

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held remotely via Zoom on
10th April 2025

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

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

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

* Absent

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

150. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

151. MINUTES

RESOLVED: *That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th March 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record*

Update: None

152. DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Agenda item 12 – All personal and prejudicial - Cllr C. Lloyd and Cllr P. Williams, members of Pentre Gwyn Older Peoples Group

153. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk had provided the latest crime statistics held on the Police UK website which were for February 2025 and this was discussed.

Cllr B. Cameron reported that there had been issues recently in relation to visitors to a local business parking cars on the grass verges opposite Pentre Gwyn, the nearby pavements and on the car park in the play area. He had spoken to the Police, and the Housing Department was looking into the issue. Cllr C. Lloyd said that she had observed a mother with a pram having to walk on the road due to cars blocking the pavement.

RESOLVED: *That the Clerk would write to the Police to bring to their attention the council's concerns with regards to residents' safety, due to motorists parking on the grass verges and pavements on Abenbury Road at Pentre Gwyn; also they would be asked to act on the obstruction problems*

154. MEMBERS REPORTS

Cllr B. Cameron told Members that he had received numerous complaints from residents experiencing problems accessing St. Giles Church due to the recent pedestrianisation in the City Centre. He did not think that the plans had been adequately thought through to ensure that there were no accessibility issues for people visiting the Church. He had written to the Town Centre Manager to complain. A number of other Members echoed his concerns.

RESOLVED: *That the clerk would write to the Town Centre Manager and WCBC's Lead Member for 'Economy' to complain in the strongest terms that the current situation with regards to ensuring accessibility for all to St. Giles Church is not acceptable, and that a better solution needs to be found.*

Cllr L. Platt proposed that the Community Council publicly thanks Wrexham Litter Pickers for their sterling work across all the wards of Caia Park.

RESOLVED: *That Wrexham Litter Pickers would be thanked publicly on the Community Councils Facebook page.*

155. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Email from WCBC – 80th Anniversary of VE Day – Church Service and Parade Thursday 8th May 2025 at 12.30pm. Cllr B. Cameron informed Members that he had already been invited due to his previous role as Mayor and he would be attending.

(ii) Email from Christine Cribbin, Foundation Governor at St Anne's School – Road Safety at St. Anne's School. This was an application for £200 to purchase 2 mini police/child safety awareness figures for outside the school whilst they were waiting for WCBC to fill the vacancy for a School Crossing Patrol, to increase signage and for it to look at changing the road layout to contain the speed. Concern was expressed by the assertion in the email that '...motorists are continually exceeding the 20mph speed limit and sadly many to these are council employees.'

RESOLVED:

(i) *That the Council gives £200 to the Governors to purchase 2 mini police/child safety awareness figures.*

(ii) *That the Clerk would request further details and evidence with regards to the allegations made relating to speeding.*

156. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON ACHIEVING INCREASED FUNDING FOR CAIA PARK ORGANISATIONS – VERBAL

The Chairman reminded Members that at the previous meeting, they had agreed that the Council would join with other Caia Park organisations under the banner of 'Caia Park Together' to make representations to the City Board about the revised arrangements for the Plan for Neighbourhood, which was funded by Westminster. The focus of the funding had shifted away from improving town centres to relieving deprivation and giving a voice to communities who do not feel heard. Letters had been sent out and the arguments were presented to the City Board, but had not met with huge success as yet. Cllr S Edwards said that 'Caia Park Together' was not opaque and the selection of people to attend was not fair or transparent. Proposals for the way forward were made and these were discussed.

RESOLVED:

(i) *That the Community Council on behalf of 'Caia Park Together' hosts a meeting between 2 or 3 members from each participating organisation and members of the City Board, to discuss what 'Caia Park Together' is trying to achieve and why its proposals are important for Caia Park and Wrexham.*

(ii) *That Cllr M. King, Cllr B. Cameron, Cllr J. Jolley and the Clerk represent the Council.*

The Chairman informed Members that the three Wrexham Adventure Playgrounds were submitting a bid for a Welsh Government Child Poverty Innovation Grant in order to provide enhanced services to help families who were struggling.

RESOLVED: *That the Community Council would send a letter of support which could be submitted with the grant bid*

The Chairman reported that the Venture had made an application (at short notice) to the Heart Foundation for a defibrillator to be placed at the Moorlands Sheltered Housing. The application included equipment and installation. WCBC's Housing Department had agreed to the siting of the defibrillator. Responsibility for the ongoing upkeep of the unit once it was installed was discussed.

RESOLVED: *That responsibility for the defibrillator would transfer to the Community Council, including paying approximately £50 per year for electricity and replacing the pads when required.*

157. PROPOSAL FROM CLLR EDWARDS TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED: *That the Clerk produces an up-to-date version of the Standing Orders with recommendations on what might be adapted*

158. PROPOSAL FROM CLLR EDWARDS WITH REGARDS TO THE PUBLISHING OF NOTICES OF MEETINGS, AGENDAS AND DOCUMENTS ON THE COUNCIL WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA INCLUDING ZOOM DETAILS. ALSO TO DISCUSS THE MEETING RECORDING OF OCTOBER 2024.

The Chairman proposed deferring agenda items 9 and 10 to the next meeting as certain items had to be dealt with at this meeting and time was going on. Cllr S. Edwards voiced his concern that the VE grant application had been submitted the same day that it was discussed but that the issue of the meeting recording of October 2024 would again not be discussed. Cllr King said that he thought the VE grant application needed to be discussed urgently.

Cllr D. Richardson asked when the minutes would be updated on the website as he had been asked about this. The Clerk said that she had not been able to update the minutes section of the website due to time constraints. Towards the end of last year she had informed Members that the hours allocated for the Clerk position were not sufficient to carry out the volume of work. The Chairman said that he hoped that the situation would ease with the appointment of an Administrative Assistant, with more of their hours allocated to assisting the Clerk. Until the website could be updated, anyone requiring minutes could be directed to the council offices or given the Clerk's email address.

Cllr M. Harrison expressed his concern that the minutes were not up-to-date on the website and that the Council were not being transparent. The Chairman did not accept what he was saying but accepted that the minutes should be on the website sooner. The Clerk agreed but reiterated that she had previously raised the issue of the number of hours allocated to her post and her workload, and that she had to regularly make difficult and personally demoralising decisions with regards to prioritising work, whilst still working over her contracted hours. The advertisement for the post had stated that there was the possibility of increasing the hours from 22 to 27 per week in a short period of time, and that was over 2 years and 6 months ago.

Cllr M. Harrison said that he would put the minutes on the Facebook page himself if that would help. Cllr S. Edwards said that the Council was not meeting legal requirements with regards to the publishing of the minutes and the Clerk agreed that was the case. Cllr L. Platt said that the minutes need to be published on the website with a link to them on the Facebook page, rather than the minutes being on the Facebook page. She said that the Clerk did not have the capacity in hours for the volume of work and this should be solved first.

The Clerk said that the hours were not sufficient for the job, and that in addition, since February 2023, she had carried out administrative procedures on behalf of the Acting Advice Manager, and then for the current Advice Manager whilst she was training and because of staff absences. This was to support the Advice staff and the service. Also all the Admin Assistant hours had been allocated to the Advice Service to assist the staff.

RESOLVED: *That Cllr. M Harrison would post the minutes on the Facebook page*

159. PROPOSAL FROM CLLR JOLLEY TO ADD ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT TO THE WHITEGATE PLAY AREAS

RESOLVED: *That this item is deferred to the next meeting*

160. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(i) **P/2025/0202** - Unit 7 and 9, Queensway Industrial Estate, Wrexham, LL13 8YR - Erection of a fuel chip hopper building and installation of biomass boiler and flue

RESOLVED: *That the Council objects to the application on the grounds that potential pollution could have an adverse effect on the area, in particular Gwenfro Valley and Gwenfro School which are in close proximity to the site*

(ii) **P/2025/0281** - 81 Benjamin Road, Wrexham, LL13 8EG - Erection of 2 no one bedroom apartments and alterations to existing vehicular access and associated parking

(iii) **P/2025/0285** - 81 Benjamin Road, Wrexham, LL13 8EG - Variation of conditions 2 and 4 of planning permission P/2024/1468 to amend approved planning layout

RESOLVED: *That the Council objects to the two planning applications on the grounds of road safety and increased parking problems*

(iv) **P/2025/0301** - 49 Kingsmills Road, Wrexham, LL13 8NL - Change of use of ground floor from Class A1 (Post Office) to Class C3 (Dwelling)

RESOLVED: *To obtain more information with regards to the plans for the first floor.*

161. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

(i) Avant Theatre CIC

(ii) Wrexham Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Association

RESOLVED: *To defer applications (i) and (ii) to the next meeting.*

Cllr P. Williams and Cllr C. Lloyd left the room for consideration of the next item.

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:*

(iii) *Pentre Gwyn Older Peoples Group - £500*

162. FINANCIAL MONITORING

The Financial Statement for the period ending 31st March 2025 was submitted.

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

163. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

Accounts for payment April 2025

D.D	Enreach	Advice Service	*	520.80	
		General Admin	*	<u>173.60</u>	694.40
D.D.	O2	Advice Service	*	40.51	
		Comm Agent	*	<u>20.26</u>	60.77
D.D.	Natwest Card (Zoom)	General Admin	*		15.59
D.D	Avensure	General Admin	*		329.30
8141	The Venture	Childrens Services			8990.50
8141	The Venture	Low Carbon Pilot			3330.00
8141	The Venture/WYPP	S137 grant			14801.28
8142	WCBC (Sch crossing)	Childrens Services			2970.00
8143	Wales Air Ambulance	S137 grant			500.00
8144	Topwood	General Admin	*		54.00
8145	Cllr S Edwards	Cllr Allowances			208.00
8146	Cllr L Mort	Cllr Allowances			156.00
8147	One Voice Wales	Training			40.00
8148	Graphic Office Systems	Advice Service	*	40.28	
		General Admin	*	<u>40.27</u>	80.55
8149	One Voice Wales	General Admin			1719.00
8150	PS (Family Action Grant)	Advice Service			300.00
8151	Openstrike	General Admin			125.00
8152	WYPP	Childrens Services			8833.00
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D.D	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Prince Charles Rd			40.52
	H M Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Mar)			
	Clwyd Pension Services	Pen contributions			

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

164. 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

165. STAFFING MATTERS

The Clerk updated Members on employment and staffing matters and these were discussed. The Cleaning contract had started on 8th April and the Community Agent situation was about to be finalised. The new Advice Worker was starting on 6th May and the Administrative Assistant post could now be advertised.

The Chairman informed Members that he and the Vice-Chairman had met with staff several times and were hoping to reach conclusions soon so that they could report to Members.

RESOLVED:

(i) *That the Administrative Assistant vacancy could be advertised*

(ii) *That the staffing panel would comprise Cllr M. King, Cllr P. Williams and Cllr J. Jolley.*