

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held remotely via Zoom on
16th January 2025

Cllr M. King (Chair) (A/V)

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Cllr B. Cameron (A/V) | Cllr L. Mort (A/V) |
| Cllr S. Edwards (A) | Cllr D. Murray (A/V) |
| * Cllr L. Fellows | * Cllr P. Owen |
| Cllr L. Haggarty (A/V) | Cllr L. Platt (A) |
| Cllr M. Harrison (A/V) | * Cllr D. Richardson |
| Cllr J. Jolley (A/V) | Cllr P. Williams (A) |
| Cllr C. Lloyd (A/V) | |

* Absent

Key (A/V) = Audio and visual presence
(A) = Audio presence

108. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Cllr L. Fellows, Cllr P. Owen and Cllr D. Richardson.

109. MINUTES

Cllr S Edwards proposed changes to minute 99 and this was discussed. He said that he was thoroughly disappointed that meetings were not recorded and asked how his suggested amendments to the minutes could be recorded. Cllr. Edwards stated that he wanted it recorded that he had repeatedly requested for the chat facility to be available as a reasonable adjustment under the Equality Act.

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was voted on by Members.

RESOLVED: *That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th November 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record*

Update: None

110. DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

All Personal and Prejudicial relating to **Item 6** - To consider budget detail for 2025/26 and agree precept levy:

Cllr. S Edwards - (Children's services element of budget) as employee at The Venture (SLA provider)

Cllr. M King - (Children's services element of budget) as employee at The Venture, Trustee of Caia Park Partnership (SLA provider)

Cllr. L Platt - (Children's services element of budget) as employee at The Venture (SLA provider)

Cllr. P Williams - (Children's services element of budget) as Trustee of Caia Park Partnership (SLA provider)

Cllr. C Lloyd - (Children's services element of budget) as Trustee of Caia Park Partnership (SLA provider)

Agenda item 8 (iii) - Cllr M. King, Cllr S. Edwards and Cllr L Platt - Personal and prejudicial as employees of The Venture.

111. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk had provided the latest crime statistics held on the Police UK website which were for October 2024.

A Member enquired why the police helicopter had recently been flying over Caia Park at night on 3 or 4 occasions a week. Members also discussed the ongoing problem of vandalism at play areas. Some dog owners were still allowing their dogs to bite and damage swing seats which then had to be replaced.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Clerk would ask the police for the reason behind the presence of the police helicopter in the area.

(ii) That the Clerk would ask the PCSO's if they could patrol the play areas more frequently.

112. MEMBERS REPORTS

None

113. BUDGET DETAILS FOR 2025/26 AND PRECEPT LEVY

A budget workshop had been held on 9th January 2025 for Members to consider the budget for 2025/26. The Clerk presented the budget report including the latest proposed figures.

During the workshop Members were advised that:

- The pay award for 2025/26 was estimated at 5%.
- The cost of Advice Service provision to Offa CC had been increased by 5%.
- Children's Services SLA were estimated to increase by 4%
- The employer's pension contributions for 2025/26 would be funded from the pension fund surplus.
- The Clerk was working to resolve the issues with the contract for IT/telephone services as costs are high and the service is not satisfactory. Computer equipment needs to be updated.
- There was no provision for additional expenditure to satisfy the face-to-face and remote attendance at meetings (hybrid meetings), although this could be funded from capital reserves depending on the type of equipment purchased.
- Necessary repair and maintenance work on the building had been identified. Where applicable, expenditure would be made from the capital reserve. Any expenditure classed as revenue would have to be met from the £1000 budget or reserves.
- The tax base used in the budget proposal was 4049.

The proposals were discussed.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Clerk would inform Wrexham CBC that the precept requirement for 2025/26 was £72 per Band D equivalent property yielding £291,528 based on a 4049 property tax base.

(ii) That the budget for 2025/26 would be £314,956 and the precept levy £291,528.

(iii) That existing service level agreements would continue for the financial year 2025/26.

(iv) To resolve the issues with the current contract for IT Support/Telephone provision to ensure that the Council receive the best service and value for money and achieve savings.

114. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(i) **P/2024/1545** (Amended) - Land to the rear of Whitegate Industrial Complex, Whitegate Industrial Estate, Wrexham, LL13 8UG - Prior notification for installation of 20m high telecommunications mast, fenced compound, equipment cabinets, overhead cable management and associated ancillary works.

RESOLVED: *That the Council objects to the proposal on amenity and health grounds due to its proximity to dwellings, the school and Gwenfro Valley*

(ii) **P/2024/1669** - Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre, Eagles Meadow, Wrexham, LL13 8DJ - Advertisement consent for 7 signs.

RESOLVED: *There were no objections to the application.*

(iii) **P/2024/1678** - Garages to south of 93 to 95, Tan Y Coed, Wrexham, LL13 8YL - Prior notification for demolition of garages.

RESOLVED: *There were no objections to the application.*

(iv) **P/2024/1604** - 8 Epsom Way, Wrexham, LL13 0LZ – Two storey rear extension

RESOLVED: *There were no objections to the application.*

115. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: *That the Council, in accordance with its powers under S137 and S139 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) *Repair Café Wrexham/Repair Café Wales - £265*

(ii) *Wales Air Ambulance - £500*

(iii) *The Venture – deferred to the next meeting*

116. FINANCIAL MONITORING

The Financial Statements for the periods ending 30th November and 31st December 2024 were submitted.

RESOLVED: *That the financial statements for the period be received and adopted*

117. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: *That the accounts for payment in December 2024 and January 2025 be paid:*

Accounts for payment December 2024

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|--------|--------|
| D.D | Enreach | Advice Service | * | 525.16 | |
| | | General Admin | * | 175.05 | 700.21 |
| D.D. | O2 | Advice Service | * | 40.51 | |
| | | Comm Agent | * | 20.26 | 60.77 |
| D.D. | Natwest Card (Zoom) | General Admin | * | | 15.59 |
| D.D. | Natwest Card (Indeed) | Advice Service | | | 53.88 |
| D.D | Avensure | General Admin | * | | 329.30 |
| D.D | Siemens Fin Services | General Admin | * | 61.76 | |
| | | Advice Service | * | 61.76 | 123.52 |
| D.D | SSE (Gas) | Prince Charles Rd | * | | 698.83 |

| | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|---------------------|---|---------|
| D.D | SSE (Elect) | Prince Charles Rd | * | 517.24 |
| 8094 | J Carter | Sal adj (Nov) | | |
| 8095 | A Davies | Sal adj (Nov) | | |
| 8096 | J Clays | Sal adj (Nov) | | |
| 8097 | K Davies | Sal adj (Nov) | | |
| 8098 | A Evans | Sal adj (Nov) | | |
| 8099 | B Tudor | Sal adj (Nov) | | |
| 8100 | K Lucas | Sal adj (Nov) | | |
| 8101 | Hallam Heating | Prince Charles Rd | * | 113.58 |
| 8102 | J Evans (reimburse chair) | Advice Service | * | 117.84 |
| 8103 | BestHost | General Admin | | 10.50 |
| 8104 | WCBC (Trade refuse) | Prince Charles Rd | | 346.00 |
| 8105 | Benefit & Works Publishing | Advice Service | * | 58.10 |
| 8106 | WCBC (Sch Crossing) | Children's Services | | 2970.00 |
| 8107 | J Carter (travel exps) | Advice Service | | 10.50 |
| 8108 | Caia Park Environment Gp | S137 grant | | 500.00 |
| 8109 | Wrexham Sounds | S137 grant | | 360.00 |
| 8110 | Nat. Eisteddfod Wxm | S137 grant | | 300.00 |
| 8111 | J Carter (retirement) | Chairman's Purse | | 100.00 |
| 8112 | J E Construction | Prince Charles Rd | * | 633.60 |

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|-----|----------------|-------------------|--|--------|
| D.D | WCBC (Rates) | Prince Charles Rd | | 664.00 |
| D.D | Hafren Dyfrdwy | Prince Charles Rd | | 38.29 |

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| H.M. Revenue & Customs | Tax NI (Nov) |
| Clwyd Pension Services | Pension (Nov) |

Accounts above the line have already been paid either by direct debit or in the case of cheques, because they were deemed to be urgent or have been previously agreed. (Any accounts received after the publication of agenda will be reported at the meeting)

*Figs include VAT which is reclaimable

Accounts for payment January 2025

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|----------------|---|--------|--------|
| D.D | Enreach | Advice Service | * | 522.99 | |
| | | General Admin | * | 174.33 | 697.32 |
| D.D. | O2 | Advice Service | * | 40.51 | |
| | | Comm Agent | * | 20.26 | 60.77 |
| D.D. | Natwest Card (Zoom) | General Admin | * | | 15.59 |
| D.D. | Natwest Card (Indeed) | Advice Service | | | 114.12 |
| D.D | Avensure | General Admin | * | | 329.30 |
| 8115 | B Tudor | Sal adj (Dec) | | | |
| 8116 | K Lucas | Sal adj (Dec) | | | |

| | | | |
|------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| 8117 | A Davies | Sal adj (Dec) | |
| 8118 | J Clays | Sal adj (Dec) | |
| 8121 | Information Commission | General Admin | 40.00 |
| 8122 | K Lucas (travel exps) | Advice Service | 27.00 |
| 8123 | WCBC (Sch Crossing Qtr 2) | Children's Services | 2970.00 |
| 8124 | CPP (Qtr 4) | Children's Services | 2289.50 |
| 8125 | J Evans (reimburse chairs/flowers) | General Admin | 111.84 |
| | | Advice Service | 124.80 |
| | | Chairman's Purse | 18.49 |

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|-----|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| D.D | WCBC (Rates) | Prince Charles Rd | 664.00 |
| D.D | Hafren Dyfrdwy | Prince Charles Rd | 40.52 |

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|------------------------|---------------|
| H.M. Revenue & Customs | Tax NI (Dec) |
| Clwyd Pension Services | Pension (Dec) |

118. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: *To exclude members of the press and public due to consideration of confidential information contained with the next item of business.*

PART 2

119. STAFFING MATTERS

The Clerk updated Members on employment and staffing matters and these were discussed.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the contract for provision of a Community Agent would be handed back to WCBC when the current contract ended on 31st March 2025.

(ii) That a Staffing Panel is set up comprising Cllr M. King, Cllr P. Williams, Cllr J. Jolley, the Advice Service Manager and the Clerk in order to shortlist the applicants for interview, conduct the interviews and decide on the appointment of an Advice Worker.

The Chairman informed Members of concerns raised by some staff.

RESOLVED: *That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would deal with this*