**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Location**: Llay Church Hall

**Date & Time**: 18th October 2023 @ 1830

**In Attendance:** Cllrs B Apsley (Chair), S Roberts (Vice Chair), S Apsley, J O’Keefe, R Walsh, S Watson, St Watson, K Cupit, C Archer, K Powell

M Jones, P Taylor, PCSO Griffiths Hughes, Clerk & 5 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest:** Apologies were received from Cllrs D Owen, T Ankers, W Austin. RW & V Chair declared an interest in item 3b. The Chair then introduced Mr Ian Pope from the Rainbow Foundation, who are responsible for the Community Agent now in place in Llay. Ian gave an overview of what the Foundation does and how having a dedicated Community Agent would benefit the Llay community. This would involve assisting with, for example, social contact for single people, benefit claims, blue badge applications. Ian then introduced the Llay Community Agent (CA), Mr Peter Harding, who has already commenced in his role. Another development that is in place is the “Active Futures” programme, which are mobility classes, held locally, for those with issues following surgery or arthritis sufferers for example. The Chair then invited those present to ask any questions they may have. In response to a number of councillors, it was explained that posters are being displayed in as many places as possible containing contact details. RW asked if the CA would contribute to the next edition of the Llay Community Newsletter, which he agreed to do.

**2. Approval of previous Minutes:** The **September Minutes** were discussed by all after which the Chair sought approval of the Minutes as a true record. Approved by RW and seconded by JO’K and carried unanimously.

**3. Matters Arising:** The Chair outlinedthe issue of **the new fencing erected on the perimeter of Park CP School.** He then read out the letter he had sent to the Head teacher, expressing the concerns of some Councillors and members of the public. The Chair then read out the response from the school and he invited comments from Councillors. A number of councillors expressed their continued concerns regarding this matter, both location and height of the fencing. The Chair invited members of the public to comment, which they did, expressing their unhappiness with the installation of this fencing. It was concluded with Council agreeing that a further letter be sent to the Head teacher, from the Chair, offering to hold a meeting between concerned parties. This was agreed unanimously. The Chair gave a brief update on the **Electric Vehicle charging points item**, relating to upcoming developments near the Llay RBL. The Chair explained that by continuing to look at this matter, there was more possibility that Llay CC would have more control over where these ECP’s were installed. There were no new applicants for the position of **Governor at Park CP School**, which would be relisted for November. JO’K raised the problem with the traffic island outside Oakfield Park, where the changing of the speed limits has caused safety issues. RW is aware and will investigate further.

**4. Public Questions:** On this occasion, no questions had been received from members of the Public.

**5. Police Matters:** The Chair welcomed PCSO Cat Griffiths-Hughes who was in attendance. The PCSO gave a brief overview of the latest developments in the area.The latest **crime figures and information** received from NWPS were discussed by all. The Chair asked about the recent incidents involving loose horses and PCSO explained this is being dealt with via a third party agency. It was agreed that the updated Police newsletter will be sent to RW to be included in the November newsletter.

**6. New Matters:** RW gave an update regarding the **disused play areas**, confirming he would chase this up ahead of the next meeting. Regarding the **recent 20mph rollout**, RW stated there were a number of locations that required further consideration of the speed limit, with some further reductions being required. This was mainly in areas where the current limit, whether 40/50/60, were considered too high. The aim is to include details of this contentious matter in the Newsletter. The Chair confirmed the 60mph limit on Park Road, where passing is difficult, needs addressing. A large number of locations were raised in relation to the current speed limits. The Chair suggested that all councillors contribute towards compiling a list of contentious roads/ avenues/lanes in Llay, with their suggestions of what speed limit should be in place. This would become a **rural road strategy** for Llay. This would also form part of the next Newsletter, to elicit support from local residents. Finally, the Chair gave a brief overview of the background to the **Gresford Charities/Protocols** and how it operates, for those who may not be aware.

**7. Finance: The** **September Income and Expenditure Figures** (£ 8,491.60p) distributed ahead of the meeting were considered. There were no queries regarding either income or expenditure. The figures were accepted, proposed by St W, seconded by MJ. The Chair asked for formal approval of the **External Audit Report from Welsh Audit Office**. This had been sent, in full, to all councillors when received in late September. Approved by JO’K and seconded by MJ. Finally, the Chair explained there would be **2 wreaths** purchased this year totalling £50 and this was approved unanimously.

**8. Street Lighting:** RW gave a report on ongoing, and recently installed streetlights. The Chair gave an update on his recent dealings with Mega Electrics and installation of the Xmas Lights. He is awaiting responses to other issues and will chase these up as no replies heard since August from the company that other community councils had used for street lighting.

**9. Planning:** P/2023/0641 (side extension Willow Drive) was discussed with no concerns at this stage. P/2023/0629 (non-illuminated Pharmacy shop sign) was also discussed and there were no concerns at this stage.

**10. Burial Matters:** It was agreed the cemetery is in excellent condition, with the Chair suggesting that a further discussion, regarding the extension, to be listed for January 2024 Agenda.

**11. Reports:** RW gave an update on the **refuse collection situation**, with the ongoing industrial action being extended. It appears to be factual, that certain areas in Llay are having their bins emptied far more regularly than other areas nearby. This needs challenging, and the Clerk was instructed to prepare a letter to WCBC to try and ensure equality for all areas in Llay. RW also mentioned the ongoing issue of paying for green bins to be collected but not receiving a service until at least February. This is being actively pursued by some residents who are seeking a refund of the fee paid in advance. RW mentioned that residents on **Oakfield Park** have new owners, the **Xmas Farm** planning matter is due to be discussed soon and finally, the **gully cleaning wagon will return to Llay,** having been recently but had missed out areas that RW had identified as needing attention. The Chair gave an update on the new housing development on the **Llay RBL car park site**, which would affect future Remembrance Day parades and the relocation of the Cenotaph. The Chair then gave a good update on the **Fire Service situation**, with staffing levels and funding issues etc at the forefront. RW thanked the Chair for fighting to ensure that the Wrexham area continue to be served well by the Fire Service.

**12. News/Website:** There were no issues to report at this meeting and no questions/suggestions from Councillors. The Clerk will ensure there is mention of the new Community Agent under “Latest News”.

**13. Correspondence:** Nothing had been received that has not been discussed elsewhere in this meeting.

**14.** **Post Meeting Actions**: The list of agreed post meeting actions to be carried out was discussed and agreed and will be prepared by the Clerk.

There being no further business, **Standing Orders** were moved by JO’K, seconded by the Vice Chair and the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 2057.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 1830

In the Church Hall, Llay

Signed………………………………………………………..

B Apsley, Chair