

CHIRK TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y WAUN

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 29th JULY 2015

Present

Cllrs Mr Dewi Evans (Chairman) Mr Barry Evans, Mrs J Allen, Mrs H J Spragg, Mrs B Humphreys, Mrs S Newell, Mrs C Gough, Mr N James, Mr M Holmes, Mr F Hemmings, Mr J Vant, Mr D Poppitt, Mr B Colley, Mr M Maxfield, PCSO Martin Griffiths, North Wales Police, Mr Kevin Hughes and Mr Arwyn Jones Pennaf Housing Group/Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and Mr S A Hughes, Clerk to the Council.

The Chairman recommended that agenda item 5 Chirk Court Redevelopment is taken first followed by Neighbourhood Policing and this was agreed by the Council.

APOLOGIES.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mr M Roberts, Cllr Mr I Roberts and Cllr Mr T Evans,

28. CHIRK COURT REDEVELOPMENT.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Kevin Hughes, Senior Community Care Manager and Mr Arwyn Jones, Development Manager, Pennaf Housing Group to the meeting

Mr Kevin Hughes gave an update the redevelopment scheme that had been drawn up and agreed by the Wrexham CBC Social Services Department and in accordance with the Welsh Government criteria and included for 10 Residential Care beds and 56 EMI units. The work was well on its way and is due for completion in April 2016. 10 Residential Care Units have been maintained in the original building and completely refurbished and the kitchen and other service areas brought up to standard. The two storey new build for the EMI units are in the process of being built. Mr Hughes said that all staff had been retained and additional personnel will be employed with all receiving proper training.

Mr Arwyn Jones gave detailed information about the accommodations and all the facilities that are included in the scheme. A new access is being made off the main road.

Members queried the limited parking spaces and that nursing care is not being provided to which Mr Hughes replied that the parking provision was as approved by the Planning Authority and by the Social Services Department, WCBC.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their report and looked forward to visiting the premises in due course.

29. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING.

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Griffiths to the Council who gave crime statistics for the last month as follows: - Burglary – 0; Burglary OTD – 1; Assaults – 1; Theft FMV – 6; Theft of MV- 0; Theft – 2; Robbery – 0; Criminal Damage – 3; Arson – 2; Drugs – 0; and 4 ASB.

PCSO Griffiths reported that an “Arrive Alive” Speed Survey has been completed on Holyhead Road and a report of the statistics is awaited. He also replied to queries that 2 arrests had been made in respect of thefts from motor vehicles but pointed out that the vehicles had been left open! With regard to the ASB’s he said these were mainly to do with house parties. The Chairman thanked the officer for his report.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were reported.

31. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD 24th JUNE AND 15th JULY 2015.

The minutes of the Council meetings were confirmed as a correct record.

32. MATTERS ARISING.

22. Annual Return. The Clerk informed the Council that UHY Hacker Young, Auditors had completed the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2015 and their report advising “on the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met”.

The Clerk said that he had duly posted Notice of Conclusion of Audit for public display as required.

Members thanked the Clerk for his work preparing the Council’s accounts and other matters for the audit.

24. Reports – Local Members.

vi Cllr Allen also mentioned that the stench from the sewers was still evident in Chirk and Lodgevale Park areas and Cllr Terry Evans had contacted NRW and the pumping station was to be investigated and dosing increased to remove the smell.

vii Cllr Mrs Jackie Allen reported that fume, dust and blue smoke being emitted from the Kronospan factory was still occurring to the detriment of the residents in the neighbourhood and recommended that an early meeting of the Chirk Environmental Liaison Group is arranged for these matters to be discussed.

33. REPORT OF STAFFING COMMITTEE HELD 23rd JULY 2015.

The report was confirmed as a correct record. Members noted that THE Committee had recommended that the position of Clerk to the Council is re-advertised in amended form in the local newspapers as previous with application to be received by the Clerk by August 11th 2015 and for the Staffing Committee to meet on the 12th August.

34. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

a. One Voice Wales. Cllr Allen reported that she had attended to AGM of the Association and said that it was a proactive meeting with discussions on the way forward, training and Devolution. Members also complained about the times of training sessions that will now be addressed by the officers.

b. Defibrillator. Cllr Poppitt informed the Council that had submitted an application on behalf of the Council to the British Heart Foundation for the provision of a defibrillator and hoped to have reply soon. The Spar Head Office has

c. Ysgol Y Waun. Cllr Hemmings informed the Council that an Estyn Report on the school will be published very soon following the school being put into special measures.

35. OMBUDSMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015.

The Clerk reported receipt of The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual that deals with enquiries and complaints about public bodies namely County/County Borough Councils, NHS Bodies, Social Housing, Welsh Government and Sponsored Bodies, Community Councils, National Parks Authorities, Independent Care Providers, Fire Authorities and National Assembly for Wales Commission and their service of which there were 3,470 during the year. Case summaries are included in the Report.

The receipt of the report was noted.

36. APPEALS.

The following appeals for financial assistance were received and dealt with: -

Chirk U15 YFC – agreed donation of £300.00.

Marie Curie Cancer Care – Agreed donation of £100.00

Nightingale House Hospice – Agreed donation of £200.00.

Mia Evans Gymnast – Council is not allowed to donate to an individual person.

37. CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported receipt of the under-mentioned correspondence that was considered and dealt with:

1. Wales Government Public Health (Wales) Bill re. Provision of Public Toilets : Consequential Amendments. These are amendments to the legislation that refer to the provision of Public Conveniences.
2. Legal Briefing from NALC regarding The Local Government (Democracy) Wales Act 2013 and the duty to publish information on community council websites.
3. A written Statement from the Welsh Government regarding the Collection and Management of Devolved Taxes. This refers to the first Welsh Devolved Taxes – Land Transaction Tax (LTT) and Landfill Disposals Tax (LDT). and the fiscal regime that will work better for Wales.

The above-mentioned documents were noted.

38. PLANNING MATTERS.

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

- **P/2015/0469 Conversion of former chapel into one dwelling – former Methodist Chaeol, Pontyblew, Chirk, Wrexham.**
The Council has no objection to this proposal.
- **P/2015/0542 Rear Garden Room Extension – 2 Pentre Barns, Pentre, Chirk, Wrexham.**

39. ACCOUNTS.

a) **Accounts.** The Clerk provided members with details of expenditure to 30th June 2015 compared to the annual budget agreed by the Council. The Clerk also provided detail of the bank reconciliation showing that expenditure totalled £50,061.85 and receipts £81,169.50.

The Council accepted the report and thanked the Clerk