



*'Your very Local Council'*

**Locum Clerk to the Council/RFO: Shaun Jones**

**Chairman: Cllr Mrs. Sharon Lloyd**

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Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at 6:30 pm on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025** in Piercy Hall, Marchwiell.

Present: Cllrs Francis (CF), (Chair); Grives (KG); Lydford (KL); Marriott (PM) & Rathbone (MR).

In attendance: Shaun Jones (SJ), Locum Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, WCBC Cllr. John Pritchard & one Member of the Public.

Not Present: Cllrs. Woodhouse & Williams.

In the absence of both Cllr. Sharon Lloyd & Cllr. Clare Davies members approved that **Cllr. Cim Francis** will Chair this meeting – **Carried**.

1.25/26 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** – SJ, in the knowledge that apologies had been given, did raise and was advised that Cllr. Sharon Lloyd was happy to continue in the role if members decided, but welcomed any member to stand too. CF asked members if there were other nominations, there were none, so members agreed to elect **Cllr. Sharon Lloyd as Chairman** for the municipal year 2025/26 – **Carried**. SJ will arrange for the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed soonest.

2.25/26 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN** – SJ, in the knowledge that apologies had been given, did raise and was advised that Cllr. Clare Davies was happy to continue in the role if members decided, but welcomed any member to stand too. CF asked members if there were other nominations, there were none, so members agreed to elect **Cllr. Clare Davies as Vice-Chairman** for the municipal year 2025/26 – **Carried**. SJ will arrange for the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed soonest.

3.25/26 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Sharon Lloyd (Family Commitment), Cllr Clare Davies (Work Commitment), Cllr Nigel Lloyd (Hospital In-patient) & Cllr. William Price (Work Commitment).

4.25/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None given.

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

- 5.25/26 **PUBLIC SPEAKING/QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS** – 1 member of the public present. PM asked if he could pass forward the concerns of a couple of residents who have contacted him. Dog waste on pavements (not picked up) along the length of Station Rd and A525 towards the Garage and a suggestion to re-site a bin at the bottom of Station Road. WCBC Enforcement and PCSO's should be alerted about dog owners failing to pick up – it is an offence, but the chances of catching the perpetrator(s) are slim. The fabulous residents that regularly volunteer to litter pick will have information on hot spots where dog waste is seen or even picked up but the poo bag hung on a branch or left as litter on the floor. Members were advised that initiatives like an additional collection point for full poo bags are running and this can do approach is applauded. More liaison with WCBC Streetscene and Volunteer litter pickers might bring forward more ideas on what can be done to discourage the few irresponsible dog owners from ruining the street environment for the many. Also a view should be agreed if there are bins missing or in the wrong place, a task that members may be able to conduct a quick review around Marchwiell. MCC could decide a new bin is needed and as WCBC are not funding they may agree to buy, but make sure WCBC Streetscene agree to service/empty on their regular rounds. It was suggested by KL that a message on Facebook might remind residents to properly tidy up after their dog.
- 6.25/26 **MINUTES** – To approve for accuracy and sign the minutes of the **Full Council** meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 – **Approved by all members present.**
- 7.25/26 **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES TO THE NEXT ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING** – The meeting dates published online were reviewed – **Approved by all members present.**
- 8.25/26 **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS** – To review the Standing Orders adopted in May 2024 and Financial Regulations adopted in March 2025 – **Members adopted both Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as tabled.**
- 9.25/26 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO EXISTING COMMITTEES** – Members **agreed to** continue simply meeting as Full Council. This can be reviewed in the future.
- 10.25/26 **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL BODIES** – **Approved** the following :-
- Society of Local Council Clerks – Clerk to the Council
  - School Governor – Ysgol Deiniol – Cllr. Kate Lydford
  - One Voice Wales – All Members
  - Wrexham Council – Town and Community Council Forum – Chair and Clerk.
- 11.25/26 **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S AND/OR STAFF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OTHER BODIES** – Specifically membership of One Voice Wales, Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and Society of Local Council Clerks to continue – **Confirmed and Approved.**
- 12.25/26 **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES** – Updated May 2024 – agreed that it remains fit for purpose – **Approved re-adopt.**

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

13.25/26

## **WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – WCBC Cllr.**

John Pritchard reported that :-

- The reported potholes at last month's meeting were repaired a few days later.
- WCBC have progressed the proposal to introduce new double yellow lines on a section of the A525 – opposite the Red Lion heading towards the Garage. A consultation exercise is underway.
- Based on the concerns about dog fouling discussed earlier – JP will make contact with the WCBC Enforcement Team to invite them to visit the village to hopefully make clear any littering could result in a fine.
- Butterfly Solar Farm – JP will liaise with WCBC Highways Dept. over their review of how construction traffic can be accommodated and revert.
- Speed Limit Changes – some 20mph zones to revert to 30mph. JP advises there is nothing to update, the consultation is either completed or close to. He will pass on any information should anything become available.

JP left the meeting at 19:05hrs.

14.25/26

## **STREET LIGHTING – Update as follows:-**

- Looking to choose a new supplier for our Unmetered Supply for the 69 lamps. SJ looking to bring forward two proposals for members to consider as Scottish Power have indicated they no longer wish to continue supplying electricity.
- We have six condemned street light columns that need replacing. WCBC have quoted £12k last June, now £15k as Scottish Power rates increased. This compares to another quote from Highline Electrical which is around £1,000 lower. This quote broke out the Scottish Power charge to perform a transfer of service – a very high proportion of the overall cost. SJ wrote to the CEO of Scottish Power to query why the costs are so high. SJ was called by the Department Head based in Ellesmere Port to discuss service transfer. He explained there are Independent Connection Providers (ICP) who may offer a lower cost than SP themselves. Paul Rogers of WCBC is reviewing his latest quote to see if there is any way to reduce the outlay. Some ICP's are local and may also be approached. In the worst case the affected columns will need to be cut down and await a new installation of a column alongside. PM interested to know if the columns are beyond repair ?

15.25/26

**END POLIO NOW CAMPAIGN –** KL provided information on an offer to plant purple crocus bulbs to raise awareness on steps to eradicate Polio worldwide – supported by Rotary International. KL is interested in possibly planting out more flowers on the grassed area adjacent to the Village Stores. SJ to enquire of WCBC, who we believe are the landowners, for permission to plant out the crocus bulbs.

16.25/26

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

– *To consider the following applications;*

1. *Reference: P/2025/0292: **Middle Sontley Farm, Middle Sontley**: Change of Use of Barn to Dog Daycare and Grooming Facility. : To view online : [Click here.](#)*  
– **Decision – No further Observations or Comments to be submitted.**
2. *To consider any planning applications validated since the publication of the agenda – **None.***

3

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

17.25/26

## PLANNING DECISIONS

– To note the following Planning Decisions;

1. Reference: P/2025/0024 **Erddig Hall, Erddig**: Advertisement Consent for 3 Interpretation Boards and 2 Wayfaring Maps (Non-Illuminated). : **Granted** : To view online : [Click here](#).  
– **Noted**
2. Reference: P/2025/0068: **Bryn Moyle, Wrexham Road, Marchwiel**: Demolition of Double Garage/Workshop and Erection of Replacement Steel Portal Double Garage/Workshop. : **Granted** : To view online : [Click here](#)  
– **Noted**
3. To note any planning decisions made since the publication of the agenda  
– **None**.

18.25/26

## LOCUM CLERK REPORT – INCLUDES CORRESPONDENCE –

- Bank Reconciliation Report period ending 30/4/25. SJ walked through the information and the Scribe summary screen to give members a clear picture of the Council's finances. **It was agreed CF should countersign confirming approval.**
- The latest Police Report was presented. An instance of a residential burglary, one instance of domestic violence & two instances of anti-social behaviour reported in the month. Feedback to PCSO Lisa-Marie Davies welcomed.
- Andrew Ranger MP has a Constituency Surgery in Marchwiel Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 3pm to 4:30pm.
- Attended virtually the Wrexham Town and Community Council Forum on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 at 4pm. The meetings are held every three months. Nothing directly relevant to MCC to report back on. Mention of the newly formed North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (made up of all 6 Unitary Councils in N. Wales). It is a regional corporate body established to enhance collaboration and strategic planning across North Wales. See [Ambition North Wales | Home](#).

19.25/26

**RENEWAL OF COUNCIL INSURANCE POLICY** – SJ explained that our current insurers have provided a renewal quote of £770.13. As this represented an uplift in premium of 29% on last year's, SJ opened a dialogue to review and gain an explanation on what has taken place. It was explained that the underlying insurance company – Aviva was being replaced with Ecclesiastical and this may have brought about this high level of increase. A sense check on the amounts covered in each section was also made. SJ also obtained a quotation from Zurich Municipal which reached new heights - £1,241.62 ! Thankfully our existing policy had the renewal quote reduced to £658.78 up £62 on last year. **Members agreed to renew the cover with Clear Insurance.**

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

**PAYMENTS – The following payments were approved:-**

Payment Number	Method of Payment	To	For	Net	VAT	Gross
BACS	Faster Pymt	AVOW	Salaries Account	1880.45	0.00	1880.45
BACS	Faster Pymt	Scribe Accounts	Subscription - May 2025	29.00	5.80	34.80
BACS	Faster Pymt	Leon Hughes	Burial Ground Maintenance	875.00	0.00	875.00
	D/D	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Fee - 4/25	6.00	0.00	6.00
Card	PPCC	Giffgaff	Mobile - SIM Only - 18mth	6.67	1.33	8.00
Card	PPCC	Zoom Video Comms *	May 2025 Monthly Subs	12.99	2.60	15.59
BACS	Faster Pymt	Scottish Power	May 2025 Monthly Invoice	255.05	12.75	267.80
BACS	Faster Pymt	Rainbow Foundation	Room Hire - 4/25	10.00	0.00	10.00
Card	PPCC	HP *	Apr Printing	4.57	0.92	5.49
BACS	Faster Pymt	Jacob Ogden	Wall rebuild - Burial Ground	700.00	0.00	700.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	A Lewis Trees	Fell and clear tree - Burial Ground	400.00	0.00	400.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	JDH Business Services Ltd	Internal Audit 2022/23	495.00	99.00	594.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	SLCC	Annual Membership - 2025/26	190.00	0.00	190.00
Card	PPCC	Shaw & Sons Ltd	Receipt/Memorial Books	64.45	12.89	77.34
BACS	Faster Pymt	Clear Insurance	Policy Renewal – Annual	658.78	0.00	658.78
BACS	Faster Pymt	Wrexham CBC	Street Lighting SLA	513.53	102.71	616.24

\* - Both Zoom and HP have advised of an increase of £1 per month to be introduced next month.

21.25/26

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

- Outstanding from recent meetings: Village Signs & Burial Ground records to review.
- VJ Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 research and report back.
- Gardening Competition 2025 – **June Agenda.**
- 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 7:55pm.*

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