility for. Several present expressed concern that accurate information was not available as it was understood the co-ordination of these statistics was to be the responsibility of the Community Safety Unit. It was noted that Wrexham CBC have no responsibility to clear rubbish from privately owned land however they do co-operate and assist when sharps are involved.

Sgt Jacks advised that in terms of the law, the indiscriminate disposal of sharps was a littering offence. He also confirmed that most syringes found were used for non prescribed medication. A general discussion followed and some Members felt that it should be regarded as the unlawful disposal of toxic waste and that perhaps the M.P. should be asked to look at the legislative framework to achieve this. Others suggested that perhaps a random sample could be collected and fingerprinted.

At this point a member of the public related an incident whereby his son had inadvertently stepped on a discarded syringe and as a result attended hospital for checks for possible infection. He advised that he had contacted County Councillors and both the Welsh Assembly Member and Member of Parliament. He also alleged that a syringe had been found near to a property and that the occupier waited 14 days for someone to collect it. This was refuted by the pride in Your Streets representative who made several attempts to contact the occupier on the day that it was reported and was successful the following day.

A general discussion followed regarding the role of the Harm Reduction Team, Local Health Board, dispensing pharmacies and the Wrexham CBC facilities located at The Elms. Members expressed their regret over the closing of the Eat and Exchange programme which operated from Spring Lodge House. The possibility of safe injection facilities was discussed and members were reminded that the health Board has a nurses facility based within Caia Park. Following discussion it was

Resolved:

To arrange a multi agency meeting to discuss the matter inviting representatives from Community Safety Partnership, Police, Community Council, Communities First, Harm Reduction Team, Local Health Board, County Councillors, Assembly Member and Member of Parliament as soon as possible.

99. CHAIR & MEMBERS REPORTS

- Cllr. B. Halley - Attended Smithfield Tenants and Residents Association. Issues reported – street lighting in York Street near Black Horse Pub area not working. Request for a street light adjacent to the garages in Smithfield Road
- Cllr. D. Mitchell Reported that St Annes R.C. School had been awarded a grant of £57,000 following successful voting in the People’s Millions Programme
- Cllr. C. Lloyd Attended Gwenfro Community School nativity play.
- Cllr N. Hughes Attended a steering group meeting with the purpose of forming a Residents Association in Tanydre.
- Cllr T. Thomas Attended presentation of awards at Gwenfro Community School.

100. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2008 be received and adopted as a correct record.

101. TIDY TOWNS INITIATIVE PM 86

It was reported that the scheme submitted under the Tidy Towns Initiative had been successful and a grant of £15,000 (£1,100 to Ysgol Morgan Llwyd scheme) leaving £13,900 towards the River Gwenfro clean up scheme. The works and initiatives will commence in February 2009.

102. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

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:

(i) Caia Community Gardens Association: - £2000

Cllr D. Mitchell, as a member of the committee declared an interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during consideration.

Cllrs T. Thomas and C. Lloyd as members of the Pentre Gwyn and Tanycoed Residents Association (Trustees of the land in question) declared an interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during consideration.

(ii) Hope House Hospice: - £50

(iii) Rhosnesni Tenants & Residents Association - £250

103. CORRESPONDENCE

It was resolved to note the following items of correspondence:

(i) Response from Wrexham CBC in relation to public rights of way crossing the Eagles Meadow development which were apparently stopped up by order in April 2006.

(ii) Assembly Member’s Allowances – call for evidence.

(iii) Wrexham CBC forward work programme for scrutiny committees

Wrexham CBC - Update of public open space.

Members considered the letter and standards together with the 2005 position statement outlining provision within the area. It was **resolved to respond indicating that:**

the grass pitches associated with Ysgol Morgan Llwyd are within the community of Abenbury

Gwenfro Valley ICC needs to be included

Gwenfro and Hafod y Wern playing fields are not available for general community use

Drainage issues at The Dunks often renders the pitches unusable

Equipped children's play areas at The Dunks (to the rear of Benjamin Road) and within the private development at Abenbury Park need to be included.

Informal green area annotated as area 13 map needs clarifying as part of this has been developed.

That the adventure playground annotated as area 27 on the map has restricted availability.

Wrexham CBC – remodeling of scrutiny function.

It was **resolved:** *to include this item on the agenda of the January meeting and copy the full document to all Members.*

Reports and consultation documents.

It was **resolved:** *to note the following:*

National Framework for Wales – Fire and Rescue

Adjudication Panel for Wales – Annual Report 2007-08

Wrexham Area Civic Society newsletter

AVOW newsletter

Wrexham CBC Gating policy and procedure

104. YOUTH SHELTER OFF PRINCE CHARLES ROAD (PM 54&68&83)

Councillor M. King gave a progress report and advised that the shelter had been examined by a structural engineer from Wrexham CBC who advised that the basic structure was safe and capable of restoration. Plans are currently being drawn up and he envisaged work being completed by Easter 2009.

105. 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:*

P2008/1184 – Unit C2 Eagles Meadow, Wrexham

New shop front to existing retail unit

P2008/1212 - Land in front of 30-48, 61-67, 71-87, 89-97 and 72-104

Montgomery Road and land to rear of 35,41,43,45 and 49 Montgomery Road

On street and private parking areas with vehicle accesses

P2008/1231- Odeon Cinema, Eagles Meadow, Wrexham

2 no. internally illuminated fascia signs

P2008/1198 - Unit C5, Eagles Meadow, Wrexham

Erection of new shop front

P2008/1199 - Unit C5 Eagles Meadow, Wrexham

Display of 3 no. internally illuminated fascia signs

P2008/1227 - Unit C3 Eagles Meadow, Wrexham

Erection of new shop front

P2008/1246 - Unit D8 Eagles Meadow, Wrexham

Installation of new shop front to existing retail unit

P2008/1265 - 10 Coed Aben, Wrexham

Single storey rear extension

P2008/1207 - Glan Gors off Anthony Eden Drive, Wrexham

Construction of 4 no. 2 bedroom bungalows with associated parking, car ports and external stores together with road widening and new footpath.

Resolved:

That objections are made to the following applications:

P2008/1240 - Footpath, Holt Road, Rhosnesni, Wrexham

Installation of Vodaphone base station

(Reason: - the site is located alongside a green area used for children's play and similar sites are rejected by applicants in their prescreening enquiries.)

P2008/1248 - Lidl UK GMBH, 50/52 Salop Road, Wrexham

Erection of 48 page colour billboard

(Reason: - the proposed size and location would be visually intrusive particularly when viewed from St Giles Link Road.)

P2008/1274 – Red Lion Public House, Abenbury Road, Wrexham

Restoration and conversion of public house into 2 no. residential units and erection of new dwelling on existing car park site

(Reason: - The proposal would result in the loss of a community facility. Lack of viability as a public house needs to be demonstrated. Concerns over potential flooding.

Resolved:

That concerns are expressed on the following application:

P2008/1194 - The Malthouse, Caia Road, Wrexham

Extension and change of public house to veterinary surgery.

(Reason: - Potential noise nuisance if animals are to be kenneled on site

106. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Clerk advised that in view of the recent financial crisis, it was necessary to consider the investment of the Council balances. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme safeguarded amounts not exceeding £50,000 with any one recognized financial institution. It was necessary to invest within the limitations set by legislation for the safeguarding of public funds.

Resolved: *to authorise the Clerk to investigate various accounts for consideration.*

107. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – November 2008

The Clerk submitted the provisional financial statements for period ending 30th November 2008. **Resolved:** *That the financial statement be received and adopted.*

108. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved: *That the following accounts be approved:*

				£ . p	
					Authority
D.D	British Gas (elect)	Cartrefle	* 355.17		
		St Pete's Hall	* <u>213.78</u>	568.95	
D.D.	Pace Telecom	General Admin	* 16.19		
		CAS	* <u>36.45</u>	52.64	
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	St Peter's Hall		7.53	
D.D.	Wrexham CBC	St Peter's Hall		112.00	LGA 1972 s133
D.D.	Wrexham CBC	Cartrefle		687.00	LGA 1972 s133
5313	Comm. 1 st Tea Dance Party	Chair's allowance		50.00	
5314	Chair's allowance	General Admin		60.00	
5321	Caia Park Partnership	Donation 3 rd installment		2000.00	LGA 1972 s 137
5322	The Venture	Donation 3 rd installment		2000.00	LGA 1972 s 137
5323	Gwenfro Valley ICC	Donation 3 rd installment		2000.00	LGA 1972 s 137

5321	AVOW Membership (2yrs)	General Admin		20.00	
5325	Wrexham CBC	General Admin (Elections)		2434.79	Rep. of People Act 1983
5326	British Gas	St Peter's Hall		655.01	LGA 1972 s133
5327	Graphic Office Supplies	General Admin	*	43.63	
5328	NIBBS	General Admin	* 15.68		
		CAS	* <u>79.57</u>	95.25	
5329	Soc. Local Council Clerks	General Admin		149.00	
5330	WNW	Cartrefle	* 28.08		
		St. Peter's Hall	* <u>31.36</u>	59.44	
5331	Hafod y Wern School	Chair's Allowance		50.00	
5332	Gwenfro School	Chair's Allowance		50.00	
5333	St Anne's School	Chair's Allowance		50.00	
5334	Caia Park Nursery	Chair's Allowance		50.00	
5335	Salvation Army	Chair's Allowance		100.00	
5338	Caia Pk Older People's Forum	Chair's Allowance		90.00	
5339	Cash	Chair's Allowance		50.00	
5339	Petty cash	General Admin		50.00	
5336	Kantara	General Admin	*	129.25	
5337	Hallam Heating	Cartrefle	*	720.96	LGA 1972 s133
D.D.	BT	St. Peter's Hall	*	89.03	
D.D.	ING Leasing	General Admin	*	165.67	
D.D.	Dee Valley Water	Cartrefle		40.39	
D.D.	Nat West Business Card	General Admin	*	31.71	
	P. Emery (Salary Dec)	CAS			
	G. Evans (Travel Dec)	CAS			
	P. Donellan (Travel Dec)	CAS			
	K. Walker (Sal adj/travel Dec)	CAS			
	D. Lloyd (Sal adj Dec)	CAS			
	J. Francis (Dec)	St Peter's Hall			
	Unison (Subscription)	St Peter's Hall			
	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Dec)			
	FCC	Pensions (Dec)			

(*Includes recoverable VAT of £327.63)

109. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Clerk tabled a report detailing the requirement under the Freedom of Information Act to adopt, without modification, a model publications scheme by 1st January 2009.

Following discussion, it was **resolved**:

To adopt the model scheme without modification and to make details of the scheme available on the website and via the Council offices.