

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held remotely via Zoom on
13th March 2025

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

* Cllr B. Cameron
Cllr S. Edwards (A)
Cllr L. Fellows (A/V)
Cllr L. Haggarty (A/V)
Cllr M. Harrison (A/V)
Cllr J. Jolley (A/V)

Cllr C. Lloyd (A/V)
* Cllr L. Mort
Cllr D. Murray (A/V)
Cllr L. Platt (A)
* Cllr D. Richardson
Cllr P. Williams (A)

* Absent

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

135. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Cllr D. Richardson, Cllr B. Cameron and Cllr L. Mort.

136. MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th February 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record*

Update: None

137. DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

None

138. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk had provided the latest crime statistics held on the Police UK website which were for December 2024 and this was discussed.

139. MEMBERS REPORTS

Cllr C. Lloyd reported that she and Cllr B. Cameron had attended the recent funeral of Cllr Phil Owen as representatives of the Community Council.

RESOLVED: *That the Council would make a donation of £50 to Nightingale House in memory of Cllr Owen*

140. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Email from Electoral Services at WCBC – Community Review

The answers to the questionnaire were discussed and decided upon.

RESOLVED: *That the Clerk would complete the questionnaire as agreed and return it to Electoral Services at WCBC*

141. USE OF THE ZOOM CHAT FACILITY

The Chairman reminded Members that at the last meeting it was decided that the Clerk would draw up draft guidance on how the chat function would be used and this would be discussed at tonight's meeting.

With regards to the query raised by Cllr Edwards at the last meeting as to whether the guidance provided from OVW was correct, the Chairman told Members that he had discussed this with the Clerk but that he had not yet spoken to OVW about whether they stood by the advice. He would be in touch with OVW to clarify the issues raised by Cllr Edwards. The Clerk said that the Local Government Act sets out the legal requirements that the council has to follow but it does not go into detail on how individual councils achieve them. The advice from OVW is on best practice and it does draw on best practice from other organisations or authorities to assist Councils in fulfilling their legal requirements. So it very well could be that the guidance has been drawn from other authorities, but that does not necessarily invalidate the guidance if OVW have considered that what other organisations do is something that would be applicable, appropriate and assist Town and Community Councils achieve their statutory requirements.

Cllr Edwards stated that he was disappointed that as the Councillor who had asked for the Chat function to be used, he had not been involved in drafting the Clerk's guidance under discussion. He said that he had to come to the meeting and explain in front of everyone what his needs and preferences were.

The Chairman asked if he would prefer that the item was deferred so that he could have, in a more private context, a discussion about how he might want to adapt what has been produced to suit his preferences more than what it does at the moment.

Cllr Edwards said he wished to clarify that they were not just preferences but needs, and that no was the answer because that would mean he would spend more time without access to the chat facility. He suggested reviewing the guidance outside of the meeting so that he could give his feedback.

The Chairman referred to the draft guidance which had been produced and hoped that it followed the recommendations that were agreed at the last meeting. It was supposed to ensure that people are not disadvantaged or advantaged by the use of the Chat facility and following what had been proposed should achieve that. The attempt was to keep it as simple as possible and go roughly with what other organisations had done. After 3 months the Council may want to review it to see how it has gone. The Chairman said that he was quite happy to talk to Cllr Edwards outside of the meeting to see if there are other things which can be done to make it better.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the draft guidance for use of the Zoom Chat facility be adopted and reviewed in 3 months.

(ii) That the Clerk turns on the Chat facility

142. MEMBERSHIP OF ONE VOICE WALES 2025-26

The Community Council's membership of One Voice Wales (OVW) was due for renewal on 1st April 2025 and this was discussed. The Clerk had provided Members with the renewal email from OVW which outlined the benefits of membership and the cost for 2025-26 of £1719.00.

RESOLVED: *That membership of One Voice Wales would be renewed for 2025-26 at a cost of £1719.00*

143. PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Clerk had provided a short report on the UK Government's 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' which had been announced on 4th March 2025. The Plan would deliver up to £20m of funding

and support over the next decade to Wrexham with the aim of revitalising local areas and fighting deprivation. A new 'Neighbourhood Board' would be set up to bring together residents, local businesses and campaigners to draw up and implement the plan.

It was proposed that Members consider how the Community Council could ensure that it best served the interests of the residents of Caia Park with regards to the £20m funding available to Wrexham.

The Chairman said that the 'Plan' would deal with broader issues than the previous plans to ensure that issues of deprivation were included. The intention was to spend on communities, not just on town and city centres. In terms of poverty and deprivation, it was necessary to listen to local voices and key people to decide what was needed in an area.

The Chairman proposed that the new 'Neighbourhood Board' should include more people in the community, and Caia Park should be included within the Plan boundaries. He proposed starting to put a case forward for the current City Board to be re-constituted and the boundaries reconfigured to include Caia Park, and that this was done with other organisations in Caia Park under the umbrella of 'Caia Park Together'. This would include writing to MP's, members of the Senedd and the current City Board to lobby them on behalf of Caia Park.

RESOLVED: *That the Community Council, together with other Caia Park organisations under the umbrella of 'Caia Park Together', start to put forward a case for the current City Board to be re-constituted and that the boundaries are reconfigured to include Caia Park.*

144. VENUE FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: *That the next Council meeting would be an in person meeting held at The Venture with the option for Members and the public to attend via Zoom if they wished. The hire charge would be £30 to cover staff and utility costs.*

145. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(i) P/2025/0125 - Ysgol Morgan Llwyd, Cefn Road, Wrexham, LL13 9NG - Erection of single storey classroom building

(ii) P/2025/0172 - Garages to the east of 6, Burnham Gardens, Wrexham, LL13 9LU - Prior notification for demolition of garages

(iii) P/2025/0173 - Garages to the rear of 35 to 40, Cefndre, Wrexham, LL13 9PA - Prior notification for demolition of garages

(iv) P/2025/0186 - Land at Border Retail Park, Wrexham, LL13 8NG –Variation of conditions 2, 6 and 14 of planning permission P/2024/1174 to amend landscape plan and wording of condition

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

146. FINANCIAL MONITORING

The Financial Statement for the period ending 28th February 2025 was submitted.

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

147. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

Accounts for payment March 2025

D.D	Enreach	Advice Service	*	523.31	
		General Admin	*	174.44	697.75
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
D.D.	Siemens	Advice Service	*	15.00	
		General Admin	*	15.00	30.00
D.D	Siemens	Advice Service	*	61.76	
		General Admin	*	61.76	123.52
D.D	SSE (Gas)	Prince Charles Rd	*		1761.50
D.D	SSE (Elec)	Prince Charles Rd	*		697.02
8131	Besthost	General Admin			10.50
8132	Graphic Office Systems	Advice Service	*	55.90	
		General Admin	*	55.91	111.81
8133	J E Construction	Prince Charles Rd	*		1416.00
8134	K Davies (Battery/Printing)	Comm Agent			36.29
8135	J Evans (Adv grant/stamps)	Advice Service		340.55	
		General Admin		41.55	382.10
8136	A Davies	Sal adj (Feb)			
8137	K Davies	Sal adj (Feb)			
8140	Graphic Office Systems	Advice Service		33.00	
		General Admin		33.00	66.00
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D.D	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Prince Charles Rd			40.52
	H M Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Feb)			
	Clwyd Pension Services	Pension			

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

148. 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

149. STAFFING MATTERS

The Clerk updated Members on employment and staffing matters and these were discussed. The Staffing Panel had appointed an Advice Worker and the Clerk would arrange a start date for the new appointment once both references had been received.

The Clerk was dealing with the issues arising from the ending of the contract with WCBC for the provision of a Community Agent.

The Chairman informed Members that he and the Vice Chairman were in the process of dealing with concerns raised by some staff and that he would report back to them once the process was completed.

The Clerk outlined the proposed contract with WCBC for the provision of cleaning services at the Council offices and this was discussed.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Council enters into a contract with WCBC for the provision of cleaning services at the Council offices.