



# CHIRK TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y WAUN

## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019

### Present

Cllrs. Mrs Jackie Allen (JA), Mrs Barbara Humphreys (BH), Miss Lynne Painter (LP), Mr Terry Evans (TE), Mr Mark Roberts (MR), Mr Gareth Baines (GB), Mr Michael Maxfield (MM), Mr Mark Holmes (MH), Mr Frank Hemmings (FH), Mr Newman James (NJ), Mrs Sarah Williams (SW), Ms Eleanor Burnham (EB) & Mrs Dot Griffiths (DG).  
Mr Shaun Jones (SJ), Clerk to the Council. Mr. Jack Butler (JB) – Press – NWN.

**Cllr. Jackie Allen – Vice Chair conducted the meeting.**

### Apologies

Apologies for absence: Cllr. Mr Brian Colley.

### Declarations of Interest

None.

#### **25. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES AS A TRUE RECORD OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019.**

The draft minutes for the Council Meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 are now put to the Council as an accurate record of proceedings. SJ omitted to note the welcome to CB by both JA and BC – this will be corrected. **The motion proposed CB and seconded GB was passed unanimously.**

#### **26. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES RECEIVED ABOVE NOT REPORTED ELSEWHERE.**

Minute 13 – The first meeting of the Tourism Sub-Group took place on rescheduled date – June 25<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Minute 14 – Clarification with PCSO team underway.

Minute 19 – After a site visit, Planning Permission was granted for change of use of the Drill Hall.

#### **27. TO CONSIDER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING MATTERS.**

No PCSO present. The report – Chirk Crime Figures was received from PCSO Griffiths ahead of tonight's meeting. 4 crimes are recorded and additionally 4 reported cases of anti-social behaviour. TE commented that PCSO Gareth Jones is visible and talking to residents, very much appreciated. Also observed a regular instance of a Prestige Taxi parking on the double yellow lines in front of Francis Opticians. LP noted this was the second month with no PCSO presence.

#### **28. TO RECEIVE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFFING & POLICIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019.**

The draft report for the Staffing and Policies Committee Meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 is now put to the Council as an accurate record of proceedings. **The motion proposed MH and seconded GB was passed.**

#### **29. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019.**

The draft report for the General Purposes Committee meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 is now put to the Council as an accurate record of proceedings. SJ asked to update item 5 to better reflect the decision to call a Special Council meeting soonest. **The motion proposed GB and seconded EB was passed.** Matters arising – EB – requested minutes for meetings are published soonest – to aid recollection. Item 5 – the Special Council meeting is called for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 at 6pm and members will receive the current Clerk/RFO job description ahead of this, via email.

**30. TO RECEIVE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019.**

The draft report for the Finance Committee Meeting held 13th June 2019 is now put to the Council as an accurate record of proceedings. **The motion proposed GB and seconded CB was passed.**

**31. TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.**

JA, GB & SJ recently attended a pre-hearing meeting relating to the next stage in the process of adopting the Local Development Plan (LDP) 2013 - 2028 for Wrexham County Borough. There were also concerned/interested Chirk residents attending. After the meeting closed JA and GB agreed with those residents that calling a public meeting to hear from the community would be a good next step, ahead of making any representation to the hearings in September. Members resolved to call a meeting by mid-July at Chirk Parish Hall in an evening. This should be promoted well to ensure a good attendance.

JA reported on the meeting of the Tourism Sub-Group that took place yesterday evening. It was agreed to meet in September – kindly hosted by Chirk Castle.

GB reported of pot holes up to 5 inches deep at Fron Isa.

EB recently attended “Our Future Wales”, an event at Glyndwr University, Wrexham attended by the Future Generations Commissioner. All in an effort to input into an upcoming report. Workshop participation was included in the programme.

BH, JA and SJ met with Emma Williams of Wrexham CBC to learn more of the roll-out of EV Charging Points across the borough. Emma agreed to include the Colliery Road car park as a site in the next phase of installation of EV Charging points. She will now work on getting quotes and also check the electricity supply serving the public toilets is up to the task. It is expected that installation should be within 6 months.

JA attended a Planning Aid/One Voice Wales joint event on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in Llanrwst concerning Place Plans. A very good event, good speakers. JA will circulate papers.

**32. TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL MEMBERS – WREXHAM CBC.**

TE outlined the WCBC Environmental Improvement Scheme currently affecting Longfield and Church View. The new layby in Longfield has been completed.

Undertook joint tour of Chirk with Temporary Supervisor (WCBC) noted highway issues by Co-op (including manhole cover on B5070), also the deterioration of the road by Hand Hotel into Station Avenue. Chirk Green Road is also in bad repair. TE advised that there is a lack of money – only £2 million allocated right across the borough for this financial year. The footpath to Pont Faen was mentioned and railings down Trap Bank need a repair – they are flopping about. The blocked drains, highlighted by recent flash floods need clearing.

Currently there is only 1 man cutting grass, normally the minimum is 3. This is impacting on service level throughout the county.

DG advised of being contacted by an irate resident over a massive hole near to the flats. It was filled and flattened by the lorry – but quite inadequate. The hole will be back. NJ commented this was a false economy. FH – advised he had raised these issues at WCBC Scrutiny Committee. EB asks who oversees a job is done well ? BH asks how many times has this hole been repaired – the answer 3 times. EB states that Chirk is a special case as they have so many HGV movements. NJ comments that business rates generate a lot of tax revenue. LP in agreement over pothole concerns, troubled that this matter is being raised constantly. SW to TE, raises the matter of bollards to be considered for Colliery Road, Betsi Cadwallader Health Board work was so straight forward on hospital road, this should be replicated. DG does believe there has been recent enforcement officers visiting the town and many have been booked for parking on double yellow lines. There are weeds in the street and the main car park.

FH advised that he has been away for 2 weeks. Undertaken a lot of work as a member on the Scrutiny Committee. Ysgol Y Waun – Chapel Lane campus has seen work on an outdoor classroom with a group of Coleg Cambria volunteers – very pleased. Also helped with some gardens and around the flats. TE states he is in favour of looking to engage a handyman/linesman. Recently visited Central France and impressed at the neat and tidiness. DG mentioned the Hand car park looking shabby and Castle Bistro cleaning the footpath. EB wishes people would stop dropping litter in the first place.

- 33. TO DETERMINE A REQUEST FOR PICNIC TABLES TO BE SITED ON LONGFIELD RECREATION GROUND.**  
 DG has received requests from many to look at providing picnic tables being sited on Longfield Recreation Ground. She has identified a treated wood picnic table and 2 tables would be approx. £600. FH made a proposal to purchase 2 picnic benches. Discussion then moved to the location and some members wanted Chirk Recreation Ground to be taken into account, as many visitors to Chirk utilise this green space. SW proposed an amendment to site one bench in Longfield and one at Chirk Recreation Ground, this was seconded by MR. More contributions made by NJ and SW over consulting with residents and a preference for some to locate on Chirk Recreation Ground over Longfield. In order to keep on track with this evenings agenda, it was proposed by GB to leave this matter on the table and consider at a General Purposes Committee meeting – where more time can be allowed for deliberation. **The Chair asked for a show of hands on GB’s proposal and 10 voted in favour.**
- 34. TO DECIDE UPON THE SITING OF WHEELCHAIR SWING SINCE RECEIVING CONFIRMATION OF GRANTS AWARDED.**  
 JA updated members on the quotes received to supply and fit a wheelchair swing. The cost range was £19,000 to £8,500. TE asked if there was a product quality differentiation? JA advised these were for basically the same swing. A reference visit by SJ and JA is to be arranged. Official news of the grant from Tesco Bags for Help scheme is expected, it is understood this will be for £1,000. Discussion over where to site this new piece of equipment took place. **Members took a vote on Chapel Lane play area, proposed GB, seconded FH and this carried.** TE made the request this installation be carried out in the Summer recess. Chirk Council will be responsible for maintenance of this swing.
- 35. TO PLAN FOR RECEIVING THE SHAOLIN WARRIOR MONKS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER – SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019.**  
 LP advised that Mr Pol Wong had suggested an hour on the morning of July 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 would fit their schedule and that the party of Shaolin Warrior Monks were happy to be received by Chirk Town Council. Members ran through a provisional programme, exchange of gifts and refreshments to be provided. Also a list of invitees was agreed on. **GB proposed, seconded SW for the costs of catering to be borne by the Council’s administration budget – motions carried.**
- 36. TO DECIDE UPON APPEALS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED.**  
 None to present.
- 37. TO APPROVE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE AS ON LIST ATTACHED.**  
 A list of invoices and payments (to 26.06.19) amounting to £19,260.98 & £143.70 (using pre-paid creditcard) was given to the Council and were passed for payment (see addendum). **The motion proposed FH and seconded MM to approve was passed unanimously.**
- 38. TO RECEIVE THE ORAL REPORT OF THE CLERK – INCLUDES CORRESPONDENCE.**  
**Matters to note:**
- Wrexham Rural Neighbourhood Policing Forum – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Chirk Town Council will be represented.
  - Call from a representative of Welsh Ambulance Trust (WAT) who have agreed to allocate a Defibrillator to Chirk. Email confirmation still awaited. Currently we have sought financial assistance to support the installation of a defibrillator in both Pentre and Black Park. £500 from Kronospan and £100 from Blakemore Foundation has been secured. With the WAT offer we are making good progress to completing our wish for both villages to have a defibrillator. WAT outlined that the cost of an external cabinet is estimated at £380 and electrical installation – £90 - £190. BH will look into whether Pentre School may have thoughts for a defibrillator being sourced through their connections. **GB proposed that Black Park be considered for the first defibrillator based on their population.** The exact site could be the Community Centre or maybe another site more central to the housing there (a power supply is required). **Members approved.**
  - SJ attended the recent Chirk & Ceiriog Valley Partnership meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at The West Arms, Llanarmon DC. The attendance was low and the group are keen to encourage more members to attend. Updates on their tourism initiatives were received.
  - SJ participated in the webinar on Operation London Bridge – preparations for passing of HM The Queen. After consulting with Wrexham CBC, any planning that Chirk TC is to make will be considered at a future General Purposes Committee meeting.

- An invitation from Bruno Peek – The Pageant Master to participate in the VE – Day 75 commemoration on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020. SJ will research and bring forward proposals.
- Permission sought to collect cherries from trees on Chapel Lane Recreation Ground. **Members approved.**
- Notice of St Mary's Celebration 500 event – July 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2019. Marking 500 years of St Mary's Tower and North Aisle.
- Tree Condition Report and Recommendations received yesterday. Over 200 trees inspected, tagged and reported on. SJ to share with Aled Lewis to get some idea of immediate works needed.

**Correspondence:-**

- **Nicola Holmwood – Wrexham County Borough Council – Rights of Way** – Letter via email consulting on the proposed Diversion of Public Footpath 45. **Relates to North View and Crogen up to and includes Chirk Green Wood. The hospital board and WCBC are the landowners - Noted.**
- **Friends of Chirk Station** – Letter cc'd thanking Sid Lloyd for his recent work on the Station – painting and erecting fencing. **Noted.**
- **Sarah Harrison - 1<sup>st</sup> Chirk Scout Group** – Letter of thanks for grant of £500. An all group camp is being organised plus a trip to Zip World – Betws y Coed. **Noted.**
- **Nicholas Roe – Wrexham Area Civic Society** – Email calling for nominations, the Annual Awards are upcoming. **Noted.**
- **Catrin Dowdeswell – Hope House Children's Hospice** – Letter seeking volunteers to marshal at a fundraising event to be held at Chirk Castle – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – 5pm – 7:30pm. **Noted – request details from SJ if interested..**

**39. TO RECEIVE INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT AND ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019.**

The Internal Auditors report was thoroughly reviewed and explanations by SJ provided when required. All members agreed that the Audit report be noted. JA thanked the Clerk for the work undertaken. Then the completed Annual Return for 2018/19 was tabled. **Proposed MH, seconded GB – motion carried to approve the Annual Return.** The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and Chair signed the section to complete the Annual Return. Inspection by electors is closing on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – the same right across Wales. However SJ will ensure we have delivered our submission to Grant Thornton – the External Auditors by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**40. TO PRESENT ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA.**

To note:

- NJ – raises the Major Incidents Policy as a future agenda item.
- LP – date for presentation of Citizen of the Year 2018 is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7pm.
- SW – Fixed bin at Coronation Drive not emptied. FH agrees to look into.
- FH – Planning application for new homes on Co-op land off Station Avenue is on the WCBC Planning Committee agenda for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 at 4pm.

**Meeting closed 8:45pm.**

Signed

Chairman

31<sup>st</sup> July 2019