



'Your very Local Council'

Locum Clerk to the Council/RFO: Shaun Jones

Chairman: Cllr Mrs. Sharon Lloyd

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 6:30 pm on **Wednesday 8th January 2025** in Piercy Hall, Marchwiell.

Present: Cllrs Lloyd S (SL), (Chair); Francis (CF); Grives (KG); Lloyd N (NL); Lydford (KL); Marriott (PM); Price (WP) & Woodhouse (VW).

In attendance: Shaun Jones (SJ), Locum Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, WCBC Cllr. John Pritchard (JP), PCSO Lisa-Marie Davies & two Members of the Public.

114.24/25 **COUNCILLOR VACANCY TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION** – One application (in writing) has been submitted – Mr Philip Marriott. It was resolved to co-opt the applicant – to represent Piercy ward. The co-optee signed a Declaration of Office and immediately took their seat.

115.24/25 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr. Clare Davies – work commitment, Cllr. Megan Rathbone – family commitment & Cllr. Will Williams – prior engagement.

116.24/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None made.

117.24/25 **PUBLIC SPEAKING/QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS** – 2 members of the public and PCSO Lisa-Marie Davies present.

PCSO Lisa-Marie Davies was given a warm welcome and congratulated on her new appointment. Ahead of the meeting Lisa had kindly provided the latest Crime Statistics - Monthly Report, which totalled 1 case of Domestic Violence and 2 cases of Anti-Social Behaviour. Lisa invited members if they had any issues they wished to raise with her. CF made the point of visibility – members of the community welcome the presence of the Police going about their work in Marchwiell. WP would be happy to join in on any patrols, Lisa was happy to oblige. SJ and VW also did allude to instances of out of area youths seen smoking dope and the like – more of a summertime activity. Pavement parking is an issue that has been raised on a number of occasions in the past. JP believes that a request to the relevant department in Wrexham County Borough Council has been submitted in December to provide for double yellow lines in areas of concern in Marchwiell but be aware this has been unsuccessful in the past. JP will keep us advised on any developments. To aid with the provision of a well-lit walkway it was suggested that sensor lights on Piercy Hall might be a good enhancement. SJ will pass this idea forward to see if this can be achieved.

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Signed:..... Date:.....

One member of the Public made a repeat request over the poor kerb appeal of the unadopted road section of Station Road adjacent to the recreation ground and Scout Hut. Can anything be done ? The perimeter fencing around the football pitch is shabby too. The land owner is WCBC Housing. JP will raise with WCBC Parks Dept to see if fence repairs can be made. Adding an overlap fence or a gateway would provide easy access to retrieve balls.

Another member of the public addressed the Council to raise a matter over the presence of rare mushrooms that appear in October, annually at Marchwiell Burial Ground. He encourages the Clerk to make contact with Plantlife Conservation for further advice – possibly refraining from a grass cut in October ?

118.24/25 **MINUTES** – To approve for accuracy and sign the minutes of the **Full Council** meeting held on Wednesday 4th December 2024 – **Approved by all members present. [Taken after Cllr. John Pritchard gave his report – bumped to allow John to leave the meeting to attend another.]**

119.24/25 **WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – WCBC Cllr. John Pritchard reported that :-

- A new timetable for bus services through Marchwiell has been published. It includes an additional evening service, subsidised by WCBC, which recently started at the beginning of November.
- Drainage management at Bryn y Grog has recently been undertaken. This should solve the issue of water streaming across the road.
- Some pot holes should have been repaired on the A525 today.
- JP will contact Paul Rogers with regards to the MUGA and Skate Park lighting. It may be possible to get them operational as they have been OK until fairly recently.

19:05hrs - WCBC Cllr. Pritchard left the meeting at this point.

120.24/25 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

– To consider the following applications;

1. No Planning Applications to consider
2. To consider any planning applications validated since the publication of the agenda. **None.**

121.24/25 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

– To note the following Planning Decisions;

1. No Planning Decisions to report
2. To note any planning decisions made since the publication of the agenda. Reference: P/2024/1656. Land off Marchwiell Hall Road, Sontley - Prior Notification for Erection of Agricultural Building - Slurry Store Planning Item – REFUSED. – **Noted.**

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BUDGET REVIEW AND PRECEPT APPROVAL FOR 2025/26 – SJ walked members through the Cost Centre headings and noted actual expenditure to date against budget. Overall we had budgeted an estimated spend of £58,916 and the actual spend is £59,291.64 so far. Historic VAT to be claimed for 2021/22 forward, 4 years in all, will provide a decent catch up in funds.

MCC Budget	FY24/25	FY25/26	Budget Inc.
Administration	£4,136	£4,343	
Street Lighting	£12,257	£12,870	
Community Open Spaces	£3,300	£3,465	
Burial Ground Maintenance	£6,000	£6,300	
Rent, Rates & Utilities	£372	£391	
Staff Costs	£30,001	£31,501	
Training	£500	£525	
General Repairs & Maintenance	£600	£630	
Events	£50	£52	
Election	£1,700	£1,785	
Total Budgeted Expenditure	£58,916	£61,862	+5%
Precept	£50,000	£52,500	
Income – Est.	£5,000	£5,000	
Reserves – Est.	£3,916	£4,362	

- An increase of 5% across all budget lines was thought prudent. During 2025/26 a refinement procedure to tune budgets to actual/forecast will be undertaken – known as virement. The overall budget is unchanged, just re-distributed.
- Income is out-looked at £5,000 for the Burial Ground and £4,362 drawn from Reserves. The precept request of the householders in Marchwiell is calculated at estimated spending of £61,862 less income and reserves drawing, £9,362 equals £52,500. For a Band D householder their annual contribution is £87.79 up by £4.18 (or £0.08 per week) to the MCC budget.

Members approved the final budget of £61,862 for FY2025/26 and the Precept request of £52,500 to underpin.

Also noting the Council Tax Base letter issued by WCBC Finance Dept.

LOCUM CLERK REPORT – INCLUDES CORRESPONDENCE –

- SJ reports that an email received this afternoon that Marchwiell Community Council has won the Town or Community Council Bionet Award 2024 for achieving outstanding positive biodiversity impact within North East Wales ! This relates to the ongoing programme of tree planting – which commenced in November 2024. Over 2,000 trees. The presentation event is to be held on 1st February 2024 at Venue Cymru, Llandudno, we have two tickets reserved.
- SJ updated members on the Christmas Decorations Competition 2024. SL, CD and WP (Mr Christmas) joined the Clerk on the 19th December 2024 for a tour of Marchwiell village to seek out the best three displays. Len Smith, Luke Davies and Stephen O'Keefe were our winners this year and have received their prizes in time for Christmas. It was great to see all the effort put in by our community.
- Efforts to clear up in our Burial Ground after the two trees were blown over are ongoing. Quotes have been requested.

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- Members highlighted some effort to tidy some areas in the Burial Ground should be actioned. A community effort like recent work at the Nature Reserve maybe a good plan. Firstly, SJ will also speak with our Ground Maintenance contractor as one or two jobs have been agreed to be done over the Winter. Then we can agree on a volunteer led morning of action.

124.24/25

PAYMENTS – The following payments were approved:-

Payment Number	Method of Payment	To	For	Net	VAT	Gross
BACS	Faster Pymt	AVOW	Salaries Account	1476.34	0.00	1476.34
BACS	Faster Pymt	Scribe Accounts	Subscription - Jan 2025	29.00	5.80	34.80
BACS	Faster Pymt	Leon Hughes	Burial Ground Maintenance	200.00	0.00	200.00
	D/D	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Fee - 12/24	6.00	0.00	6.00
Card	PPCC	Giffgaff	Mobile - SIM Only - 18mth	6.67	1.33	8.00
Card	PPCC	Zoom Video Comms	Jan 2025 Monthly Subs	12.99	2.60	15.59
BACS	Faster Pymt	CLlr Will Price	Reimburse - 18' Xmas Tree	200.00	0.00	200.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	Rainbow Foundation	Room Hire - 11/24	10.00	0.00	10.00
Card	PPCC	HP	Nov Printing	4.57	0.92	5.49
BACS	Faster Pymt	VisionICT	Annual Email Host	20.00	4.00	24.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	Scottish Power	Jan 2025 Monthly Invoice	263.63	13.18	276.81
Card	PPCC	Microsoft	Annual licence Office 365	66.66	13.33	79.99
BACS	Faster Pymt	Rainbow Foundation	Room Hire - 12/24	10.00	0.00	10.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	Evans Fencing & Garden Care	Tree brash chipped	250.00	0.00	250.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	Len Smith	1st Prize - Xmas Comp	100.00	0.00	100.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	Luke Davies	2nd Prize - Xmas Comp	60.00	0.00	60.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	Stephen O'Keefe	3rd Prize - Xmas Comp	40.00	0.00	40.00

Signed:..... Date:.....

125.24/25 **VE DAY 80 & VJ DAY 80 – ANNIVERSARIES IN 2025** – Background VE80 on an earlier agenda. Email received from a resident highlighting VJ80 in August 2025. This highlighted the commemorative marking rather than celebrating as VE Day was. In the community have we strong links back to WW2 – veterans ? The two anniversaries are distinct. Is there an appetite to mark either or both ? An opportunity to engage with the community. Events may be planned for. Members should put out feelers to see what is planned in neighbouring communities. In the past there have been street parties organised for VE Day – VE70. Go online to research. Will bring this back in March to hear feedback and decide if an in event(s) in March will fly.

126.24/25 **TO PRESENT ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE MEETING AGENDA (FULL COUNCIL OR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEE) –**

- Outstanding from recent meetings: Nature Reserve – make contact with North Wales Wildlife Trust, Village Signs & Burial Ground records to review.
- VE80 and VJ80 research and report back.
- Plans for Christmas 2025 – To consider refreshing the “Tree of Wishes” at the Welcome Garden – Lights switch-on event in early December.

The meeting closed at 8:17pm.

Signed:..... Date:.....