

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held remotely via Zoom on  
20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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

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

\* Absent

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

**120. CHAIRS REMARKS**

The Chair opened the meeting and referred to the recent death of Cllr. Phil Owen. Members observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for their friend and colleague.

**121. APOLOGIES**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr D. Richardson, Cllr D. Murray and Cllr L. Haggarty.

**122. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** *That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record*

**Update:** None

**123. DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS**

**Agenda item 9 (i) – All personal and prejudicial** - Cllr M. King, Cllr S. Edwards and Cllr L. Platt as employees of The Venture and Cllr L. Fellows

**124. POLICE MATTERS**

The Clerk had provided the latest crime statistics held on the Police UK website which were for December 2024. A reply had not yet been received from the police with regards to the reason for the recent presence of the police helicopter in Caia Park, or the request for increased patrols at play areas due to vandalism.

It was reported that motorbikes and scooters were damaging the wildlife meadow on the Queensway green and the Dunks.

**RESOLVED:** *That the Clerk would ask the police to monitor Queensway green and the Dunks with a view to stopping motorbikes and scooters damaging the area.*

**125. MEMBERS REPORTS**

Cllr B. Cameron reported that the Environment Department of WCBC had identified funding that was available to resurface the path from the roundabout on Whitegate Road to Cefn Road, and that this should take 5 days.

He also reported that he had attended a number of meetings with regards to ensuring the continued funding of play provision at the Venture, Gwenfro Valley and the Land at Acrefair.

**126. CORRESPONDENCE**

(i) Email from WCBC – Additional Community Governor, St Anne School, Wrexham.

**RESOLVED:** *That the Council supported the appointment of Hazel Norbury as Additional Community Governor at St. Anne's School*

(ii) Email from WCBC – Shared prosperity Fund 2025-26

**RESOLVED:** *That the Chairman would consider if there were suitable projects for which funding applications could be made*

**127. USE OF THE ZOOM CHAT FACILITY**

The use of the Zoom 'chat' facility was discussed including the need to ensure that all Members were included in deliberations and were not disadvantaged due to their personal circumstances and any protected characteristics they may have. The Chairman reminded Members of the Council's duty to observe the requirements of the Equality Act and to ensure no-one was disadvantaged. The Chairman spoke about the requirement for transparency in Council meetings and also the need for the Council to do what it can to make sure all Members were able to participate and that none were excluded. He proposed arriving at a solution which was orderly, transparent and would not disadvantage people who were not good with technology, but also not disadvantage people for whom the chat facility was a life saver. He proposed a restricted form of the chat function where questions, points of view or proposals could be put into the chat and read out at the end of the item before a decision is made.

Cllr. Edwards stated that, as the person advocating for the chat to be reinstated, he did not think that the advice from OVW was relevant to Community Councils but instead related to other public bodies. He said that consideration of this agenda item had been deferred previously to enable information to be obtained, to ensure that an informed decision was made. He stated that guidance for the Community Councils would be the Local Government Act 2021 and he did not think that the Council was fully informed to make a decision. The Chairman said that he had spoken to OVW and this was guidance it had provided but that he would ask for clarification. He said that it was up to Members to come up with a system that they were happy with where no-one was disadvantaged.

Cllr. Edwards stated that the use of the chat should be natural and if the information was read out at the end of the item it would not be. He thought that if there were strict conditions for use of the chat then other meeting etiquette should be stricter.

Cllr. Platt proposed that a person was appointed to monitor the chat and read out what is written and she was willing to do this.

The Chairman proposed a focused way of using the chat function, which tried to achieve equality for everyone, where questions or proposals with supporting arguments were written down and presented to Members by the Clerk at the end of the item. He added that whoever is using the chat function should not have a higher number of opportunities to speak than other Members.

**RESOLVED:** *That the Clerk draws up draft guidance on how the chat function will be used which will be discussed at the next meeting. If agreed, this will be put into operation during the next meeting and will be trialed and reviewed.*

**128. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(i) **P/2024/0010** - Land at Border Retail Park, Wrexham, LL13 8NG - Advertisement consent for 20 free standing signs (building signage, freestanding signage and addition to existing site totems – illuminated and non-illuminated)

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

(ii) **P/2025/0038** – 1A Kingsmills Road, Wrexham, LL13 8NH – Conversion of 3 bedroom apartment to 3 no.1 bedroom apartments over first and second floors

**RESOLVED:** *That the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds of road safety and increased parking issues*

**129. 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) *The Venture – £14,801.28*

**130. CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024**

The Clerk advised that the Annual Return for 2023-2024 had been received from external audit, which was an unqualified audit with no issues to draw to the Council’s attention.

**131. FINANCIAL MONITORING**

The Financial Statements for the periods ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 were submitted.

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

**132. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED:** *That the accounts for payment in February 2025 be paid:*

**Accounts for payment February 2025**

D.D	Enreach	Advice Service	*	518.98	
		General Admin	*	172.99	691.97
D.D.	O2	Advice Service	*	40.51	
		Comm Agent	*	20.26	60.77
D.D.	Natwest Card (Zoom)	General Admin	*		15.59
D.D	Avensure	General Admin	*		329.30
8126	A Davies	Sal adj (Jan)			
8127	WCBC(Ins PG Oct-Mar 2025)	Children’s Services	*		9053.40
8128	Audit Wales	General Admin			200.00
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D.D	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Prince Charles Rd			40.52
	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Jan)			
	Clwyd Pension Services	Pension (Jan)			

**133. 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**

**134. STAFFING MATTERS**

The Clerk updated Members on employment and staffing matters and these were discussed. Members were informed that the Administrative Assistant had resigned.

The Chairman advised that he and the Vice-Chairman were dealing with concerns raised by some staff.

**RESOLVED:**

*(i) That the Staffing Panel would conduct the interviews for an Advice Worker on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.*

*(ii) That the Clerk would begin the recruitment process for an Administrative Assistant.*