

CHIRK TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y WAUN

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 30th SEPTEMBER 2015

Present

Cllrs Mr Dewi Evans (Chairman) (DE) Mr Barry Evans (BE), Mrs J Allen (JA), Mrs H J Spragg (HS), Mrs B Humphreys (BH), Mr N James (NJ), Mr F Hemmings (FH), Mr J Vant (JV), Mr B Colley (BC), Mr M Maxfield (MM) and Mr M Roberts (MR), Cllrs Mr I Roberts (IR) & Mr T Evans (TE) WCBC, Mr S A Hughes (SH), Clerk to the Council Mr S Jones (SJ) and PCSO Martin Griffiths (MG), North Wales Police (Joined meeting while AOB being discussed).
2 members of the Public.

The Chairman commented that it was good to see Cllr. Terry Evans back at Chirk Town Council meetings.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mr M Holmes, Mr D Poppitt, Mrs S Newell and Mrs C Gough.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dewi Evans regarding Agenda Item 13 – a form has been completed and given to the Clerk.

44. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD 29th JULY AND 15th AUGUST 2015

The minutes of the Council meetings were confirmed as a correct record. Proposer BE/Seconder JA.

45. MATTERS ARISING

None noted.

46. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

No Police presence when this item was considered. MG joined later, see AOB.

47. REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD 2nd SEPTEMBER 2015.

Confirmed as a correct record. Proposer BE/Seconder MM.

The Clerk noted the following:-

Item 2.b – Unsafe Headstone E21. Place a notice on Cemetery Notice Board to explain action.

Item 2.c – Grave W2. No further progress to report.

Item 3.b. – A Planning Application has now been made and discussed at Planning Committee earlier.

Item 4 –

- An event took place at Spar, Chirk to mark the installation of the new Defibrillator – 16th Sept. 2015.
- A cabinet for the unit has been ordered.
- Signage and publicity – it was suggested that “information road side signage” (an e.g. of this seen while travelling in France) would raise awareness and a short article for the Chirk Newsletter would also spread the word.
- CPR Training is to take place at Parish Hall on the first 3 Thursdays in November.
- HS reported the Spar staff were engaged and enthusiastic and training encouraged (it is anticipated they will join the November training).

48. REPORT OF STAFFING COMMITTEE HELD 2nd SEPTEMBER 2015.

Confirmed as a correct record. Proposer BE/Seconder JA. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Barry Evans for taking the Chair in his absence.

49. ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2015.

The Clerk just added this document is to be published on our website and that for 2015/16 new external auditors have been appointed – Grant Thornton based in Bristol. The letter from the Wales Audit Office also made reference to changes to the arrangements for audit and the charges.

50. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Chirk Environmental Liaison Group meeting held 3rd September 2015

BH did attend so should be listed under Present heading. Some additional points that need emphasis:-

- The landfill site at Pen-Y-Bont has a license due to expire on 6th October 2015. SJ to check status with Wrexham CBC.
- The use of continuance monitoring equipment at selected locations in Chirk.
- Recent Chirk Newsletter has engagement from Mike McKenna of Kronospan explaining & apologising to residents.
- A request for the minutes of the CELG meetings be distributed to all WCBC councillors – this still appears not to have been actioned. SJ also noted that he had made a request for receipt of the minutes as soon as they have been published.

- BC has logged a new complaint relating to dust deposits on cars in Maes-y-Waun last Friday (25th September) when no wind was present (previously had an explanation of wind borne deposits from the log yard).
- JA noted a lack of response from WCBC and Kronospan to logged complaints.
- TE mentioned Nick Minshall Pollution Control Officer WCBC and contacts with Kronospan seem frustrating. Feels badly let down by Wrexham Public Protection – recent chemical smells. Keen on monitoring emissions / use of TOC meter.
- BE stated that non-compliance saves money
- A recent planning application by Kronospan was not flagged up at this meeting.
- It was proposed by FH and seconded by BC that Wrexham Public Protection be invited to a future meeting with Chirk Town Council.

51. REPORTS – LOCAL MEMBERS WREXHAM CBC

TE advised of the road resurfacing work was finally complete and all manholes have been upgraded to a 60 tonne rating. The Access Bridge at Chirk Station is now open. Attended a meeting of the Railway Working Group on 29th September. IR advised of the Wrexham County Borough Budget Consultation “Difficult Decisions” which is looking for additional savings in the range of £15 – 18m. Education is ring fenced so likely that Personnel / Services will be affected. The Chair and Vice Chair are to attend a Town & Community Council Consultation event on 13th October 2015.

Questions to Wrexham CBC:-

- Is Colliery Road on list for surface improvement asked by JA
- JA also concerned over how any migrants from Syria will be handled and if any additional money has been promised. IR understands that in Wales four local authorities, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea & Wrexham, are initially expected to receive and welcome families from Syria. There is an expectation the management and funding will follow previous examples. A Housing Network meeting scheduled for October 1st will consider the local capacity. No idea of actual numbers to expect at present. Nationally there is a commitment to receive 20,000. Key affected departments/budgets are Health, Education and Social Services.
- JA had a final question concerning how sheltered/warden controlled accommodation in Chirk is allocated. It had been understood that if you lived in the town or had strong links to the area then such accommodation might be offered. JA has some concerns over fairness as she understands 2 cases of people from Essex & Manchester being offered such accommodation in Chirk and maybe local people that are eligible may be losing out.

52. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

SJ has spoken with Rev. Ben Parry who is the British Legion Chaplain who proposes to conduct a similar service at the Cenotaph as last year. JA proposed, FH seconded and all agreed to follow along similar lines to last year. SJ will arrange a meeting with Rev. Matt Wilkinson, Rev. Ben Parry & Mr George Rogerson to agree on details and report to next Ordinary meeting.

HS advised that a short service at Pentre follows the service in Chirk – all Councillors welcome.

It was mentioned that having the Last Post played by a bugler would be ideal. Suggestions on who could be approached welcomed.

53. ONE VOICE WALES AGM & CONFERENCE

JA & SJ are to attend at The Bont Pavilion, Pontrhydfendigaid. JA has a vote that can be exercised on motions proposed by members at the AGM. BE proposed that a Yes vote be entered for all motions. There was additional discussion on motion 3, 7 & 9. Some members were minded to vote against motion 7 (if it relates to A470) and motion 9. JA informed members she will listen to the presenters of the motions and has taken on board the points made this evening and vote appropriately.

JA will also represent the Council at the Flintshire/Wrexham Area Committee meeting on October 8th 2015.

54. APPEALS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

DE has declared an interest and played no part in this item. Vice Chair BE took this item.

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod is celebrating its 70th Anniversary in 2016. An appeal has been launched to mark next year’s anniversary. SJ advised that Chirk Town Council annually give £100 to the Llangollen Eisteddfod. Proposed by JA and seconded by JV we should donate £200 to mark this special appeal. FH proposed a figure of £250, seconded by MM. A vote was taken on making the higher donation of £250 and 6 voted in favour and 4 against – therefore it carried and the Council will donate £250.

55. COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – “TEMPORARY CHANGES TO WOMENS’S AND MATERNITY SERVICES 2015”

JA advised that responses should be received by 1st October 2015. Individual members are encouraged to participate. The Council noted the content.

56. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT “DRAFT DIRECTIONS TO THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES”

IR touched on what may be coming down the track in respect of Local Democracy reorganisation. Both Principal Authorities and Town & Community Councils could see amalgamation. Any response prepared should be handled with care. The questions are designed to lead you to a given result. The Consultation Committee should consider and recommend to Full Council what action to take.

57. WREXHAM COUNCIL STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2016 – 2020 CONSULTATION

No questions raised.

58. PLANNING TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS AT CHIRK PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2015

SJ advised that this evening event has unfortunately been cancelled as a similar session has been arranged at The Guild Hall, Wrexham in the morning. It was deemed untenable to run both sessions on the same day. There is the possibility of rescheduling the workshop in Chirk in the New Year.

JA, SJ & BH are to attend the morning event in Wrexham.

59. CORRESPONDENCE

- Invitation to attend Public Service Board Conference in Cardiff – 26.11.2015
- N. Wales Borders Canal & River Trust Annual Showcase – 6.11.2015 DE to attend.
- Difficult Decisions Consultation Event – 13.10.2015 – DE, BE & SJ to attend.
- Advice of proposed 20mph limit in Pentre Village – Noted
- Caia Park CC – Notice of intended closure of Nant Silyn Res. Care Home – Noted
- Standards & Ethics Conference Wales, Cardiff – 20.10.2015 – Noted
- BBC Audience Council meeting, Wrexham – 15.10.2015 – Noted
- Save Green Lanes – Save our Paths – 4x4 damage in Llangollen/Ceriog Valley – Noted
- Fuel Poverty Charity NEA issues guidance for Councils – Noted
- Wales Rally GB – 12 to 15 November 2015 – Chirk Castle – similar arrangements to last event.
- Invitation to join Friends of Llangollen for Summer Party – 23.10.2015 – Noted
- Wrexham Mayor's Charity Dinner Dance – 16.10.2015 – DE politely declined.
- Rural Community Council meetings facilitated by WCBC – happy to remain involved SJ to write.
- Four Council Meetings (Chirk and Ceriog Valley CC) still happy to support SJ to reply.

60. PLANNING MATTERS

The following applications for planning consent received from the Chief Planning Officer, Wrexham County Borough Planning Authority under the consultation procedures for consideration and comment was dealt with.

- **P/2015/0548 Reduce height of Oak Tree (T3) to approximately 4.5metres (Tree protected by TPO No WCBC No 33 – Oak Tree North of The Parklands, Shepherd's Lane, Chirk, Wrexham.**

Comments: The Council has no objection to the proposal.

- **P/2015/0609 Single storey extension to front of property to include porch and extended lounge – 3 Maes Hyfryd, Lodgevale Park, Chirk, Wrexham.**

Comments: The Council has no objection to the proposal.

- **P/2015/0682 Single storey side & rear extension - Glascott, Castle Crescent, Station Avenue, Chirk, Wrexham**

Comments: The Council has no objection to the proposal.

- **P/2015/0683 Erection of 5 No. Floodlighting Columns (4 No. at existing Mini Football pitches and 1 No. at adjacent Skate Park – Chirk AAA, Holyhead Road, Chirk, Wrexham.**

Comments: The Council has no comments to make to the proposal.

61. ACCOUNTS

The HSBC bank mandate for the Chirk Town Council accounts is to be updated in the light of SJ taking on the Clerk/RFO role. A meeting with our Account Manager at HSBC (SH & SJ attended) has signposted the steps to be taken. To keep the list of signatories at a more manageable number the Council members who are more regularly asked to sign cheques have been asked to continue as signatories (6 names).

SJ has also some further proposals which will be discussed at an upcoming Finance Committee meeting and this will report into October's Ordinary meeting.

62. PAYMENTS

A list of invoices and payments amounting to £27,926.86 were given to the Council and were passed for payment (see addendum).

63. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Cllr. Dewi Evans thanked the two members of the public for attending the meeting. He then turned to Sam Hughes who has undertaken the role of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Chirk Town Council for 34 years and retires this evening. Cllr. Evans thanked Sam for all the work undertaken for the Council over all those years. He stated that Sam is an excellent person and will be sorely missed. Sam was wished all the best and a spontaneous round of applause from all Council members present with a standing ovation then took place. Finally Cllr. Evans gave thanks to Mrs Jean Hughes who has provided great support to Sam.
- FH welcomed SJ to the role as Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. He added concern over lack of hedge and verge cutting in Pentre. It is understood George Jones of Lodgevale does some contracting. IR to check with WCBC colleagues.
- JV advised of two upcoming meetings of Chirk Forum, Oct 10th Inviting new volunteers and Oct 15th for the AGM.
- JA has been contacted about using Chirk Town Council land to launch a Balloon. Lindstrand Technologies involved. Channel 5 helicopter – views of Chirk Aqueduct. Members had no objections. Likely to happen on Friday 2nd October.
- BH added her thanks to Sam for all his hard work. After the meeting a reception to mark Sam's last meeting is arranged.
- IR & TE commented on the 30 years they have sat round tables with Sam.
 - He is very much a mate/friend.
 - Got out of trouble
 - Fought hard to keep in Chirk
 - Stability
 - Driving force behind the Council
 - Brilliant job
 - Jean & Sam are a great team
 - Huge thanks.
- BC advised that Glyn Wylfa has completed its second year of operation. Some 35,000 visitors. Financially sound – fully rented. Continuing success story. Also mentioned Wales in Bloom where the café was awarded 2nd place in the Pubs & Restaurant category.
- PCSO Martin Griffiths joined the meeting. There had been a sudden death in Froncysyllte that had delayed him. Police, Air ambulance and other support services attended. He will email information that is normally presented.

Signed

Chairman

28th October 2015